

2022-2023

IMPACT REPORT



JACKSONVILLE
**PUBLIC
EDUCATION
FUND**

Powering Potential

WHAT IS THE PURPOSE OF EDUCATION?
AND WHO DOES IT SERVE?

LETTER FROM LEADERSHIP

Education, we believe, is the cornerstone of personal empowerment and community development. It serves not just the individual learner, but the entire community by fostering informed, engaged, and compassionate citizens.

Our efforts this year have been guided by this philosophy. We've seen remarkable perseverance and flexibility in our educational community, highlighting that education is not just about imparting knowledge, but about building character, resilience, and adaptability.

We have focused on making education accessible and equitable, acknowledging that it serves every member of our community, regardless of their background.

As we look to the future, our vision remains clear: an educational system in Jacksonville that not only imparts knowledge to students but also instills a sense of responsibility and connection to the broader community. The challenges are significant, but our resolve is unwavering. With the support of our educators, students, community partners, and stakeholders like you, we are dedicated to creating a future where education serves as a beacon of hope and a catalyst for positive change.

We extend our deepest thanks to all who have joined us in this mission. Your support, in all its forms, is shaping a future where education transcends the classroom and becomes a lifelong journey of empowerment and community engagement.

We invite you to read this annual report not just as a record of what has been accomplished, but as a blueprint for what we can achieve together in the years to come. Thank you for being an integral part of this transformative journey.



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

Rachael Tutwiler Fortune
President



A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kevin Hyde".

Kevin Hyde
Board Chair

ABOUT JPEF

The Jacksonville Public Education Fund (JPEF) is the third generation of Jacksonville's local education fund and was established in 2009 to begin its role as Duval County's high-performing local education fund. We work to close the opportunity gap between low-income students, students of color and their peers by investing in great leadership in our public schools.



[PUBLIC SCHOOLS IN DUVAL COUNTY,
TIMELINE OF MAJOR EVENTS](#)



[ABOUT JPEF VIDEO](#)

MISSION

JPEF activates community support, connects partners, and advances effective ideas for the success of all students.

VISION

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

CORE VALUES

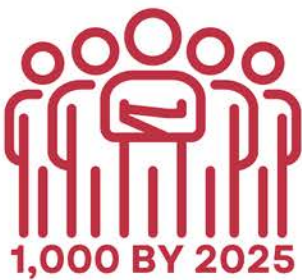
These principles guide our decisions and actions:

- DATA & RESEARCH
- COLLABORATIVE LEADERSHIP
- DIVERSITY & INCLUSION
- EQUITY THROUGH INNOVATION
- STUDENT-CENTERED

YEAR IN REVIEW



The 1 MILL referendum, endorsed by JPEF in 2022, **significantly reduced teacher vacancies in Duval County**. By January 2024, our district had the lowest vacancies among Florida's large urban districts and surpassed many smaller ones. It also boosted the recruitment and retention of diverse male teachers, **increasing their representation by 13% since 2021**, highlighting the referendum's substantial influence on education and community support.



JPEF worked to increase the number of diverse male teachers in Duval County, reaching **594+** at Duval County Public Schools as of February 2023, while maintaining strong community partner support of the 1,000 by 2025 initiative. This work was done against the backdrop of polarizing new policies that work against diversity, equity and inclusion related efforts in the state of Florida.

We delivered professional learning activities for educators, including the inaugural Lift and Lead Conference and the Future of Education Forum



For the 32nd EDDY Awards, we hosted the first fully in-person celebration since the coronavirus pandemic hit, welcoming more than **800** attendees.



JPEF led efforts to finalize a common agenda for the READJAX campaign as we facilitated the Steering Committee and awareness building efforts. READJAX is a community initiative that aspires to a future where all Duval children are reading at or above grade level by the end of 3rd grade.



JPEF completed research deliverables including a new School Choice guide to support parents to make data-driven decisions about where to send their child to school and ensure they receive quality learning experiences that best meet their needs.

HIGHLIGHTS

EDUCATIONAL SUCCESS

The **School Leadership Initiative (SLI)** fosters collaboration and creative autonomy, uniting DCPS principals to drive schoolwide improvements and student success. SLI, now a vibrant leadership network, awarded 16 grants to visionary principals for projects in key areas like Teacher Recruitment, School Culture, Leadership, and Family Engagement.

