grantmakers for education

DATA IMPACT GROUP:

Increasing the Impact of Data

Impact Groups: Engaging Deeply, Acting Purposefully

Grantmakers for Education (GFE) impact groups leverage the network of education philanthropists within GFE to bring people together for meaningful dialog and action on the most critical challenges in public education today and into the future.

The Data Impact Group provides unique opportunities for grantmakers to exchange ideas, share strategies and build relationships with those who use data to drive improvement. The impact group comes together to add value to and produce tangible products for the field.

The mission of the Data Impact Group is to increase the power of data by enabling organizations to collect, interpret, value and act on educational data from cradle to career.

How can grantmakers use better evidence of education outcomes to improve philanthropic activities?

We treasure what we measure, and defining our outcomes reveals what we care about most. The Data Impact Group consists of philanthropy leaders in research, analysis, advocacy and programming who focus on outcomes first.

With clarity around evidence in mind, grantmakers can create processes and catalyze change for students, teachers, families and schools across the country. Additionally, research-based practices around data stewardship and analysis build reliability in the data. Making data meaningful through visualization and connections to real people brings abstract concepts to life for a variety of audiences.

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How can the Data Impact Group empower and support philanthropy?

We are inspired to lead a process that will allow deeper engagement among GFE members and other key stakeholders that will result in effectively improving the use of data in education. The impact group can:

- Catalyze conversations to learn from the best in the industry to target opportunities for impact.
- Convene grantmakers to analyze current investments, share challenges and solve problems together.
- Review grantmaking approaches to maximize quick wins and opportunities to correct course in a critical friends network.
- Share tools and methodologies to increase understanding of data through visualization, storytelling and active engagement with stakeholders.

We have two projects for the 2016-17 period:

- Maximize grantmakers' collective voices with the National Student Clearinghouse (NSC) to increase use of data elements like race, ethnicity and veteran status. Together, we can incent colleges and universities to include these data elements in their submissions and improve the data set available from NSC. These additional elements enable greater precision with investments and increase impact.
- Evaluate the way we select evidence of outcomes from cradle to career, and infuse our processes with an equity lens throughout the data continuum. In defining desired outcomes and communicating results, we can increase the transparency of measures and target impact for our most vulnerable students.

Join Us to Increase Your Grantmaking Impact

We welcome your participation:

- Become a member of the Data Impact Group. Contact Janella Franklin, Director of Impact Groups, at jfranklin@edfunders.org to learn more.
- Join the conversation and share ideas about data in philanthropy with the Data Impact Group on GFE Connects, GFE's online member community.
- Impact groups are supported financially through the group's steering committee, group members or both. If your organization is interested in funding an impact group, contact Janella Franklin at jfranklin@edfunders.org.