

NEW CHANCE FUND ADVANCED LITERACY & TRAVEL COHORT

SCHOOL YEAR 2023-24
MID-YEAR REPORT



**THIS REPORT WAS SUBMITTED TO SOCIALWORKS BY
THE CHILDREN FIRST FUND**



NEW CHANCE FUND

ADVANCED LITERACY & TRAVEL

YEAR 3 FINAL REPORT

In December 2019, ten CPS schools were each awarded a \$100K New Chance Fund grant by SocialWorks, in partnership with Children First Fund. The theme of the award was "Advanced Literacy in a Global Society" to promote both advanced literacy practices and cultural immersion opportunities. Each school proposed a three-year plan to use the generous funding from SocialWorks for student experiential learning opportunities such as local field trips, as well as domestic or international travel. Some schools planned to work with community partners to provide theater and improv classes that would directly align to skills learned in the classroom. Additionally, schools planned to spend funds to resource literacy labs, IB classrooms, and support English Learners in their school communities.

Plans were halted during the second semester of SY19-20, and throughout SY21 & SY22 given the circumstances surrounding the pandemic. School recipients were encouraged to either re-direct the grant funds to support adaptable learning environments within the COVID-19 environment or hold funds until in-person travel was allowable again. Many schools revised the travel and field trip plans they'd developed for the first two years of the original grant period, however still utilized funds to support advanced literacy to the best of their ability within the confinements of the time. Over the past school year, many school recipients were able to return to their original grant plans. The below one-page summaries outline how each school ultimately spent grant funds over the past 3.5 school years.

As of February 2024, a total of \$805,318 has been spent to date with an additional \$100K committed via contract. CVCA, Mather and Farragut have requested to extend their grant through the school year 2023-24 to support Spring field trips.

On behalf of all of us at CPS and Children First Fund, we thank SocialWorks for their commitment to supporting CPS students, especially during a time of such uncertainty and change amid the COVID-19 pandemic.



CHICAGO VOCATIONAL CAREER ACADEMY

YEAR 3 FINAL

AVONDALE PARK
GRADES: 9-12
STUDENT POPULATION: 637

PROGRESS TOWARDS GOALS

CVCA's goal through this partnership was to increase literacy levels of students by expanding cultural knowledge, to immerse students in true interdisciplinary project-based learning and to allow students to experience STEAM-based learning to increase literacy levels.

In the first two years of the grant, CVCA innovatively used a small portion of New Chance Fund dollars to support with various incentivization initiatives to keep students engaged during COVID and with the return of in-person classes.

Over the final year of the grant, CVCA was able to provide a no-cost cultural experience to at least 25% of the student body. Students visited the Oriental Museum, went on a Pilsen Neighborhood Tour, had experiences at iFly and a Blue Man Group performance, and participated in a culinary event with professional chefs.

CVCA is also purchasing materials and equipment to build a sound studio which will allow students the opportunity to engage in digital media and art programming.

STUDENT IMPACT

At least 175 students were impacted by the opportunities afforded by this grant to date. These cultural experiences exposed students to diverse perspectives, values, and ways of life. By engaging in such experiences and activities, students gained a broader understanding of the world and developed a more inclusive mindset. This expanded worldview has allowed students to see connections between various subjects and ideas, enhancing their ability to make meaningful associations in their academic studies.

EXTENSION REQUEST

CVCA requested an extension to spend remaining funds to visit St. Louis and Nashville in April. The plan will be to tour Harris-Stowe, Fisk and Tennessee State Universities, as well as visit cultural institutions in each city. An estimated 20 students would attend with 2 adults.

BUDGET ACTUALS TO DATE

Advanced Literacy Resources (Texts & Technology): \$24,332

Student Incentives: \$12,080

Travel & Field Trip Costs (Transportation, tickets, accommodations): \$20,980

Educator Development: \$0

Total Spent: \$57,392

CURIE HIGH SCHOOL

YEAR 3 FINAL

**ARCHER HEIGHTS
GRADES: 9-12
STUDENT POPULATION: 2,826**

PROGRESS TOWARDS GOALS

Curie's goal with the New Chance Fund grant was to promote literacy, cultural awareness and exposure, as well as post-secondary education. This funding supported Curie's efforts to create a school culture that is safe and welcoming, and an academic space where students feel like they're part of a community that cares about them and serves to prepare them for future success.

