



FOCUS ON SUCCESS

2009-10 REPORT to the Community



“I AM A **STUDENT**,
AND I HAVE A DREAM.”

The DPS Foundation exists solely to help ensure that Denver’s next generation has access to the opportunities and resources they need to realize their dreams.

Our students are the future leaders of this city. Thank you for joining with us to help provide them with an outstanding educational environment.

DEAR SUPPORTERS OF DENVER PUBLIC SCHOOLS

The 2009-10 school year was one of great growth in Denver Public Schools. We're educating more children today than at any time in the last 30 years, as evidenced by our record enrollment of more than 78,000 students in 160 unique schools across the city.

For the fifth consecutive year under the Denver Plan reform strategy, DPS has outpaced the rest of the state in academic gains. Student achievement is also clearly demonstrated by the graduation of 350 more students from high school in 2010 than in the year before—a 12 percent increase. Furthermore, we're seeing the largest increases ever in the number of students taking college-readiness courses. In the past two years, concurrent enrollment in high school and college classes has nearly tripled and Advanced Placement enrollment has increased by nearly 50 percent. It's clear we're making strides toward our ultimate goal that every student graduating from Denver Public Schools be competitively prepared for college or a career.

These gains are a tribute to the hard work of our teachers and the transformational leadership of our principals, and we are extraordinarily grateful for their commitment and service.

THE DPS FOUNDATION

Thanks to community support from donors like you, the Denver Public Schools Foundation is playing a key role in supporting this growth and ensuring that our schools are producing Denver's next generation of leaders. As DPS' philanthropic arm, the Foundation is able to advance programs that help DPS students achieve their full potential.

While there is much to celebrate, there is still much more to be done. Significant achievement gaps remain between students of different race, ethnicity, and income level. Graduation rates and proficiency scores, although on the rise, are still below state averages.

With your help, the DPS Foundation continues to pursue a singular **Focus on Success** in Denver Public Schools.

WITH YOUR HELP...

- We drive **student achievement** by funding programs that move the needle and help close achievement gaps.
- We **support the whole child** by ensuring that our students are engaged in sports, arts, music, and academic activities that help them find success both inside and outside the classroom.
- We **extend the school day** for thousands of students across Denver with programs that keep our kids safe and engaged in enriching activities after school and during the summer months.
- We provide an **exceptional learning environment** by putting resources directly into classrooms and into the hands of our teachers and students.
- We foster **outstanding leadership** in our schools through programs that develop and support our principals and teachers.

The work of the Denver Public Schools Foundation is vital, and **we're deeply thankful for all you've done to support the progress of DPS students over the last year.** Together, we can continue to ensure their success. We're up to the challenge, but we can't do it without you.



Kristin Heath Colon
*President & CEO
DPS Foundation*



Kristin Richardson
*Chair
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Tom Boasberg
*Superintendent
Denver Public Schools*



FOCUS ON STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT

The Denver Public Schools Foundation supports programs that move the needle and close achievement gaps for the 78,000 students in DPS. As a result, our students have access to additional instruction, extended learning opportunities, and specialized curricula that address their unique learning needs and promote academic success.

TUTORING

Katie, an 8th grader at Henry Middle School, is one of nearly 5,000 students in grades 3-10 who receive tutoring in math and literacy. Thanks to support including leadership funding from **U.S. Bank**, supplemental academic instruction helps address gaps in Katie's learning and ensures that she gets the individual attention she needs to succeed in the classroom. Her test scores, and the scores of others who receive tutoring, are a testament to the success of targeted academic intervention.

"After-school tutoring has helped me so much, with my math grades especially," said Katie. "I'm not the best at math, but tutoring gives me a chance to get one-on-one help after school. It also gives me a quiet place to do my homework and get my questions answered. It has saved my grades in so many of my classes."

ENGLISH LANGUAGE ACQUISITION **Academy**

Imagine sitting in a classroom where you don't fully understand the words being spoken by your teachers and classmates.

That is the challenge every day for the 24,000-plus English Language Learners (ELLs) within Denver Public Schools.

The English Language Acquisition (ELA) Academy is a free, four-week summer program launched in 2008 to provide support for Denver Public Schools' ELLs in grades one through four. At the ELA Academy, students increase their English skills through curricula that encourage speaking and vocabulary building.

