



## FACT SHEET: EDUCATIONAL ENHANCEMENT

### **Overview:**

When it comes to achieving better educational outcomes, the transition from middle school to high school is a critical one. Students who begin high school well-prepared are four times as likely to graduate and achieve post-secondary success.

Yet the middle school years can be an especially vulnerable time period for students, fraught with social-emotional challenges and developmental changes, making the leap to high school difficult for many. Despite the clear need to provide better support to middle school youth, in the field of extended learning time, only a small percentage of programs target middle school students, leaving many without a safe, productive and enriching place to go after school.

That's why the New York Life Foundation is committed to supporting programs that create stronger academic foundations for middle school students during out-of-school hours. Specifically, we look to fund initiatives that offer appropriate support, structure and resources during this period – targeting extended learning models whose programs support high school preparation both during and outside of school time.

### **By the Numbers:**

- Since 2013, the Foundation has dedicated more than \$24 million in grants and programs to support middle school youth
- Last year alone, we donated approximately \$8.5 million toward the cause, working with 18 partners to reach over 29,000 children
- Through our new Aim High grant program, we will award nearly \$2 million to local education programs and services across the country over the next three years

### **Funding Strategy:**

Research from our education partners has shown that kids in afterschool programs go to school more, see improvements in their behavior, and increase their likelihood of moving on to the next grade level and graduating. Given the tremendous impact that out-of-school programming can have on a student's long-term academic success, the Foundation has focused its funding priorities for education on three core areas:

- **Afterschool:** These grants support organizations that provide comprehensive afterschool programs in partnership with local schools. Grantees include Afterschool All-Stars and the YMCA of Greater New York.
- **Expanded Learning:** These grants support organizations that offer both in-school and afterschool programs that are closely integrated with the school day. Grantees include City Year, Classroom, Inc. and Virtual Enterprises International.
- **Summer Learning:** These grants support organizations that provide intensive and enriching summer programs that help accelerate learning and promote important socialization skills. Grantees include BELL and Horizons National.