



QUALITY
EDUCATION
for ALL

QEA Fund
Advisory Board

J. Wayne Weaver, Chairman

Gary R. Chartrand

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July 7, 2017

Superintendent Pat Willis
Duval County Public Schools
1701 Prudential Drive
Jacksonville, FL 32207

Re: The Quality Education for All Fund

Dear Dr. Willis:

The Quality Education for All Fund board writes to you today with increased optimism that Duval County Public Schools will continue to achieve record results in student achievement, and we offer our congratulations on the momentum that has been achieved in recent years through the leadership of the Board and Nikolai Vitti, a reform minded Superintendent. The district is not far from achieving an A rating which is certainly attainable if the right investments are made to continue this upward trend. Our children deserve the best we can offer them to insure they are college and career ready.

As you deliberate the investments to be made in the upcoming budget, we respectfully request that you fund the initiatives that supportive community members have invested heavily in and which have produced excellent results.

Ten years ago, The Community Foundation for Northeast Florida created the Quality Education for All initiative which was specifically created to focus on the achievement gap and the most at risk schools and students. It ignited the private/philanthropic community to invest millions of dollars in the Duval County Public Schools, with the implicit understanding that if we took the financial risk to launch promising new reform focused programs and they proved successful, that the district would embrace and continue to invest in those programs. It was under that premise that we brought forth Teach for America, City Year, Columbia University's Summer Principals Academy (SPA), Jacksonville Teacher Residency Program, Teacher and Principal incentives in the District Transformation schools, the opening of Tiger Academy and The KIPP schools, and the establishment of the Jacksonville Public Education Fund.

We in the private community want to continue to honor our part of the Quality Education for All Fund commitment through its conclusion, but only if we believe that we can count on the underlying partnership that has existed since we began this journey to improve public education for our most at risk students. We believe that recruiting and retaining excellent educators in the DTO schools is of paramount importance to avoid derailing the progress that has been made, and we want to know that you share our conviction. If you are not willing to invest in those programs that have proven successful, we must consider that this bond has been broken, and we will have no choice but to step back our part of this arrangement until a new understanding can be established.

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Through the dedicated focus of both DCPS and external partners like the QEA Fund and other philanthropists and organizations, our community has come together to drive significant improvements in many schools. These investments were made with the best interest of children in mind and we don't think there is any question that programs that were launched by the District under that proposition have proven successful. A recap of the achievements and the data to support the programs is attached (see Public Education Partnership Results, attached).

The investments made by supportive community members over the last 10 years add up to well over \$120 million. This is an unprecedented amount of money and our city should take pride in the dedication of so many private citizens that want the best for our children.

We ask you to consider the impact on future investments from these concerned citizens if the Board does not continue to fund these important programs. As an example, Teach for America has been funded by the private community in the amount of \$19,600,000 since its inception. For the district to not provide funding for the 50 Corp members slated to start teaching in August is alarming to the private sector. If it's not important enough to the district to fund, then the private community will rightfully question why private money should be allocated.

Our request of the Board is to fund the programs that that have proven successful and received high ratings in your most recent strategic abandonment process. Specifically, we ask you to fund:

Teach for America at \$400,000

Jacksonville Teacher Residency at \$500,000

Teacher and Principal Incentives in the DTO schools \$3,000,000.

Reducing the resources put into these important programs puts a large number of children, teachers, schools and, ultimately, the whole community, at risk. The community, particularly those that surround these improving but fragile schools, wants to provide their children with a Quality Education, and we know you do as well. In the spirit of doing so, we urgently ask that you refine the budget to provide the funding requested above.

