





2009 Annual Report

Mission & Vision

Our Vision for the Future

Public schools will graduate and prepare every West Virginia student for success in post-secondary education and the global workforce.

Our Mission

To bring business and community support to public education to help every West Virginia public school student succeed.

To Make This Happen, We

- 1. Conduct and publish research related to the achievement of our vision, mission, and goals;
- 2. Distribute funding to public schools and educators through grants and awards;
- 3. Engage the public in dialogues and partnerships to promote higher student achievement and high school completion;
- 4. Facilitate business and community involvement in K-12 education to promote careeer awareness, entrepreneurship, high school completion, and post-secondary education;
- 5. Monitor student achievement indicators and policies to promote equitable outcomes for all West Virginia students.

Message from the Board Chair & President/CEO

Dear Friends,

What an exciting year 2008-2009 was for The Education Alliance!

Every year brings change to public education and The Education Alliance, and 2008-2009 was no exception. We began our first major initiative to address high school completion. Our first cohort of SEEDS schools graduated from the program. The Education Alliance celebrated 25 years of service to West Virginia. Several of our programs also received an image overhaul.

The Education Alliance is committed to helping West Virginia students succeed in the classroom, the workplace, and life.

The most exciting part of 2008-2009, however, was not only what we accomplished but refocusing our sights on where we must go as an organization. The Education Alliance is committed to helping West Virginia students succeed in the classroom, the workplace, and life. So, we adopted a new mission statement and vision to take the organization into 2010 and serve more students with as much vigor and innovation as we did 25 years ago.

We are eager to develop new opportunities for student success, with our focus on and passion for high school completion, college readiness, and career awareness.

Please enjoy Supporting Tomorrow's Leaders . . . TODAY: The Education Alliance 2009 Annual Report. It is dedicated to the individuals, companies, and foundations that assist us in providing these services year after year. Thank you for your past participation and your continued support, which make a difference in the lives of West Virginia children.

Sincerely yours,

Jeri Matheney

Chair, Board of Directors

Patricia S. Kusimo, Ph.D.

Atricia S. Kusimo

President/CEO

High School Completion Initiatives

Walk the Talk: A High School Leadership Development Club



Walk the Talk, a four-year school-based club, kicked off in November 2009 with funding from the AT&T

Foundation. After just one year, the Walk the Talk program has made a difference in the lives of 104 West Virginia students and 20 mentors.

Students join as ninth graders and are paired with caring business or community leaders as their mentors. Each student meets with his or her mentor during weekly sessions to discuss academic and personal challenges and career options.

Six West Virginia high schools currently host the clubs: Capital, Riverside, South Charleston, and St. Albans in Kanawha County; Wheeling Park in Ohio County; and Woodrow Wilson in Raleigh County. During Year One of the program, students' academic achievement and behavior improved. No days of suspension were reported for 33 (31.7%) of the mentees, and 65 (62.5%) accumulated three or fewer suspension days during this period. Student GPA increased in five of the six schools between the mid- and end-of-year grading periods.

Student survey results indicated that the ninth graders enjoyed being part of Walk the Talk and want to continue in the program next year. Most students said that having a mentor helped them perform better in school and that they were comfortable talking with

their mentors.

As indicated in separate surveys, the business and community mentors also had positive experiences with the program and their mentoring sessions and said they would likely continue in their roles during the 2009-2010 school year.



Capital High School, Kanawha County



South Charleston High School, Kanawha County

Each year, additional ninth grade students join the program at the recommendation of their counselors and teachers.

High School Completion Research

In March 2009, The Education Alliance published Student Retention and Dropout Prevention: Policy Recommendations and Best Practices, a 40-page research piece that summarizes the dropout crisis in West Virginia and the United States.

The failure of so many youth to complete a basic high school education has deep-rooted moral, social, economic, and health consequences, which can last a lifetime. This latest compilation of research identifies current local and national dropout trends and statistics, early predictors that a student may drop out, student-reported reasons for dropping out, and the impact of dropping out on an individual and for West Virginia. More importantly, the summary includes dropout prevention recommendations for school organization and structure, curriculum and instruction, community involvement, and policy change.

The Education Alliance electronically published and distributed this valuable piece of research for use by local boards of education, school systems, and parent-teacher and community organizations. The complete research publication and a summarized presentation are available for download at www.EducationAlliance.org.

SEEDS

The Student Educational and Economic Development Success (SEEDS) program is a novel partnership between the business and education communities.

