

Annual Report 2021 Accelerating Student Success



The Mind Trust Transformative education. Rooted in equity.

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READ THE REPORT ONLINE themindtrust.org/annualreport2021

Mission

The Mind Trust strives to provide every Indianapolis student access to an excellent education by amplifying the power of neighborhoods and communities to lead education change, supporting schools to grow and excel in a thriving education ecosystem, and disrupting systemic racism in education.

Vision

Indianapolis will be a city where every child has access to an excellent education in pursuit of a day when race and income are no longer predictors of life outcomes.





Community: We value the diverse perspectives of our community and stakeholders, particularly those who share the backgrounds of our city's students. We seek to strengthen our work by acting with empathy, learning from others, and leading through partnership.



Entrepreneurship: We encourage and seek innovations that challenge the status quo. We forge new paths by responding to problems with visionary solutions and pursuing implementation with courage.



Equity: We operate with the unwavering belief that all students and communities deserve the opportunity to thrive. Because of this, we invest in ideas and leaders to build systems that eliminate barriers, elevate opportunity, and amplify the power of communities.



Impact: We act boldly and persistently to create outstanding educational opportunities for all students across our city, both now and in the future. We believe that great schools lead students to academic success and transform communities and create new opportunities in the lives of their students.

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Integrity: We act firmly by our values. When necessary, we make tough decisions, follow through on our commitments, and are responsible stewards of our resources.



Team: We collaborate to spark innovation and develop transformative ideas. We care for our colleagues, laugh together often, and encourage excellence in one another.

DEI Statement: The Mind Trust is committed to diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI) in all we do to ensure present and future educational success for all students in Indianapolis. Upholding these principles is critical for our staff, Fellows, community stakeholders, and partners to spark radical systemic change. We recognize the past and continued existence of institutional racism, discrimination, privilege, and oppression in our education system and society at-large, in particular its adverse effects on our students of color. Learn more about our DEI commitments at **themindtrust.org/DEI.**



Dear Friends,

Throughout 2021, The Mind Trust worked in collaboration with our community to support an equitable recovery and accelerate student learning beyond the confines of COVID-19. Programs like our Indy Summer Learning Labs, Innovation School Fellowship, Go Farther Literacy Fund, and more all work to ensure we do not simply return to normal. The pre-pandemic normal was never good enough for so many of our city's students.

Families have made it clear: they are demanding an education system that is responsive to their needs and catapults their children to a life full of opportunities. That's why we are proud to support and collaborate with so many schools and community organizations that are looking to ensure schools are places where all students are valued and afforded the opportunity to reach their full potential.

To illustrate some of the ways we've worked to accelerate student learning, I'd like to share a few highlights from the past year. The Mind Trust has:

- Supported the launch of three new schools, bringing our total to 41, which currently serve more than 12,000 students and will serve more than 21,000 students at scale.
- Launched Indy Summer Learning Labs, a high-quality summer learning program that served more than 3,000 Marion County students at 39 schools and community learning centers across Indianapolis in summer 2021.
- Awarded \$30,000 to 14 recipients, including eight families and six community organizations, through our Go Farther Literacy Fund to promote student literacy projects.
- Provided deep instructional and cultural support to 25 public schools in Indianapolis that collectively serve more than 12,000 students.
- Launched a refreshed logo and website to better reflect and share our work with the community.

I believe our education system is primed for transformational change. Without concerted effort, education in Indianapolis could revert to business as usual and fail to learn from the challenges of the past two years. Or, we could reimagine and implement a system that truly works for all students by responding to the needs families are sharing with us.

I know which direction The Mind Trust is committed to and I see more and more folks in our community demanding the same. We cannot stop until every student in our city receives the highest quality education that affirms their endless worth and potential. We ask you to join us.



