

ABOUT EDVESTORS

EdVestors' mission is to increase the number of schools in Boston delivering dramatically improved educational outcomes for all students.

WHO WE ARE

EdVestors is a school improvement organization that combines strategic philanthropy, education expertise and implementation support to help schools create the conditions for improvement. We work at the classroom, school and systemic levels to accelerate improvement in Boston's schools. Since starting in 2002, EdVestors has invested \$24 million in school improvement efforts.

EdVestors works to strengthen school effectiveness so a quality education is available to every student in Boston. To do this, we tap the ingenuity already present in our city's schools, non-profits, neighborhoods and institutions so that we can take a problem-solving approach to meeting challenges. We borrow good ideas that are working elsewhere, generate new ideas where needed, and think creatively and strategically when putting good ideas into practice. We invite a wide and diverse network of stakeholders to collaborate. And we share what we know and learn about how schools change, paving the way for more schools to make more progress.

WHAT WE DO

First, we are a seed funder for school improvement.

Through our School Solutions Seed Fund, we identify and fund innovative school-based ideas for improvement.

Second, we develop, demonstrate & share best practices for school improvement. Our annual \$100,000 School on the Move Prize highlights examples of dramatic school improvement. Our Improving Schools Initiative demonstrates tactical support for struggling schools.

Third, we work at scale to achieve city-wide student impact, coordinating major public-private partnerships in targeted issue areas – currently in math and arts education. Our largest effort to date – BPS Arts Expansion – has resulted in 17,000 more students receiving weekly arts instruction in school, bolstering student engagement and school climate. Our newest effort – Zeroing in on Math – takes a similar citywide approach to increase math proficiency in the middle grades as a critical gateway for students.

1 IDENTIFY INNOVATIVE IDEAS FOR SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT



School Solutions SEED FUND
(Formerly Urban Education Investment Portfolio)

2 DEVELOP, DEMONSTRATE & SHARE BEST PRACTICES



**SCHOOL ON
THE MOVE**
Prize



**IMPROVING
SCHOOLS**
Initiative

3 SCALE & REPLICATE WHAT WE KNOW WORKS



**BPS ARTS
EXPANSION**



**ZEROING IN
ON MATH**

OUR PROGRAMS

School Solutions SEED FUND

Supporting frontline educators and their best ideas for improving schools

The School Solutions Seed Fund is a new and nimble investment pipeline for educators to receive support for problem-solving, experimentation and innovation in their schools. Each year, EdVestors makes initial Seed Fund investments of \$10,000 to up to 10 promising ideas, with a smaller number of projects receiving larger, longer-term Expansion grants based on early success and the potential for impact.

Investing in on-the-ground solutions is an essential part of EdVestors' approach to strategic philanthropy. The Seed Fund pushes us to think beyond what we already know about how schools change, to be open to new ideas, and to find even more transformative ways to work on behalf of all students.

IMPROVING SCHOOLS Initiative

Demonstrating how low-performing schools can improve

The Improving Schools Initiative is a four-year demonstration project in which EdVestors provides three struggling elementary schools with expert strategy and implementation support, as well as financial resources that drive school improvement plans forward with depth and fidelity.

In the first two years, the three partner schools have increased student proficiency in Math, ELA, or both. Two of the three schools made notable academic gains for students and one school—the Russell Elementary School in Dorchester—moved up from Level 3 to Level 1 in the 2014 state accountability system. The Russell was one of only two schools in the district to make this jump in 2014.

SCHOOL ON THE MOVE Prize

Shining a light on Boston's public school success stories

EdVestors' School on the Move Prize is Boston's premier award for Boston public schools and is a coveted honor among teachers and school leaders across our city. The Prize shines a light on those schools, leaders and teachers who have made substantive, multi-year academic improvement for students. The Prize comes with a \$100,000 award from EdVestors, public recognition, and a case study to document the school's replicable strategies. Two runners up also receive a \$10,000 award each.

Expanding access and equity in arts education in Boston Public Schools

BPS ARTS Expansion

Boston Public Schools (BPS) Arts Expansion is a multi-year collaborative effort to expand arts education within BPS by providing equitable access to quality arts learning experiences for all students. This public-private partnership involves a large and coordinated network of partners, including schools, arts institutions, teaching artists, and funders, among others.

After six years and \$10 million in investment, this year we launched Phase 3 to raise an additional \$2.5 million and build sustainability of the initiative so arts remain a core component of education in Boston long into the future. To date, BPS Arts Expansion has:

- Raised the percentage of K-8 students receiving weekly arts access from 67% in 2009 to 93% in 2014
- More than doubled the number of high school students receiving arts—up from just 26% in 2009 to 63% in 2014
- Secured an additional \$5 million in public funding annually for the arts, amounting to 120 more arts teachers in city schools now than in 2009 – an increase of 75%

Dramatically increasing student achievement in middle grades math

Zeroing in on MATH

Zeroing in on Math launched in 2015 and represents the next generation of EdVestors' school improvement work at scale. Our ultimate goal is to increase the number of Boston schools that are able to educate at least 75% of their students to proficiency in math by eighth grade. Currently, only seven of the 50 public schools serving eighth graders reach this benchmark.

Math is a fundamental building block for rigorous high school academics, graduation, and post-secondary college and career pathways.

To improve math outcomes for Boston students, we will:

- Set a targeted and shared goal for impact and measure progress
- Award grants to incent and accelerate change
- Convene a wide variety of stakeholders
- Incubate demonstration projects to test new models
- Conduct and disseminate research on what works in middle grades math education.