

William H. Gates III

Influence Index: 100

Date of Birth October 28, 1955

Education Attended Harvard University

Current Position Chairman, Microsoft Corporation;
Co-chair, Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation



Career Highlights

- ❑ Chairman, Microsoft Corporation
- ❑ Co-chair, Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation
- ❑ Established the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation (2000)
- ❑ CEO, Microsoft Corporation
- ❑ Founded Microsoft Corporation after withdrawing from Harvard University (1975)

Accomplishments

- ❑ Contributed over \$1 billion to high school reform efforts in the United States
- ❑ Author of *Business @ The Speed of Thought* (1999) and *The Road Ahead* (1995)
- ❑ Named the world's richest person by *Forbes Magazine* each year since 1995

Biographical Sketch

Microsoft founder Bill Gates is co-chair of the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation. A major funder of international philanthropy, Gates has concentrated much of his domestic grant making on education and school reform initiatives. After focusing on issues related to technology in schools in the 1990s, the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation was established in 2000 to address broader issues in school reform.

The Gates Foundation has contributed over 1.2 billion dollars to education reform efforts since its founding. Gates has been a leading voice in the call for high school reform, labeling the current system "obsolete." He is heavily involved in the Foundation's school reform effort, which has sparked a movement to turn large impersonal high schools into collections of small schools or learning communities. Recently, the foundation has turned its attention to the problem of increasing high school graduation rates across the nation.

Bill Gates on education reform

"If we can focus on these three steps – high standards for all; public data on our progress; turning around failing schools – we will go a long way toward ensuring that all students have a chance to make the most of their lives."

From: Speech to the National Education Summit on High Schools, February 26, 2005

Notes

Information collected from the Microsoft Corporation website at www.microsoft.com and the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation website at www.gatesfoundation.org.