

Foundation Initiative Summaries

The Foundation for New Education Initiatives, Inc.
Supporting Miami-Dade County Public Schools
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Supporting Low-Performing Schools

Success Academy: Twelve sessions of intensive weekend classes for students in struggling schools. Miami-Dade County Public Schools (M-DCPS) provides four hours of small group instruction of core subjects to prepare students for the Florida Comprehensive Assessment Test. A nutritious breakfast is included. Estimated cost: \$45,000.

Teacher Incentive Fund: A five-year initiative in 38 high-need schools, this grant, funded through the U.S. Department of Education, requires community support as part of its sustainability component. One component, Project RISE, is designed to increase teacher and administrator effectiveness through a combination of incentives and support. Each school benefits from the services of one or two National Board Certified teachers who, in addition to their teaching responsibilities, provide teacher leadership, staff development, coaching, and mentoring at the school. Other teachers at the school receive compensation for their participation in on-site professional development activities. Estimated cost: \$530,000.

Empowering Parents

The Parent Academy: A year-round initiative providing free classes and workshops at more than 200 sites throughout the county, the Foundation helps parents become full partners in their child's education. Estimated cost: \$750,000 per year.

Creating Student Achievement Opportunities

Cultural Passport: An educational initiative, in partnership with Miami-Dade's various arts and cultural institutions, to provide all K-12 students with a different age-appropriate cultural experience each school year. Estimated cost: \$2 million for transportation, venue admission fees, curriculum and professional development, and other operational needs.

Mini-grants for Schools: An annual mini-grant competition for schools to promote innovative educational activities that foster academic achievement is being launched in 2011-12. Funds will be raised to provide two grants of up to \$10,000 each to each of the school district's five regions, as well as the district's Education Transformation Office. Estimated cost: \$120,000 per year.

Helping Students Succeed

Posse Foundation: Through the Posse Foundation, deserving students are awarded four-year, full tuition leadership scholarships by 33 partner universities and colleges in 17 states. Students are sent to colleges and universities in a "Posse," a group of ten students. Each Posse acts as a traveling support system to ensure that each Posse scholar succeeds and graduates from college. Estimated cost: \$30,000 per year.

Dial-A-Teacher: An online, free service provided by M-DCPS, in cooperation with United Teachers of Dade and WLRN, Dial-A-Teacher offers homework help in most subject areas in grades K-12 and provides parents/guardians with assistance in helping their children complete homework assignments. Hours of operation are Monday through Thursday on school nights from 5:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. Bilingual assistance is available. Estimated cost: \$50,000 per year.

Assisting Families in Need

Referrals, monetary, and other types of aid for students and their families in crisis.

Technology

Bringing Wireless Technology to the Classroom: Through the community-wide "Give Kids the World — A World of Technology" campaign, the Foundation aims to raise \$7 million for wireless technology improvements in schools, to be matched 10 to 1 through the federal E-Rate Program. Fund-raising goal: \$7 million. Estimated return: \$70 million.