

Stepping Up:

The Nation's Top K-12 Education Foundations



*Advocating the importance of K-12 education foundations
while recognizing those that do it best*

EXECUTIVE STUDY & NATIONAL RANKINGS : 2015

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Stepping Up: The Nation's Top K-12 Education Foundations

Stepping Up is the nation's only annual study that ranks K-12 education foundations.



Introduction to the 2015 Study and Rankings

Stepping Up is the nation's only study and ranking of K-12 education foundations. The annual study ranks the top 50 education foundations in the nation, and the top 10 in each of four divisions that allow for foundation comparisons of similar size.

This year's study expanded in size, making it more competitive than ever before. Stepping Up 2015 included K-12 education foundations in the 200 largest school districts by population, expanding from the previous study's top 100 largest school districts in 2014. Efforts were made to include top-performing foundations in school districts smaller than the 200 largest through the National Schools Foundation Association (NSFA) and various state education foundation associations.

"We want to include all of the top-performers regardless of the size of the district they support," said Dewey Caruthers, president of dewey & associates (d&a) and the study author.

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Top 25 Education Foundations

1. Pinellas Education Foundation (FL)
2. Public Education Foundation (TN)
3. Brevard Schools Foundation (FL)
4. Omaha Schools Foundation (NE)
5. Achieve Minneapolis (MN)
6. Hillsborough Education Foundation (FL)
7. Albuquerque Public Schools Foundation (NM)
8. Douglas County Educational Foundation (CO)
9. DC Public Education Fund (DC)
10. The Fund for Public Schools (NY) - *TIE*
10. Denver Public Schools Foundations (CO) - *TIE*
12. Foundation for Newark's Future (NJ)
13. The Foundation for Osceola Education (FL)
14. Clark County Public Education Foundation (NV)
15. The Foundation for Tulsa Schools (OK)
16. Foundation for Seminole County Public Schools (FL)
17. Spring Branch Education Foundation (TX)
18. All Hands Raised (OR)
19. Broward Education Foundation (FL)
20. Prince William Co. Public Schools Education Foundation (VA)
21. Education Foundation of Collier County (FL)
22. New Visions for Public Schools (NY)
23. The Boston Educational Development Foundation (MA)
24. The Great Schools Partnership Charitable Trust (TN)
25. Children First Fund: The Chicago Public Schools Foundation (IL)



Remaining Top 50 Education Foundations

26. San Francisco Education Fund (CA)
27. Fund for Education Excellence (MD)
28. Ogden School Foundation (UT)
29. Philadelphia Education Fund (PA)
30. San Antonio Education Partnership (TX)
31. Cy-Fair Educational Foundation (TX)
32. Memphis City School Foundation (TN)
33. Northside Education Foundation (TX)
34. Alpine School District Foundation (UT) - *TIE*
34. Humble ISD Education Foundation (TX) - *TIE*
36. The Foundation for Oklahoma City Public Schools (OK)
37. Public education Foundation of Marion County (FL)
38. Polk Education Foundation (FL)
39. Frisco Education Foundation (TX)
40. SAISD Foundation (TX)
41. Nashville Public Education Foundation (TN)
42. Shawnee Mission Education Foundation (KS)
43. Foundation for Lee Co. Public Schools (FL)
44. Lewisville Education Foundation (TX)
45. Lafayette Education Foundation (LA)
46. Davis Education Foundation (UT)
47. West Contra Costa Public Education Fund (CA)
48. Montgomery County Public Schools Educational Foundation (MD)
49. Saint Paul Public Schools Foundation (MN)
50. Plano ISD Education Foundation (TX)



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Top 50 Analysis

Florida had the most foundations represented in the top 50 with 10, and Texas right behind at 9 – the Lone Star State gaining ground from last year when Florida had 12 and Texas 9.

Numerous states maintained similar representations as last year; Utah this year with 3 and last year 4; Colorado and California this year with 2 and last year 3; and Tennessee holding steady with 4.



Florida and Texas continue to have the most foundations represented in the top 50.

Florida and Texas perform well for four main reasons.

First and foremost, both are large states with large student populations and large numbers of K-12 education foundations. “States with the most education foundations have a better chance of having more representation in the top 50,” Caruthers noted.

Second, many of the education foundations in these states have been around longer, providing them with more years to evolve. “Many of the foundations in Florida and Texas were formed in the 1980s or before,” Caruthers said.

