Realize what’s possible.
The Fund has enjoyed a year of excitement and success in working with our partners to improve educational outcomes for students in Baltimore City Public Schools. The highlights described in this report underscore the Fund’s unique and expanding role in providing trusted expertise and critical human and financial resources to advance many of the priorities that are having a positive impact on our city’s public school students.

Over the last 12 months, the Fund has succeeded in securing over $12 million in grant support for vital programs that are serving students in schools and classrooms every day. This level of income represents a five-fold increase over our prior year. We also have assumed greater program and grant management responsibilities for critical reform priorities that include:

- designing programs for students most at-risk for dropping out;
- building national and local coalitions to strengthen school and classroom leaders; and
- supporting the district’s literacy efforts.

We have increased our community outreach through our new Facebook and Twitter pages. Add us to your networks and keep an eye out for Roger’s ongoing education blog, “Realizing What’s Possible,” on our website. The Fund is committed to generating public discussion on key education issues.

As we look forward, we welcome the challenge of finding responsible ways to meet the growing needs and requests of our key constituents and to make upfront investments of time and expertise on Fund-generated projects that will benefit students for years to come. Our expanding scope of work demonstrates the value our partners place on our expertise and the perspective we bring to furthering the education reform agenda in Baltimore City.

To belong to an organization like the Fund for Educational Excellence is a special privilege. Every day we have the honor of working with a diverse group of community, district and foundation leaders committed to one goal: improving outcomes for Baltimore City students.

On behalf of the Fund’s Board and staff, we thank you, our many friends and partners, for your continued support of our efforts this year. Your investment in the Fund directly supports the design and implementation of educational programs that promote achievement and give Baltimore City’s students the support they need to succeed.

We are honored by your trust and eagerly anticipate our continued work together to ensure educational excellence for all of Baltimore City’s public school students.

Sincerely,

Roger Schulman
President and CEO

Jim Mathias
Chair
About the Fund

At the Fund for Educational Excellence, we understand the critical connection between the strength of our public schools and the health of our city. As Baltimore’s only local education fund, we are uniquely dedicated to increasing effectiveness within our public school system and aggressively pursuing innovative reforms that improve outcomes and prepare students for success by increasing graduation rates, decreasing chronic absence, and developing strong school and classroom leaders. Over the past year, the Fund has advanced the reform movement forward in each of our three primary areas of work:

• District Fundraising – attracting, securing, and managing private and public resources to support the groundbreaking work underway in City Schools;

• District Innovation Support – successfully identifying, adapting, and implementing innovative models to meet the unique needs of Baltimore City students; and

• Knowledge Development – becoming a thought leader on substantive issues affecting the quality of education for Baltimore City’s students.
Making an Impact

Piloting innovative models for at-risk students to earn a high school diploma in less than four years

• With the support of the Open Society Institute – Baltimore, the Fund designed and launched a new pilot accelerated credit program that combines social supports and work-based experiences, leading to a full high school diploma for over-aged and undercredited students, one of the groups most at risk for dropping out.

• Building on the pilot year, the Fund now is working with City Schools and OSI to address challenges, due to life circumstances or interests, faced by students who would benefit from completing high school in less than four years. The Fund plans to establish up to four new programs over the next four years.

Encouraging regular school attendance in areas with chronically absent students

• Through a grant from the Abell Foundation, the Fund provided hands-on project management to City Schools’ School Every Day initiative to mobilize community resources to encourage regular school attendance in areas with high concentrations of absentees.

• Absentee students contacted by the volunteers have shown increases in attendance, demonstrating the critical need to support school communities with stronger attendance messages and improved student contact data, so they can communicate more effectively with parents and students about the correlation between attendance and achievement.

Creating a new website to support the district’s school choice process

• The Fund has led the process of researching vendor options, outlining recommended functionality, and attracting funding to create a new City Schools’ middle and high school choice website.

• This online system will allow families and students to search by multiple criteria for schools that best meet their needs and will give the district the ability to use the search data to better tailor school offerings to student needs and demands.
Ensuring access to high quality school choices

• The Fund welcomed Supporting Public Schools of Choice (SPSOC) as a new program within our organization last January. SPSOC is an independent, non-partisan project that supports charter, transformation, and other contract schools operating in City Schools.