Sincerely,



J. Wayne Weaver, Chairman Quality Education for All Fund

Gary Chartrand

Lawrence DuBow

Cindy Edelman

Matt Rapp

David Stein

(Attachments)

Public Education Partnership Results

Private Contributions

- Over the last 10 years, the private community has contributed more than \$120 million for enhancement programs in partnership with Duval County Public Schools
- On an annual basis, private programs match DCPS contributions an average of 3:1

Teach for America

- 125 corps members impact more than 12,000 students every day
- If the TFA contract with DCPS does not continue, there could be 53 vacancies created by corps members entering their second year of teaching this fall. There will also be additional vacancies created by the roughly 50 incoming corps members who are eager to teach in Title 1 schools this fall
- Return on Investment
 - Total corps members: 125
 - Total alumni working in DCPS: 124
 - Total footprint: 249 (growing annually)
 - In Jacksonville, 70% of 2014 corps members chose to continue teaching beyond their two-year commitment and are in classrooms today
- Impact
 - A Columbia University study in Duval County shows that students with TFA teachers demonstrated additional growth in mathematics learning compared to the students of other novice teachers
 - Duval County students demonstrated increased learning in reading and literacy skills during the years they were taught by TFA teachers, compared to years when they were taught by non-TFA teachers (veteran and novice)
 - 90% of principals indicate TFA corps members have a positive impact on student performance
 - Last year, 34% of classes taught by TFA teacher had FSA pass rates at or above the pass rate of their school from the previous year
- TFA offers professional development and direct coaching support for first and second year corps members, including a coach who directly supports the corps member for the entire year

Quality Education for All

- Between 2005 – 2015 (first 10 years of QEA), the federal high school graduation rate in Duval County improved by more than 20%. The graduation rate for African American students also improved, and by 2015, was higher than the state average
- Comparing the Duval County high school graduation rate of African American students to that of all students suggests the achievement gap is narrowing; at least in the last five years the federal graduation rate was used to measure both groups
 - 2011: 8.5% gap
 - 2015: 5.5% gap
- Below is a summary of performance results for the schools where the Quality Education for All Fund has focused its investments:

School Name	School Grade 2013	School Grade 2014	School Grade 2015	School Grade 2016	School Grade 2017	Incentivized Principal (2016)
ANDREW A. ROBINSON ELEMENTARY SCHOOL	F	F	D	C	C	
ANDREW JACKSON HIGH SCHOOL	C	D	C	D	B	
ANNIE R. MORGAN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL	C	D	F	D	C	*
BILTMORE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL	B	C	C	D	C	
BISCAYNE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL	C	C	B	B	A	
BRENTWOOD ELEMENTARY SCHOOL	C	D	F	D	C	*
CARTER G. WOODSON ELEMENTARY SCHOOL	B	C	C	D	C	*
DINSMORE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL	C	D	B	A	A	*
EUGENE BUTLER MIDDLE SCHOOL^^	F	F	F	n/a	n/a	
GARDEN CITY ELEMENTARY SCHOOL	C	D	D	D	B	
GEORGE WASHINGTON CARVER ELEMENTARY	C	D	F	D	D	
HENRY F. KITE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL	C	C	B	C	A	*
HIGHLANDS MIDDLE SCHOOL	D	F	F	D	C	
JEAN RIBAUT HIGH SCHOOL	B	C	C	C	C	
JEAN RIBAUT MIDDLE SCHOOL	F	F	D	D	C	*
JOHN E. FORD K-8 SCHOOL	C	C	B	B	C	*
JOHN LOVE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL^^	C	D	F	F	n/a	
LAKE FOREST ELEMENTARY SCHOOL	D	F	D	D	D	
LONG BRANCH ELEMENTARY SCHOOL	C	D	F	C	D	
MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR ELEMENTARY SCHOOL	D	C	D	D	C	
MATTHEW W. GILBERT MIDDLE SCHOOL	D	D	F	D	D	
NORTH SHORE ELEMENTARY	C	D	C	C	C	*
NORTHWESTERN MIDDLE SCHOOL	D	F	F	D	D	
PICKETT ELEMENTARY SCHOOL	C	C	B	C	C	
REYNOLDS LANE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL	B	C	D	C	C	*