SLI's impact is clear: 100% say its activities boost school climate and culture, while 87.5% credit SLI with enhancing access to best practices and improving school performance. SLI creates a supportive space for principals to discuss issues and innovate together, strengthening leadership and advancing school improvement.



Andrew Jackson High School teacher, **Julia Mayeshiba**, was named the **2023 VyStar Duval County Teacher of the Year at the 32nd annual EDDY Awards**.

We are honored to celebrate the heroes in our classrooms by leading the community-driven process to select the VyStar Duval County Teacher of the Year and to celebrate every outstanding Teacher of the Year in public schools across the district. Winners from each school are invited to participate in JPEF's **Teacher Leadership Initiative**.



[2023 EDDY AWARD WINNER VIDEO](#)

HIGHLIGHTS

CINDY EDELMAN EXCELLENCE IN TEACHING FELLOW

Logan Davis, a teacher leader at River City Science Academy Innovation, led an initiative to enrich her 8th-grade Biology class with practical learning. Her project took her to the Galapagos Islands, aiming to integrate immersive learning into the science curriculum. Partnering with Ecology Project International, Davis joined a Professional Development program in the Galapagos to enhance science teaching with experiential learning, focusing on community engagement and conservation.

Davis pursued objectives of inspiration, collaboration, and personal growth, addressing the challenges of teaching with innovative solutions. Her Ecuador experience inspired her to rejuvenate her teaching methods, sharing insights with colleagues to develop more interactive lessons. The program offered collaboration with scientists and educators, aiming to transform teaching strategies and achieve professional development through the 5E learning model and field research techniques.



Expanding her project, Davis collaborated with Jacksonville University's Marine Science Research Lab to study microplastics and water quality in the St. Johns River. This initiative aims to connect students with their local ecosystem, emphasizing the importance of environmental stewardship.

Davis's efforts have empowered 150 students with hands-on science experiences, demonstrating the significant impact of innovative education on student engagement and environmental awareness.



[EDELMAN FELLOW, LOGAN DAVIS VIDEO](#)

HIGHLIGHTS

PROFESSIONAL LEARNING

The **Future of Education Forum**, held in January, convened stakeholders to discuss public education progress over the past decade. The forum looked at past achievements, current trends, and future innovation opportunities.

The panel, "Innovating for Our Future," led by Nina Waters from the Community Foundation for Northeast Florida, featured Aundra Wallace of JAXUSA Partnership, Dr. Phil Poekert from the University of Florida Lastinger Center, Jessica Solano, a former Florida Teacher of the Year and researcher at 240 Tutoring, and student Yahir Perez from Jacksonville Arts and Music School and LaVilla School of the Arts.



The **1,000 Lift and Lead Conference** held in March, focused on empowering Black and Latino male educators with tools for educational success and career growth. It emphasized building a supportive network and showcasing leadership in education and targeting educational excellence in our community.

The event saw nearly 100 educators gather, with Dr. James Ford as the keynote speaker. Workshops covered leadership, mindfulness, censorship, factual education, professional development, benefits preparation, healing, and engaging instruction, featuring speakers like Dr. Rudy Jamison, Jazmin Miller, Sekou Smith, Dimas Vidales, Danté Jennings, and others.

“ My biggest take away from the event is that I am not alone. There is a supportive, expert community ready and eager to assist me in my efforts to educate our youth. ”