The NCF grant has been used to purchase diverse and culturally responsive book sets that teachers use as part of their curriculum. Curie has also taken several field trips to colleges and plays/performances, including: The Chicago International Salsa Congress, a bowling trip as incentive for high attendance, a field trip to "Sneakerhead University" for IB Career Program students, as well as educational trips to the Field Museum, the Museum of Science & Industry and the Brookfield Zoo. Additionally, students participated in college visits to University of Illinois - Urbana Champaign as well as Illinois Institute of Technology.

Curie was also able to purchase a multi-year subscription to a hands-on grammar and writing website that all English teachers are utilizing to align with instruction.

STUDENT IMPACT

The full student body of nearly 3000 students were in some manner impacted by the above opportunities and resources available due to this grant.

EXTENSION IMPACT

With remaining funds, Curie took students to visit three institutions in the Fall '23: Loyola University, Shedd Aquarium and The Art Institute of Chicago. Two trips to Loyola allowed a total of 115 Curie students (mainly freshman) an opportunity to visit campus be taken on a tour led by current students



BUDGET ACTUALS TO DATE

Advanced Literacy Resources (Texts & Technology): \$91,159
Student Programs (in school): \$2,942
Travel & Field Trip Costs (Transportation, tickets, accommodations): \$5,297
Total Spent: \$99,398

FARRAGUT CAREER ACADEMY

YEAR 3 FINAL

**LITTLE VILLAGE
GRADES: 9-12
STUDENT POPULATION: 452**

PROGRESS TOWARDS GOALS

Farragut Career Academy has been attempting to facilitate international student travel for over ten years, but has previously been met with financial barriers given the high cost per student for these types of experiences. Farragut made the decision to hold on spending New Chance grant funds until travel was allowable, ensuring the most impact for the most number of students. The school is planning to take a group of students on an opportunity next school year, ideally to Guatemala through a year-long program with buildOn.

Through the partnership with buildOn, 20 students will be able to take the once in a lifetime, fully immersive, cross-cultural trip. Beginning at the start of the school year, students and families will participate in sessions with buildOn to learn about the experience and participate in the selection process. Prior to going on the trip, selected students will participate in a cultural cooking class to learn about Guatemalan cuisine, and will be supported through the process of passport applications, medical appointments, etc.

Students will participate in the travel experience in March 2024, during Spring break. BuildOn will help to facilitate post-trip reflection workshops, presentations and celebrations.

STUDENT IMPACT

Farragut plans to provide 20 students with a memorable opportunity to learn about the culture, language and society of another country through a service learning trip. They'll partner with expert facilitators at buildOn throughout the year to ensure that students become knowledgeable visitors, and learn about the similarities and differences in the social and economic challenges that face their host country and their own.

EXTENSION REQUEST

Farragut plans to partner with buildOn throughout the SY24. They have reserved the full grant amount for this opportunity, with a trip planned to occur in Spring 2024 during CPS Spring Break.

BUDGET ACTUALS TO DATE

Advanced Literacy Resources (Texts & Technology): \$0

Travel & Field Trip Costs (Transportation, tickets, accommodations): \$0

(planned full amount for travel)

Educator Development: \$0

Total Spent: \$0

FINKL ACADEMY

YEAR 3 FINAL

PILSEN
GRADES: PK-8
STUDENT POPULATION: 213

PROGRESS TOWARDS GOALS

Finkl's goal for this partnership focused on exposing students to U.S. History via primary source documents, by providing opportunities for students to travel to historic sites outside of Chicago and their neighborhoods.

With support from the New Chance Fund grant, Finkl brought 7th and 8th grade students on trips to Washington DC, as well as to the Illinois state capital, Springfield. Students had the opportunity to visit multiple monuments, memorials and institutions in DC, as well see the White House in person. In Springfield, students visited museums, as well as saw Lincoln's Museum, Tomb and Home.

