



Where the future is present.

Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation Grant Summary Overview

Grant Focus: Hartford Public Schools entered into a Charter school compact with the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation two years ago. As a result, HPS was able to compete in a national grant competition that included all the compact cities, sixteen (16) in total. Through this grant, the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation seeks to invest in a select number of district-charter partnerships that demonstrate the potential to collaborate in bold, innovative ways to provide all students in a city with a portfolio of highly effective schools from which to choose. Hartford was invited because of its close relationship with Achievement First-Hartford and FUSE/Jumoke Academy Schools and its designation as a Model Portfolio District through the Center on Reinventing Public Education (CRPE) at the University of Washington in Seattle. The Foundation will support partnerships that are committed to accelerating student college ready rates through deep collaboration and sharing of best practices.

The Proposal: This proposal is an extension of the current Gates Foundation district/charter compact in Hartford. Following an initial review process, Hartford was accepted as one of eight (8) finalists to advance a proposal including four initiatives:

1. A collaborative plan to **develop high-impact school leaders** by building on the successful Residency Program in place at Achievement First and developing Hartford Public School's capacity to create its own leadership program to meet district's needs.
2. A **teacher coaching and evaluation initiative** that will increase the number of effective teachers in our schools through implementation of the HPS's Charlotte Danielson Rubric/TeachScape and learnings from AF's Teacher Career Pathway using tools such as job-embedded and differentiated professional development including coaching.
3. Improve student achievement through implementation of **common core-based curriculum and assessments** in HPS that will provide data on student growth that will facilitate increased use of targeted instruction. Materials, practices and experiences will be shared with AF and JA.
4. **Develop Jumoke Academy's** capacity to successfully manage and implement the **transformation of low-performing schools** in Hartford.

These initiatives will accomplish the goals of:

- a 10 percent increase in students served by high-performing schools by 2015;
- 80 percent college readiness across the city by 2027.

The Award: The Gates Foundation will announce seven (7) awards totaling nearly \$25 million. Among the grant recipients, Hartford is distinguished as the smallest district receiving the largest financial award, \$5 million over three (3) years. Of the \$5 million, Hartford Public Schools receives \$2,773,069, Achievement First receives \$1,172,327 and FUSE/Jumoke Academy Schools receives \$1,054,143. Other grant recipients are Boston, Denver, New York City, Philadelphia, New Orleans and Spring Branch (TX).