In the first year alone, the academy served 1,600 students representing 32 different native languages. Nearly 3,000 English Language Learners attended the ELA Academy in 2010. Although enrollment doubled from 2009 to 2010, generous continued support from **Bea Taplin** and **The Denver Foundation** allowed the program to retain a 20:1 student-to-teacher ratio, ensuring individual attention for all students. As a result, teachers report that participants were more prepared and more confident going into the next school year.

"The impact on students was EXCELLENT! Students have shown such growth in their language abilities. Students feel more confident to speak English. **Every student in my class is a success story.** They individually grew socially and academically."

– ELA Academy Instructor





FOCUS ON THE WHOLE CHILD

Every child deserves a well-rounded education—not only in the classroom, but in pursuit of all interests, including arts, sports, and a wide variety of extracurricular activities. Thanks to our generous donors, the Denver Public Schools Foundation supports programs after school—and even in the summer months—that give students access to enriching activities shown to strengthen their academic achievement.

PREP LEAGUE

Participation in team sports is proven to build self-esteem, increase engagement and attendance in school, and help students maintain a healthy lifestyle. Without continued support from the community, middle school students in DPS would not have the opportunity to play competitive after-school sports. The Prep League program offers nearly 5,000 students each year the opportunity to compete in football, volleyball, soccer, softball, cross-country, basketball, baseball, and more. Denver's professional sports teams, the **Nuggets**, the **Rockies**, the **Broncos**, and the **Avalanche**, continue to lead the nation in support of youth athletics in their home school district.

FIT, FUN & Literacy

Fit, Fun & Literacy instructor Tamara Hainsworth recalls one student in her program at Cole Arts and Science Academy. “She told me she loved nutrition and now wants to be a chef when she grows up,” said Hainsworth. “She loved all the colors found in the naturally healthy foods we cooked throughout the year. I loved seeing her smile when she knew it was nutrition day!”

Nearly 550 students from our highest-need elementary schools participate in Fit, Fun & Literacy after school every day of the school year. More than 80 percent of the students served by this program are categorized as living in poverty. Many of these children lack regular physical activity and cannot obtain nutritious meals at home. Without the support of generous community partners such as **The LARRK Foundation**, these students would not have a safe environment from 3pm to 6pm—much less access to a structured program that promotes a healthy lifestyle.

“My daughter brought home nutritious recipes for our family and learned how to use many kitchen tools,” wrote parent Mary L. “We needed the push to eat healthier, even though we eat on the run. She’s always excited to help me cook dinner now, and thanks to the program, she’s taught me too.”

Denver CAMP

“Summer vacation.” For some, the term conjures images of family vacations, recreation, and leisure. But for many children in Denver whose families cannot afford to enroll them in a summer program, summer is a time of solitude and unhealthy or absent meals. For many students, summer also represents a period of key learning loss.

“You get kids to a certain point in June, and when they come back in September they’re further behind than when they left you three months ago,” said U.S. Secretary of Education Arne Duncan. “It’s heartbreaking.”

Denver CAMP is a free summer program that serves approximately 250 Denver Public Schools students (many of them high-need, or even homeless) each summer. The program is designed to keep kids actively engaged—physically, intellectually, and emotionally—during the out-of-school months. Rather than staying home alone, Denver CAMP students spend their days playing sports, filming their own movies, writing computer programs, staging talent shows, or doing yoga.

“Denver CAMP was a lifesaver for my daughter,” says Linda J., who was living in a homeless shelter last summer. “Being at camp gave her the chance to forget about our struggles. She could just have fun and be a kid again.”





FOCUS ON EXTENDING THE SCHOOL DAY

Amid national debate about extending the school day in the United States, a strong message has emerged: A structured environment in the after-school hours is a critical component of student success. Thanks to you—our contributors—we’re already providing an additional three hours per day of learning and enrichment for thousands of Denver Public Schools students every year. Through initiatives including Lights On After School, as well as Prep League, Tutoring, and Fit, Fun & Literacy (all of which operate in the after-school hours), we’re addressing the needs of our students long after the school bell rings.

LIGHTS ON **After School**

The impact is clear: Quality after-school programs in Denver Public Schools improve school attendance, positively affect academic performance, and decrease dropout rates for students who participate. The Lights On After School partnership, among the Denver Public Schools Foundation, **Mile High United Way**, and the **City and County of Denver**, sees to it that quality after-school programs are sustained in the Denver metro area.

