



dewey & associates

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Study ranks the top 25 K-12 education foundations in the nation

“Stepping Up: The Top K-12 Education Foundations in the Nation” shows Florida, Texas, Utah, Colorado and California well represented among the top 50

(Sept. 24, 2014) – dewey & associates, a national management and strategy consulting practice, announced today the results of “Stepping Up: The Top K-12 Education Foundations in the Nation,” the nation’s only study that ranks the top 25 K-12 education foundations. Stepping Up looked at eight key performance categories to determine the ranking: annual revenues, revenues per student, total assets, assets per student, investment income, total program expenses, expenses per student, and human capital (volunteers).

Stepping Up reviews education foundations in the top 100 largest school districts in the nation (by population). The purpose of the study is to advocate the importance of education foundations while recognizing those that do it best.

“Most parents have never heard of their local K-12 education foundation, yet nearly all children are impacted by the foundation’s work,” said Dewey Caruthers, president of dewey & associates and author of the study. “Education foundations enhance public education in many vital ways, for instance, with scholarships that send low-income students to college, arts and music programs that open children’s minds to more than a high-stakes test and dropout prevention efforts that keep students from quitting, just to name a few.”

The top 25 education foundations in the nation include:

1. Pinellas Education Foundation (FL)
2. Clark County Public Education Foundation (NV)
3. Omaha Schools Foundation (NE)
4. Denver Public Schools Foundation (CO)
5. Philadelphia Education Fund (PA)
6. Hillsborough Education Foundation (FL)
7. The Fund for Public Schools (NY)
8. The Foundation for Osceola Education (FL)
9. San Francisco Education Fund (CA)
10. Foundation for Seminole County Public Schools (FL)
11. The Boston Educational Development Foundation (MA)
12. Houston ISD Foundation (TX)
13. The Great Schools Partnership Charitable Trust (TN)
14. Douglas County Educational Foundation (CO)
15. Nashville Public Education Foundation (TN)
16. Brevard Schools Foundation (FL)

17. Polk Education Foundation and Business Partnership (FL)
18. Alpine School District Foundation (UT)
19. New Visions for Public Schools (NY)
20. Children First Fund Chicago (IL)
21. San Antonio Education Partnership (TX)
22. Memphis City Schools Foundation (TN)
23. Cypress-Fairbanks Educational Foundation (TX)
24. Northside Education Foundation (TX)
25. The Detroit Public Schools Foundation (MI)

The eight performance categories used in the study pulls information directly from the foundations' 990 filings with the U.S. Internal Revenue Service. Per student calculations are added to better reveal the impact a foundation is having based on the number of students in the district. "Some foundations raise large amounts of money but when compared to the number of students in their districts it becomes clear the impact on most students is minimal," said Caruthers.

The rankings are the collective score from all eight performance categories. The foundations that appear in the most categories were ranked highest, emphasizing the importance of being well rounded.

The previous Stepping Up study, conducted in 2012, included the top 50 largest school districts. By increasing this year's study to include the top 100, it opened the door for smaller foundations to join the ranks of the overall top 25. For instance, Omaha is the 98th largest school district but ranked third in the study. In comparison, San Francisco is the 72nd largest school district, but ranked 10th in the study.

The remaining top 50 education foundations include:

26. Lewisville Education Foundation (TX)
27. Foundation for Lee County Public Schools (FL)
28. Broward Education Foundation (FL)
29. Davis Education Foundation (UT)
30. Jefferson County Public Education Foundation (KY)
31. Granite Education Foundation (UT)
32. Montgomery County Public Schools Educational Foundation (MD)
33. Albuquerque Public Schools Foundation (NM)
34. Jacksonville Public Education Fund (FL)
35. Fund for Educational Excellence (MD)
36. Prince William County Public Schools Education Foundation (VA)
37. Fort Bend ISD Education Foundation (TX)
38. Pasco Education Foundation (FL)
39. Plano ISD Education Foundation (TX)
40. Los Angeles County Education Foundation (CA)
41. Long Beach Education Foundation (CA)
42. PENCIL Foundation (TN)
43. Jordan Education Foundation (UT)
44. The Jeffco Schools Foundation (CO) and Educational Enrichment Foundation (AZ) (tied)
45. Milwaukee Public Schools Foundation (WI)
46. Futures Foundation for Volusia County Schools (FL)
47. Pasadena ISD Education Foundation (TX)
48. Public Schools of Hawaii Foundation (HI)
49. Loudoun Education Foundation (VA)
50. Education Foundation of Palm Beach (FL)

Because the 2014 study expanded to include foundations in the top 100 largest school districts, four divisions were created to divide foundations based on annual revenues. Division 1 includes foundations with \$2 million or more in revenue; Division 2 includes foundations with revenue of \$1 million to \$1,999,999; Division 3 includes foundations with half a million dollars to \$999,999 in revenues; and division 4 includes foundations with less than half a million dollars in revenue.

“Stepping up is about much more than comparing a \$3 million a year foundation to a \$300,000 one,” said Caruthers. “This study proves that some of the smaller foundations are among the top-performing foundations.”

To review the full Stepping Up study, visit <http://deweyandassociates.com>.

About dewey & associates

Founded in 2000, dewey & associates (d&a) is a national management and strategy consulting practice based in Tampa Bay, Florida. The firm does strategic planning for various types of organizations and efforts, but specializes in obesity prevention, K-12 education foundations and juvenile justice reform. d&a conducts national and state studies in education and juvenile justice reform. It previously conducted Stepping Up in 2012 and will conduct the study annually moving forward.

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