SILICON VALLEY COMMON CORE INITIATIVE

Our Mission

Silicon Valley Community Foundation is a comprehensive center of philanthropy. Through visionary leadership, strategic grantmaking and world-class experiences, we partner with donors to strengthen the common good locally and throughout the world.

Board of Directors

Case Statement

The Opportunity

The California State legislature has mandated that by the end of the 2014-15 school year all California public school students will be assessed under the new Common Core State Standards (CCSS) in mathematics and English language arts. Implementation will challenge every level of our education system – from the classroom teacher to the superintendent at the district office to parents assisting their children with homework.

The CCSS provides our community with an unprecedented opportunity to ensure that all children receive the best education possible. The standards were conceived to identify and develop the skills students need to compete and thrive in a global economy. The standards are designed to build students' higher-order thinking; spark curiosity and exploration; make relevant real-world connections; link learning from one subject matter to another; use technology intentionally and increase literacy skills and knowledge. Successfully operationalizing the CCSS will require teachers, school administrators, experts and every district in our region to work collaboratively.

The Response

To respond to this opportunity, Silicon Valley Community Foundation has launched the Silicon Valley Common Core Initiative. The three-year effort aims to encourage a collaborative approach to local implementation of the CCSS among the 54 school districts in San Mateo and Santa Clara counties. New standards require new approaches. By working together, school districts will be able to achieve economies of scale, access the best resources available and learn from one another about what it takes to successfully implement the CCSS. By working together, we can ensure that more students will have the knowledge and real-world skills they need to be successful members of the 21st Century workforce and engaged citizens in our increasingly complex world.

Through this effort we plan to bring school districts and administrators together to identify what they need to be successful and to raise funds for the initiative to support implementation activities. We will provide information to parents, community leaders, business leaders and philanthropic partners related to the opportunity these standards present for our students and the significant effort that implementation will require. Funding will be sought from corporations, individual donors and foundations.

SVCF is well positioned to lead this effort. As the comprehensive center of philanthropy, we have a deeply-vested interest in our education system's ability to prepare all students for success and deep relationships with local school districts, corporations and engaged citizens.

SILICON VALLEY community foundation®

Outcomes

SVCF believes the CCSS provide our community with a unique moment to boldly act to improve educational outcomes for students and create the environment for school districts to establish common benchmarks for best practices. To achieve this important goal only requires all of us to harness the incredible energy, talent and resources that exist in our community.

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