With gratitude,

Brandon Brown CEO

IMPACT NUMBERS

2020–21 impact numbers

New Teachers Placed 1700+

Schools Launched

41

Fellows of Color

100%

Money Raised to Support Public Schools

\$142 M

Management & General _ _ _

^{\$}703,089

Fundraising - - - - \$**361,145**

The Mind Trust's Programs and Investments in Partner Organizations

^{\$}20,943,526

TOTAL \$22,007,760

The pandemic upended the education system like nothing else in our generation. Over the past year, The Mind Trust undertook a variety of strategies and interventions to support an equitable educational recovery.

ILEARN and ISTEP+ results

Standardized tests are a critical way to understand student achievement. The results of ILEARN and ISTEP+ assessments taken in the spring of 2021 show statewide drops in English Language Arts (ELA) proficiency and significantly sharp drops in math proficiency. While all students were affected by the pandemic, students of color and those from low-income households were most negatively affected. For example, only half as many Black students in grades 3-8 were proficient in ELA and math in 2021 when compared to 2019.

That is why The Mind Trust is focusing our new strategic plan on **tripling academic proficiency** among Indianapolis students within the next seven years. Specifically, we will focus on improving outcomes for Black, Latino, and lowincome students.

Programs and initiatives

Community Learning Sites

In response to COVID-19 school building closures and a childcare crisis among Indianapolis families, The Mind Trust launched and supported Community Learning Sites throughout the 2020-21 school year. These sites were free to all families and offered safe, supportive environments for students to conduct eLearning, receive meals, and socialize with their peers. In total, 50 Community Learning Sites collectively served 1,278 students at different points during the 2020-21 school year.

High-dosage tutoring

The Mind Trust launched a high-dosage tutoring pilot for the 2021-22 school year targeting students in grades 3-8. Nearly 50 students across five Indianapolis Innovation Network and charter schools are being served by virtual and inperson tutors on a regular basis to boost academic outcomes.

"This eLearning site has been such a blessing for our family. My husband and I both work full-time outside of the home and were unsure what to do when eLearning was announced. We have appreciated the availability, the location, and the staff. We feel our children have been safe and cared for throughout their time here."

Mother of Shepherd Community Center participant

Indiana Learning Lab

Formerly known as the Indiana eLearning Lab, the Indiana Learning Lab provides teaching and learning support for educators and families, including access to teaching experts via live chat, weekly live workshops, and an open community forum to collaborate with others across Indiana. The Indiana Learning Lab was created in 2020 to offer eLearning resources in partnership with The Mind Trust, SETDA, and Indianapolis eLearning Fund Contributors. It is now funded and managed by the Indiana Department of Education.



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Indy Summer Learning Labs

The Mind Trust and United Way of Central Indiana partnered to launch Indy Summer Learning Labs (ISLL). Located at 39 schools, community organizations, and churches, ISLL served approximately 3,000 Marion County students in 1st through 9th grades for five weeks in June and July 2021. All sites offered math and English instruction using a high-quality curriculum aligned to Indiana state standards from Lavinia Group. Each site also offered enrichment activities, like museum field trips, service projects, art, and more.

The Mind Trust supported the recruitment of over 200 in-person, licensed teachers and teacher aids and 54 virtual teachers to staff the program.

Pre- and post-program assessments aligned with Indiana state learning standards were administered to students participating, and key results include:

- * 20 percentage point increase in basic and proficient scores of ELA performance.
- * 27 percentage point increase in basic and proficient scores of math performance.



"This program has been not just helpful for my child in math and reading skills, but also for him to get back in the routine of an actual school schedule. He has been so excited to get up every morning and head to school."

Parent of student who attended the Irvington Community Schools Elementary ISLL site

2021 SCHOOL-BASED PARTNERS

- ★ Allegiant Prep Academy
- ★ BELIEVE Circle City High School
- Tindley Accelerated Schools (3 sites)
- Decatur Township (2 sites)
- * Harshman Middle School (IPS)
- * Irvington Community Schools (2 sites)
- * KIPP Indy
- Rooted School Indianapolis
- * Sankofa School of Success
- ★ The PATH School
- ★ Victory College Prep