During the first two years of the grant, when schools were not able to travel with students, Finkl used grant funding to support a partnership with Opportunities for All. The organization led classes for students to learn photography and make their own shoes through the "Sneaker Design Project."

STUDENT IMPACT

55 7th and 8th grade students had memorable learning experiences on their trips to Washington DC and Springfield. SocialWorks was able to document Finkl's trip to Springfield, and students participating in both experiences made memories that will last a lifetime.

Additionally, in partnership with Opportunities for All, Finkl was able to bring engaging and creative programming to students during the COVID-19 pandemic. This programming was a positive experience - students who were able to come to school physically shared that it was an activity that they always looked forward to during uncertain times. A total of 60 students participated in the Sneaker Design and Photography courses through Opportunities for All, and an additional 13 participated in an online skateboarding design course.

BUDGET ACTUALS TO DATE

Student Programming (Opportunities for All): \$46,730

Travel & Field Trip Costs (Transportation, tickets, accommodations): \$46,270

Educator Development: \$7,000

Total Spent: \$100,000



HEDGES FINE & PERFORMING ARTS

YEAR 3 FINAL

BACK OF THE YARDS GRADES: PK-8 STUDENT POPULATION: 508

PROGRESS TOWARDS GOALS

Hedges original goals for this grant included:

Goal 1: Through live theater, students will utilize critical and creative thinking skills, improve literacy, and interpret and shape the world around them by navigating available resources, traveling to external partners and developing relationships with adults across the city.

Goal 2: Explore the creation of character and narrative. Prepares students to perform and take the stage and encourage confidence in collaborative play and devising of their own work by performance of their own original play/skits that are written using draft, edit, and revised written sketches.

Goal 3: Provide students with the ability to identify different types of media and understand the messages they're sending to help students think critically and recognize point of views.

Goal 4: Build teacher capacity for integrating literacy and the arts.

During the pandemic, when traveling with students was challenging, Hedges pivoted their advanced literacy and cultural immersion experiences by bringing in partnership from Creative Root, based out of the Theater School at DePaul University. Students K-6 received 8-16 sessions of theater classes.

STUDENT IMPACT

Funding allowed over 200 students K-6 to receive theater classes via Creative Root. During the pandemic, this was a positive way to engage students with live theater and build on creative thinking skills, even when they weren't able to travel or take trips to professional performances.

BUDGET ACTUALS TO DATE

Advanced Literacy Resources (Texts & Technology): \$516
Student Programming: \$35,700 (Creative Root/in-class session)
Field Trip/Travel: \$36,760
Educator Development: \$1,045
Total Spent: \$74,021

HUBBARD HIGH SCHOOL

YEAR 3 FINAL

**WEST LAWN
GRADES: 9-12
STUDENT POPULATION: 1,647**

PROGRESS TOWARDS GOALS

Hubbard's goal has been to promote and improve literacy for students. Students are more interested in engaging in literacy when they have a voice and are given a choice in what they want to read. With this goal in mind, Hubbard has purchased a variety of culturally relevant novels for students. Additionally, they plan to purchase book cards to transport texts and resources that will promote literacy electronically.

Over the past year, with support from this grant, Hubbard has purchased classroom libraries for every English teacher, utilizing student input. Students are able to engage in Sustained Silent Reading (SSR) in their classes with a title of their choice. Hubbard has also purchased titles for the World Language Department, including various Spanish Language titles for ELL students.

On May 19, Hubbard held their 2nd annual HubbardPalooza, supported by the New Chance Fund grant. They've also hosted a back to school re-engagement event, open houses, a Senior Block Party, and Parent Conference days. During all of those events, the school provided families with books, electronic devices, and additional resources to create reading corners in their homes.

STUDENT IMPACT

All of the Hubbard's nearly 1,700 students have benefitted from the resources that Hubbard has been able to purchase with funding from this grant. Every student enrolled in an English class has seen new classroom libraries filled with culturally relevant texts chosen as a class. English Learners also have had more opportunity to expand their literacy skills with resources in both English and Spanish.

