

FOUNDATION for EAST BATON ROUGE SCHOOL SYSTEM

2025-2026

Impact Report

A MESSAGE FROM OUR BOARD OF DIRECTORS

The Foundation has continued to turn community support into meaningful opportunities for students and educators across East Baton Rouge Parish. Together with our donors and partners, we expanded investments in early childhood education and workforce development, increased access to STEM-related learning experiences, and supported teachers in bringing innovative ideas and activities into their classrooms.

These accomplishments reflect what is possible when our community comes together around public education. We are proud of the progress made this year and grateful to the partners, educators, and supporters who helped make it possible. As we look ahead, we remain committed to building on this momentum and creating even more opportunities for students to learn, grow, and thrive.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2025-2026

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FUNDS RAISED IN 2025-2026

$1,212,219

IMPACT SNAPSHOT

25

Early Childhood Education seats funded



14

Paid Student Internships funded



400

K-12 Students Served at STEM Saturdays

30

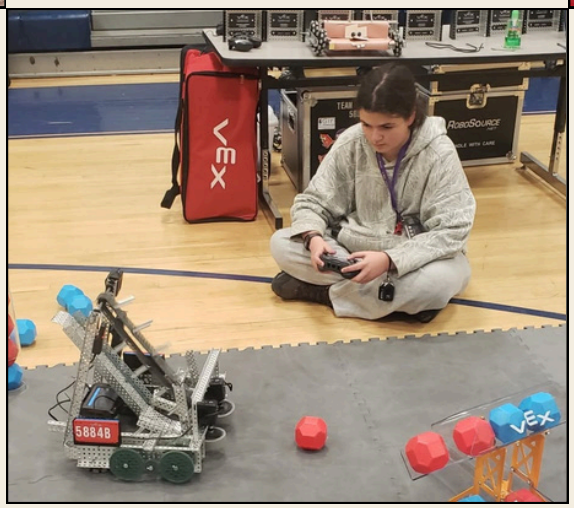
Classrooms outfitted with STEAM kits

(Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts & Mathmatics)



20

ExxonMobil Star STEM Teacher Grant Awardees



16

Academic Distinction Fund Grant Awardees

Early Childhood Development in EBR Schools

Early Steps for Success

YWCA Early Learning Center at Melrose Elementary served 38 Students last year. Twenty-five of those early learners had tuition funded through Foundations for Success: Comprehensive Early Learning Expansion, a Foundation initiative designed to increase access to high-quality early childhood education for children and families across East Baton Rouge Parish.



> *I loved the genuine connection and care the teachers showed to my children.*
>
> ~Melrose Elementary
> Early Learning Center Parent

> *The administration and teaching staff truly cared about my son and his academic growth. It gave me peace that he was in a place where he was genuinely cared for and encouraged to learn and grow.*
>
> ~Melrose Elementary
> Early Learning Center Parent

Thank you

These 25 funded seats were made possible thanks to generous support from the Huey and Angelina Wilson Foundation, ExxonMobil Baton Rouge, Academic Distinction Fund, and other corporate and individual donors, which was matched dollar-for-dollar through the Louisiana Early Childhood Education Fund, administered by the Louisiana Department of Education, doubling their impact and expanding access to high-quality early learning opportunities for children and families across EBR Parish.





Early Childhood Development in EBR Schools

BASICS Parent Pods

Thanks to generous support from the Baton Rouge Area Foundation, EBR Schools Office of Early Childhood Education launched an innovative pilot program designed to empower parents and caregivers with the tools, knowledge, and resources needed to support their children's early development.

BASICS Parent Pods provides education, peer support, coaching, and connections to early learning enrollment, tuition assistance, and scholarships. Grounded in evidence-based BASICS developmental principles and aligned with Louisiana's Kindergarten Readiness standards, the program equips families with simple, practical strategies to nurture their children's growth from birth through age four.

