

STUDENT GRANTMAKING



When our students have a voice, they thrive.

In early 2024, the Denver Public Schools Foundation created its first ever Student Grantmaking Advisory Committee. This new grantmaking effort was created to better meet the needs of DPS students, help them affect change in their schools and communities, and to return power to Denver Public Schools students. Through direct funding for their ideas and projects, we can better understand what Denver Public Schools students need in order to be successful both while they are in school and after graduation.



During the process, one student reviewer shared, *"I'm incredibly excited about the opportunity to have a say in the development of this new program and potentially get my own grant idea funded."*

– **Melissa Roman-Giles, Northfield HS Junior**



6 STUDENT AWARDEES



5 SCHOOLS REPRESENTED



\$13K+ TOTAL FUNDS AWARDED SO FAR

With the committee of students gathering and sharing their valuable feedback, DPS Foundation awarded more than \$13,000 to students and groups for either individual grants or student-led grants. This initial grant was made possible thanks to DPS Foundation board member Rebecca Grant Zarret and her husband Scott Zarret. A couple examples of the type of work that the student grantmaking fund will support include:

- **Cruz from West High School;** \$3,000 to remove barriers and increase participation in the DPS Department of Technology Services student internship/apprenticeship program
- **Sara from North High School;** \$730 to start their Northstar Ambassador Program, which is a program that provides new-to-country students with student ambassadors who have bilingual and community-building skills

The DPS Foundation is proudly continuing our Student Grantmaking Program during the 2024-25 school year! We have six student awardees so far, representing five different DPS high schools: 5280 High School, East High School, North High School, Northfield High School and South High School, with funds totaling \$12,200! These funds will be used to set up student-run businesses and support student ambassador programs such as a women in business club and an art exhibition. All students meet as a cohort once a month to share feedback and receive support for their programs.

If you would like to learn more about this program and how you can support, please visit dpsfoundation.org/what-we-support/students/student-grantmaking. If you have a student or student group that you believe would be a good fit for this grant, please reach out via email to grantmaking@dpsfoundation.org.

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