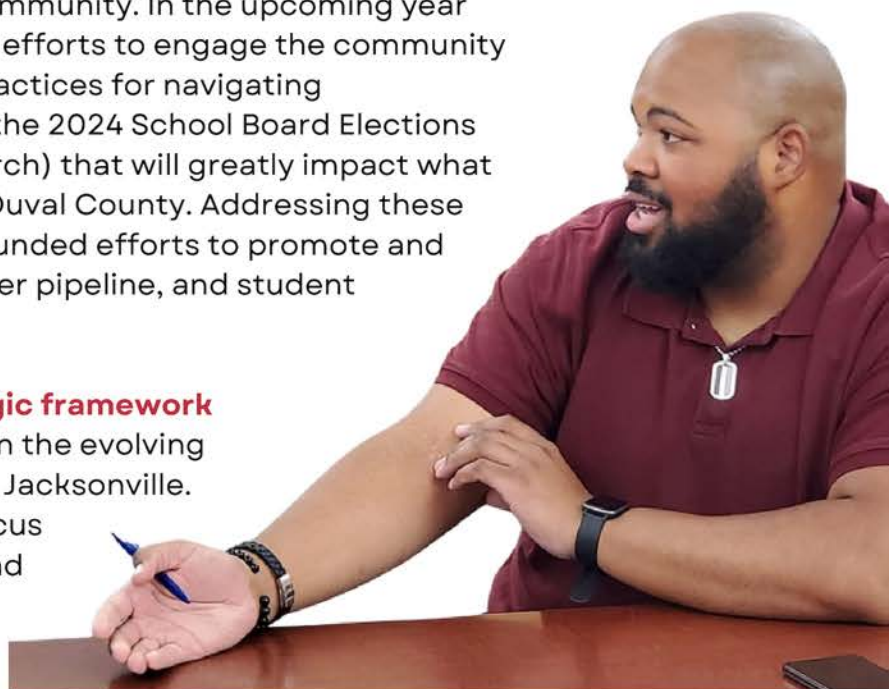


[LIFT AND LEAD CONFERENCE VIDEO](#)

LOOKING AHEAD

JPEF plays a valuable, relevant, and important role as an independent partner to public schools and the community. In the upcoming year alone, JPEF's independent voice and efforts to engage the community will be integral to promoting best practices for navigating consequential leadership changes (the 2024 School Board Elections and the DCPS's Superintendent Search) that will greatly impact what comes next for public education in Duval County. Addressing these issues adds to our established and funded efforts to promote and support effective literacy, the teacher pipeline, and student resiliency practices.

In 2023, we developed a new **strategic framework for FY2024-2026** to guide our work in the evolving education and political landscape in Jacksonville. Over the next three years, we will focus our efforts on three mission goals and one operational goal.



MISSION GOALS

COMMUNITY LEADERS AND ADVOCATES ARE INFORMED AND ACTIVATED ON ISSUES CRITICAL TO EDUCATIONAL SUCCESS.

OBJECTIVES:

- Expand our awareness-building efforts to reach a larger audience.
- Foster a culture of engagement and collaboration between stakeholders and public decision makers to enable more informed and effective decision making on education issues.
- Increase the visibility and impact of JPEF's research as evidenced by recognition and citation of our work by others.

STRATEGIES:

- A. Conduct and disseminate research and data analysis.
- B. Mobilize and support advocacy efforts on key education issues.
- C. Host forums and targeted convenings.
- D. Engage with community in key education efforts.

EDUCATORS ARE INSPIRED, MOTIVATED, AND SUPPORTED TO ADVANCE SUSTAINED EXCELLENCE IN SCHOOLS.

OBJECTIVES:

- Investigate and help improve teacher attitudes towards working in public schools in Duval County.
- Strengthen teacher engagement with JPEF's initiatives and events, expanding reach, quality, and impact.

STRATEGIES:

- A. Provide targeted professional learning growth opportunities for teachers.
- B. Recognize excellence in teaching, schools, and systems.
- C. Provide professional learning and other resources to increase effectiveness of school leadership.
- D. Provide school and classroom grants.

COMMUNITY ASSETS ARE ALIGNED TO IMPROVE EDUCATIONAL RESULTS.

OBJECTIVES:

- Actively engage partners to support the READ JAX campaign and the 1,000 by 2025 initiative.
- Continuously work towards diversifying the teacher workforce under the 1000 by 2025 initiative and track progress.
- Establish measures to gauge the level of trust in JPEF as a reliable backbone for education.
- Recognize existing cultural wealth within communities and incorporate assets into initiatives and campaigns.

STRATEGIES

- A. Guide and support shared efforts to address literacy gaps.
- B. Galvanize partners to diversify the teacher workforce.
- C. Center community voices and perspectives to build authentic, trusting relationships that will inform our work.



OPERATIONAL GOAL

JPEF IS AN EFFECTIVE, FINANCIALLY STABLE, WELL-RESOURCED, AND DIVERSE ORGANIZATION ORIENTED TO ACCOMPLISH ITS MISSION.

OBJECTIVES:

- Meet revenue goals that account for growing capacity needs, while maintaining organizational reserves.
- Deepen board and staff understanding of and action around opportunities to enhance diversity.
- Become a more operationally efficient organization (developing processes, leveraging technology, etc.).