Based on evaluation results from 2007 to 2009, the SEEDS model has been modified to reflect changes in educational policy and practice. The Education Alliance's SEEDS program operates in cooperation with the West Virginia Department of Education and the Arts, West Virginia Department of Education, West Virginia Board of Education, West Virginia Center for Professional Development, West Virginia Association of Elementary and Middle School Principals and the West Virginia Association of Secondary School Principals.



Amber Boeckmann, Principal of Berkeley Heights Elementary School, Berkeley County

24/20 Seeding Innovation Campaign

The Education Alliance is in the final year of the SEEDS Campaign to match its \$1 million grant from the West Virginia Department of Education and the Arts with \$1 million in private funding.

More than \$500,000 has been raised, but we need your help in 2010.

Just 24 pledges of \$20,000, payable over the next two years, will help us reach our goal. Contact us at (866) 314-5437 or seeds@educationalliance.org to seed innovation and leadership in more West Virginia public schools.



SEEDS is funded through a grant from the West Virginia Department of Education and the Arts and private contributions. The Education Alliance is grateful to the additional sponsors who have invested in this value-added leadership-building program:

Founders

American Electric Power Foundation
American Public University System
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Verizon

Partners

JPMorgan Chase Foundation Reed Brothers Ltd. Partnership

Angels

ECA Foundation
Mr. James H. "Buck" Harless

Friend

Mr. and Mrs. Stephen E. Kawash Mr. James H. "Buck" Harless

Congratulations to the first cohort of schools and principals who completed the SEEDS Program in 2009:

- Beckley Elementary, Sandra Sheatsley
- Berkeley Heights Elementary, Amber Boeckmann
- Clay Middle, Joe Paxton
- Matewan High, Marcella Charles
- Valley High School, Shawn Coen

In fall 2008, The Education Alliance announced the following schools and principals as the second cohort of SEEDS schools. The principals worked with their business mentors and educational consultants in 2008-2009 to draft business plans for their schools.

- Harts Middle, Belinda Toney
- Nicholas Career and Technical Center, Vickie Nutter
- Rupert Elementary, Leatha Williams
- Van Devender Middle, Steve Taylor
- Williamson Middle, Helen Curry

21st Century Teaching Mini-Grants

21st Century Teaching Mini-Grants are available to Pre-K–12 public school teachers through a competitive application process. Grants ranging up to \$500 are available for innovative, meritorious classroom projects that truly engage students in advanced learning.

In 2008-2009, The Education Alliance awarded nearly \$50,000 in direct teacher mini-grants. Of 223 applicants, 126 grants were awarded to teachers in 35 counties—directly impacting 22,000 students.

21st Century Teaching Mini-Grants, 2008-2009

Congratulations to the following teachers for inspiring new levels of learning in their classrooms:

Berkeley County

Patricia Cooper, Rosemont Elementary

Boone County

Pamela Elkins, Van Jr./Sr. High Brianne Barker, Madison Middle Leanne Dolin, Madison Middle Ian Kennedy, Madison Middle Betty Williams, Sherman Elementary Arlie Asbury, Ramage Elementary

Cabell County

Connie Boggs, Geneva Kent Elementary Tonya Tomes, Cox Landing Elementary Sharon Stone, Barboursville Middle Sandra Adkins, Highlawn Elementary

Clay County

Karen Knopp, Big Otter Elementary Crystal Gibson, Clay County High Christy Fitzwater, Clay County Middle Lewis Craddock, Clay County Middle Sarah Bragg, Clay County High Alice Legg, Clay County Middle Frank Kleman, Clay County High Warren Mullins, Clay County High Addie Cole, Big Otter Elementary Jokwin Schoonover, Big Otter Elementary Tara Parsons, Clay County Middle April Kearns, Clay County Middle

Doddridge County

Richard Knight, Doddridge County Middle

Fayette County

Bonnie Martin, Meadow Bridge Elementary Marsha Bishop, Collins Middle Janet Bowland, Scarbro Elementary Sue Miller, Meadow Bridge Elementary

Greenbrier County

Vicky Neal, Greenbrier West High Bobbie Deitz-Butcher, Lewisburg Elementary Melanie Sheppard, Eastern Greenbrier Middle Debra Diem, Ronceverte Elementary Kathleen Reese, Lewisburg Elementary Diane Gillespie, Lewisburg Elementary Michael Rosolina, White Sulphur Springs Elementary