2021 COMMUNITY-BASED PARTNERS

- ★ 100 Black Men of Indianapolis
- * Brookside Comm. Development Corp.
- ★ Charity Cares Early Academy
- * Christamore House
- * Edna Martin Christian Center
- * Fay Biccard Glick Neighborhood Center
- * Boys & Girls Clubs (several locations)
- * Hawthorne Community Center
- ★ Nanny's Loving Care
- Nikki Blaine Learning Center
- * Northside New Era Church
- Room to Bloom Learning Academy
- * Shepherd Community Center
- * Success Center at Carriage House East
- * Westminster Neighborhood Services
- ★ Westside Missionary Baptist Church
- * Witherspoon Learning Center
- * YMCA of Greater Indianapolis

Indy Summer Learning Labs will be offered again in summer 2022. The Mind Trust and United Way of Central Indiana wish to thank the Indiana Department of Education for funding this important program. The Mind Trust is committed to pursuing antiracism by actively combating inequity, disproportionality, and discrimination whenever and wherever it appears. We look toward our commitments in determining investments, making decisions, and planning for the future. Our Leadership and Racial Equity team launched several initiatives in 2021 for schools, organizations, and our own staff.

Our DEI commitments

We commit to pursuing antiracism by:

- Creating policies, programs, and opportunities internally and externally that equitably redistribute power and control in our community.
- Eliminating the predictability of outcomes associated with race or other identity markers through our work for our city's students and our staff.
- Reflecting on and evaluating the impact of our work by engaging our students, families, and communities.
- Empowering and elevating current and upcoming leaders of color by investing in them through leveraging our institutional power, privilege, resources, and access.



Equity cohorts

In partnership with Beloved Community, The Mind Trust launched Indianapolis Equity Cohorts for schools and nonprofits. During the 10-month experience, participants complete Beloved Community's Equity Audit, examine bias in staff hiring and retention practices, and build capacity to lead their organizations' DEI work. The inaugural Equity Cohort participants are:

- * Cold Spring School at Marian University
- * Global Preparatory Academy
- * Irvington Community Schools
- * Neighborhood Charter Network
- * Purdue Polytechnic High Schools
- * United Schools of Indianapolis
- * Girls Inc. of Indianapolis
- * Goodwill of Central & Southern Indiana
- Relay Graduate School of Education Indianapolis
- * Stand for Children Indiana
- * Teach For America Indianapolis
- * The Mind Trust

The Equity in Schools Cohort examines how schools can align diversity and equity strategy across governance, operations, pedagogy, student culture, and adult culture. The Equity at Work Cohort builds capacity for participants to successfully implement the structural changes that lead to an equitable environment and practices for their entire staff and the people they serve.

Go Farther Literacy Fund

Literacy—the ability to read and write—is the foundation for educational success and an increased quality of life. However, one in six Indiana adults read at or below a fifthgrade level.

In 2020, The Mind Trust created the Go Farther Literacy Fund with the goal of funding solutions to help address our city's literacy crisis and ensure all children, especially Black and Latino children, read at or above grade level. In the project's first year, eight families and six community organizations were awarded a total of \$30,000.

One of the recipients, Yellow Hat Consulting, partnered with The PATH School to host a fiveday Write On! Read On camp during the summer of 2021. Students at the camp learned how to write their own short stories and self-published From Monkeys to Love Stories, a collection of the group's work.

Another recipient, Neline Wooley, wanted to get more books about and written by African Americans to children in the Martindale Brightwood neighborhood. Her Indy Echo Lending Library hosted several pop-up library events in the parking lot of Pentecostal Temple Church of God in Christ.

Equity Toolkit

The Equity Toolkit is a free resource created by The Mind Trust and Beloved Community to support schools, districts, and committees who are tasked with developing or sustaining a racial equity, diversity, or inclusion initiative. The toolkit is divided into three phases: Mobilize Yourself, Mobilize Stakeholders, and Mobilize Organization-Wide.

