

# A TO Z FUND:

## A Special Edition Report on Denver Public Schools Foundation's Impact

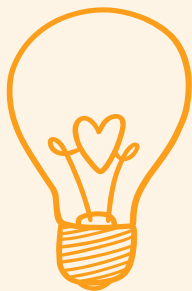


DPS Foundation is celebrating a major milestone — directing more than \$3 million to classrooms since the program's inception in 2006!

**When educators have the tools they need, we all benefit.** Our educators must have adequate support in both schools and the classroom. Since 2006, Denver Public Schools Foundation's A to Z Fund provides direct to classroom grants for teachers that ensures educators have the resources they need to provide students learning opportunities - in spite of often limited classroom budgets. This is one way that DPS Foundation galvanizes and mobilizes our entire community to invest in crucial resources and programs that have the greatest impact on student success.



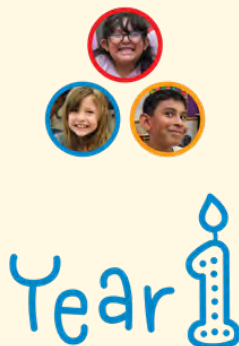
### HISTORY



Jerry's Fund was created in 2005 to honor the vision and leadership of Dr. Jerry Wartgow, former superintendent of Denver Public Schools. Contributions have been held in a long-term endowment at The Denver Foundation, with earnings used to launch and sustain the A to Z Fund—an initiative that grew directly from Jerry's Fund. Founding donors who made both funds possible include Benson Mineral, Westerra Credit Union, the Rutt Bridges Foundation, the Salazar Family Foundation, Morgridge Family Foundation, Kristen & Blair Richardson, and Elaine & Steve Berman. We are grateful to these founding donors for providing the solid foundation for making this fund the success that it is today! Thanks to these generous donors and Dr. Jerry Wartgow, A to Z Fund has a lasting impact.

### Then

**A to Z Fund's inception in 2006:** In year one, A to Z grants served 17,734 students at 67 DPS schools.



### Now

More than \$3.2 million with a total of 524,795 students served!





## Making BIG and lasting impact: A to Z Fund has supported an average of 30,000 DPS students annually since 2006!

Since the program's inception, DPS Foundation has supported 88% of DPS schools through A to Z Fund grants. This most recent cycle, 100% of the 73 applications were funded with a total of \$173,499.15, serving 17,329 students. A to Z Fund provides grants of up to \$3,000 each semester. Despite the strong impact of these grants, the demand continues to exceed available funding. While 100% of those who applied received funding this cycle, 20% of those applications received only partial funding.

**Providing direct to classroom support for nearly 20 years adds up. Discover what schools have achieved thanks to receiving funds multiple times over the past two decades.**

### Ellis Elementary has received funding from A to Z Fund every school year since 2006, except for one! They have received a total of \$42,304 in A to Z Funds and it has made a big impact:



*The A to Z Fund through the DPS Foundation has had a transformative impact on our students by providing rich visual arts experiences that foster creativity and self-expression, contributing to their overall growth. These projects would not have been possible without the support of the A to Z Fund, which allows us to offer unique opportunities that would otherwise be out of reach. The projects funded through this grant inspire students, help students develop confidence, and provide a creative outlet that enhances their emotional and social well-being, supporting both academic and social-emotional learning in an equitable way. Long-term, the DPS Foundation's funding has enriched our community through consistent, diverse opportunities for artistic exploration and growth.*

**- Amber Bourgeois, MA, Ellis Elementary Assistant Principal**

#### A RECENT A TO Z FUND GRANT HAS MADE A LASTING IMPACT ON ELLIS ELEMENTARY'S SCHOOL ENVIRONMENT AND CULTURE:

*In 2022, Armando (Artmando) Silva created a SOMOS (We Are) mural with our students. The goals of this project were for the students to have several conversations with a professional artist about who they are as a community and based on their conversations contribute to the creation of a mural for the interior of our school. Through this project, the students gained a better sense of community and contributed to the equity work that we value here at Ellis as they participated in the creation of the mural. Additionally, David Ocelotl Garcia is going to be working on a mural with students this spring. The artist will be continuing the idea of community with the students. We are grateful for the A to Z Fund because it has helped make these murals for our community possible.*

**- Jessica Buchberger, Ellis Elementary School, Visual Arts Teacher**





**Holm Elementary has been awarded an A to Z grant almost every single year since 2006 and has received a total of \$33,487.**

**Kindergarten teacher Ellie Lucy shared, *The A to Z grant has been such a wonderful grant to work with the past 3 years! With the help of this grant we have gone on an additional 11 field trips that have benefited over 300 kindergarten students here at Holm Elementary! Many of these students wouldn't have had these experiences without the help of the grant. We love and appreciate the A to Z grant! Thank you so much!***

**Hamilton Middle School has received support from A to Z Fund since 2007, with a total of \$31,822 awarded in support of the school.**

**Hear from educator Priscilla Shaw, a music teacher at Hamilton, on the impact these funds have made for her students:**



*We are proud to support educators in bringing creative and enriching opportunities to their classrooms. These grants not only alleviate financial barriers but also ensure that students have access to the tools and experiences they need to succeed. We are thrilled to have directed more than \$3 million to support these innovative projects and experiences and can't wait to continue to support students and educators in this way, year after year. - Sara Hazel, President and CEO at DPS Foundation.*



The next round of grant applications opens on Monday, July 28, and remains open through Monday, September 15.

**For more information on how to apply, or contribute to support these funds, visit [dpsfoundation.org/a-to-z-fund](https://dpsfoundation.org/a-to-z-fund) or email [grantmaking@dpsfoundation.org](mailto:grantmaking@dpsfoundation.org).**

