



# RootED

Funding great schools.  
Rooted in community.

**2022-23 ANNUAL IMPACT REPORT**



# Welcome from RootED Denver

This is RootED's fifth year providing funding and strategic support to community-based organizations and public charter and innovation zone schools in Denver.

For a half-decade, RootED has facilitated connections and collaboration among advocacy organizations, schools and communities in the metro area.

We do this so students—particularly students of color, students from low-income households, students who receive special education services, and English language learners—can thrive in their schools and communities.

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**“As RootED grows, we continue to revisit our mission, vision and guiding principles, and align our work with our values. We also identify ways to engage more deeply with partners to meaningfully support their work in education.”**



This year, we've been fortunate to establish and grow many connections with groups of collaborative and innovative leaders who are committed to working for Denver's kids.

For example, EDUCATE Denver is an exciting new coalition of diverse community leaders in business, philanthropy, education, faith organizations, public policy, and community development. Pat Donovan, RootED's managing partner, serves on the executive committee of the organization.

In its inaugural year, EDUCATE Denver played a pivotal role in making education a focus in the Denver mayor's race. Alongside media partners CBS Colorado and Chalkbeat Colorado, EDUCATE Denver hosted a forum with candidates to discuss school safety, academic achievement, and a comprehensive shared vision for education in Denver Public Schools.

Later, Sen. James Coleman and Rosemary Rodriguez, the co-chairs of EDUCATE Denver, were also asked to serve on Mayor Mike Johnston's transition committee on education. (It's worth noting, too, that representatives from more than a dozen of RootED's grantees and partners were selected to serve on the new mayor's transition committees.)

We've also continued our work with the Colorado Education Organizing Funders Collaborative.

RootED joined the collaborative in 2018—which includes the Rose Community

Foundation, Gates Family Foundation and the Wend Collective — to provide funding and direct technical assistance to education advocacy organizations.

These community-based organizations educate and build leadership capacity in low-income communities. They help families, students and communities advocate for, scale, and sustain effective education reform solutions.

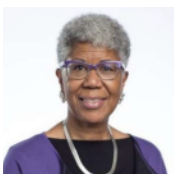
In 2022-23, the collaborative provided \$229,000 to eight grassroots organizations that are providing youth leadership development programs and empowering families.

Each of our guiding principles is demonstrated in our partnerships and our work with EDUCATE Denver and the Colorado Education Organizing Funders Collaborative.

Through our work as a funder and strategic partner, we're extremely proud of what we've accomplished and what we continue to do. In our annual impact report, learn more about our partners, how our funding and strategic support aligns with our guiding principles, and the work we're doing to support great schools in Denver.

 **Looking for the full Annual Report experience?**

Click the globe icon anywhere in this report to visit our Annual Report Webpage.



**Dr. Brenda J. Allen**

RootED Board Chair and Professor Emerita



**Pat Donovan**

RootED Managing Partner



**Watch Dr.Allen's Welcome Video on our Annual Report Webpage**

**SINCE 2018...**

**\$25,841,932**

**Total dollar amount of grants given**

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**292**

**Total # of  
grants  
awarded**

**71**

**Total # of  
schools  
served**

**88**

**Total # of  
grantees**

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**133,346**

**Total # of students served**

*\*Sum of year-over-year enrollment in public charter and innovation zone schools.*



## DURING THE 2023 FISCAL YEAR



**46**

**Total # of grants given**  
in the **2023** fiscal year

**41**

**Total # of grantees**  
in the **2023** fiscal year

**\$2,951,675**

**Total \$ amount of grants given in 2023**



## IN THE NEWS

**Through our partnerships with community-based organizations and public charter and innovation zone schools, RootED provides funding and strategic support for storytelling, communications and marketing.**

We share positive stories about what's happening in classrooms and communities throughout Denver, and we amplify the voices of families, students and educators. In 2022-23, more than 180 television, print, digital and radio stories about RootED's partners reached more than 29,000,000 people and households.



 January 27, 2023

### HISTORIC DENVER BUILDING GETS STUDENTS BACK ON TRACK FOR GRADUATION

**“I was just around a lot of people who didn’t take school seriously, so I didn’t myself because I never really thought that school mattered. Here you’ve got a lot of people who come from the same cloth as you so you definitely can relate to a lot of things that they say, how they feel, and it just helps you get further.”**

**JOJO FORD**

*Student, RiseUp Community School*

# Our Team

Our team members and volunteer board of directors are deeply committed to RootED’s mission: to advance racial equity and ensure all Denver students succeed academically and professionally. The collective talent and expertise, and diverse perspectives of our board of directors and our team — including our student interns — help guide our work.