> *We're talking about shifting mindsets, changing generations and empowering moms (and families)... so we have a different relationship with parents as they matriculate through education. Education will be more than just a request of compliance, it will be an opportunity for empowerment.*
>
> ~Chrisdelin Lyles, M.Ed.
> Family and Community Engagement Liaison
> EBRSS Early Childhood Education

Thank you

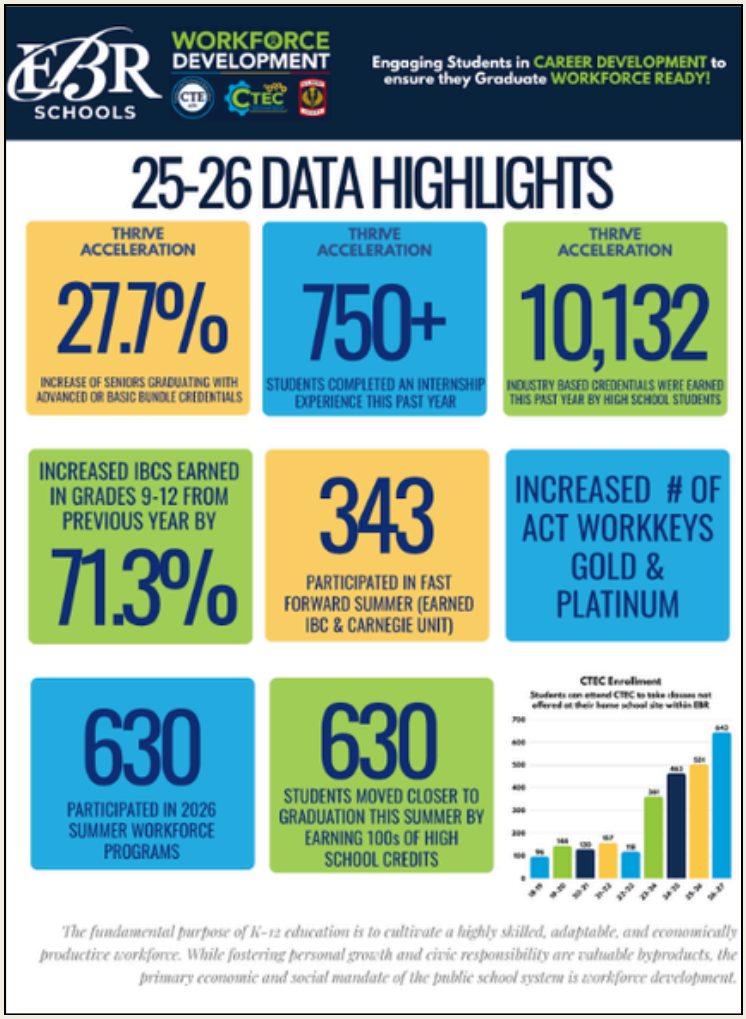
BRAF

Through community-based Parent Pods in Zion Terrace, Montesano, and Kelly Terrace, the initiative focuses on increasing caregiver confidence, strengthening family engagement, and improving access to quality early childhood education. By meeting families where they are, BASICS Parent Pods helps build a strong foundation for kindergarten readiness and lifelong learning.





Workforce Development in EBR Schools



Thank you

fuel
Future Use of Energy in Louisiana

Students complete a 27-hour Career Readiness Boot Camp followed by a 110-hour paid internship with employer partners. Participants develop workplace competencies, professional skills, and career readiness while gaining hands-on experience in real-world work environments.

By removing financial barriers and expanding access to paid internships, the program advances economic mobility, strengthens employer partnerships, and builds a skilled workforce pipeline for the Capital Region.

Earn and Learn Program

The EBR Learn and Earn Internship Program, under EBR Schools Workforce Development, serves high school seniors enrolled in the EBR School System. The program serves more than 190 students annually across 16 high schools. **Last year 14 paid student interships were supported in 7 Energy sector host sites through the Foundation, thanks to funding from *Future Use of Energy in Louisiana.***

> *This internship has given him confidence, valuable work experience, and lessons that will stay with him for years to come. We are truly grateful for your support.*
>
> ~Earn & Learn Program Parent







STEM Education in EBR Schools





Thanks to ExxonMobil Baton Rouge's generous support of our 2025-2026 Star STEM Teachers program, **20** educators received funding to turn innovative STEM ideas into powerful classroom experiences in EBR Schools.

