Our evolving work in education is driven by the guiding principle that all students – but especially low-income students and students of color – must have access to a great public education that prepares them for adulthood. Success in college or career preparation programs gives students greater economic mobility and more opportunities throughout their lives. That enables them to contribute to their communities and enhances not only their economic future but that of the United States as well.

The foundation’s next chapter of investments in K-12 education will be driven by a direct focus on supporting teachers, schools and communities. We believe that local school communities, including principals and teachers, are in the best position to know how to support their students to be successful and improve student outcomes. We will do this by:

- Investing in partnerships between networks of schools and support organizations, where schools use evidence and data to identify a problem, select a strategy to address it, set a target for improvement, gather data and evidence about the strategy’s success, and work to make the approach more effective and improve student achievement.
  - This approach recognizes that there is no one-size-fits-all solution to school improvement.
  - While each network will decide what approach will work best to address its biggest challenges, all networks will share a commitment to continuous learning and improvement and a focus on using data proven to predict students’ learning, progress and success.
  - The Networks for School Improvement will be chosen through an open and competitive RFP process, to be launched in January 2018. To prepare for the RFP process, the foundation’s K12 team issued an RFI seeking information from organizations that have facilitated secondary Networks for School Improvement or believe they have the skills to do so in the future.

- Working with partners in the field so that in five years, middle and high school teachers have access to high-quality, standards-aligned curriculum choices in English, math, and science, which will be accompanied by professional learning opportunities.
Building on our past work supporting teacher development programs and our ongoing commitment to empowering and supporting strong, capable teachers and principals as leaders in driving improvement in schools and classrooms.

- Going forward, our investments will support quality implementation of teacher and leader preparation programs that build educator competency through practice, research and evaluation of innovative approaches to implement the principles, and development of new solutions where there are gaps.

Expanding the number of high-quality public charter schools, with a new focus on improving outcomes for students with disabilities.

- Our aspiration is that our support will help a select set of charter schools develop approaches to help greater numbers of students with disabilities achieve their educational goals and that these approaches can ultimately be shared with other charter schools and beyond.

- In addition to our new focus on students with disabilities, we will also continue to support efforts to expand the number of high quality charter seats in select areas.

Investing in building the evidence base for social and emotional learning (SEL) and the field’s knowledge of adolescent development, translating research findings into tools and best practices and helping to spread that knowledge and those practices.

Supporting efforts to help more students make a successful transition from high school to postsecondary education.

- K12 areas of focus will include postsecondary advising, opportunities to obtain college credits in high school or avoid remediation, and new pathways that enable more black, Latino and low-income students to be prepared for postsecondary success.

Advancing research and development in education technology and learning science to create new instructional models, practices and tools that show potential to dramatically improve student learning outcomes for Black, Latino and low-income students.

- We will initially focus on the challenge of supporting every learner to become highly proficient in mathematics by the end of 9th grade, and will add additional challenge areas over time. In addition, we will partner with others to expand overall investment in and strengthen the ecosystem for applied education research and development.

- We will also explore innovative models that enable education systems to successfully adapt to the dramatically changing demands of the workforce, and put black, Latino and low-income students on pathways to upwardly mobile jobs of the future.

Guided by the belief that every life has equal value, the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation aspires to help all people lead healthy, productive lives.