  • Created by several Baltimore foundations, SPSOC provides support to the Coalition of Baltimore Charter Schools and the Coalition of Baltimore Transformation Schools and provides technical assistance to charter schools on such issues as charter renewal, school choice, and working with traditional schools on joint efforts.

Securing over $12 million for City Schools’ priorities

• Flat city and state funding and rising operational costs mean that discretionary dollars to support innovation continue to decrease, making private investments and competitive public grants critical for implementing City Schools’ reform agenda. The Fund’s aggressive national and local foundation outreach over the past 12 months, combined with our trusted grant management expertise, addresses this issue directly. Our efforts resulted in the following major investments in educational excellence for Baltimore City:

  • $4 million from the Open Society Institute – Baltimore to expand the accelerated pathways initiative and open four new programs over the next four years.

  • Over $3 million to support a national and local coalition of partners in building a new school leadership pipeline to identify outstanding individuals who demonstrate early stage leadership abilities and provide them with significant professional training and opportunities that move them to becoming highly effective school leaders. Identifying and retaining effective principals is a critical need in Baltimore.

  • $3 million from a federal Investing in Innovation (i3) grant — one of only 23 grants awarded out of nearly 600 applications — as well as $465,000 in local matching funds to expand the district’s proven Middle School STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics) Summer Learning Program.

  • $2 million from the Harry and Jeanette Weinberg Foundation as part of their effort to build and furnish up to 12 new libraries in elementary and middle schools.
Thank You

The following list includes individuals, corporations, and foundations that have contributed to the Fund for Educational Excellence’s annual fund and/or to the Fund as a fiscal sponsor on behalf of Baltimore City Public Schools from July 1, 2011 through June 30, 2012. We want to thank our community of supporters for recognizing that an investment in the Fund is an investment in improving public education in Baltimore City. Together, we can realize what’s possible for every student in our public schools. Thank You!

Sustaining Grants

$1,000,000+
The Harry and Jeanette Weinberg Foundation*

$500,000+
The Michael and Susan Dell Foundation*

$250,000+
The Abell Foundation+
Carnegie Corporation of New York*
Koshland Foundation*
Open Society Institute-Baltimore*

$100,000+
The Jacob and Hilda Blaustein Foundation+
Constellation Energy
Goldseker Foundation+
T. Rowe Price Foundation+
Target Corporation*
The Alvin and Fanny B. Thalheimer Foundation*

$50,000+
The Annie E. Casey Foundation
Roche Family Foundation*
The Aaron Straus & Lillie Straus Foundation+
Wright Family Foundation+

$20,000+
Clayton Baker Trust+
The David and Barbara B. Hirschhorn Foundation*
PNC Foundation*
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Wells Fargo*

$10,000+
Citi Foundation
Goldsmith Family Foundation
Legg Mason Global Asset Management+
M&T Bank
George Murnaghan

$5,000+
Anonymous (1)*
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James Riepe Family Foundation
Roger Schulman
Lillian Suffolk Kilroy
Sylvia Eggleston Wehr and Richard T. Johnson

STUDENTS CIRCLE
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Combined Charities Campaign
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Adena and David Testa

PRESIDENT’S CIRCLE
($500+)
Dr. Lynne Michael Blum
Suzanne Cohen Fund for Populations at Risk
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Sara and Michael Isch
Sonya and Peter Kannam
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Party City of Maryland*
The RCM&D Foundation, Inc.
Mr. and Mrs. Frederick J. Thompson

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Lorayne and Jim Thornton
Rita and Troy Walters

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Serena Savage Baum
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The Bryn Mawr School*
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Virginia Campbell*
Sheldon Caplis
Mr. and Mrs. Anthony M. Carey
Jacqueline Donowitz*
Jerrellie F. Francois
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Friends School of Baltimore Fifth Grade Class of 2019*
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Marcy Frye*
Jennifer and Paul Green
Nancy G. Harvey
Everett L. Johnson
Frederick Singley Koontz
John Kramer*
Krieger Schechter Middle School Tzedakah Committee*
Todd Mattheisen
Mr. and Mrs. Scott Moores
Michele C. Parker
Ellyn G. Peterson
**Financial Report consolidated**

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<th>REVENUES</th>
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<th>2012</th>
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<td>Corporations</td>
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**Financial Report organizational**

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*Please Note: As required by Generally Accepted Accounting Principles (GAAP), revenue is recognized in the year it is pledged, which does not necessarily reflect the year it is projected to be spent.

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- The Abell Foundation
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