

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 school change. We work at the classroom, school, and system levels to accelerate improvement in Boston's schools. Since launching in 2002, EdVestors has raised and invested more than \$26 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 take a problem-solving approach to meeting challenges, and we tap the ingenuity already present in our city's schools, nonprofits, neighborhoods, and institutions. We borrow good ideas that are working elsewhere, generate new ideas where needed, and think creatively and strategically to put 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 solution-seekers' best ideas in Boston's schools. Through our School Solutions Seed Fund, we identify and fund innovative school-based ideas for improvement.

Second, we develop, demonstrate, and share best practices for school improvement. Our annual \$100,000 School on the Move Prize highlights examples of dramatic school improvement. We publish annual research and case studies to share stories of improvement and disseminate knowledge throughout the broader field.

Third, we work at scale to achieve city-wide student impact, coordinating major public-private partnerships in targeted issues areas, currently in math and arts education. Our largest effort to date, BPS Arts Expansion has resulted in 17,000 more pre-K through 8th grade students receiving weekly arts instruction in school, bolstering student engagement and school climate. Our second strategic initiative launched in 2015, Zeroing in on Math, takes a similar city-wide approach to increase math proficiency in the middle grades as a critical gateway for post-secondary, career, and life success. In 2016, EdVestors began work to model effective Career Technical Education pathways for high school students as a strategy for improving Boston's traditional high schools, connecting more students to postsecondary opportunities, and bolstering Boston's workforce.

1 IDENTIFY
INNOVATIVE
IDEAS FOR SCHOOL
IMPROVEMENT

2 DEVELOP, DEMONSTRATE & SHARE
BEST PRACTICES

3 SCALE & REPLICATE WHAT WE KNOW WORKS



School Solutions
SEED FUND



SCHOOL ON
THE MOVE Prize



DEMONSTRATION
PROJECTS



BPS ARTS
EXPANSION



ZEROING IN
ON MATH



CAREER AND
TECHNICAL
EDUCATION

OUR PROGRAMS

School Solutions SEED FUND

Supporting frontline educators and their best ideas for improving schools

The School Solutions Seed Fund is a 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.

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 school improvement 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.

BPS ARTS Expansion

Expanding access and equity in arts education in Boston Public Schools

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 nine years of the initiative, and with 17,000 more BPS students receiving in-school arts education, Phase 4 of the initiative will launch in 2018 and bring us through 2021. To date, BPS Arts Expansion has:

- * Raised the percentage of K-8 students receiving weekly arts access from 67% to 95%
- * More than doubled the number of high school students receiving arts—up from just 26% to 68%
- * Secured an additional \$11 million in public funding annually for the arts, amounting to 130 more arts teachers in schools

Dramatically increasing student achievement in middle grades math

Zeroing in on MATH

Only one third of Boston eighth graders are proficient in math. This is a quiet crisis in Boston schools as math proficiency indicates student readiness for high school academics, forms the foundation of skills for STEM study, and predicts post-secondary success. We set out to dramatically improve student achievement in middle grades math by launching Zeroing in on Math in 2015, a multi-year, city-wide initiative.

Three strategies guide our work:

- * Improve student math proficiency in grades 3-8 by closing student knowledge and skill gaps
- * Deepen effective math instruction by strengthening teacher math knowledge and pedagogy
- * Build a citywide community of math advocates

In Year 2 of the initiative, students averaged gains in math knowledge and skills of 1.4 grade levels (vs. the expected .9). In Year 3, we will provide more intensive supports for deeper impact at 16 schools serving over 4,000 students.

Expanding Career and Technical Education Pathways

Career & Technical Education

EdVestors' third and most recent effort to achieve city-wide student impact is our work to expand Career and Technical Education (CTE) pathways in Boston schools. CTE pathways that marry rigorous academics with high-quality Career and Technical Education can be an effective strategy for overall high school improvement, resulting in deeper student academic engagement and increased access to post-secondary and employment opportunities for Boston students. We believe that CTE pathways built on best practices can serve as a cornerstone to improve a number of Boston Public Schools. EdVestors is working closely with East Boston High School where new career pathways are launching while simultaneously partnering with the BPS central office to develop a cohesive district-wide CTE strategy.