For Mary L., a parent of three DPS students, the program is critically important. “[After-school programs] are a big part of why my kids know they will go to college one day,” she said. “They expose my kids to people and experiences that reinforce the options they have in their own lives. As a single mom that works and goes to school myself, I just cannot thank you enough for caring about my kids and helping me take care of them.”

Without your continued support, many of the 8,000 students enrolled this year in Lights On After School programs would be unsupervised, sedentary in front of the television, or, even worse, getting into trouble in the after-school hours. Instead, they take dance lessons, engage in college prep courses, conduct science experiments, play instruments in the student orchestra, and try their hand at theater. These are only a few of the nearly 300 after-school activities offered every day in Denver Public Schools.



THE NUMBERS

Since 2003, the Lights On After School partnership has granted more than \$6 million in funding to DPS after-school programs.



Since its inception in 2005,
the A to Z Fund has granted
nearly \$570,000 to fulfill teacher and
classroom requests in 125 schools.

THE NUMBERS

FOCUS ON AN EXCEPTIONAL LEARNING ENVIRONMENT

Students in Denver Public Schools deserve access to every opportunity and resource that will help them succeed. Were it not for the support of DPS Foundation donors, many classrooms across Denver would lack funding for materials, new technology, field trips, and cutting-edge curricula to maximize student achievement.

A TO Z FUND Grants

School budgets are tight and exclude many classroom needs whose fulfillment will help our students achieve. The DPS Foundation's A to Z Fund helps bridge these resource gaps; its grants allow teachers to purchase the latest technology, underwrite field trips and entry fees into competitions, pay for software and musical instruments, and much more.

Thanks to funding from generous supporters such as **Denver Post Charities** (a McCormick Foundation Fund), DPS teachers are able to offer myriad expanded opportunities to their students. Grants in the 2009-10 cycle included new percussion instruments for Abraham Lincoln High School, enabling the marching band to start a drum line; a field trip for newspaper students at George Washington High School to attend the Journalism Education Association National Convention in Washington, D.C.; and funding for Ellis Elementary School to continue to produce their student-designed yearbook.

The A to Z Fund can work profound wonders. Thanks to the A to Z grant she requested and received this fall, Leslie Peterson, a Columbian Elementary School teacher, will be taking her special-needs first and second graders to participate in hippotherapy. This progressive approach uses horseback riding as a strategy in physical, occupational, and speech-language therapy for people living with disabilities.

"The hippotherapy could open up worlds for some of these students, who would never otherwise have the opportunity to do something like this," Peterson says. "These students need so much, and this is such a huge opportunity for them to grow."

SCIENCE Tracks

"I'm a scientist!" exclaimed one DPS third grader. "Everyone is a scientist if they wonder and have questions about things."

Thanks to critical support from many local corporations, the Denver Public Schools Foundation has provided nearly \$1 million to help DPS implement a new science curriculum for 40,000 elementary school students district-wide. Continued support from partners, including **United Launch Alliance**, **Amgen**, and **ECA Foundation**, has enabled Science Tracks to reach into kindergarten and Early Childhood Education classrooms this year, ensuring DPS students have access to science education from the earliest years of their schooling.

Our students may be collecting rocks on the playground today...but in a few years, we want them to fulfill their dreams of collecting rocks on the moon. The implementation of Science Tracks has been pivotal in making that happen.

"The kids doing Science Tracks are motivated to learn and are catching on to the science concepts incredibly quickly," said Barnum Elementary School teacher Cathleen O'Quinn. "The hands-on materials and collaborative activities keep all the students engaged and excited about finding solutions to different problems."



FOCUS ON OUTSTANDING LEADERSHIP

Thanks to community investment, the Denver Public Schools system is led by highly trained leaders steeped in the latest research, professional development, and teaching strategies.

Leadership DEVELOPMENT

One of the most critical elements of a school's success is a great principal, someone who serves as the instructional and transformational leader of his or her school. Principals play an integral role in implementing reforms that change their schools' culture and inspire student achievement. Thanks to leadership support from the **Qwest Foundation**, Denver Public Schools offers a multifaceted leadership development program for every principal and assistant principal. An annual three-day institute, regular training workshops, and a mentoring program for all new leaders equip our principals with the latest research and training to help them be effective CEOs of their schools.

