

Nonprofit spotlight: Impact on Education

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Our Mission: Impact on Education is an independent, 501(c)(3) organization whose mission is to leverage community resources to impact student learning, create opportunities and build support for public education. We achieve our mission by focusing our resources in three areas: creating opportunities for "at-risk" students; increasing student interest and achievement in science, technology and math; and motivating and rewarding teacher excellence.

We Serve: Impact on Education supplements the educational opportunities BVSD offers its students, and is the only organization -- other than the district itself -- that serves the entire student body of 28,490 students in 54 schools in the cities of Boulder, Broomfield, Lafayette, Louisville and Superior, as well as mountain communities. There are currently 4,805 students in BVSD who are enrolled in the federal lunch assistance (free and reduced lunch) program; this represents nearly 17 percent of the BVSD student population. More than 60 percent of our program funds are directed to high-need, "at risk" students. Of these students, more than 80 percent are Hispanic, English-language learners and/or do not have a culture of education in their homes. These growing challenges put pressure on an already constrained public education funding formula. Consequently, the demand for resources for these students continues to rise as well.

Brief History: Founded in 1983, Impact on Education spent its first years raising awareness and building community support. In 1985, we began awarding Classroom Mini-Grants to fund classroom projects. Over the years, we have evolved -- expanding our programming and growing our support. In 2004, to ensure that we are addressing the most important needs of BVSD students, parents, teachers and schools, we undertook an extensive, community-wide strategic planning process. In response to community input, we changed our name, expanded our mission and began to aggressively grow revenue to address growing needs. In recent years, we have funded "clickers" in science and math classrooms in every BVSD middle school, expanded robotics clubs and competitions, launched the Opportunity Fund, to help students overcome economic barriers, and teamed up with other local nonprofits with Crayons to Calculators to ensure that all BVSD students start school with a backpack of school supplies.

Proudest Accomplishment: We are proud of the sheer numbers of students our programs have directly impacted. Over the past 25 years, Impact on Education has directly invested more than \$4 million to positively impact 350,000 students and 2,800 teachers in the BVSD. Each year our programs strengthen, expand and increase their leverage -- reaching more students and focusing valuable resources where they are needed most. Our organization ensures that 80 percent of funds raised are invested directly in programs supporting our mission.

Greatest Need: In the past four years, we have grown dramatically to address the needs of an ever-increasing population of students from impoverished homes. The achievement gap between low-income, Hispanic students and white students in BVSD is the highest in the state of Colorado. Consequently, Impact on Education focuses more than 60 percent of our resources on programs to help address inequities and improve learning for that population.

Future Plans: This year Impact on Education is celebrating 25 years of supporting public education in Boulder Valley. We are working to ensure support is in place for sustaining another 25 years of strong public education. As an organization, we plan to remain open and responsive to input from the community about the needs of our community.

Contact Information: For more information or to find out how you can get involved in supporting educational excellence for all students in the BVSD, contact us at 303-524-3865, e-mail info@impactoneducation.org, or visit our Web site at www.impactoneducation.org.

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