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OHIO GRANTMAKERS FORUM

Serving Grantmakers. Promoting Philanthropy.

EDUCATION FOR OHIO'S FUTURE



The Challenge Before Us...

We can continue to make incremental changes and take our chances that the rest of the industrialized world will not get too far ahead of us...

or

we can seize an unprecedented opportunity to begin transforming our school system to ensure our students' future success.

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Ohio Grantmakers Forum



- ▶ An association of foundations, corporate contributions programs and other grantmaking organizations.
- ▶ Ohio has more than 3,000 foundations that contributed more than **\$1 billion** last year to improve the quality of life for citizens throughout the state.
- ▶ Ohio ranks 7th in the number of foundations; 9th in total giving.

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Grantmakers' Commitment

Ohio grantmakers are deeply ***committed*** to education.

More grant dollars go to education every year – more than ***\$300 million*** – than any other funding interest area.

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OGF Education Initiative Mission:

1. To enhance the Ohio grantmakers' ability to ***fulfill their charitable goals*** by giving them a better understanding of what happens in schools and classrooms ... and of the complexities of education reform.
2. To make a positive contribution to the state's education reform initiatives by advocating for ***bolder action*** and an ***accelerated pace of change and improvement***.

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Philanthropic Leadership & Public Policy

- ▶ *With the Best of Intentions: How Philanthropy is Reshaping K-12 Education*
- ▶ 2005 report, *Buckets in the Sea*, by researcher Jay Greene
- ▶ Philanthropy gave between \$1 to \$1.5 billion to K-12 education in 2002...Less than 1% of total education spending

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A Few Thoughts from Researchers

“Trying to reshape education with private philanthropy is like trying to reshape the ocean with buckets of water.”

“The only realistic strategy for reform by philanthropists is to leverage their private dollars by attempting to redirect how future public expenditures are used.”

Jay Greene, “Buckets into the Sea: Why Philanthropy Isn’t Changing the Schools and How it Could” from With the Best of Intentions

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A few more...

“Most education grantmakers undertake relatively little work in the area of public policy...While a lack of attention to education policy is certainly not the only reason that many philanthropic efforts have failed to cause lasting change or fallen short of high hopes, this failure to consistently engage in the policy process has at a minimum done nothing to lessen the other challenges grantmakers face.”

Andrew Rotherham, Education Sector

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Grantmakers Special Role

***Philanthropists have
“skin in the game.”***

We have points of view.

Our contributions are
defined by what we think
as much as ***the partnerships
and alliances we build.***

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Grantmakers Special Role

Foundations have a unique capacity to serve as ***neutral, honest brokers*** ... to bring people and organizations with disparate points of view to the table to find ***areas of consensus*** ... and to ***resolve conflicts*** that can get in the way of pursuing ***a common cause.***

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The Rationale for OGF's Education Initiative

- ▶ Influence education policy agendas at gubernatorial, legislative, state and local level through OGF's collective voice.
- ▶ Identify effective actions to improve performance -- student, school and system levels.
- ▶ If grantmakers are interested in impact and effectiveness they must be involved in education policy.
- ▶ Help members make strategic, aligned investments that will have the greatest positive impact on Ohio's students/schools.
- ▶ To provide accurate, up-to-date information to OGF members.

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Foundation Support for Initiative

• Funders

- ▶ The Abington Foundation
- ▶ Ashland County Community Foundation
- ▶ The Ashtabula Foundation
- ▶ The Greater Cincinnati Foundation
- ▶ The Cleveland Foundation
- ▶ The Dayton Foundation
- ▶ Dominion
- ▶ Fairfield County Foundation
- ▶ Findlay-Hancock County Community Foundation
- ▶ The George Gund Foundation
- ▶ Iddings Foundation
- ▶ Martha Holden Jennings Foundation
- ▶ JPMorgan Chase Foundation
- ▶ Joyce Foundation
- ▶ KnowledgeWorks Foundation
- ▶ The Community Foundation of Lorain County
- ▶ The Nord Family Foundation
- ▶ Nordson Corporation Foundation
- ▶ Owens Corning Foundation
- ▶ Richland County Foundation
- ▶ Sandusky/Erie County Community Fdn.
- ▶ Jacob Schmidlapp Trust-Fifth Third
- ▶ The Sherwick Fund
- ▶ Sisters of Charity Foundation of Cleveland
- ▶ Stark Education Partnership, Inc.
- ▶ The Stocker Foundation
- ▶ The Stranahan Foundation
- ▶ The Frank M. Tait Foundation
- ▶ Toledo Community Foundation, Inc.
- ▶ The Bill & Melinda Gates Fdn.

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Education Initiatives' Highlights

- Released *Education for Ohio's Future ...* OGF's education reform agenda [DECEMBER 2006]
- Convened a statewide conference on Ohio's education reform priorities [MAY 2007]
- Conducted 10 regional conversations where 1,500 Ohioans talked about the implications of state education reform for their students and schools [AUGUST 2007 – JANUARY 2008]

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Education Initiative's Highlights

- Convened two workgroups composed of representatives of 33 stakeholder organizations to explore ways to prepare Ohio students for 21st century success [MAY 2008]
- Advanced 11 consensus policy recommendations in ***Beyond Tinkering ...*** the product of the two workgroups [JANUARY – MAY 2009]
- 75% of consensus recommendations included in the budget bill, House Bill 1 [JULY 2009]
- Hosted 6 regional meetings to discuss national and state education reform activities, along with local education needs [OCTOBER – DECEMBER 2009]

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Ohio College- and Career- Ready Consortium: A Statewide Education Advocacy Partnership

- Business Alliance for Higher Education and the Economy
- Thomas B. Fordham Institute
- KidsOhio.org
- KnowledgeWorks Foundation
- Ohio Alliance for Public Charter Schools
- Ohio Grantmakers Forum
- Funded by the Bill & Melinda Gates Fdn.

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Race to the Top (RTTT)

- Secured collaboration and involvement of key education stakeholder groups in proposal development and review (including Ohio's legislative leaders)
- Developed materials and mechanisms for broad-based communication efforts
- Helped prepare RTTT presentation materials and prepped the “pitch team”
- Hired national RTTT consultant to help provide strategic direction and advice to the Project Team
- The Result...Assisted in securing \$400 million for Ohio's schoolchildren

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Continuing Work

▶ Convening

- ▶ Broker and convene education reform-related discussions
 - ▶ Host regional meetings
 - ▶ Assist OGF members in meetings in their communities
 - ▶ Establish and support networking among state education stakeholders

▶ Advocacy

- ▶ Prioritize issues and advocacy agenda
- ▶ Establish and nurture stakeholder relationships

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Going Forward, together . . .



None of us can be satisfied knowing that our collective investment in public education is failing to equip our children with the knowledge and skills they will need to thrive in the 21st century.

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We have a choice to make. . .

We can continue to make
incremental changes and
take our chances

OR

We can begin transforming our
schools – creating a world-
class education system – to
ensure our children's and our
state's future success.



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Questions and Discussion

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