TEACHER EFFECTIVENESS

Last year, the **Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation** made a leadership commitment of \$10 million over three years to Denver Public Schools. This grant—the largest private, competitive grant in the district's history—will help advance student achievement by ensuring effective instruction exists in every classroom.

“These institutes have become a welcome tradition as an invaluable learning experience and time to connect with our Denver Public Schools leaders. Over the last four years, **we've had the opportunity to learn from some of the most important writers, speakers, and thinkers in the world of education.** The institutes have been a much-needed time to connect with our peers and create momentum for leadership teams into the next school year.”

– John Youngquist, Principal, East High School







FOCUS ON COMMUNITY COLLABORATION

SCHOOL PARTNERS Program

The School Partners Program cultivates, nurtures, and sustains partnerships between Denver Public Schools and the Denver community. The program creates tailor-made partnerships between schools and businesses or community organizations. School partners provide volunteer time, in-kind contributions, and financial resources to meet the specific needs of each school. In return, partners contribute to the success of our schools in a meaningful way.

Whether an organization donates school supplies, volunteers time, or underwrites a school-based project, there is no lack of opportunity to form a long-lasting partnership with a Denver school. For more information about the School Partners Program, please visit www.denverspp.org.

Our deepest gratitude to our 2009-10 School Partners, whose collaborative spirit, volunteer time, and in-kind services have improved Denver Public Schools. Please see page 19 for a full list of School Partners.

Photos clockwise from bottom L to R:

Newmont Mining Corporation and its employees participated in a school supply drive for homeless students at the start of the school year. The DPS Foundation also wishes to recognize Newmont for its continued financial support of valuable academic initiatives, such as Science Tracks and Tutoring.

This spring, **Lowe's®** employees helped students at Smith Elementary School build a community garden. The Lowe's® store at Zuni and Alameda has become a new School Partner this year, donating goods and services for projects such as this one.

School Board member Arturo Jimenez joined students from Trevista at Horace Mann for a "World Water Monitoring Day" sponsored last fall by School Partner **CH2M HILL**.

A corps of **Comcast** volunteers made improvements at West High School on Comcast Cares Day, which provided for an enhanced learning environment for students. Comcast employees also served as mentors and program advisors for high school students, among other volunteer projects. Furthermore, Comcast donates courtesy services and support for programs including Fit, Fun & Literacy.

2010 ACHIEVE GALA

Presented by **UMB**
Count on more.®

\$800,000 RAISED for Denver Public Schools

Presented by UMB, the eighth annual celebration of Denver Public Schools drew an attendance of 1,100 and raised \$800,000 to support the critical needs of our students and schools.

The highlight of the evening was senior Diana Johnson of Martin Luther King, Jr. Early College, who shared her personal story of struggle, perseverance, and triumph that ultimately resulted in a full scholarship to Regis University. She is now a proud Denver Public Schools graduate and a great testament to what our students can achieve.

Molly Broeren and Bill Mosher served as chairs of the event along with Governor Bill Ritter and Mayor John Hickenlooper, who served as honorary co-chairs.

Key contributors to the event included event sponsors Comcast, *5280* Magazine, the Hyatt Regency Denver at Colorado Convention Center, and Tiffany & Co.

Lead sponsors included the Anschutz Foundation, Marcy and Bruce Benson, MDC/Richmond American Homes Foundation, The Piton Foundation and Cille and Ron Williams, Martha Records and Rich Rainaldi, Kristin and Blair Richardson, and United Launch Alliance.

Guests were treated to special performances by talented Denver Public Schools students, including the Montbello High School Drum Line, the George Washington High School Cheerleaders, El Mariachi Juvenil de Bryant Webster K-8 School, and the East High School Angelaires.



2010 Gala Chair Molly Broeren was joined by Governor Bill Ritter in celebrating the achievements of DPS students, teachers, and schools.

Diana Johnson, then a senior at Martin Luther King, Jr. Early College, delivered the keynote speech.

Chairman of UMB and DPS Foundation board member Mariner Kemper and his wife Megan greet Woody and Georgia Garnsey (far left) and Superintendent Tom Boasberg (far right).

