

SNAPSHOT

Launched: March 2013
Leadership: Shruti Sehra, Partner
Funding Raised to Date: \$30M
Funding Goal: : \$30-\$50M



OBJECTIVE

The Reimagine Learning Fund aims to support schools and communities in the creation of learning environments that unleash individual promise and creativity in all children. Driven by students, parents and teachers with powerful collaboration from entrepreneurs, entertainers and others, Reimagine Learning will bring new energy to the movement to revitalize American education and to ensure the success of every child in every classroom. The fund is particularly committed to making a difference in the lives of millions of kids who are marginalized or disengaged in school because of learning and attention issues or social emotional issues.

Reimagine Learning aims to create an education system where three core principles come alive to help every child realize his or her potential:

1. There is no such thing as the “average learner.” Instructional approaches are personalized to identify and meet the differing talents and needs of each child.
2. Cognitive, social and emotional skills are equally valued and cultivated and we focus on play, creativity, motivation, caring and engagement in how we design learning environments.
3. Students have a very real say in their own learning journey - what they learn and how and where they learn it. The focus is on engaging young people and setting them up to be lifelong learners.

PARTNERS

Primary Funders: Reimagine Learning has a coalition of 10 funders including Oak Foundation, Poses Family Foundation and lead funding partner The Peter and Elizabeth C. Tower Foundation.

Current Fund Grantees: ANet, Eye to Eye, New Classrooms Innovation Partners, New Teacher Center, Peace First, Turnaround for Children. The Reimagine Learning

Fund has also made a series of incubation grants, which are listed under the “Key Achievements To Date” section.

Key Thought Partners: Marc Brackett, Director, Yale Center for Emotional Intelligence; Bob Cunningham, Education and Learning Differences Advisor, Understood.org and The Poses Family Foundation; Don Deshler, Williamson Family Distinguished Professor of Special Education at the University of Kansas Center for Research on Learning; Chris Gabrieli, Co-Founder, Transforming Education; John Gabrieli, Grover Hermann Professor in Health Sciences and Technology and Cognitive Neuroscience, MIT; Bill Hughes, Chief Strategy Officer, Learning Objects; Stephanie Jones, Marie and Max Kargman Associate Professor in Human Development and Urban Education Advancement, Harvard Graduate School of Education; David Rose, Chief Education Officer, CAST; Todd Rose, President, Center for Individual Opportunity; Roger Weissberg, Vice Chair of the Board of Directors and Chief Knowledge Officer, CASEL; James Wendorf, Executive Director, National Center for Learning Disabilities

ACTIVITIES

Reimagine Learning is taking a three-pronged approach to unleash individual promise and creativity in all children. It aims to change teaching and learning practices in classrooms and schools across the nation; create federal and state level policies that support the scaling and spreading of models that advance Reimagine Learning’s vision; and mobilize parents, youth and teachers as part of a targeted culture change campaign.

To realize these goals, Reimagine Learning has taken a phased approach across these three areas:

- 1. Design Phase:** Convene cross-sector partners such as social entrepreneurs, funders and policy makers to articulate and mobilize towards a shared vision
- 2. Launch Phase:** Drive powerful collaboration among our cross-sector partners to jump start changes in practice, policy and culture
- 3. Implementation Phase:** Provide on-going support to shift practice, policy, and culture in line with the shared vision

In addition to convening and managing the Reimagine Learning network, New Profit plays a lead strategic role by identifying existing bright spots, investing in and scaling promising practices as well as addressing policy barriers to change and innovation.

KEY ACHIEVEMENTS TO DATE

Network Building

- Created a diverse collaborative of 100+ organizations and individuals representing social entrepreneurs, funders, policy influencers, researchers and members of the creative community
- Held 6 successful convenings, with an average participation of 70 diverse leaders from various sectors, to cultivate a community and significantly advance the work of the fund
- Developed a compelling Plan for Impact, which articulates the fund's vision and strategies for transformative change

Practice

- Invested in New Classrooms Innovation Partners and the Achievement Network and re-invested in New Teacher Center
- Launched an Incubation Fund and awarded grants ranging from \$50-\$100K to five organizations: City Year; University of Kansas Center for Research on Learning; Convergence Center for Policy Resolution; MIT Media Lab; and Yale Center for Emotional Intelligence
- Laid the foundation for a regional impact strategy to facilitate collaboration between Reimagine Learning partners in a specific geography

Policy

- Conducted a landscape analysis and created a policy platform which will serve as the foundation for the fund's advocacy strategy
- Cultivated a strong bi-partisan alliance

Culture

- Established a partnership with WME, the world's leading talent and literary agency to support our work
- Publically launched Reimagine Learning at 2015 Mercedes-Benz Fashion Week event, in partnership with WME|IMG, nine-time Grammy winner John Legend and Public School, a cutting edge fashion company

NEXT MILESTONES

Network Building

- Continue to strengthen and grow the Reimagine Learning network to become a catalytic force in the education reform movement
- Define a measurement and evaluation strategy and identify key metrics to track in order to build a strong evidence base and prove the impact of our collective efforts

Practice

- Continue to invest in and partner with high impact organizations that will significantly advance the fund's principles and drive dramatically better results for students, particularly those with learning and attention issues and social-emotional issues
- Facilitate high value collaborations between partners that will accelerate and increase their individual as well as collective impact
- Support innovation and incubate new ideas to fill critical gaps in the field
- Create geographic proof points for Reimagine Learning's principles

Policy

- Continue to develop a strategy for shifting federal and state level policies that will support Reimagine Learning's vision by:
 - Removing barriers to innovative, entrepreneurial and whole-child approaches
 - Creating incentives for innovation and flexibility to thoughtfully scale proven approaches; and
 - Building capacity to empower practitioners with the skills and resources needed to reimagine learning and meet the needs of all students

Culture

- Develop partnerships with aligned initiatives to create a bigger "tent" with potential for broader societal impact
- Develop a strong PR and communications effort, building on the momentum of the public launch
- Engage and mobilize parents, students, and educators as active participants in the movement to realize the Reimagine Learning vision

NEXT CONVENING

- June 3rd and 4th in the Greater Boston area