



ABOUT US

The Jacksonville Public Education Fund is an independent think-and-do tank that believes in the potential of all students. We work tirelessly to close the opportunity gap for low-income students and students of color. We convene educators, school system leaders, and the community to pilot and help scale evidence-based solutions that advance school quality in Duval County. For more information: www.jaxpef.org.



JACKSONVILLE
**PUBLIC
EDUCATION
FUND**

Powering Potential



2021 IMPACT REPORT



JACKSONVILLE
**PUBLIC
EDUCATION**
FUND

Powering Potential

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Honorable Brian J. Davis, Chair
U.S. District Court Judge

Kevin Hyde, Vice Chair
Partner, Foley & Lardner

Marsha G. Oliver, Secretary
Vice President, Community & Inclusion, THE PLAYERS Championship

Buck Williams, Treasurer
Vice President, UBS Wealth Management

Claudia Amlie
Chief People Officer & SVP, Pet Paradise

Lakesha Burton
Assistant Chief, Jacksonville Sheriff's Office

Poppy Clements
Community Volunteer

Ashley Drugg
Vice President and Head of HR, Deutsche Bank

Reverend Mark L. Griffin
Pastor, Wayman Ministries

John Hirabayashi
President/CEO, Community First Credit Union

Coley Jones
Market Executive, Bank of America

Ronnie King
President, Scratchwerk, LLC

Donna Orender
Chief Executive Officer and Founder, Orender Unlimited, LLC

Marcus Rowe
Vice President and Resident Director, Merrill Lynch Wealth Management

Anita Vining
Realtor, Berkshire Hathaway Home Services

Ellen A. Wiss
President, Homekor Florida

Dr. Diana L. Greene, ex-officio
Superintendent, Duval County Public Schools

The Honorable Elizabeth Andersen, ex-officio
Chair, Duval County School Board

Jim Schmitt, ex-officio
VyStar Duval County Teacher of the Year

OUR MISSION

We spark innovation, relationships and resources to power the potential within and around our public schools to achieve excellent outcomes for all students.

Core Values

These principles guide our decisions and actions:

DATA &
RESEARCH

COLLABORATIVE
LEADERSHIP

DIVERSITY &
INCLUSION

EQUITY THROUGH
INNOVATION

STUDENT-
CENTERED

STAFF

Rachael Tutwiler Fortune
President

Coretta K. Hill
Vice President

Amy Henderson
Director, Marketing and Communications

Danté Jennings
Director, Strategic Initiatives

Roderica Johnson
Director, Engagement and Partnerships

Carly Norgord
Director, Finance and Administration

Jen Silva
Director, Fund Development

Shannon Varga
Director, Data and Research

Rachel Duff
Manager, Data and Research

Veronica Session-Fennell
Manager, Operations and Development, Executive Assistant

Dryden Mills
Senior Associate, Advocacy, Engagement and Initiatives

Betsy Penisten
Associate, Communications and Development

As our community recovers from COVID-19, we are more grateful than ever for your support of public education.

The pandemic has laid bare disparities in educational outcomes that have long persisted in our community. The Jacksonville Public Education Fund is incredibly proud of the progress we've made to close the opportunity gap between low-income students, students of color, and their peers. Yet the pandemic has reminded us how much more work lays before us.

In the last year, we have stood steadfast beside our educators as they worked heroically to keep our children on track during the most difficult school year of their lives. We were proud to launch the Teacher Leadership Initiative and expand the School Leadership Initiative this year, providing direct support to leading educators at the school level. We offered professional learning opportunities, cross-school collaboration, and grant funding to help educators make an even greater impact for their students. We found that the demand for this support was even greater in the context of COVID-19.

Now, we feel even more hopeful about the future as we prepare to launch significant new work at the system level. The Jacksonville Public Education Fund has always looked to research to light the path. Now more than ever, we need to look to the data to identify top priorities and the solutions to move our students forward.

That's why JPEF is proud to co-lead a community strategy to recruit and retain a diverse, effective teacher workforce and to partner with Kids Hope Alliance to make a measureable difference in grade-level reading: the foundation of our children's future. We invite you to join us in this important work. We couldn't do it without you.

Sincerely,



A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Brian J. Davis".

Judge Brian J. Davis
2019-2021 Chairman
Board of Directors



A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Rachael Tutwiler Fortune".

