ABOUT THE FUND

The Fund for Educational Excellence believes that all Baltimore City Public School students deserve an excellent and equitable education.

Through its relationships with the school district and philanthropic, corporate, and community leaders, the Fund builds support for school system improvements, promotes racially equitable public policy and practice, attracts and oversees philanthropic investments, and manages innovative programs that support City Schools’ students and communities.

The nonprofit, founded in 1984, serves as Baltimore’s independent public education fund and works for every student to reach their full potential. To learn more, visit ffee.org.

OUR MISSION

We expand resources, identify and accelerate solutions, and recognize excellence so that all children in Baltimore City Public Schools experience an effective and equitable education.

OUR VISION

We envision a highly regarded, exceptional Baltimore City Public Schools system where students of every race and socioeconomic background attend high performing schools and graduate with promising choices for their futures.

An excellent and equitable education for all Baltimore City Public School students.

REALIZE WHAT'S POSSIBLE.
The Fund regularly publishes reports that amplify community voices and combine strong analytics with community input to address some of the most pressing problems facing our students like public transit, career and technical education, college readiness and more. **Numbers and impact:** Five of the Fund’s key recommendations have been implemented by City Schools to catalyze systemic change and improve academic experience and opportunities. Through the reports, the Fund has amplified the experience of more than 1,600 students, educators and community members.

**ChiPP is an early-childhood development program that provides parents of pre-school age children with effective parenting strategies for behavioral management and skills to support their children’s success.**  
**Numbers and impact:** To date, the program has served 500 parents in 11 Baltimore City Public Schools. Ninety-six percent of parents indicated their child’s behavior is “better than before” they started the program and 87 percent reported that they would be “much more likely” to attend other programs for parents at their child’s school.

Our district fundraising team works closely with City Schools to raise and secure investment from foundations and corporations to support the highest priority needs. **Numbers and impact:** Our work has raised more than $16 million since 2020 from local and national funders to support critical projects including addressing the COVID-19 pandemic. **Recent fundraising successes include** grants from the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation and the U.S. Department of Education.

The Fund provides mission-aligned nonprofit organizations and community programs with high-level financial and human resource operations support, allowing organizations to focus on their programmatic goals which often include developing innovative educational reforms and expanding student access to high-quality education. **Numbers and impact:** The Fund has managed $57 million for its clients over the past six years and currently serves as fiscal sponsor for 168 initiatives operating in Baltimore City.

Heart of the Schools is a community-led program that celebrates and supports City Schools principals through recognition, grants and events. **Numbers and impact:** The Fund distributes more than $125,000 annually to an average of 30 schools for school enhancement projects through the Heart of the School Fund and recognizes 10 principals each year for their leadership and service as Heart of the School Award winners and honorees.

School Choice Workshops help students and families navigate the district’s school choice process for middle and high school and ensure that every family has the information needed to make an informed decision on what high school is the best fit for them. **Numbers and impact:** Since 2017, the Fund has facilitated 62 workshops for 1,226 participants.
MEET OUR LEADERSHIP TEAM

Roger Schulman  
President & Chief Executive Officer  
Works collaboratively with school district, philanthropic and community partners to advance the Fund’s mission

Chuck Adkins  
Chief Financial Officer  
Oversees all aspects of the organization’s finances, human resources and strategic fiscal planning

Sharon Drevitch Dondes  
Senior Program Director  
Fiscal Sponsorship Services  
Works with district and foundation partners in managing local and national grants in support of strategic initiatives for City Schools and other organizations

Kevin Leary  
Senior Program Director  
District Development  
Manages the Heart of the Schools program and works with City Schools and funding communities to craft reform initiatives for private investment

Patrick Locklin  
Director of Finance  
Manages the day-to-day aspects of the organization’s finances, budget development and general accounting services

Corrie Schoenberg  
Senior Program Director  
Analysis and Engagement  
Manages the Fund’s reports, using qualitative inquiry and research analysis to bring light and solutions to issues facing Baltimore’s public school community

Kwane Wyatt  
Program Director  
Analysis and Engagement  
Manages the Chicago Parent Program (ChiPP) in City Schools and supports the Fund’s reports by engaging closely with Baltimore students, families, educators and communities

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