Benchmarking 2015: Trends in Education Philanthropy
Grantmakers for Education
National School Foundation Association

4/18/2016
Over the past 10 years, we have worked with:

- 25+ districts, including many of the most reform-oriented urban settings
- 10+ state departments of education
- 50+ school networks and other non-profits
- Many of the leading national and local foundations working in and around K-12 education

Our experience base includes a broad range of specific issues and functional areas:

**Business and Financial Planning**
- Long-term strategic planning and resource allocation/financial planning
- Cost optimization
- Academic return on investment

**School and Portfolio Management**
- Accountability systems
- Unified enrollment systems
- Portfolio planning
- Multiple pathways to graduation

**Human Capital**
- Talent management strategy
- Teacher compensation models
- Implementation of evaluation systems

**Innovation / Personalized Learning**
- Personalized learning strategy
- Innovation zones
- New school model design
Benchmarking 2015: Trends in Education Philanthropy
This year’s report incorporates survey data from more than 120 funders active in making grants supporting education across a range of settings.

Q: What is the geographic scope of your organization’s education grantmaking?

Q: In which types of communities do you fund?

47% of GFE members make grants within multiple types of communities.

- Local (grants to projects in a city or small geographic region)
- Regional
- Statewide
- National (grants to national efforts and/or projects across the country)
- International (education grants made both in U.S. and overseas)

- Large Urban Area (i.e., top ~25 metropolitan areas) 62%
- Small to medium urban area 44%
- Rural 32%
- Towns or suburban 32%
- Not Applicable: Our organization’s funding does not support specific communities 15%
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Grantmakers come in all shapes and sizes, from local funders investing <$1M per year to national funders at >$40M, supporting work in all age ranges.

Q: What is your organization's approximate education grants budget for the current fiscal year?

- $10-19.9M: 41%
- $5-9.9M: 70%
- $2.5M-4.9M: 69%
- $1-2.4M: 77%
- $500K-0.9M: 47%
- Less than $500K: 22%
- More than $40M: 5%
- $30-39.9M: N/A: Funding does not support specific age groups
- $20-29.9M: N/A: Funding does not support specific age groups
- Less than $20M: N/A: Funding does not support specific age groups

Q: Which of the following age groups does your organization’s education grantmaking support?

- Birth to age 5: 41%
- Elementary school: 70%
- Middle school: 69%
- High school: 77%
- Post-secondary: 47%
- Workforce education: 22%
- N/A: Funding does not support specific age groups

67% of GFE members make grants in support of multiple age ranges.
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Funding is projected to grow by nearly 7% next year as large funders redouble their efforts and smaller funders continue to bring resources into the sector.

Q: Relative to your current fiscal year, how do you expect your education grants budget to change for the next fiscal year?

- Next year will decrease by less than 10% from current year
- Next year will decrease by more than 10% from current year
- Next year will remain about the same
- Next year will increase by less than 10% over current year
- Next year will increase by more than 10% over current year

+6.8% Growth in 2016

2% Growth
5% Growth
8% Growth

Current Year
Next Year
Benchmarking 2015: Trends in Education Philanthropy
Our survey gives us insight into areas of education grantmaking that are rising – or falling – in prominence

Projected Growth / Decline of Grant-Making (Next 3 Years)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Share of Current Grant-Making Dollars</th>
<th>Consistent Priorities</th>
<th>Stepping Back</th>
<th>Rising in Prominence</th>
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<tbody>
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<td>Large areas slated for slower growth, or declines</td>
<td>Smaller today, but among the fastest growing</td>
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Consistent Priorities

1) Postsecondary success
2) Teacher PD
3) Early learning
4) Career readiness

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Projected Growth / Decline of Grant-Making
(Next 3 Years)
Benchmarking 2015: Trends in Education Philanthropy
Stepping Back

1) Standards and assessments
2) Teacher prep / certification
3) School choice
4) Teacher evaluation systems

Share of Current Grant-Making Dollars

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Rising in Prominence

**Share of Current Grant-Making Dollars**

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**Rising in Prominence**
Smaller today, but among the fastest growing

**Projected Growth / Decline of Grant-Making (Next 3 Years)**

1) Social and emotional learning
2) Personalized learning
3) Teacher voice initiatives
4) Wraparound supports
5) ELL / immigrant learners
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To magnify impact, funders are seeking out opportunities to collaborate with other funders and organizations, although execution can be challenging.

More than 95% of all GFE members report collaborating with some type of organization on grantmaking efforts.

Q: For grants in which your organization co-funded with another grantmaker, how did it influence the level of impact you were able to achieve?

- Impact was increased: 47%
- Impact was the same: 27%
- Impact was slightly increased: 15%
- Impact was slightly lowered: 10%

Q: For grants in which your organization co-funded with another grantmaker, how did it affect the ease of execution?

- Execution was easier: 66%
- Execution was slightly easier: 20%
- Execution was the same: 10%
- Execution was more challenging: 4%
- Execution was slightly more challenging: 0%

Although 52% of GFE members found co-funding made execution more challenging, more than 90% said it led to their grants having a greater impact.
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As the education system continues to evolve, so too will the role of education funders.

Key questions we are asking education funders:

- What are you doing to ensure the **sustainability** of the programs and initiatives that you fund?
- How do considerations about **equity** factor into your grantmaking process?
- What is the **collective impact** of your funding in addressing the needs of the full community?

**WHAT DOES THIS MEAN FOR YOU?**