Third, Florida and Texas have strong, active state associations that are helping their education foundation members grow through annual conferences, regional training workshops, and other resources. The Consortium of Florida Education Foundations was founded in 1987 and has 61 foundation members (there are 67 county-wide school districts in Florida); and the Texas Education Foundation Network, which is administered by the Texas Pioneer Foundation, has 130 members.

Fourth is the spirit of cooperation among foundations in these two states. “I see a lot of cooperation over competition,” Caruthers said, noting “these foundations are working hard to help each other.”

\$425 million

Amount held in assets by K-12 education foundations in 200 largest school districts in 2013

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\$350 million

Amount raised by K-12 education foundations in 200 largest school districts in 2013

Top 50 Analysis (continued)

Pinellas Education Foundation and Omaha Schools Foundation were the only two ranked in the top five last year to remain in the this year's top 5. Pinellas continued to be ranked first, and Omaha ranked fourth, down from third last year.

Three foundations ranked in the top 10 last year continued in this year's top 10: Denver Public Schools Foundation, The Fund for Public Schools, Hillsborough Education Foundation.

Two foundations ranking in the teens last year moved into the top 10 this year. Brevard Schools Foundation, ranked 16th last year, moved into third place this year; and Douglas County Educational Foundation, ranked 14th last year, moved into the number 8 spot this year.

Other significant jumps from last year: Albuquerque Public Schools Foundation jumped from 33rd last year to 7th this year; Broward Education Foundation 28th last year to 19th this year; Prince William Co. Public Schools Education Foundation last year 36th to 20th this year.

Making Division 1 more competitive, Brevard, Albuquerque, Broward, and Prince William all jumped from Division 2 to Division 1 this year due to higher revenues.

“This year’s competition was fierce. Those foundations that dropped in the rankings, but stayed in the top 50, should still be pleased with their result.”

New Jersey, D.C., Minnesota, Kansas and Oklahoma were represented in the top 50 for the first time this year.

“This year’s rankings were even more competitive than last year,” study author Caruthers said. “Those foundations that dropped in ranking but stayed in the top 50 should still be pleased with their result,” he said, noting it is a serious accomplishment to make it into the top 50 K-12 education foundations in the nation.

Division 1: Top 10 National Ranking

(Division 1 is foundations with \$2 million or more in revenues)

1. Pinellas Education Foundation (FL)
2. Public Education Foundation (TN)
3. Brevard Schools Foundation (FL)
4. Omaha Schools Foundation (NE)
5. Achieve Minneapolis (MN)
6. Hillsborough Education Foundation (FL)
7. Albuquerque Public Schools Foundation (NM)
8. Douglas County Educational Foundation (CO)
9. DC Public Education Fund (DC)
10. The Fund for Public Schools (NY) - *TIE*
10. Denver Public Schools Foundations (CO) - *TIE*

Division 2: Top 10 National Ranking

(Division 2 is foundations with \$1 million to \$1,999,999 in revenues)

1. Spring Branch Education Foundation (TX)
2. San Francisco Education Fund (CA)
3. Cy-Fair Educational Foundation (TX)
4. Northside Education Foundation (TX)
5. Humble ISD Education Foundation (TX) - *TIE*
5. Alpine School District Foundation (UT) - *TIE*
7. The Foundation for Oklahoma City Public Schools (OK)
8. Polk Education Foundation and Business Partnership (FL)
9. SAISD Foundation (TX)
10. Nashville Public Education Foundation (TX)



Division 3: Top 10 National Ranking

(Division 3 is foundations with \$500,000 - \$999,999 in revenues)

1. Ogden School Foundation (UT)
2. Public Education Foundation of Marion County (FL)
3. Frisco Education Foundation (TX)
4. Shawnee Mission Education Foundation (KS)
5. Lewisville Education Foundation (TX)
6. Lafayette Education Foundation (LA)
7. Education Foundation of Sarasota (FL)
8. Escambia County Public Schools Foundation (FL)
9. Educational Foundation of Lake County (FL)
10. Fort Bend ISD Education Foundation (TX)

Division 4: Top 10 National Ranking

(Division 4 is foundations with less than \$500,000 in revenues)