Rachael Tutwiler Fortune
President

OUR VISION

Every student is inspired and prepared for success in college or a career and life.

Strategic Levers

RESEARCH &
ADVOCACY

CONVENING
PARTNERS

STRATEGIC
INITIATIVES



Empowered and effective principals and teacher leaders

Professional learning can help educators adopt proven practices for education equity, making a measurable impact in schools.



Recruiting and retaining diverse teachers

Research shows diverse male teachers have a profound impact. In Duval County, teachers of color make up 36 percent of instructors, while students of color represent about 64 percent of our student body.



Increasing teacher compensation

According to JPEF's research, teachers say compensation is an important factor for staying in the profession.



TOP PRIORITIES FOR EDUCATION EQUITY



Kimberly Parker, 2021 Cindy Edelman Excellence in Teaching Fellow, leads virtual instruction for her students at Lake Lucina Elementary. Photo by Jerial Fennell



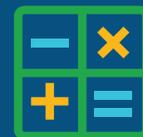
Closing the literacy gap

Third-grade reading is one of the best predictors of success in school and life. But in 2019, more than 35,000 Black students were reading below grade level in Duval County.



Supporting the whole child

Cognitive science has revealed that learning is rooted in social and emotional well-being. Trauma-informed care, inclusive schools, and restorative practices can help.



Student skills for the future

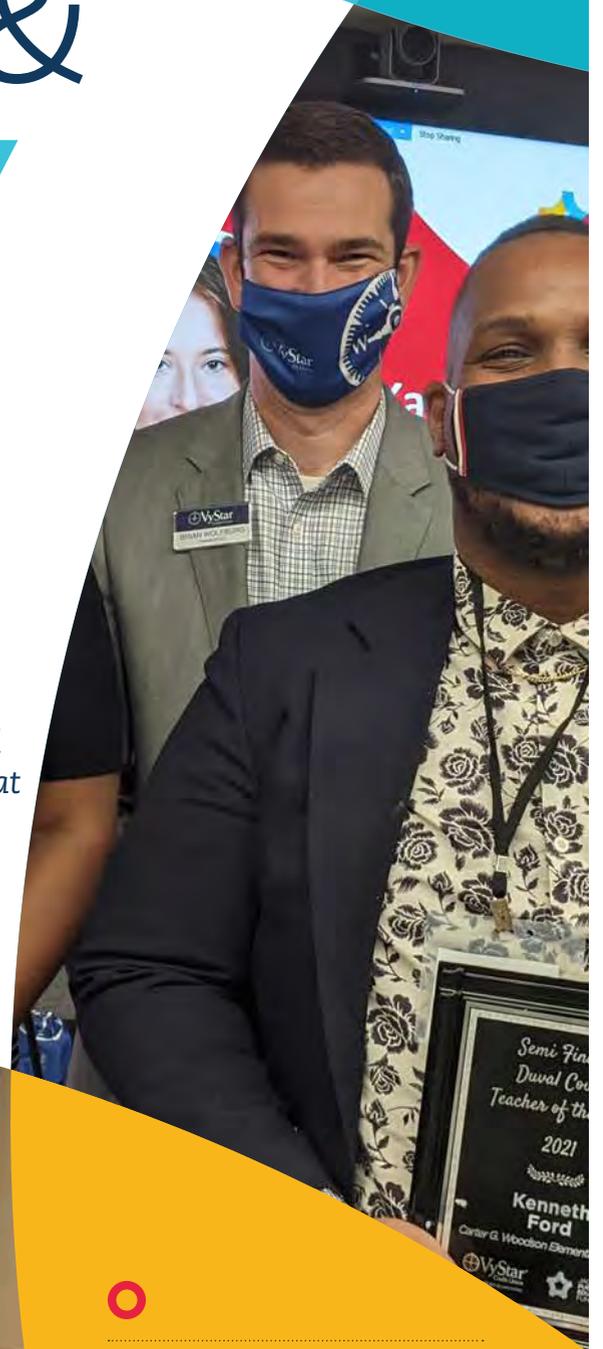
The economy is changing, and students need new skills for the jobs of the future, including critical thinking, collaboration, science, and technology.