Hampshire County

Bei Su, Romney Middle Jessica Wysopal, Hampshire High

Monica Crookshanks, Rupert Elementary

Hancock County

Anne Ford, Oak Glen Middle/High Jessica Yarter, Weirton Heights Elementary Nancy Holdsworth, New Manchester Elementary

Jefferson County

Steve Young, Charles Town Middle Charles Parker, Charles Town Middle Beth Pennington, Charles Town Middle Denise Lykens, Charles Town Middle

Kanawha County

Bridget Riggs, South Charleston High Karen Kersey, Alban Elementary Angie Abbott, J.E. Robins Elementary Shari Heywood, Horace Mann Middle Katherine Kress, Stonewall Jackson Middle Amy Loftis, Alban Elementary Christy Pennington, Capital High

Logan County

Penny Johnston, South Man Elementary Tonnia Doty, Buffalo Elementary Martha Adkins, Buffalo Elementary

Marion County

Elizabeth Murray, West Fairmont Middle Ryan Stocking, East Fairmont High

Marshall County

Janet Sparks, Central Elementary

Mason County

Jill Smith, New Haven Elementary Kathy Rollins, Point Pleasant Junior/Senior High Shawn Sergent, Roosevelt Elementary

Mercer County

Tanya Baldwin, Pikeview High
Heather Farley, Spanishburg/Ceres Elementary
Ashley Shumaker, Athens School
Mary Denson, Bluefield Middle
Kelli Stanley, Princeton Primary
David Williams, Bluefield Intermediate
Edie Cooper, Bluefield Intermediate
Tonya Roberts, Bluefield High
Elizabeth Brinkley, Pikeview High
Deborah Eller, Bluefield Intermediate
Pamela Miller, Bluefield Intermediate
Rama Cardwell, Bluefield Intermediate
Kay Sudduth, Bluefield Intermediate
Sara Casto, Bluefield Intermediate
Carol Scott, Bluefield Intermediate

Mineral County

Mary Ann Pannone, Wiley Ford Primary Staci Calder, Frankfort Middle Charmaine Pritts, New Creek Primary

Mingo County

Jennifer Sparks, Riverside Elementary Beverly Preece, Lenore K-8 Pamela Chapman, Lenore K-8

Monongalia County

Scheryll Richards, Monongalia Technical Education Center

Eric Kincaid, Morgantown High

Nicholas County

Laura Ames, Nicholas County High Barbara Crawford, Summersville Middle

Ohio County

Sandra Wiseman, Woodsdale Elementary Johna Fogle, Ritchie Elementary Shannon Gessler, Ritchie Elementary

Pendleton County

Paula Mitchell, Brandywine Elementary Patricia Sickler, Brandywine Elementary

Pocahontas County

Mary Burns, Pocahontas County High

Putnam County

Rachel Hull, Buffalo Elementary Teresa Stephens, Hurricane High Debra Hackett, Poca Elementary Amanda Knapp, Buffalo High Lynn Schwallie, Scott Teays Elementary

Randolph County

Matthew Ramsey, Elkins Middle

Ritchie County

Kathleen White, Harrisville Elementary

Roane County

Nancy Moore, Walton Elementary/Middle

Summers County

Connie Buckland, Jumping Branch Elementary

Taylor County

Pam Miller, Taylor County Middle Angela McDaniel, Taylor County Middle

Tyler County

Barbara Lovell, Sistersville Elementary

Upshur County

Alisa Lemley, Buckhannon-Upshur High

Wayne County

Carol Thorp, Ceredo Elementary Elizabeth Lallathin, Kellogg Elementary

Wetzel County

Cindy McSweeney, Short Line School

Wood County

Edna Patrick, Williamstown Elementary Janet Sears, Edison Middle

Wyoming County

Lynn Mills, Mullens Elementary

Dow Family Involvement Grants

Supporting Family-Based Programming for All Students

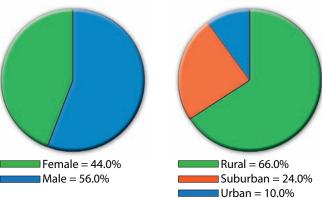
The Education Alliance wrapped up the 13-year run of the Family Involvement Grant program, sponsored by Dow Chemical Foundation, by awarding \$10,000 to 11 West Virginia public schools. In April 2009, a panel of state education and business leaders selected the winning projects from a total of 50 applications across the state.

| 2009 WINNING PROJECTS |
|-------------------------------|
| 1,800 students |
| 1,400 parents |
| 700 additional family members |
| 300 community members |
| 7 elementary schools |
| 3 middle schools |
| 1 high school |

The Education Alliance expresses its gratitude to Dow Chemical Foundation for its faithful support of the Family Involvement Grants and the many schools that have engaged families and communities across

West Virginia as a result of these grants.

