

# 2018 EEF impact report



**8** 

LIBRARIES  
RENOVATED FOR  
THE 21ST CENTURY

**560** 

FREE EYE EXAMS &  
GLASSES FOR  
ECS STUDENTS

**2** 

BRAND NEW  
LEARNING  
GARDENS BUILT

 **43** 

INNOVATIVE TEACHING &  
EXTRACURRICULAR GRANT  
PROJECTS FUNDED

## *Learning all year round*

**460** students participated in summer enrichment day camp

## *Cultivating an attitude of gratitude*

**20,000** Thank-you notes written by students

## *Getting excited about reading*

**3,000** Students listened to best-selling author, Eric Litwin

## *Valuing our staff*

**2,000+** gifts delivered to ECS teachers and staff

## *Learning from history*

**1,700** high school students experienced a presentation from Rwandan genocide survivor, Henriette Ngenga



## LOOKING AHEAD TO 2019

### What's next for EEF...

Partner with EEF as we move forward to 2019 and support excellence and innovation in education!

## upcoming events

Trivia Night	<b>MAR 7</b>
Pay it Forward Day	<b>MAY 20</b>
Kick-Off Classic	<b>AUG 24</b>
Golf Classic	<b>SEPT 30</b>
Ugly Sweater Run	<b>DEC 7</b>

## TARGETED INITIATIVES

**1,000**  
Pairs of Glasses  
to Students  
**\$120,000**  
in Grants Distributed

**3,000**  
Field Trips for  
ECS Students  
**4**  
Learning Gardens



## TEACHING GRANTS

Innovative Teaching Grants are designed to encourage, facilitate, recognize, and reward innovative and creative instructional approaches in the classroom. This program offers teachers and administrators the opportunity to apply for grants that support innovative programs or projects to promote higher levels of

engagement. The grants must enhance student academic performance and support the objectives, goals, and initiatives of Elkhart Community Schools.

## EXTRACURRICULAR GRANTS

The evidence is overwhelming and quite compelling: Participation in student activities increases students' standardized test scores, GPAs, graduation rates, college acceptance rates and college success rates. Additionally, it practically eliminates the likelihood that a student will choose to drop out of high school. The Elkhart Education Foundation is committed to filling in the budgetary gaps in order to keep these engaging extracurricular activities available for ALL students.

## TOOLS FOR SCHOOLS

For parents and teachers alike, school supplies can be expensive. With the Tools for Schools program, we ensure teachers receive the supplies their students need to be successful. Through in-kind donations, stuff-a-bus events, and partnering with local businesses and organizations, EEF sends each school the most needed supplies for teachers to distribute directly to their students.



## LIVING LIBRARIES

With the advent of the 1:1 technology initiative at Elkhart Community Schools, the Living Libraries Project brings libraries into the 21st century and transforms each space into a learning commons. These new learning spaces become the epicenter of innovation for their schools. Rather than maintain a strictly quiet location for individual

study, the Living Libraries Project creates environments for collaboration and interactive learning where many forms of literacy are explored.

## TEACHER MORALE

The work of ECS teachers and staff truly matters! Encouraging our highly-qualified teachers is important and essential to public education. First Friday contests, treats, lunches, and free professional development and training opportunities are some of the ways that EEF helps keep teachers and staff encouraged and feeling appreciated. The 12 Days of Giving campaign also helps distribute more than 20,000 thank-you notes to ECS faculty and staff.

## KINDNESS TO PREVENT BLINDNESS

Good vision is essential for students of all ages to reach their full academic potential. Studies show behavior problems go down and academic success goes up when children have corrected vision. In collaboration with Boling Vision Center, this initiative is designed to ensure success in education through accurate eyesight which is supported by school visits from a mobile vision unit offering check-ups and supplemental eyewear for students in need!

## SPEAK TRUTH TO POWER

Speak Truth to Power is a multi-faceted educational curriculum for students at all grade levels. This human rights curriculum makes history come alive by presenting living role models and heroes who have boldly worked to address the world's most pressing human rights issues. Students are exposed to learning opportunities that encourage them to become defenders in their community.



## LEARNING GARDENS

The Learning Garden Project plans to build and sustain a curriculum-based learning garden at each of the Elkhart Community Schools elementary buildings. The gardens are dynamic environments for students and teachers to observe, discover, experiment, nurture, and learn. The Learning Garden serves as an outdoor classroom where all students can go for reading, writing, reflecting, meeting, and developing real-world skills.



## SUMMERSCAPE

The Summerscape Day Camp program offers full-day and half-day enrichment programs for students in grades K-7 during summer vacation. Our themed week-long camps are led by certified ECS teachers and assisted by qualified high school and college students. Some of the best learning happens outside of the classroom on field trips, experiencing nature, exploring living history and through hands-on, project-based lessons. Adventure awaits students at Summerscape!

## PROJECT EXCURSION

The Project Excursion program seeks to provide at least one (1) field trip per year for every student in the district completely free of cost. Field trips aid in the learning experiences of students who are visual learners, build on classroom instruction, help to cultivate a better understanding of topics, and expose students to worlds outside their own.