



2013 Summer Design Program

THE STRATEGY

In 2013, The Fund launched the Summer Design Program (SDP) with the belief that educators are best-poised to lead change in schools. Through the SDP, a six-week professional development opportunity designed to give principals and their teacher teams the time and support to address long-standing challenges, teams identified academic challenges and designed new instructional solutions to pilot during the school year. The inaugural SDP cohort confirmed the potential of educator-led innovation and also revealed the need for external support beyond the summer session.

THE IMPACT



16

EDUCATOR TEAMS ENGAGED



\$15K

INVESTED PER SCHOOL



8,800

STUDENTS IMPACTED

PERSONALIZED LEARNING

The Fund partnered with **2Revolutions** to support school teams in creating and implementing innovative ideas in their schools.

Innovations designed by school teams focused broadly around differentiating instruction for students. Ideas included the introduction of project-based learning driven by students' interests, classroom designs where students move through different learning stations at their own pace, and digital dashboards that let students set learning goals and monitor their own progress toward them.

Five schools went on to pursue whole-school redesign through Breakthrough Schools: Chicago.





2014 Summer Design Program

THE STRATEGY

In 2014, our second cohort of Summer Design Program (SDP) participants engaged in a six-week intensive designed to launch innovative solutions to team-identified challenges. The experience included an orientation to Design Thinking, a process that requires teams to place the user (usually a student) at the center of the proposed innovation. SDP 2014 confirmed that an explicit focus on students leads to smarter solutions, and school teams with the most innovative ideas received implementation support throughout the school year. Though this proved helpful to educators, each team had individual needs, which were sometimes difficult to meet without experts in all content areas.

THE IMPACT



40

EDUCATOR TEAMS ENGAGED



\$10K

INVESTED PER SCHOOL



22,000

STUDENTS IMPACTED

DESIGN-THINKING

The Fund engaged **TrueSchool Studio** to support school teams in learning the Design-Thinking framework and in developing user-centered innovations. School teams worked with experts in one of three areas: eighth to ninth grade transitions; Science, Technology, Engineering & Math (STEM); and Personalized Instruction.

Innovations included redesigning school schedules for more personalized instruction and introducing new courses - including coding - to students citywide. One school introduced an eighth grade course that helped students create a personalized high school plan; the rate of students applying to best-fit high schools grew from seven to 100 percent in a single year. The course inspired similar work in other schools.



Learn more at
thefundchicago.org/SDP

THE CHICAGO
 PUBLIC
 EDUCATION
FUND



2015 Summer Design Program

THE STRATEGY

For the third cycle of the Summer Design Program (SDP), The Fund offered tracks in direct response to principal needs and interests. Selected SDP schools opted in to one of three tracks, each led by an expert partner. The track partners provided programming throughout the summer and school year and, along with the school teams, were held accountable for academic outcomes achieved. SDP 2015 also required schools to pilot their innovation during the summer and modify it for implementation during the school year. Participating schools appreciated the opportunity to test innovations before the fall, and suggested that SDP start even earlier to allow for more student input into design.

THE IMPACT



40

EDUCATOR TEAMS ENGAGED



\$12K

INVESTED PER SCHOOL



22,000

STUDENTS IMPACTED

TECHNOLOGY

LEAP Innovations helps schools use technology to meet the learning needs of each student. The Lee Elementary team used project-based learning to let eighth grade students set weekly goals, which contributed to nearly perfect attendance. The school hopes to have 75 percent of classrooms engaged in personalized instruction by 2018.

TRANSITIONS

TrueSchool helps schools create solutions that support learning for each student. The Lovett Elementary team shifted from traditional whole-group teaching to smaller mixed-aged learning. Consequently, referrals leading to suspensions went from 65 to four percent.

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Sensible Innovation helps schools redesign their master schedules to find more time for instructional activities during the school day. The CICS Loomis team added an extra 105 minutes per month for collaborative planning among teachers while still protecting student instructional minutes.



2016 Summer Design Program

THE STRATEGY

In 2016, The Fund shifted the start of the Summer Design Program (SDP) to March to allow schools more time to better understand student needs and test nascent innovations. School teams applied to the fourth cohort and were accepted to one of three tracks, designed in response to principal interests and needs. At the conclusion of this cohort, three years of SDP data revealed emerging evidence of the program's positive relationship with principal satisfaction, retention and effectiveness.

THE IMPACT



48

EDUCATOR TEAMS ENGAGED



\$10K

INVESTED PER SCHOOL



27,500

STUDENTS IMPACTED

TALENT

The National SAM Innovation Project helps school teams create distributed leadership structures that increase principal focus on instruction. In SDP 2016, NSIP helped principals gain an average of 21 days for instructional, academic and other student-focused activities.

TIME

Sensible Innovation helps schools redesign their master schedules to find more time for instructional activities during the school day. The Talcott team redesigned its school schedule to free up one hour every day for teachers to align lessons and students data and to implement a peer-feedback structure among teachers.

TECHNOLOGY

LEAP Innovations helps schools use technology to meet the learning needs of each student. The Avalon Park team helped students use technology to create personal learning paths with the goal of creating a sense of ownership over their learning.