**Save the date for the annual
Achieve Gala on April 12, 2011.**

SAVE THE DATE

**Visit www.dpsfoundation.org for details,
tickets, and sponsorship information.**

2009-10

FINANCIAL OVERVIEW

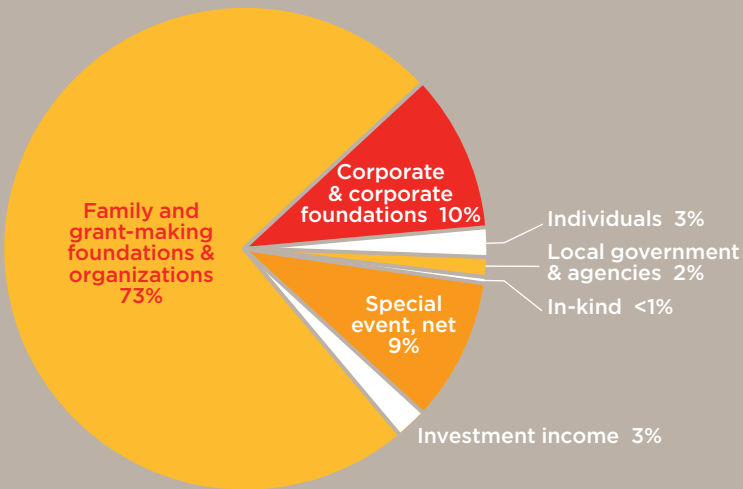
Statement of Activities and Change in Net Assets for Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2010

REVENUES, GAINS, AND OTHER SUPPORT

Contributions:

Family and grant-making foundations & organizations . . .	\$5,282,000
Corporate & corporate foundations	747,000
Individuals	174,000
Local government & agencies	128,000
In-kind	22,000
Special event, net	657,000
Investment income	195,000

TOTAL REVENUE, GAINS, AND OTHER SUPPORT \$7,205,000



TOTAL REVENUES

EXPENSES

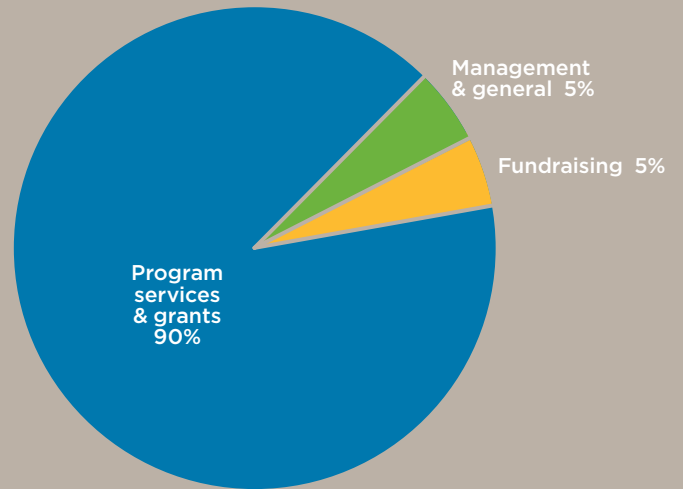
Program services & grants	\$6,404,000
Management & general	359,000
Fundraising	338,000

TOTAL EXPENSES \$7,101,000

Change in net assets \$104,000

Net assets, beginning of year 6,353,000

NET ASSETS, END OF YEAR \$6,457,000



TOTAL EXPENSES

Denver Public Schools Foundation received an unqualified opinion by independent auditors Kundinger, Corder & Engle, P.C. for the year ended June 30, 2010. The complete Independent Auditor's Report on Financial Statements is available upon request.

SPECIAL THANKS TO OUR DONORS

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July 1st, 2009–June 30th, 2010

\$500,000 or more

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\$200,000 to \$499,999

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Morgridge Family Foundation

\$100,000 to \$199,999

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\$25,000 to \$99,999

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\$10,000 to \$24,999

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Rob (North High School '81) and former DPS Foundation board member Lola (Lincoln High School '81) Salazar believe strongly in supporting DPS student success. Their longtime, generous support of the DPS Foundation is greatly appreciated.

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Former board member Cathey McClain Finlon and her husband Dick have been generous contributors to the DPS Foundation for years. We wish to thank them for their enduring commitment to education and the work of Denver Public Schools.

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