

THE

# FutureFund

UNLOCKING THE POTENTIAL OF THE NEXT GENERATION

# The futures of

# 50 million young people are still at risk.

More than 30 years after the landmark *Nation at Risk* report called for an overhaul of American education, our country is still failing in its most fundamental responsibility—preparing the next generation for the future. The evidence is clear: 1.2 million students drop out of school every year and nearly half say they are not hopeful about tomorrow.

The fact is that after trillions of dollars—and three decades of reform—change has been positive but only incremental. After all, schools were built on an antiquated vision of success, and, although that vision is incompatible with success in the 21st Century, they remain that way.

Now we risk missing out on the genius of a generation. America's 50 million students don't just need to graduate. They need to enter the world as inspired leaders—with the passion, purpose, and skills to build the life and world of their dreams.

# The Path of A Typical Student



### AGE 12

### **Motivation Fades**

The student begins to see school as disconnected from life, and becomes one of the 70% who say they're uninspired and unmotivated.

### AGE 14

### **Aspiration Fades**

Just as the student starts preparing for the future, their dreams start to shrink. 50% of young people are not hopeful about the future.

### AGE 5

# Student Enters an Outdated System

The student begins early childhood education in schools designed in 1893 to train a generation of factory workers.

### AGE 10

### **Creativity Fades**

As the student leaves elementary school, the emphasis on rote learning increases, leading to a 90% decline in creativity and curiosity throughout school.

### **AGE 17**

### **Student Checks Out, Drops Out**

Nearly half of high school students disengage from learning, and more than a million drop out each year.

### GF 21

### **Job Prospects Fade**

After two decades of working toward a diploma, the student faces a 1 in 2 chance of being unemployed or underemployed.

### AGE 1

# Another Outdated System If the student goes to college, they enter

If the student goes to college, they enter an institution that 89% of employers say fails to prepare them for the workforce.

### AGE 30

### **Life Lacks Passion, Purpose**

More than half of Americans are unfulfilled in their jobs—and are not living an inspired life of passion and purpose.

# Imagine

if schools inspired students to create

the future

of their dreams.

The education crisis has been described in many ways. But we can all agree on one thing: that the aspirations of young people must be nurtured and put into action.

That's why we invented the Dream Director—a new role in society dedicated to transforming high schools into places where young people discover and pursue their passions and purpose. Dream Directors empower students to turn their dreams into tangible Future Projects—organizations, campaigns, events, products—that equip them with the skills to live extraordinary lives. Students are exposed to new ideas, receive rigorous leadership training, experience a-ha moments in which they discover anything is possible, and fundamentally reimagine the entire experience of school.

Since we launched in 2011, we have recruited, trained, and placed full-time Dream Directors in schools from coast to coast. We are now ready to build a movement that brings Dream Directors—and the ideas they stand for—to every school in America.

By the Numbers

young people with Dream Directors

\$29M

in startup capital raised since 2011

**50** 

lab schools across the country

7

major American cities, coast to coast

Headlines From Our Schools



**95% of alumni** report, years later, that the mindsets and skillsets they developed through The Future Project are still having a transformative effect on their lives.

Schools report **increases in attendance as high as 20%**. "The Future Project is the only reason I didn't drop out of high school," says one of our 3,000 New Haven students.

A Detroit student files a form 1023 and **turns his Future Project into a non-profit**. "I did something this year that I didn't think was possible," he says.

After learning that most of their peers thought their school felt like a jail, a team of NYC students recruited 100 renowned artists and **transformed 100% of the school's hallways**.

**Over 90% of students** show evidence of Social Emotional Learning improvements after working with a Dream Director.

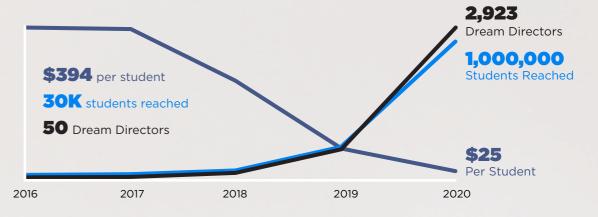


# We're committed to reaching and the reac

Our goal is simple: to ensure that every young American grows up with the mindset and skillset to achieve their aspirations for self and society. We are building the Future Fund to transform our schools into places that bring that dream to life.

After a pilot that exceeded all expectations, the Fund will usher in our next phase, in which we will build and launch a tool—based on our best learnings from our Dream Director model—to enable any school, anywhere in the country, to reinvent themselves to be places that unlock the potential inside young people. Specifically, the \$50M in investment will enable us to: build and perfect our technology to reach 3,000 high schools by 2020; grow our R&D team charged with demystifying the science of unlocking potential—and how to measure it; launch a national campaign that elevates the voice of students leaders and advocates for massive systemic change; and build a sustainable enterprise and world-class team.

### The Path to One Million Students



### Our Organizational Strategy



## Join the Team

### Select Board Members and Funders



Alicia Keys



Angela Duckworth



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