2009 Submission Stats



Featured 2009 Family Involvement Projects

Mary Denson

Bluefield Middle, Mercer County

Project Title: Students and Parents Sharing Classroom Life with 21st Century Skills

Participation: 570 students, 750 parents, 500 family members, 150 community members

Middle school students shared their school experiences with their families by constructing digital postcards for their parents. Parents participated in technology nights, where they became familiar with the new technologies their children regularly use. Students assumed the roles of teachers as instructors for the events. Community speakers also made presentations on how technology is used in the workplace.

Stephanie Eve

East Hardy High, Hardy County

Project Title: Making the Move: Jumpstart Program

Participation: 60 students, 60 parents, 10 community members

The Jumpstart Program helped at-risk students transition from middle to high school during the summer before their ninth-grade years. Participants included students who had failed one or more subjects and who had been recommended by the middle school. Students received assistance in learning organizational skills, study skills, manners, proper etiquette, and core subject areas. Parents of program participants met with teachers on a daily basis for the duration of the program, and community members were involved as mentors for life skills and career exploration.

Sheila Toth

Barrackville Elementary/Middle, Marion County

Project Title: Project Rise and Shine

Participation: 50 students, 50 parents, 15 family members, 25

community members

Parents of K-3 students participated in reading activities and technology intervention to help their children become more successful students. The school held monthly workshops from September through May. The school also partnered with Fairmont State University Athletics and *The Times-West Virginian*.

Additional 2009 Grant Recipients

Sue Burton

West Hamlin Elementary, Lincoln County

Anne Ford

Oak Glen Middle, Hancock County

Robin Haupt

New Creek Primary, Mineral County

Linda Hensley

Sophia-Soak Creek Elementary, Raleigh County

Rachel Hull

Buffalo Elementary, Putnam County

Esther Lauderman

Williamstown Elementary, Wood County

Patricia Maiers

Wiley Ford Primary, Mineral County

Rovena Nicely

Crichton Elementary, Greenbrier County

Partnerships in Education

A Push for Purposeful Partnerships

In 2008-2009, The Education Alliance reinvented its 24-year-old Partnerships in Education program, which matches and supports business partnerships with local public schools. The Education Alliance promotes school-business partnerships that

- Encourage students to take more rigorous classes and pursue postsecondary education;
- Create awareness of careers available to high school graduates, especially in West Virginia; and
- Help students overcome academic and social challenges.

Students are reached through mentoring programs like Walk the Talk; partner organizations like Junior Achievement, Read Aloud West Virginia, and Roads to Success; and college and career readiness campaigns like West Virginia State Scholars. Learn more about these organizations and partnership opportunities at www.EducationAlliance.org.

In 2009, in addition to a new focus, The Education Alliance unveiled a new online partnership database to maintain updated information on its more than 1,200 school-business partners. Schools and businesses can update their contact and partner information on the Web site.

Look for more exciting opportunities to build and enhance partnerships in 2009-2010.

West Virginia State Scholars



Pictured at the State Scholars kickoff in Cabell County are, left to right, Cabell County Schools Superintendent William A. Smith; former HADCO President Gerald McDonald; and The Education Alliance President/CEO Patricia Kusimo.

Thanks to cooperative efforts among Cabell County Public Schools, the Huntington Area Development Council, and The Education Alliance, the West Virginia State Scholars initiative kicked off in Cabell County on March 12, 2009. From March 12 to 16, 60 volunteers from local agencies, businesses, and organizations visited 90 eighth- and ninth-grade classrooms. State Scholars encourages students to complete a more rigorous course of mathematics, science, and foreign language studies during their high school careers. This message reached more than 1,900 students during the five-day event.

The goal is to ensure that students are better prepared to succeed after graduation, whether in school, military, or workforce endeavors.