Each phase contains steps to lead organizational committees through the process of taking action at their school, district, or organization. Each stage includes questions and actions to consider and resources to utilize. Additionally, The Mind Trust is investing in coaching for Indianapolis schools in Center Township to help them develop and implement equity work within their school communities.

y a significant part

"As community leaders it is important that we play a significant part in the development of the current and next generations who may not have embraced the underlying importance of reading and the historic impact storytelling has had in shaping our global community."

Neline Wooley

Indianapolis parent and 2021 Go Farther Literacy Fund award recipient

Achievement Project

The Achievement Project provides an opportunity for schools to connect with parents, students, community members, and academic experts in order to engage collectively and collaborate to improve academic achievement. For its inaugural year, The Mind Trust launched this project at Tindley Summit Academy and KIPP Indy Public Schools, both of which are established independent charter schools with an ability to agilely implement innovative solutions to improve academic outcomes. The Achievement Project consists of four sessions that bring school and community stakeholders together to create a sense of understanding and belongingness, build community, and co-create a solution for academic achievement on ILEARN.

Surge Academy

The Mind Trust partnered with Surge Institute to bring Surge Academy to Indianapolis educators and youth serving professionals. Surge Academy selected 16 Black and Latino leaders for participation in their inaugural Indianapolis cohort in 2021. The program took participants through an intensive Fellowship experience that explored executive skills development, strategic planning, and change management. Surge Academy also prioritizes dialogue on racial equity throughout its programming.



School Spotlight

Public charter and Innovation schools across Indianapolis are doing great work to advance DEI initiatives in their own buildings.



KIPP Indy Schools

Each year, KIPP Indy identifies an area of organizational policies and practices to review through a lens of their racial equity commitment. This practice helps them dismantle any structures that unintentionally perpetuate institutional racism. This past year, they developed a Leadership Readiness Criteria tool that bring clarity and transparency to the leadership selection process by naming the skills, competencies, experience, and mindsets aligned to specific leadership roles across the organization.

BELIEVE Circle City High School

At BELIEVE, equity work is rooted in the idea that historically under-estimated students have the capacity for authentic autonomy and agency. They equip students with skills needed to become well-adjusted, civically engaged, and financially stable adults. One way they encourage this growth in students is Freedom Fridays. On Fridays, students have the opportunity to use their autonomy and agency to explore their community in meaningful ways. On these days, the city of Indianapolis is their classroom. For example, students have visited the state legislature when learning about government. Freedom Fridays give students a real-world experience to spark curiosity and independence in any student.

The Mind Trust supports the launch of high-quality schools in Indianapolis through our School Leader Fellowships that provide talented school leaders the time, expertise, and support necessary to launch and lead exceptional schools. In addition, a variety of programs for schools, educators, and community organizations offer targeted, high-quality resources to transform educational outcomes.

Student and educator programs

Innovation School Fellowship

The Innovation School Fellowship helps exceptional school leaders develop sustainable educational models to launch or restart schools within the Indianapolis Public School (IPS) district. Fellows receive personalized coaching, resources, and training throughout the program as well as ongoing support once schools are launched. The Mind Trust created the Innovation School Fellowship in 2014 in partnership with IPS and the Mayor's Office of Education Innovation. Fellowship alumni have launched 17 Innovation Network Schools that serve more than 6,000 students.

Educator Assistance

Launched in 2021, the Educator Assistance program provides financial assistance for Center Township teachers pursuing continuing education to eliminate the financial barrier to career advancement.

The Mind Trust believes removing this barrier can support the retention of our greatest assets, our city's educators. In June 2021, we awarded \$74,618 in Educators Assistance awards to 23 Indianapolis teachers.

School support trainings

During 2021, The Mind Trust partnered with Attuned Education Partners, Instruction Partners, Relay Graduate School of Education, REthinc, and multiple local subject-matter experts to hold 13 trainings that impacted 228 educators.

These trainings provided educators with guidance on implementing social-emotional learning and culturally-responsive practices in their classrooms.

"Three things about the Innovation School Fellowship really stood out to me: the exceptional professional development, the chance to connect with veteran leaders, and the partnership with a cohort of Fellows."