MEET THE ROOTED DENVER STAFF & INTERNS

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**Pat Donovan**  
Managing Partner



**Ashley Martinez-Doublin**  
Director of Operations



**Latia Henderson**  
Partner, Communications & Strategic Initiatives



**Victoria Scott-Haynes**  
Partner, Community Relations & Administration



**Ambar Suero**  
Partner, Community Partnerships & Advocacy



**Erin Kobler**  
Communications Manager



**Sydelle Buyungo**  
RootED Intern



**Houlaye Sy**  
RootED Intern

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# Our Team

## MEET THE ROOTED DENVER BOARD OF DIRECTORS



**Brenda J. Allen, Ph.D.**

RootED Board Chair  
Professor Emerita



**Erin Brown**

RootED Board Member  
Vice President of  
Community Investment and  
Impact, The Colorado  
Health Foundation



**Luis de la Fuente, Ph.D.**

RootED Board Member



**Ethan Gray**

RootED Board Member  
Partner with The City Fund



**Dwight Jones**

RootED Board Member



**Thomas Gougeon**

RootED Board Member  
President, Gates Family  
Foundation



**Angie Paccione, Ph.D.**

RootED Board Member  
Executive Director,  
Colorado Department  
of Higher Education



**Sean VanBerschoot**

RootED Board Member  
Associate Executive  
Director, Denver Health  
Foundation

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# Our Impact

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**Since 2018, RootED has provided 292 grants totaling more than \$25,841,932. million to free, public charter and innovation zone schools, community-based organizations, and special initiatives and programs that have impacted more than 133,346 students in the Denver metro area.**

**In fiscal year 2022-23, we distributed 46 grants totaling \$2,951,675; and 51.5% of grants totaling \$1,520,675 were given to organizations led by people of color.**

**Awarded grants have been used to expand access to high quality education and learning, particularly for students of color and students from low-income households. Grant dollars have also funded professional learning opportunities for educators, learning and mentorship programs for students of color, and transportation for students to high-performing schools.**



# STUDENTS IMPACTED BY ROOTED DENVER

# 69

**# of schools  
served  
in fiscal  
year 2023**

# 71%

**of students served by RootED  
receive free or reduced-price  
school meals\***

*\*Data represents 66 of 69 schools served in 2023*



# 27,323

**Total # of students served  
in fiscal year 2023**



# 82%

**Of students served by RootED  
identify as a person of color\***

*\*Data represents 66 of 69 schools served in 2023*





# DIVERSITY, EQUITY AND INCLUSION IN OUR FUNDING



## 52%

Percentage of the  
**grants given  
to organizations  
led by people  
of color**

**\$1,520,675**

Total dollar amount of  
**grants given to  
organizations led  
by people of color**

## 52%

Percentage of the  
**grants given  
to organizations  
led by women**

**\$1,526,675**

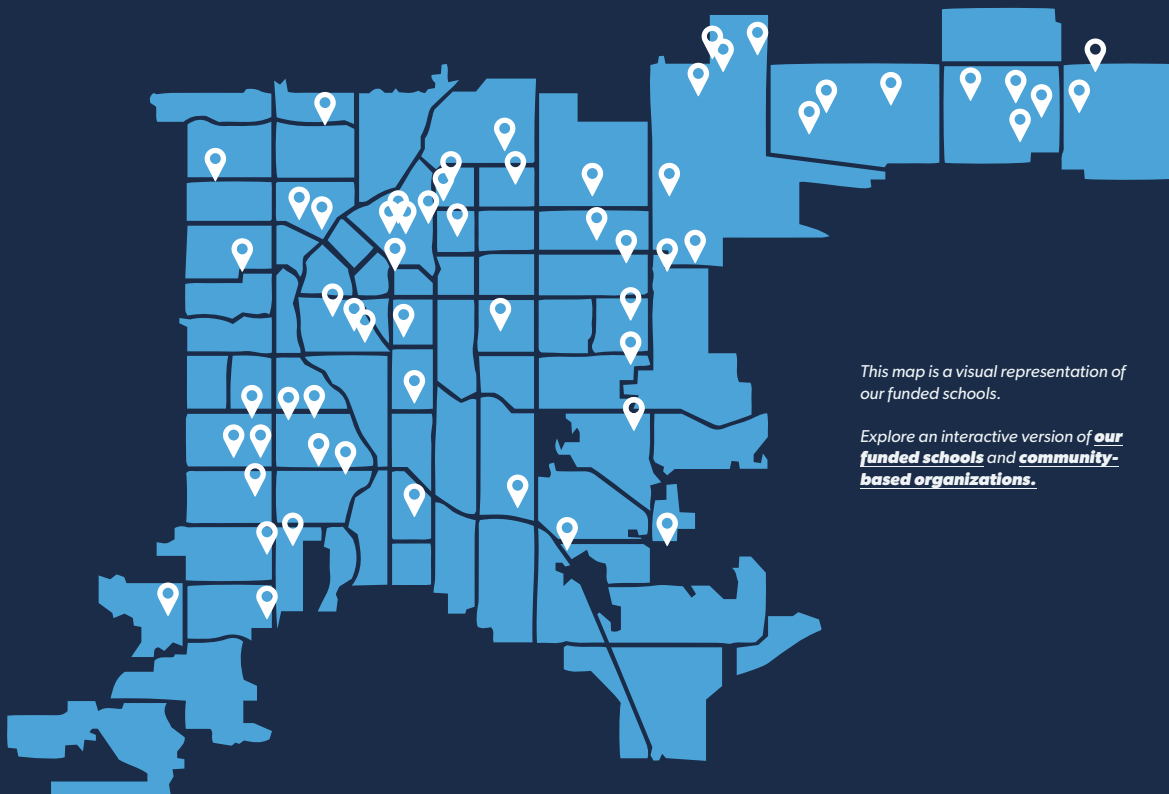
Total dollar amount of  
**grants given to  
organizations led  
by women**

