



GE Foundation
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Developing Futures™ in Education – New York City

The GE Foundation has made a long-term, nearly \$150-million commitment to U.S. students through its College Bound District Program (CBDP), targeting complete school districts. The program supports entire school districts with the goal of closing achievement gaps, improving student learning in math and science, and improving college and workforce readiness.

On Monday, June 30, 2008, the GE Foundation will announce a nearly \$29 million Developing Futures in Education grant for the New York City and the Northern Manhattan region. A primary focus of GE Foundation is improving access, equity and quality of education in targeted GE communities. Developing Futures supports a comprehensive effort to prepare students for the 21st Century workforce. The New York City grant is part of GE Foundation's successful Developing Futures program, formerly known as the "College Bound District Program." As part of this grant announcement, \$18 million will be presented to the New York City public school system and a total of \$11 million in funding has also been awarded to Columbia University's Teachers College, the Council for Opportunity in Education, College for Every Student and the Harlem Children's Zone.

The scope of the program to focus on education in Northern Manhattan will include:

Curriculum Support:

- K-12 math and science
- Standards alignment/curriculum mapping

Student Support:

- Before and after school programs
- Study skills/ habits
- College aspirations

Teacher Support:

- Professional development around content and instructional strategies
- Peer to peer training (building professional learning communities)

School Support:

- Create cohorts for sharing
- Leverage expertise inside and outside the system

Community Support:

- Appropriate programs that help students achieve in the school environment
- Leveraging partners to improve community support for schools

Resources:

- National Science Teachers Association, NSTA
- NASA (science content expertise)
- Michael Fullan and team (professional learning communities)
- Dr. W. Patrick Dolan and team
- American Productivity and Quality Center, APQC (benchmarking)
- Steve Leinwand (standards and math)
- William Schmidt (standards, math, and science)

The GE Foundation has worked effectively to develop partnerships with each district. These partnerships are defined not by collaboration and collegiality among participants (though that is certainly the case). Rather, the defining quality of these partnerships is the substantive integration and alignment of visions, strategies and tactics. GE Foundation proposes to leverage the experiences from the other sites but realizes the dynamics in Northern Manhattan will be different because there is no school district or school board structure dedicated to public schools in Northern Manhattan.