RESEARCH & ADVOCACY



“Private companies dedicate teams of people to research and development. In public education, it’s tough to find the personnel to do that. That’s why JPEF’s research is so valuable — JPEF is able to point to problems, but also pull together support and work with us toward solutions. In that way, being a research-led convener is really powerful.”

— Elizabeth Andersen, Chair, Duval County School Board



Left: A case study from the Jacksonville Public Education Fund highlighted work at Jacksonville Heights Elementary to pilot trauma-informed practices in local public schools.

Below: Research from the Jacksonville Public Education Fund highlighted the positive impact of black male teachers on students, including Kenneth Ford, Wells Fargo finalist for 2021 VyStar Duval County Teacher of the Year.

A photograph showing two people from the chest up. On the left is a man wearing a dark suit jacket, a patterned tie, and a black face mask. He is holding a black award plaque with gold lettering. On the right is a woman with braided hair, wearing a red textured top and a black face mask. They are standing in front of a backdrop that includes the Jacksonville Public Education Fund logo and the text "Powering Potential".

Powering Potential THROUGH RESEARCH

The Jacksonville Public Education Fund turns to research to solve pressing problems in public schools and to point to evidence-based solutions that can help. In the last year, our research highlighted key issues in public education: recruiting and retaining diverse teachers, funding schools during the COVID-19 pandemic, and the impact of trauma on student learning. By providing an independent analysis of education issues, the Jacksonville Public Education Fund is able to serve as a research-led convener, bringing education leaders, community partners, and funders together to tackle systemic issues that are limiting the potential of Jacksonville's students.

Powering Potential THROUGH ADVOCACY

The Jacksonville Public Education Fund supports community members to take action on education issues through Parents Who Lead as well as online tools such as our Advocacy Center. In addition, the Jacksonville Public Education Fund serves as a leading community voice on strategic issues affecting students, including the half-penny for public schools and school renaming. Following the vote to approve the half-penny, JPEF serves on the Citizens Oversight Committee for the half-penny sales tax, ensuring taxpayer dollars are spent according to plan.



“The idea of diversifying the teacher education pipeline requires all hands on deck. I don’t think there has been a comprehensive strategy, so this collective approach is extremely important. I don’t know of any organization that is equipped to lead this effort other than JPEF.”

— Dr. Rudy Jamison, UNF College of Education and Human Services

Systemic problems require collective solutions. That’s why the Jacksonville Public Education Fund connects research to action, bringing partners together to work toward common goals and adopt aligned strategies.

Research has shown that teacher diversity benefits all students, especially low-income students of color. But in Duval County, diverse students make up about 2/3 of the total student population, while diverse teachers make up less than 1/3 of the teaching workforce.

Disparities are also apparent in third-grade reading. For example, 63 percent of Black third-graders were reading below grade level in 2018-2019, while only 34 percent of white students were below grade level that same year.

Common Goals, Collective Impact

○ EDDY AWARDS

The EDDY Awards, Jacksonville’s Teacher of the Year celebration, has become a time-honored tradition. Now, it’s also a celebration of education’s impact. In partnership with WJXT/Channel 4, JPEF televised the EDDYs, broadcasting success stories and best practices in public schools and reaching **35,000 viewers**.

○ CLOSING THE LITERACY GAP

Across the nation, communities have committed to improving third-grade reading, a critical factor for future success in school and life. In Jacksonville, JPEF partnered with the Kids Hope Alliance to co-lead this effort using JPEF’s convening power. This builds on earlier support we provided to aligned partners such as Read USA.

○ TEACHER DIVERSITY

Following the release of JPEF’s research on teacher recruitment and retention, JPEF brought together leading partners to discuss teacher diversity, including Duval County Public Schools, the University of North Florida, Florida State College at Jacksonville, Teach for America, City Year, and many others. JPEF Impact Partners will work toward shared goals in the coming years.

○ CHARTER PARTNERS

To close the opportunity gap, all students in public schools must be supported. JPEF convenes charter school leaders to discuss unique challenges and successes. Our strategic initiatives also connect educators from traditional and charter schools to share knowledge.

CONVENING PARTNERS



Jim Schmitt, center, was honored as the VyStar Duval County Teacher of the Year at the 2021 EDDY Awards. Mr. Schmitt teaches global perspectives and history at Mandarin High School, and he went on to be selected as one of the top five finalists for Florida Teacher of the Year.

