

Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation

Influence Index: 98

Mission Statement: Through its partnerships in communities across the nation, the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation is committed to raising the high school graduation rate and helping all students—regardless of race or family income—graduate as strong citizens ready for college and work. (Education Division)

History & General Information: In 1994, the William H. Gates Foundation was founded to promote efforts to improve global health and meet community needs in the Pacific Northwest. In 1999, it was renamed the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation. Its education division now provides funding to organizations, throughout the country, seeking to improve the nation’s high schools.

SOURCE: www.gatesfoundation.org

BASIC FACTS

Location Seattle, WA

President/Director Bill Gates, Melinda French Gates, and William H. Gates, Sr. (co-chairs); Patty Stonesifer (CEO)

Number of Staff 300

Membership N/A

FISCAL DATA

The Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation is a 501(c)(3) Private Nonoperating Foundation. As of August 2006, the foundation had an endowment of \$31.9 billion and had made grant commitments of \$11.1 billion over the course of its existence. In 2005, its grant payments totaled \$1.36 billion. Since its founding, the organization has provided approximately \$1.2 billion to efforts aimed at improving high schools. In addition, it has donated more than \$1 billion in college scholarships.

SOURCE: www.gatesfoundation.org

Major Initiatives

Contact Information

The Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation has provided funding to assist with the establishment of more than 2,000 high schools in 40 states. These efforts include small or transformed schools and early college high schools. Scholarship programs supported by the foundation include the Gates Cambridge Scholars, the Gates Millennium Scholars, the Gates Public Service Law Scholarship, and the Washington State Achievers Scholarship.

The Foundation also provides support to a variety of public initiatives, research projects, and reports, including:

- The Education Trust's *Gaining Traction, Gaining Ground: How Some High Schools Accelerate Learning for Struggling Students* (2005)
- Civic Enterprises' *The Silent Epidemic: Perspectives of High School Dropouts* (2006)
- The STAND UP campaign
- *Education Week's Diplomas Count: An Essential Guide to Graduation Policy and Rates* (2006)
- 2005 National Education Summit on High Schools, sponsored by Achieve, Inc., and the National Governors Association

Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation
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www.gatesfoundation.org

Notes

Information gathered from the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation website www.gatesfoundation.org. Additional data collected from GuideStar at www.guidestar.org.