Young Men's Leadership Academy 2016 C, 2017 C

Now an early learning center; K-2; no grades

RICHARD L. BROWN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL^^	D	F	F	D	n/a		Now a Gifted Academy; 2017 C
RUFUS E. PAYNE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL	D	D	F	C	C		
RUTLEDGE H. PEARSON ELEMENTARY SCHOOL	B	B	B	C	D	*	
S. A. HULL ELEMENTARY SCHOOL	C	C	C	C	A	*	
SAINT CLAIR EVANS ACADEMY	D	C	D	D	C	*	
SALLYE B. MATHIS ELEMENTARY SCHOOL	C	D	C	C	D		
SMART POPE LIVINGSTON ELEMENTARY^^	D	F	F	F	???		Not on 2017 list but still listed online
SUSIE E. TOLBERT ELEMENTARY SCHOOL	D	C	C	C	D		
THOMAS JEFFERSON ELEMENTARY	B	C	A	A	A	*	
WEST JACKSONVILLE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL^^	F	F	F	C	???	*	Not on 2017 list; not online
WILLIAM M. RAINES HIGH SCHOOL	D	D	D	C	C	*	

	Total 2013	Total 2014	Total 2015	Total 2016	Total 2017	
A schools:	0	0	1	2	5	
B schools:	6	1	6	2	2	
C schools:	15	13	8	14	16	
D schools:	11	13	8	15	8	
F schools:	4	9	13	2	0	
Incomplete/No grade/ No longer QEA:	0	0	0	1	5	
	36	36	36	36	36	

Jacksonville Teacher Residency Program

- As of 2017, JTR has prepared 27 new teachers for successful careers in Jacksonville’s high-needs schools
- Retention
 - Cohort 1: 100% (9/9)
 - Cohort 2: 89% (8/9)
 - Cohort 3: 83% (10/12)
- 96% of program Residents intend to teach in Duval County past their 3 year JTR commitment (26/27)

- Schools – JTR serves a subset of Duval County Public Schools, known as Duval Transformation Office (DTO) schools. The DTO was developed in 2013 by DCPS with the goal to provide quality education to the students of 36 historically low-performing schools in the Raines, Ribault, and Jackson high school feeder patterns
 - This region includes 18,046 students in 40 elementary schools, 5 middle schools, 1 K-8 school, and 3 high schools
 - They serve a student population that is 78% African American, 13% Caucasian, 3% Multi-Racial, 5% Hispanic, 1% American Indian, 1% Hawaiian/Pacific Islander, and 1% Asian. 72% of these students qualify for free/reduced lunch

School	JTR Residents	JTR Graduates
Andrew Jackson High School	5	2
William H. Raines High School	1	2
Jean Ribault High School	1	3
Terry Parker High School		1
Matthew W. Gilbert Middle School	1	2
Highlands Middle School	3	2
Northwestern Middle School	1	1
John E. Ford K-8		1
Young Women’s Leadership Academy		1
Total	12	15

City Year

- Using their Whole School, Whole Child model, AmeriCorps members recently helped turn around 8 Jacksonville schools. Some of the results are below
 - 93% of principals, liaisons, and after-school coordinators were satisfied or very satisfied with AmeriCorps members’ work
 - 97% of teachers agree that AmeriCorps members improved students’ performance in math
 - 54% of students tutored improved their reading scores on standardized tests
- 2015 – 16 Impact Report Card
 - 10 schools
 - 100 AmeriCorps Members
 - 8,041 students served
 - 1,474 students received 1:1 academic support
 - 3,222 students received socio-emotional support
 - Math
 - 53% of focus list students saw a year or more worth of growth
 - 64% of focus list students with an “F” or “D” in Math who moved to a “C” or higher
 - 545 – total number of Math focus list students who received one-on-one or small group interventions