# 2022-23 ROOTED GRANTEES

Explore a full list of our grantees.

Academy 360  
Beacon Network Schools  
BLM 5280 Freedom School  
Collaborative Healing Initiative within  
Communities (CHIC)  
Colorado Association for Bilingual Education (CABE)  
Colorado Association of Charter Authorizers (CACSA)  
Colorado Education Initiative (CEI)  
Colorado League of Charter Schools  
Colorado Succeeds  
Colorado Education Organizing Funders Collaborative  
Denver Public Schools Culture Equity and Leadership  
Team  
Denver Public Schools Foundation  
Denver Journal of Education and Community (DJEC)  
DSST Public Schools  
Education Board Partners  
Ednium: The Alumni Collective  
FaithBridge  
French American School of Denver  
Girls Athletic Leadership Schools (GALS) of Denver  
Generation Teach

Highline Academy  
Juntos Community  
KIPP Colorado Public Schools  
Luminary Learning Network  
Lyra  
Montbello Organizing Committee  
Montessori on Wheels  
Moonshot edVentures  
Northeast Denver Innovation Zone  
Our Turn  
Radian  
Relay  
RiseUp Community School  
Scholars Cultivating Dignity (SCD) Enrichment  
Program  
Stand for Children  
Teach for America  
Transform Education Now (TEN)  
Vega Collegiate Academy  
Young Aspiring Americans for Social and Political  
Activism (YAASPA)  
Youth Roots



*This map is a visual representation of  
our funded schools.*

*Explore an interactive version of **our  
funded schools** and **community-  
based organizations**.*

# BE INFORMED AND INVOLVED

## Subscribe to RootED Denver's monthly newsletter and follow us on social media.

In our newsletter and across our social media channels, RootED shares important news and updates about Denver Public Schools, and the schools, community-based organizations and programs we fund. Our channels also celebrate the measurable and profound impact our education partners are having on students, families, educators and communities in the Denver Metro Area.

RootED updates & news



## Join the conversation.

Attend an upcoming community event, share your own story or idea, or learn more about students' and families' vision for Denver's future of education at the [Denver Education Vision Project](#).

Learn about DEVP

## Learn more about the schools, community-based organizations and programs RootED Denver funds.

RootED's partners are deeply committed to partnering with students, families, educators and communities to co-create learning environments and experiences that advance racial equity, and are culturally responsive, rigorous, and effective. You'll find a complete list of [autonomous schools](#) and [community-based organizations](#) we support on our website. Visit their web pages, engage with them on social media, and support the work they're doing to advance our shared vision of equity and opportunity for all Denver Public Schools students.

Community-based orgs

Autonomous schools

## Attend local school board meetings.

Each year, state and local school boards engage in discussions and vote on matters that affect our students, families, educators and communities. Learn more about the [Denver Public Schools Board of Education](#) and use [BoardDocs](#) to see agendas for the board meetings, to sign up for public comment, and to watch meetings live.

Learn about DPS BOE



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