



nike school innovation fund

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Nike School Innovation Fund Awards \$1.1 Million in Grants to Beaverton, Hillsboro and Portland Public Schools

- *Funding will support innovation in school leadership* -
- *Brings total grants awarded for school year to \$1.7 million* -

Beaverton, Oregon (13 January 2010) – The Nike School Innovation Fund (NSIF) today announced it is awarding \$1.1 million in grants to support innovation in school leadership in the Beaverton, Hillsboro and Portland public school systems for the 2009-2010 school year. Combined with \$600,000 in grants made earlier this year for early learner summer academies, NSIF is providing \$1.7 million in funding support to the three districts this school year.

The NSIF grants began in 2007 to support innovation in education and leadership with the goal of improving student achievement.

“The Nike School Innovation Fund grant will fund the Middle School Proficiency Leadership Collaborative to support administrative and teacher leaders in launching the Beaverton Proficiency Learning System. We believe this initiative can help the District bring to scale effective teaching and learning in classrooms and ensure equitable outcomes for students so that they are prepared for academic success and work beyond high school,” said Beaverton Superintendent Jerome Colonna.

Nike CEO Mark Parker, in announcing NSIF in 2007, said the company would help the three school districts by lending support, expertise, and dollars. “We knew NSIF would partially be about funding grants for key program innovations. Equally important is the personal involvement of Nike employees and partners,” said Parker.

Nike leaders have been actively supporting school and central office teams by sharing their expertise as it relates to team building, implementing plans, out-of-the-box thinking, and data-driven decision making.

“Three school districts, 100,000 students, and more than 50 Nike executives collaborating with teachers, principals, and administrators are a powerful force. We are building ideas, relationships and impact that is bigger and more enduring than the grants themselves,” said Heidi O’Neill, VP/General Manager of Global Women’s Training who has spearheaded the engagement of Nike executives.

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Portland Grant – Developing & supporting school leadership teams to improve student writing. Teams of NIKE leaders are working with 12 Portland schools as part of the Portland Leadership Collaborative (PLC), a two-year leadership development program designed to help teacher and administrator teams improve writing instruction. Each school team receives intensive training and support in three areas: development and support of professional learning communities, use of data to lead school improvement, and effective writing instruction. The \$500,000 Leadership Innovation Grant being awarded to Portland Public Schools this year will fund a third year of the PLC and support 30 schools. The new schools entering the program this year are Abernethy, Beach, Beaumont, da Vinci Arts, Duniway, Glencoe, Hayhurst, Kelly, Marysville, Rigler, Sellwood and Vernon.

Beaverton Grant – Increasing Student Proficiency. The \$500,000 grant to the Beaverton School District will support the Middle School Proficiency Leadership Collaborative, an innovative program that will bring 10 school teams together with Nike leaders to create a proficiency-based learning system. The grant will support and enable teacher leaders at middle schools as they implement the Beaverton Proficiency Learning System.

Hillsboro Grant – K-12 District Literacy Initiative. The \$100,000 grant being awarded to the Hillsboro School District will support the district literacy initiative to improve reading and writing. In addition a team of Nike leaders will work with five elementary schools: Lincoln Street, W.L. Henry, Reedville, Mooberry, and Witch Hazel. The funds will support ELL literacy trainings for school leaders and a Leadership Institute with the goal of 82% of students reading at benchmark or above by June 2010. (Hillsboro's leadership grant is smaller as the district chose to allocate 75% of their grant to the early learners programming.)

The 2009-2010 NSIF Leadership Innovation grants complement the \$600,000 in Early Learner grants that were awarded this summer for programs to help pre-kindergarten through second grader students who need extra help to move on to the next grade. NSIF Early Learner grants made earlier this year included \$300,000 to Hillsboro, \$100,000 to Beaverton, and \$200,000 to Portland Public Schools.

About NSIF: The Nike School Innovation Fund is a \$9-million, five-year commitment begun in 2007 to support public education in Beaverton, Hillsboro and Portland, Oregon school districts. NSIF's goal is to support innovation in education and leadership to improve student achievement. NSIF does that by lending support, expertise, and dollars in two primary areas: Early Learner Grants and School Leadership Grants. The NSIF is an affiliate of the [Portland Business Alliance](#) Charitable Institute, a 501c (3) corporation. An Advisory Board that includes representatives of the Beaverton, Hillsboro and Portland Public School districts, NIKE and national education and business leaders advise the NSIF.

View the recent NSIF video here: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7eNK6ERmu6g>