David Spencer

Innovation School Fellow alumni and Founder and School Leader of KIPP Indy Legacy High

Teacher prep programs

The Mind Trust continues to support Teach For America (TFA), TNTP's Indianapolis Teaching Fellows (ITF), and Relay's Teaching Residency as pipelines to address the teacher demand. TFA, ITF, and Relay placed a combined 116 first-year teachers for the 2021-22 school year, of which 39% identify as people of color, compared to only 26.8% of IPS teachers identifying as people of color and just 7.3% of teachers statewide identifying as people of color.

Teach Indy

Teach Indy launched in 2018 through a partnership with The Mind Trust, IPS, and the Mayor's Office of Education Innovation to recruit, develop, reward, and retain more outstanding educators for Indianapolis. In spring 2021, Teach Indy hosted its first annual Educators Conference with nearly 200 educators, leaders, and community members in attendance across three days. In addition to a virtual hiring event, the conference included an educator development day and a community day.

Talent Innovation Fund

The Mind Trust's Talent Innovation Fund was created to enhance talent efforts by providing local schools and education organizations with funding for innovative talent solutions to attract and retain high-quality educators.







Relay National Principals Academy Fellowship

The Mind Trust partners with the Relay Graduate School of Education to sponsor a fellowship for Indianapolis school leaders to help them excel as instructional and cultural leaders. Since 2017, 128 Indianapolis school administrators have participated in Relay school leader fellowships with support from the Fairbanks Foundation and The Mind Trust. This one-year fellowship begins with a summer intensive and continues with four intersessions throughout the school year, focusing on Relay's key instructional pillars:

- * Observation and feedback
- * Data-driven instruction
- Positive student culture of high expectations
- * Adult professional development
- * Instructional planning
- Aligned staff culture and strategic leadership

Driving Change: Improving School Transportation

Families in Indiana have a wide variety of school options. Access to school transportation can often impact whether or not a student can attend a great school.

With approximately 650,000 Hoosier public school students riding yellow buses to school each day, it is time for our state to address policy and systems that can improve this service for students and families. In partnership with EdChoice and the Institute for Quality Education, "The Mind Trust released Driving Change: How School Transportation Gives Families Power to Choose."

The report looks at school transportation challenges that currently affect schools and families, including:

- ★ Safety
- * Drivers
- Routing & Scheduling
- Vehicles
- * Management
- * Data and
- * Technology

Driving Change also includes state policy recommendations that can help address these challenges. State policy updates would allow Indiana schools of all types more flexibility to use vehicles beyond the traditional yellow school bus, create more efficient routes, and address chronic school bus driver shortages.

Parents like Janika, who has six kids attending multiple schools, are calling for change. Juggling transportation for school and work with one car is a challenge, so access to safe, reliable, and efficient transportation plays an important role in her family's ability to access the schools that work best for each child.

When asked what she would say to school transportation decision-makers, she said, "Try to imagine every child on the bus is your child. When you are making decisions, imagine what you would want for your own child."

Learn more and read the reports at: themindtrust.org/transportation

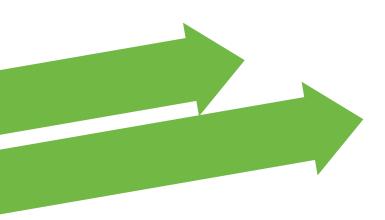


Schools launched in fall 2021





PRO ISE PREP



Herron Preparatory Academy | Tenika Holden-Flynn, Charter School Fellow

Herron Preparatory Academy expands the success of Indianapolis Classical Schools' classical, liberal arts curriculum to K-8 students.

Paramount Online Academy

Paramount Online Academy uses an integrated, research-based curriculum to maximize each child's potential and is a K-8 virtual option that is part of IPS' Innovation School Network.