Beyond the student population, this grant has also supported families across the West Lawn community. Funding from this partnership allowed Hubbard to expand and encourage at-home reading by providing resources directly to families.

BUDGET ACTUALS TO DATE

Advanced Literacy Resources (Texts & Technology)/Programming: \$87,328

Travel & Field Trip Costs (Transportation, tickets, accommodations): \$5,290

Educator Development: \$1,100

Total Spent: \$93,718

MATHER HIGH SCHOOL

YEAR 3 FINAL

**WEST RIDGE
GRADES: 9-12
STUDENT POPULATION: 1,580**

PROGRESS TOWARDS GOALS

As the most diverse high school in Chicago, Mather's primary goal was to embrace and celebrate this diversity by supporting ESL students and highlighting student experiences through a literacy lab (showcasing stories of self, us), the school's annual Ethnic Fest and One Book Mather, as well as teacher training.

Funding has supported in providing the following programs: two professional development sessions with the school's full staff on Culturally and Linguistically Responsive Teaching and Learning and two follow-up sessions with Transform the Collective; Podcasting equipment purchased for Literacy Lab; ESL classes for 10 teachers (NEIU cohort), with three teachers receiving their ESL certification. Additionally, the school has been able to order culturally-relevant texts and technology to access apps for our English Language Learners

The Mather Ethnic Fest 2023 was a huge celebration for the school community. In addition to food and dancing, with the support of this grant and the student initiatives it funded, there were added literacy elements to this celebration, such as podcasts, poems, photography, etc.

STUDENT IMPACT

Mather's intended impact was for all students, particularly English language learners, to feel more connected and supported at Mather, while working with the whole Mather community to expand a core value: "Diversity of Perspective." This grant has supported Mather in realizing their vision to create a global family in a neighborhood community, and through grant-funded programming, impacted all of Mather's 1,500+ students.

This past year's Ethnic Fest was the biggest that Mather has ever been put on, and it set a celebratory tone for the community post-COVID. This is also evidenced in an increase in students saying they feel they belong in the school's 5 Essential survey data this year - it was up 12 points.

EXTENSION REQUEST

Mather had originally requested an extension to plan a field trip in Fall '23. However, due to turnover/transition of the grant lead, they are hoping for the reallocate for Spring '24.

BUDGET ACTUALS TO DATE

Advanced Literacy Resources (Texts & Technology): \$19,918

Student Programming: \$7,846

Educator Development: \$56,041

Total Spent: \$83,805



OSCAR DEPRIEST ELEMENTARY

YEAR 3 FINAL

AUSTIN
GRADES: PK-8
STUDENT POPULATION: 479

PROGRESS TOWARDS GOALS

Depriest's goal for the New Chance Fund partnership has been to empower students to share their voices and to understand that their stories matter and can change the world. With funding from SocialWorks, Depriest sought to teach students the power of personal storytelling, by providing in-school programming and visiting locations with historical and societal significance.

Depriest partnered with Improv Playhouse to embed instruction on improv techniques into curriculum and help students develop communication skills. Improv Playhouse also led multiple improv workshops with each middle school homeroom throughout each year of the grant. As part of their learning, students created podcasts or recorded interviews that told personal stories they hoped would help make the world a better place. DePriest also purchased 8 podcasting kits.

Additionally, this grant funded an 8th grade trip through multiple Southern US cities. 25 students - and 7 educators - took a Civil Rights tour and visited multiple HBCUs in Atlanta, Selma, Montgomery, and Birmingham.

Through this grant, DePriest also sent several teachers to IB training so they could be better prepared to assist with the development and delivery of IB interdisciplinary units. Funding also helped to update literacy classroom libraries with culturally-relevant texts and materials.

STUDENT IMPACT

Through the partnership with Improv Playhouse, 150 middle grade students grew in their communicative competence, while reflecting on their own personal experiences and the experiences of others. The 25 8th grade students who went to the South learned about the struggle for Civil Rights in the US and reflected on how it affects the country to this day. Some participants had never traveled outside of Chicago and many had never been to the South.