1. IPS Education Foundation (IN)
2. Clear Creek Education Foundation (TX)
3. Chesterfield Public Education Foundation (VA)
4. Mesquite ISD Education Foundation (TX)
5. Riverside Educational Enrichment Foundation (CA)
6. BEST Education Foundation (TX)
7. RISD Excellence in Education Foundation (TX) - TIE
7. Virginia Beach Public Schools Education Foundation (VA) - TIE
9. Education Foundation of Indian River County (FL) - TIE
9. Pasadena ISD Education Foundation (TX) - TIE



Top 10 Division Analysis

The top spots in Divisions 2, 3 and 4 this year are occupied by newcomers to the study: Spring Branch Education Foundation, Ogden Schools Foundation, IPS Education Foundation respectively. Additionally, in Division 3 the second, third and fourth place holders are newcomers; and in Division 4 the second and fourth are new. Some of these newcomers are from states that have yet to be represented in the study: Indiana and Kansas.

Texas had the most foundations represented in the top division rankings with 14; Florida followed with 9; and Colorado, California and Virginia each had 2.

Some foundations shifted divisions due to increases in revenues. For example, Brevard Schools Foundation ranked number one in Division 2 last year, but its increase in revenues placed it in Division 1 this year where it finished third.

In Division 2 – which was highly competitive with a large number of very strong foundations – Cy-Fair Education Foundation and Northside Education Foundation each moved-up a notch by ranking third and fourth (up from fourth and fifth last year).

Division 1 top ten mirrors the overall national ranking, simply making the division the top 10 in the nation.

“We developed this year a badge specifically for foundations ranking in the top 10 in divisions,” Caruthers said. “These are solid foundations that need a branding element, just like the nation’s top 50, to illustrate their accomplishment.”

Those foundations ranking overall nationally and in a division will be able to display both badges. Each year foundations place the badges on letterhead, websites, business cards and other communications.



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Texas had more foundations ranked in divisions than Florida: 14 and 9 respectively.

\$181 million

Amount spent on grants and programs (less salaries) by K-12 education foundations in 200 largest school districts in 2013

Study Methodology

Stepping Up uses eight performance categories to rank the foundations nationally and in each division. The eight performance categories address four of the most important issues to K-12 foundations:

- Resources to enhance public education (annual revenues, revenues per student)
- Long-term financial sustainability (total assets, assets per student, investment income)
- Resources invested into programs (total grants, programs and similar amounts paid and per student – both less salaries and benefits)
- Human capital (volunteers)

Per student calculations are added to better reveal the impact a foundation is having based on the number of students in the district. “Some foundations raise large amounts of money but when compared to the number of students in their districts it becomes clear the impact on most students is minimal,” Caruthers said. School district populations are for 2013 and were gathered Aug-Sept 2015 from the source Proximity One.

The rankings are the collective score of all eight performance categories. The foundations that appear in the most categories were ranked highest, emphasizing the importance of being well-rounded.

Data for the Stepping Up study is from the foundations 990, which is a financial report non-profits use annually to report to the U.S. Internal Revenue Service. The 2015 Stepping Up study uses the most recent 990 data available for all foundations included in this study, which is from 2013.

In addition to the national rankings, there are four revenue-based divisions, followed by a number of foundations in each division this year:

- Division 1: \$2 million or more (36 foundations)
- Division 2: \$1 million to \$1,999,999 (25 foundations)
- Division 3: \$500,000 to \$999,999 (29 foundations)
- Division 4: Less than \$500,000 (83 foundations)

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Performance Categories:

1. Total Revenues
2. Revenues per Student
3. Total Assets
4. Assets per Student
5. Grant and Program Expenses
6. Grant and Program Expenses per Student
7. Investment Income
8. Volunteers

This year's study uses data from foundations 990s from 2013, the most recent data available.

67,000

Number of volunteers utilized by K-12 education foundations in 200 largest school districts in 2013

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About dewey & associates

Founded in 2000, dewey & associates (d&a) is a national management and strategy consulting practice with expertise in three emerging youth education issues:

- Growing K-12 education foundations (enhancing public education)
- Preventing childhood obesity (innovating public health)
- Reducing arrests for common youth misbehavior (reforming juvenile justice)



Founder Dewey Caruthers is the author of nationally significant studies in these areas of expertise. Dewey speaks at national and state conferences on all three topics. His work has been funded by national, state and local foundations; state and county govt. agencies; and children's hospitals.



For 15 years d&a has focused on measurable and meaningful outcomes on a wide range of social change and social justice issues, including the firm's social entrepreneurial venture called "Kidz Bite Back" that is innovating childhood obesity prevention.

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