

# DEAR COMMUNITY,

## A QUARTERLY REPORT ON IMPACT



Dear Community,

We want to express a heartfelt thank you to DPS Foundation and all donors who help make a difference in our students' lives! Your support matters. In our more than 30 combined years with the district, building our afterschool program has been one of the most meaningful because of the impact it has had on children and families. It might sound hyperbolic to say that this program helped Charles M. Schenck Community School (CMS) achieve all of its Unified Improvement Plan goals this year, but it obviously did: 100% of the children who attended the programs offered through the Lights On After School grant (which was over half of our school population) showed high percentage of daily school attendance, sustainable engagement during classroom instruction, as well as improved their social emotional skills, all of which had a direct and significant impact on their academic performance. Thank you for supporting students and schools!

**Molly Eldredge**, Family & Community Liaison and Teacher,  
After School Program Coordinator, CMS and Néstor Bravo, Principal, CMS



Funding from the Denver Public Schools Foundation provides safe, enriching and academically supportive **afterschool programs** for more than 2,400 DPS students every year. Compared to their peers not enrolled in such programs, students enrolled in regular DPS afterschool programs exhibit: better school attendance, lower suspension rates, higher academic growth across reading, writing and math. *To date, DPS Foundation has contributed more than \$11.2 million to afterschool programs!*



Students Enrolled  
in Summer 2023:

**278**



Partners:

**144**



Completion Rate:

**92%**

**The Launch Internship Program**, made possible in part thanks to DPS Foundation support, is a professional internship program where students gain first-hand experience in careers. Internships are typically 75-110 hours, around 5-10 hours each week. Students who complete the program successfully may be eligible for fellowship grants (financial incentives) and earn high school credit.



*"I extend my heartfelt appreciation to my educators for their unwavering support and guidance. You have collectively made the impossible possible and have propelled me toward realizing my dream."* Student Nate Chavez plans to graduate this fall and is completing a pre-apprenticeship program at Emily Griffith and has accepted an apprenticeship position with Meridian to begin shortly after he graduates.

The DPS Foundation's new Community Leads and Students Succeed (CLASS) framework implements a strategy to improve student and school outcomes across Denver public schools. **The framework covers student & academic growth** 🧑, **life skills and social emotional learning** 📋, **family engagement and supports** 🧡, and **educator leadership development** 👤.



**The Village** at the Contemporary Learning Academy (CLA) was launched in Fall 2021 after community engagement identified a need for support. The Village provides students and their families with wraparound supports that meet students where they are on their educational and career journeys by connecting them with mental health counseling, financial literacy, housing, food and clothing support, LGBTQ+ support, work opportunities and more. The Village serves six Pathways high schools which admit students who are at risk or off-track to graduate and provides them with intensive academic and emotional support. The Village is made possible in part thanks to DPS Foundation and community support.



The Village supports more than **300** households annually,



with **2,000** individual service touchpoints and



**50,000** pounds of groceries distributed yearly!



Watch [this video](#) to hear from a student and educator on the impact of The Village supports.

## A to Z Fund Classroom Grants for Teachers:

DPS Foundation awarded \$178,166 to 76 schools and departments during the first cycle of the 2023-24 A to Z Fund. Educators can apply for up to \$3,000 in grants each semester. A to Z Fund has now awarded more than \$2.95 million since its inception in 2006 (we will hit \$3 million next cycle!). An estimated 16,414 students will be supported with these dollars - an average of 215 students per grant. This cycle's grants will support a variety of projects and programs, musical instruments, transportation expenses for field trips and other travel, culturally responsive books, and so much more. **The need:** We received 101 applications this cycle, totaling more than \$260,000.



## Rose Community Foundation

donated \$75,000 to support the alignment of social-emotional curriculum, common language, and practices before, during, and after school so students could receive consistent support in all educational spaces.

The work: By providing professional development and Transformative Social Emotional Academic Learning (TSEAL) curriculum training to after school staff at the 11 participating schools, the following outcomes were achieved: improvements in staff reporting was evident in various areas (especially around building relationships and developing knowledge of TSEAL concepts and skills), as well as significant growth in students' Transformative Social Emotional Academic Learning competency assessment scores.



## Mobilizing the community in support of DPS students:

DPS Foundation has been very active in the community, including presentations both locally and nationally on the Community Leads

and Students Succeed (CLASS) framework, a regional meeting discussing philanthropy's role in addressing career and college readiness for students of color as early as elementary level, a panel of school foundations sharing how to advance school district strategic initiatives and more.



CLICK [HERE](#) to watch the presentation on student mental health and wellbeing as part of the CLASS framework, featuring representatives from DPS Foundation CLASS school partners Cesar Rivera, principal at Samuels Elementary, and Sarah Peterson, assistant principal at Bruce Randolph High School.



## Exciting news!

DPS Foundation was thrilled to be honored as a Denver Business Journal Partners in Philanthropy award winner this year. These awards recognize organizations

that have demonstrated innovation and developed best practices in partnerships with nonprofits, showcasing their dedication to making a positive impact in the Denver community. This award wouldn't have been possible without all of our amazing community support!