



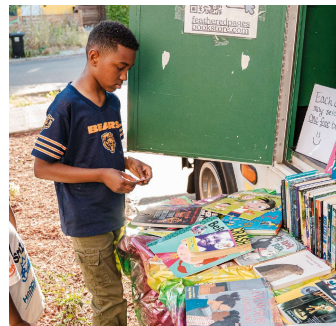
Alliance for education

BY IAN COON

Every thriving city depends on strong public schools. They develop future leaders, prepare tomorrow's workforce and help create vibrant democracies. In Seattle, one organization has spent over three decades bringing together educators, business leaders, philanthropists and community members to strengthen that foundation: the Alliance for Education.

As Seattle Public Schools' education foundation and strategic partner, the Alliance serves a role that extends far beyond traditional fundraising. The organization acts as a bridge between the public and private sectors, connecting community resources, innovative programs and philanthropic investment directly to the students, families and educators who need them most.

That approach recognizes a simple truth: when public schools succeed, Seattle succeeds. Across the city, the Alliance invests in initiatives that remove barriers to learning and expand opportunities for students. Through the Seattle Teacher Residency program, aspiring educators receive intensive preparation to serve in Seattle schools, helping address workforce challenges while ensuring students have access to outstanding teachers. The Alliance also runs the Right Now Needs Fund, which provides assistance for essentials such as clothing, shelter, food and school supplies to students so they can focus on learning rather than where the next meal may come from.



Sometimes the most meaningful impact comes from meeting a need at exactly the right moment.

"The Right Now Needs Fund made several of my families happy by giving them a holiday meal. It's expensive feeding a family monthly and there was nothing left over for the holiday," said a teacher at Aki Kurose Middle School. "But thanks to the Right

Now Needs Fund, they had the food to share with their family." Stories like these illustrate what makes the Alliance unique. Rather than funding isolated projects, the organization works alongside Seattle Public Schools to identify challenges, test solutions and scale what works across the entire district. There are over 112,000 other stories just like that one since 2018 when the Fund began. This long-term partnership has helped launch and support initiatives ranging from educator development to student scholarships and mentoring programs that advance educational justice and racial equity across the district. The results ripple far beyond the classroom. Students who feel supported are more likely to stay engaged in school. Talented educators are more likely to remain in the profession. Volunteers and donors have a trusted outlet to share their time, talents and treasure.

"It takes all of us to educate the next generation, and at its core, education is about access to opportunity," says Seattle School Board President Gina Topp. "I appreciate the role the Alliance plays in helping bring connections together and supporting this work across our community." Strong schools strengthen neighborhoods, attract employers, cultivate innovation and help build the next generation of civic leaders and thriving communities.

The Alliance for Education exists to bring the community together around that shared investment. By championing students today, we can help ensure a stronger, more vibrant Seattle for years to come.

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