> The Education Alliance extends a special thanks to volunteers from the following organizations who made this program possible:

> > Alcon Manufacturing, Ltd.
> > Alcon Research
> > BB&T

Bogren Chiropractic Health Center Cabell County Commission Cabell County Sheriff's Office Cabell Huntington Health Department Cabell Huntington Hospital City National Bank City of Huntington City of Huntington Fire Department Edward Tucker Architects, Inc. The First State Bank Foundation for the Tri-State Community The Herald-Dispatch **Huddleston Bolen LLP** Huntington Federal Savings Bank Huntington Police Department Jenkins Fenstermaker, PLLC Marshall University Marshall University Campus Recreation **MCTC**

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West Virginia American Water
WSAZ-TV

Community Engagement

The Education Alliance can offer services to schools statewide thanks to its strong network of community partners and dedicated volunteers and supporters. Likewise, The Education Alliance partners with a number of other organizations—such as West Virginia's Promise and the 21st Century Jobs Cabinet—to achieve its mission of student success. In 2009, The Education Alliance presented at the eight regional dropout prevention summits across the state and served on the planning committee for the West Virginia High School Graduation and Dropout Prevention Summit.

10th Annual Capital City Pumpkin Drop

For the 10th consecutive year, 850 students, teachers, and curious onlookers flocked to the West Virginia State Capitol Complex for The Education Alliance's Capital City Pumpkin Drop, sponsored by Bayer CropScience and Waste Management.

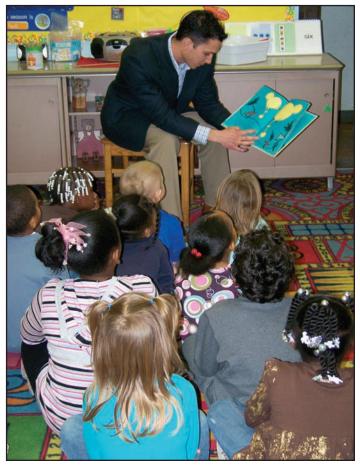
The Education Alliance hosts the Capital City Pumpkin Drop to put an innovative spin on how students learn critical mathematics and science skills. Those skills are put to the test when K-12 students design enclosures to protect their pumpkins, which are then dropped from the third-floor roof of the West Virginia State Capitol. The pumpkin has to hit the bull's-eye on the ground and stay intact during impact. The surviving pumpkin that lands closest to the target is the winning entry.

At the 10th Annual Capital City Pumpkin Drop on October 16, 2008, 119 pumpkins were dropped off the roof of the capitol, and 22 pumpkins survived the fall. The following were the 2008 winners:

First Place: Scott High, Boone County
Second Place: John Adams Middle, Kanawha County
Third Place: Van Junior High, Boone County

Read to Me! Day 2008

On November 20, 2008, more than 1,400 volunteers joined The Education Alliance's effort to promote literacy and community engagement by reading to nearly 30,000 West Virginia students in public schools and local libraries.



Read to Me! Day volunteer Nathanial Manchin of EQT reads to students at Glenwood Elementary School, Kanawha County.

Read to Me! Day, sponsored by the EQT Foundation and in cooperation with the West Virginia Library Commission, is a statewide celebration of reading and community involvement in public education. Business executives, parents, and other community members read to pre-K –12 students in 105 elementary, middle, and high schools and 14 public libraries. These volunteers came into West Virginia public school classrooms throughout the school day to read aloud to students and participate in special literacy programs.

The Education Alliance gifted Sad Mad Glad to all participating elementary schools. This 112-page children's book, written by West Virginia authors Chuck Stump and Jim Strawn, helps children share feelings and build self-esteem.

2009 ANNUAL REPORT

Donor Honor Roll

The Education Alliance would like to thank the following individuals, corporations, and foundations whose generosity has made our work possible.

Founders' Circle (\$100,000 and above)

The Claude Worthington Benedum Foundation West Virginia Department of Education and the Arts

Leaders' Circle (\$25,000 - \$99,999)

American Public University System, Inc. AT&T Foundation Chesapeake Energy Orrick, Herrington, Sutcliffe Foundation

President's Circle (\$10,000 - \$24,999)

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The Bernard H. & Blanche E. Jacobson Foundation
The Daywood Foundation
The Dow Chemical Foundation
ECA Foundation
The Greater Kanawha Valley Foundation
JPMorgan Chase Foundation
The Ross Foundation

Western Interstate Commission for Higher Education

Summa Cum Laude (\$5,000 - \$9,999)

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Wells Fargo Insurance Services

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West Virginia University

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Gift-In-Kind Contributors

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The State Journal

Waste Management of West Virginia, Inc.