- English Language Arts
 - 54% of focus list students who saw a year or more worth of growth
 - 60% of focus list students with an “F” or “D” in ELA who moved to a “C” or higher
 - 598 – total number of ELA focus list students who received one-on-one or small group interventions
- Attendance
 - 57% of focus list students increased their Average Daily Attendance to at or above 90%
 - 76% of focus list students at Highlands Middle School who moved from below 90% Average Daily Attendance to at or above 90%
 - 791 – total number of focus list students who received attendance coaching
- Behavior
 - 49% of students increased their score on the Devereux Student Strengths Assessment
 - 91% of teachers who agreed that their AmeriCorps member helped to improve their students active engagement in learning
 - 944 – total number of students who received behavior coaching

KIPP Schools

- KIPP Voice Elementary School (Data as of March 2017)
 - Founded in 2012
 - Serves grades K – 4
 - Student Enrollment: 498
 - Number of Teachers: 31
 - Gender: 49% Male, 51% Female
 - Race: 98% African American, 2% White, <1% Asian
 - 19% Attrition Rate
 - 48% of students making 1+ years of academic progress in Reading
 - 46% of students making 1+ years of academic progress in Mathematics
- KIPP Jacksonville Elementary School (Data as of March 2017)
 - Founded in 2015
 - Serves grades K – 1
 - Student Enrollment: 153
 - Number of Teachers: 9
 - Gender: 52% Male, 48% Female
 - Race: 97% African American, 3% White, <1% Other
 - 16% Attrition Rate
 - 53% of students making 1+ years of academic progress in Reading
 - 70% of students making 1+ years of academic progress in Mathematics
- KIPP Impact Middle School (Data as of March 2017)
 - Founded in 2010
 - Serves grades 6 – 8
 - Student Enrollment: 289

- Number of Teachers: 20
- Gender: 56% Male, 44% Female
- Race: 96% African American, 3% White, <1% Asian, <1% Other
- 17% Attrition Rate
- 59% of students making 1+ years of academic progress in Reading
- 53% of students making 1+ years of academic progress in Mathematics

Private Spending in Duval County Public Schools

	Total Private Funds Raised Since Inception or 10 Years	Annual Private Contribution for Program	Annual DCPS Contribution to Support Program	Notes
Quality Education for All	\$ 38,700,000			\$3M for incentives included in 17-18 DCPS budget request. \$54,764,361 leveraged in non-QEA funding (part DCPS, FLDOE, USDOE and other grants). \$3M of Total Funds comes from direct grants from The Community Foundation. QEA funds JTR Program so total contribution from QEA reduced here, as the JTR dollars are reflected below.
Teach for America	\$ 20,292,823	\$ 2,700,000	\$ 400,000	
City Year	\$ 7,407,629	\$ 2,200,000	\$ 1,200,000	City Year matches DCPS contribution 3:1 (DCPS contributes \$10k per City Year AmeriCorps Member). DCPS annual contribution has increased from \$580,000 in FY14. Public Funders: DCPS and Volunteer Florida (AmeriCorps). VF Funding Total for 7.1.13 - 6.30.17: \$3,994,637. DCPS Funding Total for 7.1.13-6.30.17: \$3,520,000
Jacksonville Teacher Residency Program (UNF Grant - NIH funding for STEM Training)	\$ 2,300,000	\$ 1,200,000	\$ 500,000	500k requested in 17-18 DCPS budget; \$1.2M federal grant at risk
Achievers for Life	\$ 8,532,546	\$ 1,701,791	\$ 500,000	
Chartrand Foundation	\$ 4,700,000			
Qualified Zone Academy Bonds (QZAB I & II)	\$ 11,600,000			0% Interest Bonds over 15 - 17 years awarded by FDOE, requires 10% private contribution. DCPS uses them to fund technology upgrades in low-income and magnet schools. QZAB I = \$3.6M Private Investment QZAB II = \$8M Private Investment. Total of 2 bonds and Private Investment = \$90.6M
Tiger Academy	\$ 13,000,000	\$ 700,000	\$ -	\$700,000 raised/year for 8 years, \$9M on facility construction
KIPP	\$ 16,000,000	\$ 2,250,000	\$ -	
Total	\$ 122,532,998	\$ 10,751,791	\$ 2,600,000	