Education & Philanthropy

Education institutions play a critical role in helping individuals, communities, and societies reach their potential. But when communities receive inadequate school funding, resource gaps can further perpetuate existing racial and wealth inequalities. Often, these under-resourced schools face additional challenges in preparing students for post-secondary education and for future employment opportunities.

PHILANTHROPY TRENDS

Education is consistently one of the largest giving categories in the United States. In 2020, U.S.-based donors gave more than $71 billion to education, which represented 15% of all giving and was surpassed only by charitable giving to religion.

According to a benchmarking study by Grantmakers for Education, here’s how grant dollars were spent in 2018:

- Elementary / secondary education: 57%
- Postsecondary education & workforce / career readiness: 49%
- Early learning: 4%

HOW FUNDERS ARE ENGAGING WITH THE EDUCATION SECTOR

Diversity, Equity & Inclusion
The Lumina Fund for Racial Justice and Equity advances equity and justice, with a focus on higher education in the United States.

Social & Emotional Learning, Mental Health & Well-being
Social and Emotional Learning (SEL For Teachers) works toward high-quality SEL practices through education, technical assistance, and networks.

Global Education
The International Commission on Financing Global Education Opportunity engages world leaders, policymakers, and researchers to promote investment in quality education for all.

Addressing Student Debt
Achieving Success in Postsecondary Education surveyed student debt in the United States and highlighted trends in postsecondary education funding.

HOW TO GET STARTED

Engage with member organizations and peer-learning networks involved in education.

Reflect on personal experiences in education to discover education issues, causes, and organizations that resonate most.

Read about issues in education, talk with other funders, and connect with individuals already working in the education space.

To learn more, email info@rockpa.org.

EDUCATION ECOSYSTEM OVERVIEW

Schools & universitites
Government agencies
Teacher preparation programs
Nonprofits and NGOs
Corporations, foundations, & individual donors