

## The Thomas B. Fordham Foundation

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**Mission Statement:** The Thomas B. Fordham Foundation believes that all children deserve a high quality K-12 education at the school of their choice. Nationally and in our home state of Ohio, we strive to close America's vexing achievement gaps by raising standards, strengthening accountability, and expanding education options for parents and families.

**History & General Information:** The Thomas B. Fordham Foundation was established in 1959, assisting charitable organizations in the Dayton, Ohio area. In 1995, the foundation's leadership decided that the organization should focus entirely on education reform. The organization moved its headquarters to Washington, D.C. and took on sponsorship of the Educational Excellence Network (EEN), an umbrella organization. The Fordham Foundation and the EEN promote charter schools and school choice among other reforms. In addition, the foundation is affiliated with The Thomas B. Fordham Institute.

SOURCE: [www.edexcellence.net](http://www.edexcellence.net)

#### BASIC FACTS

**Location** Washington, DC / Dayton, OH

**President/Director** Chester E. Finn, Jr.

**Number of Staff** 8 in Washington, DC; 5 in Ohio

**Membership** N/A

#### FISCAL DATA

The Thomas B. Fordham Foundation is a 501(c)(3) Private Nonoperating Foundation. For 2004, the organization had total revenue of \$2.4 million. It had total assets of approximately \$44 million.

### Major Initiatives

#### Contact Information

For about a decade, the Thomas B. Fordham Foundation has been a leading advocate of higher academic standards for American schools, sponsoring a series of studies on the topic. Among its efforts, the foundation also sponsors community (charter) schools. It has provided sponsorship to 10 schools serving more than 4,000 students in Ohio. In addition, the foundation sponsors two annual award programs. One prize is awarded for distinguished scholarship, with the other going to an education reform leader. The Fordham Foundation is a partner (with Achieve, Inc. and the Education Trust) in the American Diploma Project.

Recent Fordham Foundation Publications include:

- *The State of State World History Standards 2006* (2006)
- *The State of State Science Standards 2005* (2005)
- *Trends in Charter School Authorizing* (2006)
- *Charter School Funding: Inequity's Next Frontier* (2005)

The Thomas B. Fordham Foundation  
1701 K Street, NW, Suite 1000  
Washington, DC 20006

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#### Notes

Information gathered from The Thomas B. Fordham Foundation's website [www.edexcellence.net](http://www.edexcellence.net). Additional data collected from GuideStar at [www.guidestar.org](http://www.guidestar.org).