



Better World Endowment *For Equity and Inclusion*

Our Cornerstone Fund

The Foundation invites you to help launch the Better World Endowment for Equity and Inclusion. This Endowment will be the cornerstone fund of the Corvallis Public Schools Foundation, and will uphold the core values of human well-being, economic independence, environmental stewardship, and social justice for generations to come. The Better World Endowment will address the needs of historically underserved and underrepresented students and enhance the capacity of teachers or staff to serve these students. The fund will support the following:

- **Full participation in school for students navigating poverty and homelessness.** Funds will help meet basic needs such as eye exams and glasses, food or clothing, and emergency transportation, as well as covering fees that would otherwise inhibit participation in school activities.
- **Programs geared toward supporting emerging multilingual students,** such as summer programs that boost skills and academic vocabulary and ease the transition to middle or high school.
- **Teacher-designed projects that specifically address equity and inclusion** and offer educational benefits to historically underserved students, including enrichment opportunities.

A Call to Action

The Corvallis community has changed dramatically in the past decade. Our schools are now more culturally diverse with regard to language, race/ethnicity, and social class than at any previous time. The student body has nearly tripled in its representation of ethnic and racial minority youth over the past 16 years (31% currently). Students currently represent 77 birth countries, with more than fifty languages other than English being spoken at home. It is the goal of the Corvallis Public Schools Foundation to be responsive to these changes in ways that assure a high quality of education for all youth.

A more diverse student body enriches the learning experience of each student in uncounted ways. Diversity can also present challenges to both students and teachers. Income disparity, racism, social stigma, and other factors can create barriers to serving the educational needs of all youth equally well. In particular students from low socio-economic circumstances face a wide range of difficulties that can curtail educational attainment and future success. Corvallis schools now serve over 250 homeless children, and approximately a third of the student body are from low-income families. Children living in difficult economic circumstances are more likely to experience health and psychological problems that interfere with educational progress such as child abuse, mental health problems, and poor family learning environments.

About the Corvallis Public Schools Foundation

The Corvallis Public Schools Foundation unites private donors and educators in a common effort to provide the best possible education for all students. Founded in 1996, the Foundation is a community-based nonprofit organization that works on behalf of students at all grade levels and at all thirteen Corvallis schools.