



BELLEVUE
SCHOOLS
FOUNDATION

This 2016–17 Outcomes Report highlights some of the positive impacts that Foundation supporters like you make reality for children in our community. With your generous support, the stories, facts, and figures inside show how students and families across the District benefit from your commitment to education.

Thank you for transforming education and supporting students.

GIVING KIDS THE BEST START

In June 2016, we received the devastating news that all Head Start funding for early learning in Bellevue schools was cut—a **loss of 151 early learning slots** for low-income children. That support provides not just education, but wraparound health and social services. Bellevue Schools Foundation launched an emergency fundraising campaign to mitigate this loss for our community's neediest young learners.

Thanks to donors and support from stakeholders, **130 low-income children** who registered in the fall of 2016 and who would have qualified for Head Start were able to attend half-day preschool. They experienced high-quality early learning, nutrition, health screening, and family support services. They also **made incredible progress**: year-end assessments show growth in six key areas (social/emotional, cognitive, language, literacy, math, and physical) that **closed achievement gaps**. This growth during the time of a child's critical brain development will make a positive and lasting impact on their lives. Research shows life benefits include improved graduation rates, incomes, and health.



"My students have been the recipients of this gift of literacy to enter first grade on target. Thank you for your support in helping us meet our goal of reaching 100% of our students!"

—BSD Kindergarten Teacher

DEVELOPING READERS

Kids are ready to read! **1,121** kindergarten and first grade students in **45** high-poverty classrooms received **early literacy intervention**. This support through our Project READiness program is helping kids develop reading skills so they are strong readers by 3rd grade, a benchmark for on-time graduation and long-term success. Benchmark assessments indicate a **13% gain in early literacy proficiency for kindergarteners and an 18% gain for first grade students** across these 45 classrooms. These kids have made positive steps to becoming strong readers by third grade—a critical milestone for success in school!

BUILDING RESILIENCE

Social Emotional Learning for our students in all **7 middle schools** teaches adolescents self-awareness, self-management, relationship skills, social awareness, and responsible decision making. These social-emotional skills boost students' academic success and improve their health. This year **4,589** middle school students participated in character development and **160** middle and high school students were trained in peer mediation.

In July 2017, the Bellevue Schools District was **recognized nationally** in *District Administration* magazine for leadership and gains in social emotional learning.



EQUITY IN STEM EDUCATION



One of the first in the nation, Bellevue's **K-12 Computer Science** Initiative integrates computational thinking and computer science education into core curriculum, such as social studies and science.

Focused on **equity in computer science** to engage all children—especially girls, children of underrepresented minorities, low-income children, English language learners, and children with special needs—this program makes advanced high school computer science courses more accessible to them in the future.

This year, **5,800** elementary and middle school students advanced their skills and **12,718** K-8 students participated in Hour of Code. Teachers report increased student engagement, improved critical thinking, and new opportunities to learn.

ENGINEERING FUTURES

Kids dig into **STEM** (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math)! The STEM Initiative impacts **9,029** elementary students and **1,463** middle school students. They learn 21st century skills—**critical thinking, communication, creativity, and collaboration**—through hands-on engineering design challenges. Improving STEM instruction links to a **9-point increase** on student achievement in *science inquiry* and a **18-point increase** in *science application* on state assessments. At every elementary school, free after-school robotics and coding, taught by students' teachers, helps close STEM opportunity gaps for **2,000 kids**.



"Kids need to get an earlier chance to get experience in coding because it may be something they may fall in love with in the future and end up getting a degree and change the world."
—BSD 4th Grade Student

EMBRACING DIVERSITY



Breaking Out Of the Margin (BOOM) and Sisters Having Outstanding Uniqueness Together (SHOUT) mentoring programs connected **640 Black, Latino/a, and Native American youth** from every middle and high school with mentors of similar race, cultural backgrounds, and genders. Young men in BOOM and young women in SHOUT each convened for full-day conferences at Bellevue College to learn from inspirational workshop leaders.

BOOM and SHOUT give youth agency to fight racism, develop leadership skills, and set goals for their futures.

ELEVATING EDUCATION

The **Advanced Placement (AP) Capstone Diploma** program brought **two new college-level courses** emphasizing research, writing, and critical thinking to **160 high school students** at Bellevue and Newport High Schools.



The AP Capstone Diploma Program engages students in inquiry-based project work and research while completing an in-depth study on a topic of their choice. The skills learned and refined will serve them well in their futures as they take on similar tasks in college and careers.

"This class will benefit both my academic and intellectual life. I've never written papers like this before, or done research at such an in-depth level. I know that these are the skills I will use in college, and I even find myself at an advantage in my other classes."—Bellevue High Student

LAUNCHING BRIGHT FUTURES



6,322 students from every Bellevue high school and **4,589** students from every middle school have **24/7** access to *Naviance*, a cloud-based college and career planning tool. Information about **career opportunities**, like education requirements and expected salaries, and research on **post-secondary education**, including over 4,000 colleges, is right at their fingertips. Students also have free access to **SAT and ACT test preparation**.

Naviance student use doubled from the previous year to **113,034** log-ins! This year, high school seniors from every high school submitted **14,825** college applications and counselors efficiently submitted over **40,000** letters of recommendation and other supporting documents through *Naviance* to help youth find the "just right" fit for their post-secondary education. Kids now have a great start for their futures!

ADDING INSPIRATION & INNOVATION

Music programs in all **28 schools** in Bellevue benefited from investments in new instruments for student use and **Arts, Enrichment, & Innovation Grants** to provide music enrichment for students. In 2016–17, we awarded **Eleven grants** for music in elementary, middle and high school. Additionally, we awarded **77 Arts, Enrichment, & Innovation Grants** to teachers to inspire learning and enrich students in the arts, literature, science, technology, history, culture, and more.



Your support is essential to making all of this and more possible. Thanks to you, every student in Bellevue's public schools is receiving an education that provides a foundation for opportunity, growth, and success in life. **Thank you!**

Visit www.bellevueschoolsfoundation.org to learn more.