Promise Prep | Geoffrey Fenelus, Innovation School Fellow

Promise Prep's mission is to ensure all students have access to a high-quality education that enables them to become critical thinkers, have choices, capitalize on opportunities, and secure continuing economic advancement. It currently serves grades K-2. **OUR SCHOOLS**

Growing Public School Options

The Mind Trust has supported the launch of 41 public schools in Indianapolis. In addition to the three launched in fall 2021, we are proud to have helped launch these great school options:

2020

- BELIEVE | Circle City
- Christel House Academy
 @ Manual High School
- Cold Spring Middle School
 @ Marian University
- Emma Donnan Elementary and Middle School operated by Adelante Schools
- Phalen Leadership Academy @ Louis B. Russell School 48
- Phalen Virtual Leadership Academy
- Rooted School Indianapolis
- Sankofa School of Success
 @ Arlington Woods School 99
- The PATH School at School 67

2019

- Invent Learning Hub
- KIPP Indy Legacy High
- Paramount Englewood
- James and Rosemary Phalen Leadership Academy High School
- Purdue Polytechnic High School North

2018

- Allegiant Preparatory Academy
- Matchbook Learning @ Wendell Phillips School 63
- Paramount Cottage Home
- pilotED: Bethel Park
- SUPER School 19
- Thrival Indy Academy
- URBAN ACT Academy
 @ Washington Irving School 14

2017

- Avondale Meadows Middle School
- Circle City Prep
- Edison School of the Arts 47
- Herron-Riverside High School
- Ignite Achievement Academy @ Elder W. Diggs School 42
- Purdue Polytechnic High School Englewood

2016

- Cold Spring School
 @ Marian University
- Global Preparatory Academy @ Riverside 44
- Kindezi Academy
- Phalen Leadership Academy @ George H. Fisher 93

2015

- KIPP Indy Unite Elementary
- Phalen Leadership Academy @ Francis Scott Key School 103

2014

• Christel House Academy West

2013

- Enlace Academy
- George and Veronica Phalen Leadership Academy
- Christel House DORS

How you can support our work

Are you looking to deepen your impact on Indianapolis students and schools? Multiple opportunities exist for you to influence educational equity for students across Indianapolis.

Donate

Consider donating to The Mind Trust so that we can ensure every student, regardless of race, socioeconomic status, or zip code receives an excellent education. Your contribution supports work in schools and classrooms that directly improve student experiences and academic outcomes. Donate by visiting **themindtrust.org/donate.**

We are also happy to accommodate a gift of stock or other alternate gift. Please contact Senior Director of Development Stacy Helmuth at **shelmuth@themindtrust.org**.

Volunteer

We always seek to connect our community with opportunities to lend their time and talent on behalf of delivering an equitable education for all students. Visit **themindtrust.org/volunteer** to express an interest in:

- Serving on an Innovation or charter school board
- Connecting a school with businesses or community partners
- * Volunteering in-person at a school
- Deepening your engagement with The Mind Trust

Our donors 윦

The following list represents contributions received from generous donors who supported The Mind Trust during the time period of July 1, 2020, through June 30, 2021.

Individuals

Andrew Adegbamigbe	Tequilla Brownie	Matthew Gamboa	Alicia Hervey
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Nola Albrecht	Julie Carnes	Paula Glover	Catherine Hurt
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	Sally Esbaum		Maggie A. Lewis

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Mark and Helen Miles	Madeline Poulakidas	(In honor of Shannon Williams)	
lov Olivia Millor	Ross Prater	David and Anne Shane	Debra Simmons Wilson
Joy Olivia Miller	Eric Pratum	Robert Sheqoq	Aaron Winey
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Barnes & Thornburg	EDGE Mentoring	J2 Medical Supply	Shrewsberry &
Beloved Community	EducateME	JDA	Associates, LLC
Bloomberg Philanthropies	Eli Lilly and Company	Kite Realty	Stand for Children
Buzzworthy Branding, LLC	Foundation	Lavinia Group	Strategic Learning Solutions
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Family Foundation	Engaging SolutionsFaegre	Lumina Foundation	Episcopal Church
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Our staff

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Kelli Marshall, Senior VIce President of Schools

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