

DONORS' EDUCATION COLLABORATIVE

in THE NEW YORK COMMUNITY TRUST

Building Better Schools, Together.

The Donors' Education Collaborative welcomes new members.

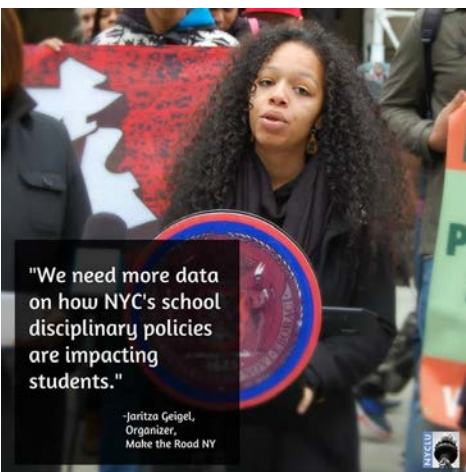
For 20 years, The Donors' Education Collaborative (DEC) has brought funders together to support efforts to improve the New York City public school system for *all* of its students. With 1.1 million students in more than 1,800 schools, the City's public school system is the largest district in the United States. Nearly every New Yorker has a stake in the public schools, and the system's innovations, successes, and failures are watched closely throughout the country. Improving our schools is a daunting task, but DEC provides a way for funders to face that challenge together.

By pooling funds, drawing on our members' and staff's expertise in education, making grants collaboratively, and supporting strategic policy initiatives, we've made our education system better for a diverse student body, increased State funding for schools, and decreased suspensions Citywide. But there is more to be done.

If you are a funder interested in New York, its citizens, and its schools, we hope you'll consider joining us.



A young participant in the March for Community Schools in District 9 in the Bronx. The event was organized by New Settlement Apartments' Parent Action Committee with DEC support.



Jaritza Geigel, a member of the Dignity in Schools Campaign, speaks at a rally at City Hall to strengthen the Student Safety Act. The Donors' Education Collaborative funds the Dignity in Schools Campaign-New York and the New York Civil Liberties Union for their work to reform policing in schools.

"Learning by doing is different than learning by listening, and the Donors' Education Collaborative is a great learning community."

– Steven Aresty, Catherine and Joseph Aresty Foundation

"Our foundation makes grants to those who work directly with disadvantaged students, but we saw that our grantees' good work was hampered by system-wide problems. We joined DEC to leverage our modest funds and support advocacy for better policies."

– Judy Bigelow, Fordham Street Foundation

"We joined DEC because of its focus on improving the system for students who are often left behind."

– Tanya Herbick, Morton K. and Jane Blaustein Foundation

Current Donors' Education Collaborative members:

Catherine and Joseph Aresty Foundation • The Atlantic Philanthropies • The Morton K. and Jane Blaustein Foundation • Booth Ferris Foundation • Robert Sterling Clark Foundation • Deutsche Bank Americas Foundation • Ford Foundation • Fordham Street Foundation • The New York Community Trust • Schott Foundation for Public Education • Trinity Wall Street Grants Program

20 Years of Results for New York City Schools

The Donors' Education Collaborative is dedicated to the improvement of New York City's public schools through system-wide policy reform. It supports advocacy to advance equity, opportunity, and excellence for *all* students—including those facing the greatest challenges. Members share a belief that effective and lasting reform is grounded in research and carried out in partnership with parents, students, educators, and community members. With this grantmaking strategy and an understanding that sustainable change takes time, DEC's investments over the years have improved education in New York.

- DEC-funded **A+ NYC Coalition** worked with diverse communities to develop and advocate for an education policy platform during the 2012 and 2013 mayoral campaign. The Coalition's recommendations were adopted by the de Blasio Administration, including: expanded pre-kindergarten and afterschool programs; more community schools; reformed school discipline and policing; and strengthened involvement of parents in schools.
- Funding for the **NYC Coalition for Educational Justice** helped organize low-income parents of color, immigrant families, and students in education reform. These communities are now regular participants in policy discussions. The coalition's most recent accomplishment is a renewed commitment to parent engagement by the Department of Education.
- After years of DEC-funded advocacy by the **Alliance for Quality Education** and the **Campaign for Fiscal Equity**, New York State enacted a number of reforms in its State Education Budget and Reform Act of 2007, including a large increase in aid to schools across the state, and a more equitable funding formula for school aid based on student need.
- With DEC funding, The **Dignity in Schools Campaign – New York** won revisions to the City's School Discipline Code, reducing the emphasis on automatic suspension while increasing help for struggling students. As a result, suspensions have decreased by 39% since the 2010-2011 school year.

Current Priorities

In late 2013, DEC invited proposals for projects to advocate for system-wide policies to increase equity, excellence, and collaboration among groups in the City public school system. In 2014, DEC awarded grants to: Advocates for Children of New York • Alliance for Quality Education • Asian American Legal Defense & Education Fund / New York Appleseed • Brooklyn Movement Center • Dignity in Schools Campaign – New York, led by the National Economic and Social Rights Initiative • Make the Road New York • New Settlement Apartments' Parent Action Committee • NYC Coalition for Educational Justice • New York Civil Liberties Union • ExpandED (formerly The After-School Corporation) with the NYC Coalition for Educational Justice, Generation Schools Network, and the National Center on Time and Learning • The New School's Center for New York City Affairs. Most of these grants were renewed in 2015.

For more information, please visit DEC's website at <http://bit.ly/1kslnka> or contact us:

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