STRATEGIES:

- A. Set and reach our annual fundraising goals for annual budget needs.
- B. Manage revenue and expenses to ensure ongoing operational reserves are maintained.
- C. Continue to diversify staff and board while remaining a high performing team.
- D. Improve and maintain technology and organizational systems to support daily efforts.



STAKEHOLDERS

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Foley & Lardner

Buck Williams, Vice Chair
UBS Private Wealth Management

Coley Jones, Secretary
Bank of America

Terry Patrick Walton, Treasurer
Terry Patrick Walton Consulting

Claudia Amlie
Pet Paradise

Lisa Cochran
VyStar Credit Union

Poppy Clements
Community Volunteer

Dr. Barbara Darby
Retired, Campus President FSCJ

Ashley Drugg
Deutsche Bank

Rev. Mark L. Griffin
Pastor and CEO

John Hirabayashi
Community First Credit Union

Ronnie King
Scratchwerk, LLC

Whitney Meyer
Jacksonville Jaguars

Marsha Oliver
PGA Tour

Donna Orender
Orender Limited, LLC

Susan B. Towler
CSR/Florida Blue Foundation

Ellen A. Wiss
Real Estate Professional and
Community Volunteer

Dr. Diana Greene, ex officio
Superintendent DCPS

Rhianna Scyster, ex officio
Board Service Fellow

Darryl Willie, ex officio
DCPS Board Chair

JPEF STAFF

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Ronetta Wards
Vice President

Amy Henderson
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Danté Jennings
Director - Strategic Initiatives

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Director - Engagement &
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Director - Finance &
Administration

Shannon Varga
Director - Data & Research

Courtney Weatherby-Hunter
Director - Fund Development

Rachel Duff
Senior Manager - Data &
Research

Betsy Penisten
Manager - Communications and
Fund Development

Olivia Smith
Manager - Fund Development

Tonya Jackson
Associate - Operations & Executive
Assistant

Jacob Duff
Associate - Communications

Casey Roth
Associate - Strategic Initiatives

SUSTAINING INVESTORS

\$50,000+

Cindy and Dan Edelman
Consortium of Florida
Education Foundations
Delores Barr Weaver
Family Foundation
Deutsche Bank

John and Anne Baker
Kids Hope Alliance
Michael Ward & Jennifer
Glock Foundation
New Schools Venture Fund
Rob and Poppy Clements

The Community Foundation
for Northeast Florida
The Dianne T. and Charles E.
Rice Family Foundation, Inc.
Walton Family Foundation

DONORS

\$10,000 - \$49,999

AT&T Foundation
Brian and Jake Wolfburg
CEM Foundation
Community First Cares
Foundation
David and Monique Miller
Deerwood Rotary Charities,
Inc.
DuBow Family Foundation
Ellen and Jim Wiss
Fidelity National Information
Services
Florida Blue
Florida Blue Foundation
HES Facilities
Jacksonville Jaguars
Foundation
PNC Financial Services Group
Publix Super Markets Charities
Robert D. Davis
State of Florida DMV
United Way of Northeast Florida
VyStar Credit Union
Wells Fargo Bank

\$1,000 - \$9,999

Anita and James Vining
Auld & White Constructors,
LLC
Bill and Connie Hodges
Chartwells K12
Claudia and Karsten Amlie
Coley and Nicosia Jones
Community First Credit Union
Coretta Hill
Crane Group Co.
Curriculum Associates
Emmanuel and Rachael
Tutwiler Fortune
Glenwood Charles, Jr.
John Hirabayashi
John J. Allen
Kevin and Kathi Hyde
Lon and Terry Walton
Pam Y Paul
Peoples Gas System (TECO)
Read USA, Inc.
Rotary Club of South
Jacksonville
Rotary Club of West
Jacksonville
Scratchwerk Consulting
Source4Solutions, LLC
Tanya Hardaker Campaign
The Honorable Judge Brian
Davis

\$100 - \$999

Ali Jaffery
Ashlee Razor
Bridget Stephens
Brittani McDonald
Bruce Utz
Clay Tousey III
Courtney Taylor
D James Flagg
Dianne Main
Doris Simpson
Duval Citizens for Better
Schools
Elizabeth Head
Jill and Peter Dame
Jim and Tabitha Furyk
Foundation
Marcus Smith
Michael Hall
Mike and Mimi Stephens
Ronnie Ferguson
Susan and James Towler
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JOIN THE CONVERSATION

