

# 2019 EEF impact report



**4** 

LIBRARIES  
RENOVATED FOR  
THE 21ST CENTURY

**1800** 

FREE EYE EXAMS  
& GLASSES FOR  
ECS STUDENTS

**50** 

LOCAL BUSINESSES  
COLLECTED SCHOOL  
SUPPLIES

 **31** 

INNOVATIVE TEACHING &  
EXTRACURRICULAR GRANT  
PROJECTS FUNDED

## *Equipping Teachers for Success*

**\$100,000** worth of supplies donated  
to ECS teachers and staff through the  
Schoolhouse Supply Store

## *Ripple of Impact*

**1,200** hours of community service  
performed by grant recipients

## *Getting Excited about Reading & Science*

**2,000** students listened to  
astronaut author Leland Melvin

## *Cultivating an Attitude of Gratitude*

**25,000** Thank-you notes  
written by students



## LOOKING AHEAD TO 2020

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

Partner with EEF as we move forward to 2020  
and support excellence and innovation in education!

## upcoming events

Trivia Night	<b>MAR 26</b>
Fan Fest	<b>JUNE 13</b>
Kick-Off Classic	<b>AUG 22</b>
Golf Classic	<b>SEPT 28</b>
Ugly Sweater Run	<b>DEC 5</b>

## TARGETED INITIATIVES

**4,000**  
Pairs of Glasses to  
Students in 68 Schools

**\$100,000**  
in Grants Distributed  
to ECS Faculty & Staff

**3,000**  
Field Trips for  
ECS Students

**2,000**  
Faculty & Staff served by  
Schoolhouse Supply Store



## 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.

## SCHOOLHOUSE SUPPLY STORE

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 stocks a Schoolhouse Supply Store that is open to all ECS faculty and staff. They can "shop" during weekly open hours or order on our website!



## 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. EEF completed this project in 2019, finishing all 14 elementary libraries.

## 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. Attitude of Gratitude campaign also helps distribute more than 25,000 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 2 free pairs of glasses for students in need!

## LITERACY INITIATIVES

EEF combats the summer learning slide with the Reading Ride, a converted mini bus that travels to different neighborhoods throughout the summer to expose students to great literature and reading opportunities during their breaks from school. Other literacy initiatives include bringing authors in to speak to students, sparking their interest in reading and regular collaboration with the Elkhart Public Library for speakers and initiatives.

## LEARNING GARDENS

The Learning Garden Project plans to build a curriculum-based learning garden at any of the ECS elementary buildings that request one. 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-6 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!