Retaining Great Educators:

SUPPORT FOR **TEACHER LEADERS AND SCHOOL LEADERS**



“Working with JPEF has been life changing, and I say that with 27 years of experience. I feel like I can change the world. I’ve been given tools and opportunities to take concrete next steps to help my school be the best it can be.”

— **Paula Findlay, JPEF School Leadership Summer Resident, Principal, Arlington Elementary**

The Jacksonville Public Education Fund works to help pilot and scale proven solutions for schools. Strategic initiatives are a key part of that approach. The School Leadership Initiative and the Teacher Leadership Initiative serve some of Duval’s most promising principals and teacher leaders, helping retain great teachers in Duval public schools. JPEF engages these educators year-round in professional learning, collaboration, and coaching, helping them take proven practices from research to action. Then, we measure the results and report out on what worked best for students, allowing innovations

to be scaled across Duval County. For example, Nadine Ebri, a Teacher Leadership Fellow at Southside Middle, led a project to help her Title I students catch up in Algebra after COVID-19 learning losses. At the start of the year, her students were far behind. JPEF supported her to look to the research for answers and then try out innovative practices in her classroom to motivate and engage students. By the spring, her class scored second-best in the district on their Algebra assessment. “I can attribute all their success to this project,” she said. “Thank you!”

Spotlight on Solutions

○ **SUPPORTING THE WHOLE CHILD**

Research shows that learning is rooted in social-emotional well-being. Academic achievement is rooted in students feeling safe, welcome, and engaged in school. That’s why the Jacksonville Public Education Fund brings best practices in restorative justice and trauma-informed care to the educators we support.

10,000



STUDENTS IMPACTED IN 2020

STRATEGIC INITIATIVES



78



EDUCATORS
SERVED THROUGH
JPEF STRATEGIC
INITIATIVES

Powering Potential THROUGH EFFECTIVE EDUCATORS

Research shows that one of the most important influences on students are the educators in their schools: teachers and principals. That's why we work with

Title I elementary school leaders and teacher leaders to empower them with best practices they can scale across their schools, impacting hundreds of students.



Left to right:
 Jessica Pe
 Rachael
 Edelman
 Sandra V
 Straley a
 Lucina E



THE CINDY EDELMAN
EXCELLENCE
 in Teaching Fellowship

The Cindy Edelman Excellence in Teaching Fellowship is an unprecedented opportunity for K-12 Duval County public school teachers to elevate their teaching careers through a professional development activity of their choosing.

Denisha Campbell, a 2020 Edelman Fellow, traveled to Puerto Rico for an immersive Spanish course. The professional learning helped her understand the experience of her students who were learning

English as a second language. Upon her return, she created a professional learning experience for other Speech Language Pathologists serving public schools to share what she learned. In 2021, Cindy Edelman and the Jacksonville Public Education Fund surprised the winners of this year's fellowship at Lake Lucina Elementary. The team will travel to Washington, D.C., to attend a teaching conference, launching their journey to become a social justice model school.



— **Cindy Edelman, Former Board Chair,**
Jacksonville Public Education Fund

“When I was teaching AP Art History, my husband Dan saw how important professional development was to my growth as a teacher. This fellowship recognizes the need for public school teachers in Duval County to have opportunities for professional growth. Having The Community Foundation for Northeast Florida and the Jacksonville Public Education Fund as partners has also added to the high quality of the experience.”

ght: Lara Johnston,
arce, JPEF President
Tutwiler Fortune, Cindy
, Kimberly Parker,
Waymer, and Jenifer
t Lake
ementary.

Empowering Effective Educators

WOLFBURG FELLOWSHIP FOR SOCIAL JUSTICE IN EDUCATION

Jake and Brian Wolfburg established the Wolfburg Fellowship for Social Justice in Education at the Jacksonville Public Education Fund to advance the work of public school teachers committed to social justice in Duval County. In 2021, the Fellowship expanded to include an additional awardee thanks to a generous gift from Liz and Ken Babby, the owner of the Jacksonville Jumbo Shrimp.

Abby Solano, the inaugural Wolfburg Fellow, led a hands-on project with her students at West Riverside Elementary. Students built a portfolio of original photography, and then examined representation, stereotypes, and diversity by comparing their images to works they saw in the media.