EXTENSION IMPACT

The final \$10K of remaining funds in Fall '23 were utilized to purchase additional resources for their ELA Library and additional IB texts. With an influx in newcomer students, this was especially critical this year.

BUDGET ACTUALS TO DATE

Advanced Literacy Resources (Texts & Technology): \$7,578

Student Programming: \$29,000

Student Travel & Field Trips: \$54,717

Educator Development: \$7,048

Total Spent: \$98,343



SOUTH SHORE INTERNATIONAL COLLEGE PREP

YEAR 3 FINAL

**SOUTH SHORE
GRADES: 9-12
STUDENT POPULATION: 491**

PROGRESS TOWARDS GOALS

South Shore's primary goal was to broaden students' exposure to the International Component of IB programs, with the use of travel, technology, literature and other curricular materials. South Shore has purchased technology for the school's student-focused Academic Center, as well as the "Post Secondary Room." They have also purchased Math Books for students enrolled in the IB Diploma Programs.

Additionally, South Shore aims to prepare students for life beyond high school by exposing them to college and career programs. The school has led students on two college trips so far this year, taking 25 students to North Carolina to visit 9 schools including Duke, UNC and North Carolina A&T. Additionally, South Shore took a group of 30 students to DC the week of Spring Break, to visit Howard University and five additional schools in the Baltimore/Maryland Area.

In May 2023, a group of South Shore students had the chance to travel to Costa Rica and engage in an unforgettable language and cultural experience.

STUDENT IMPACT

Through both the IB program resources, as well as the travel opportunities, 200 South Shore scholars have been impacted by the generosity of this New Chance Fund partnership. Students had the opportunity to visit universities that otherwise may not have been on their prospective college lists. 19 students had the opportunity to travel internationally to Costa Rica, which were many of their first times leaving the US.

Additionally, the resources purchased through this grant will allow students in future classes the opportunity to connect with content taught in IB courses through culturally-relevant material.



BUDGET ACTUALS TO DATE

Advanced Literacy Resources (Texts & Technology): \$51,798

Travel & Field Trip Costs (Transportation, tickets, accommodations): \$45,164

Student Programming: \$500

Total Spent: \$97,462

STEINMETZ COLLEGE PREP

YEAR 3 FINAL

BELMONT CRAGIN
GRADES: 9-12
STUDENT POPULATION: 1,115

PROGRESS TOWARDS GOALS

Steinmetz's primary goals for this partnership were to 1) Expand digital literacy; 2) Expand supports for English Learners and 3) Create a space that will enhance student's ability to create personal projects. Steinmetz has been successful in making progress towards all three goals.

With funding from their New Chance Fund grant, Steinmetz was able to create a Digital media library space for students, with access to culturally responsive texts available through the updated technology. Students and teachers are able to use the equipment and the space to create personal projects as well as complete assignments aligned to classroom instruction. Through this grant, Steinmetz was also able to increase technology in classrooms to support bilingual and diverse learner students.

This work provides students with physical space as well as access to technology and equipment that can support the creation of their projects that capture student identity. Additionally, the school's bilingual and diverse learner students have access to technology that will enhance their classroom experience. Students have access to a library that is culturally responsive and showcases text reaffirms their identity.

STUDENT IMPACT

To date, 400 students have and will continue to be impacted annually by the resources this grant funded. Additionally, future generations of students will also have the opportunity to benefit from the culturally-relevant resources purchased for IB courses.

The digital media library builds on the resources accessible within the school walls and allows students to access a variety of high-quality, timely and culturally-relevant online materials to support their learning.

EXTENSION IMPACT

Steinmetz didn't end up needing extension, as they utilized remaining funds in Fall '23 to pay an outstanding PO to support previous years' initiatives.

BUDGET ACTUALS TO DATE

Advanced Literacy Resources (Texts & Technology): \$91,383

Student Programming: \$2,117

Professional Development: \$6,500

Total Spent: \$100,000