Fundraising Events

2008 Annual Dinner: Celebrating 25 Great Years

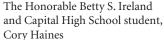


The Founding Board of Directors pictured with 2008 Annual Dinner Chair Sharon Rowe.

On December 9, 2008, The Education Alliance celebrated 25 years of service to West Virginia by honoring its 1983-1984 Founding Board of Directors. Nearly 200 business leaders, government officials, and educators attended to commemorate this milestone.

Graduates of Distinction







Major General Allen E. Tackett

On May 28, 2009, The Education Alliance's 11th Annual Graduates of Distinction Luncheon honored Major General Allen E. Tackett and The Honorable Betty S. Ireland. A record-breaking crowd of 240 supporters came to recognize Tackett, adjutant general for the West Virginia National Guard, and Ireland, West Virginia's 28th Secretary of State.

Your Chance to Give

The Education Alliance offers donors many opportunities to change a child's life. Through a gift to The Education Alliance's Annual Campaign, donors can support a specific program, event, or region.

Each financial gift supports our mission to help every West Virginia student succeed. Cash and stock gifts are tax deductible. We hope you will include The Education Alliance in your charitable giving plans this year.

Neighborhood Investment Program: West Virginia State Tax Credits are available for stock or cash gifts to The Education Alliance in the amount of \$500 or more. Visit www.EducationAlliance.org for more details.

Legacy Gifts: Planned gifts made through wills, bequests, and annuities help secure the future of The Education Alliance. Please consider making public education your legacy.

Honor An Educator: Recognize the genuine difference your favorite educators have made by giving a gift to honor them or their memory. Your educator will be recognized at www.EducationAlliance.org and in our 2010 Annual Report.

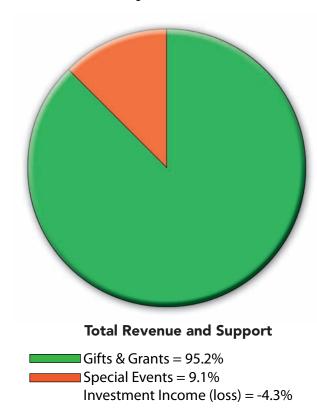
Gifts-in-Kind: Gifts of goods or services are always greatly appreciated. They extend the reach of The Education Alliance's financial resources while offering the donor a tax deduction for the fair market value of the gift.

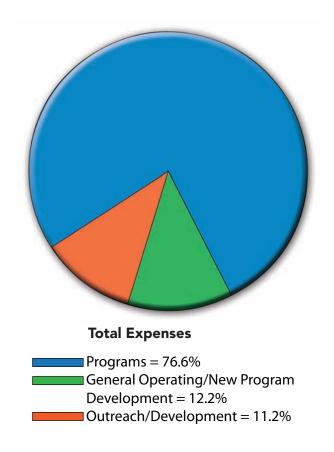
For questions, please contact Director of Development Sheanna Spence at (304) 342-7859 or sheanna@educationalliance.org.

You may donate online at www.EducationAlliance.org or mail your gift to The Education Alliance P.O. Box 3071, Charleston, WV 25331-3071.

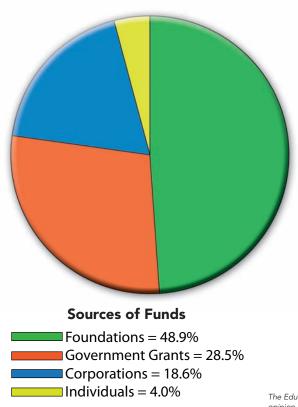
Financial Report

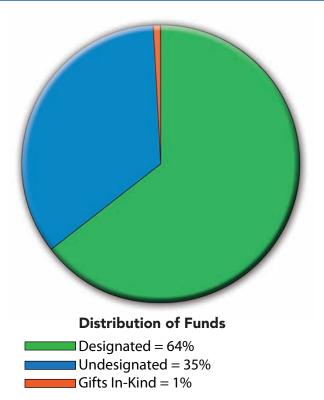
Fiscal Year 2009: July 1, 2008 - June 30, 2009





Giving Summary





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All gifts made to The Education Alliance are tax deductible to the full extent of the law. The Education Alliance is registered with the IRS as a 501(c)(3) organization.

West Virginia residents may obtain a summary of the registration with financial documents from the Secretary of State, State Capitol, Charleston, West Virginia, 25305.

Registration does not imply endorsement.

WEB SITE

www.EducationAlliance.org

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West Virginia Learning First Alliance
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