“The pursuit of that noble, yet too often elusive, promise of full and equal participation in society is personal to our family, as it is to millions more. Every year educators make a real and lasting difference in the lives of their students that ripples through the community.”

— Brian and Jake Wolfburg



THANI

On behalf of the students and educators you support, we want to express our appreciation for your generosity. Your generosity is making a difference.

Sustaining Investors

Anne and John Baker

Brian and Jake Wolfburg

Cindy and Dan Edelman

Consortium of Florida
Education Foundations

Delores Barr Weaver

Deutsche Bank Foundation

Michael Ward and Jennifer Glock
Foundation

Poppy and Rob Clements

The Community Foundation for
Northeast Florida

The Dianne T. and Charles E. Rice Family
Foundation, Inc.

\$10,000-\$49,000

Anita Vining
Bank of America
Community First Cares Foundation
Curriculum Associates
Deerwood Rotary Charities, Inc.
Dori and Bill Walton
DuBow Family Foundation
Ellen and Jim Wiss
Fidelity National Information
Systems
Florida Blue
Florida Blue Foundation
Isabelle and Robert Davis
Peoples Gas System (TECO)
PNC Financial Services Group
Publix Super Markets Charities
Southern Poverty Law Center
State of Florida DMV
The Chartrand Family Fund
Truist Cares Foundation
VyStar Credit Union

\$1,000-\$9,999

ABM Services
Axalta Coating Systems, LLC
Brian Davis

Camp NYC, Inc.
Chartwells K12
Claudia and Karsten Amlie
Community First Credit Union
Connie and Bill Hodges
Coretta and Marcus Hill
Deborah Quazzo
Diane Yendol-Hoppey
CSX Corporation
Equitable Advisors
ESS - Source4Solutions, LLC
Gilbane Building Company
Joan and Preston Haskell
John Hirabayashi
Leah Lynch
Mary Ellen Willis Foundation
Mayo Foundation for Medical
Education and Research
Monique and David Miller
Pam D. Paul
Pam Y. Paul
PGA TOUR, Inc.
Rhodes Graduation Services
Read USA, Inc.
Rotary Club of Mandarin
Rotary Club of San Jose
Rotary Club of South Jacksonville
Rotary Club of West Jacksonville
Susannah and Buck Williams

THANK YOU

Extend our deepest gratitude to JPEF supporters during Fiscal Year 2021.
for making a difference for students.

Susannah and Craig Albright
TIAA Bank
University of North Florida
Foundation, Inc.
Wendy and John Cozzi

\$100 - \$999

Ashish Heda
Barney and Ed Lane
Beverley Brooke
Ben Marcus
Carolyn and Platt Davis
Chris Leland
Christina and Martin Leyva
Clay Tousey III
Deborah Gervin
Diana Greene
Dogan Tozoglu
Donna Orender
Doug Edwards
Eileen Scannapieco
Elizabeth Head
Emily Smith
Erica and Christopher Paul
Hamby - Hamburg Donor Advised
Fund
Heather Fincher
Janet Healy

Janice Garry
Jill Dame
John J. Allen
John Mills
Karla Newton
Kathy and Bud Para
Kelly Hutchinson
Kendra Scott, LLC
Kristen and John Surface
Linda Sherrer
Lindsay Philcox
Lisa and Fred Page
Liz Williams
Margaret Gulliford
Margaret Hicks
Mark Griffin
Marsha Oliver
Marsha Taylor
Martha Greene
Mary and Greg Norgord
Melissa Kicklighter
Mike Garry
Mimi and Mike Walton
Myron Flagler
Nancy Felton
Network for Good
Nicholas Slunaker Jr.
Page Simpson
Paulo Bautista

Peter and Curry Cozzi
Rachael Tutwiler and Emmanuel
Fortune
Ranga Ocholi
Robert King
Robin Campen
Robert Voth
Ron Yeaw
Ronnie Ferguson
Sandy and Frank Robinson
Southeastern Grocers Community
Bag Program
Steve Garry
Suzanne McGee
Terry and Lon Walton

In-Kind

Abare Kresge and Associates
Jacksonville Jumbo Shrimp
Museum of Science and History
Organized Home/Organized Office
The Cummer Museum of Arts and
Gardens
Wicked Barley