



SEATTLE FOUNDATION

the heart & science of philanthropy

EDUCATION

VISION

All children in Greater Seattle have access to and support in attaining a high-quality education, overcoming income, race, and language-based gaps.

Providing every child with a high-quality education is among our most important responsibilities as a community. But access to such education is not a current reality for all residents as inequities cut across race, place and income. Seventy-seven percent of the students in South Seattle/South King County graduated on time in 2015, and only 58 percent of them met the minimum requirements to apply for a Washington State four-year college. Less than a third of those same young people receive a two- or four-year degree by their mid-20s. Meanwhile, 67 percent of the jobs in Washington State require some form of postsecondary credential.

These inequities jeopardize our region's ability to compete in a global marketplace. The failure to support students in reaching a postsecondary credential does not reside at the high school level alone, rather it is important to consider the education continuum that exists from cradle to career.

Our efforts focus on systems change strategies designed to benefit the largest number of young people possible, yet we also invest in efforts that help families and communities employ the best support to their students success in and outside of the classroom. At both levels, we aim to ensure

that all children have access to a high-quality education and are able to overcome income, race and language-based achievement gaps.



Working Toward a Healthy Community

Seattle Foundation established the Healthy Community Framework to delineate the essential elements of a thriving community, and focus

philanthropy where it can have the greatest impact. Built on eight elements, the framework acknowledges the complex and interwoven nature of the challenges and assets in our community and allows philanthropists to consider more strategic investments in the causes they care about most.

■ For each element, we provide a vision for change, high-level context and analysis, recommended priorities, and proven actionable approaches to effective giving informed by research, data, community insight and technical expertise. These are designed to stimulate thinking and generate new approaches to making Greater Seattle a stronger, more vibrant community for all.

3 Priorities for Impact

1 Promote a systems approach for cradle-to-career education that removes barriers for students and families living in underserved communities.

APPROACHES

- Invest in schools and school districts targeting underserved communities
- Promote advocacy and policy action to ensure that students in high-need districts have the resources needed to thrive in school
- Measure aggregate student progress to identify gaps and inform potential solutions
- Support professional development of early learning providers, school teachers and administrators to ensure local schools benefit from best practice research, have access to a high quality workforce, and have a workforce that mirrors the race and ethnicity of local communities
- Encourage collaboration across silos in the education system to ensure a more connected experience for students from cradle to career

2 Design and promote culturally effective ways to engage families and communities in supporting student achievement.

APPROACHES

- Support parents and families as they prepare their young children academically and emotionally for kindergarten
- Promote parent and family involvement in their children's education by building an understanding of their role in the school system and encouraging participation
- Increase the number and effectiveness of parent and family advocates
- Ensure that all families in the region are engaged in developing solutions to support student achievement by supporting language access and culturally appropriate outreach to immigrant and refugee families

3 Invest in pathways for the future that ensure students are ready for college or job training, a living wage career and fulfilling life.

APPROACHES

- Remove barriers that affect school attendance and student engagement in their education (family income, housing, transportation, childcare, and other factors)
- Promote skill development in line with what is needed in our current and future workforce (21st century skills, bilingual language development, STEM education)
- Reengage young adults disconnected from school through education and skills training
- Support systems coordination between school districts and community colleges/4-year degree programs
- Promote access to career connections (internships, skill centers)