- Brittany Jackson's students explored energy and motion through roller coaster design, using hands-on physics and digital design.
- Shobha Menon's students used hydroponic gardening to grow plants from seed to harvest allowing them to connect their learning to food systems and sustainability.
- Courtney Hawkins' students created and engineered smart wildlife crossings that used technology to solve problems like habitat fragmentation and animal-vehicle collisions.
- Andrew Kory Holmes' students became urban planners and environmental engineers by designing small parks that could be placed along highways and vacant lots in North Baton Rouge.

> *Through the Star STEM Teachers program, ExxonMobil and the Foundation for EBR Schools are empowering educators to turn creative ideas into hands-on STEM experiences that engage and inspire students. This collaboration is helping strengthen the pipeline of future talent while supporting academic excellence across our community.*
>
> ~Rory Denicola,
> Public Affairs Advisor, ExxonMobil

Thank you

ExxonMobil

ExxonMobil helped bring innovative learning to over 400 K-12 EBR students last year though two STEM Saturday events in partnership with STEM Baton Rouge.

The students came from over 100 schools across the Baton Rouge area to explore the power of chemistry and the world of circuits and electricity. During hands-on experiments, students built battery-powered clocks, flashlights and traffic lights with the help of over 70 volunteers.



ExxonMobil oufitted 30 classrooms with STEAM Kits & Readers

Expanding Opportunities for EBR Teachers

The Academic Distinction Fund invests directly in the work of teachers, schools, and non-profit organizations through grants for innovative ideas and programs that support EBR parish public schools.

The following ADF grants were awarded to support innovative learning last year:

Thank you

ADF
Academic Distinction Fund

Spring 2025 Grantees

Capitol High School
Okaye Ahmose: *Television/Photography Studio and Equipment*
Principal: B. Fontenot
ADF Impact Award

Career & Technical Education Center (CTEC)
Edward Gautreaux: *Building Bonds through Play:A High School Built Playhouse Initiative*
Principal: Michael Hilton
ADF Impact Award

Sherwood Middle Academic Magnet School
Tommie Gipson: *Voices of Relevance:A Student Produced Video Podcast of Literature*
Principal: Jamie Noel
ADF Student Achievement Award

Tara High School
Emma Gist: *Amplified Classrooms Pathway:Legacy Leaders*
Principal: John Hayman
ADF Impact Award

Scotlandville Magnet High School
Ashlyn Harrison: *Hornet Brew Café Continuation + Café Talk Expansion*
Principal: Paul Jackson
ADF Student Achievement Award

Highland Elementary School
Marie Ivey: *Small Group Spelling Practice to Reach Every Reader*
Principal: Jimeka Johnson
ADF Impact Award

Woodlawn High School
Rachel Lagrange: *Panther Studios*
Principal: John Jenkins
ADF Impact Award

Glasgow Middle School
Nathalie Roy: *Hands-On History: The Outdoor Education Project*
Principal: Erin Howard
ADF Student Achievement Award

Belaire High School
Chassity Smith: *Art in Every Corner:A Schoolwide Mural Experience*
Principal: Tana Boudreaux-Allen
ADF Student Achievement Award



Southdowns Pre-K Center
Shalika Scott: *Inclusive Playground*
Principal: Shalika Scott
ADF Impact Award

Westdale Middle School
Mauricio Toscano: *Youth-Led Multilingual Audio Guide for an Inclusive Baton Rouge*
Principal: Ramona Remble
ADF Student Achievement Award

Fall 2025 Grantees

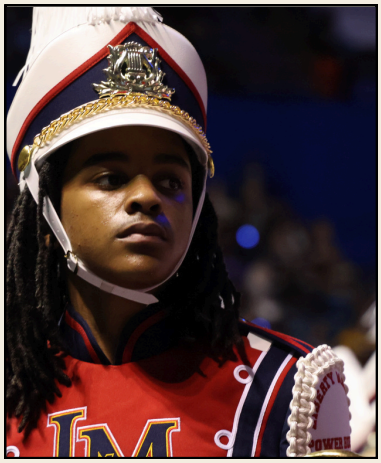
Broadmoor Senior High
Charles Scarbrough: *Airport Operations*
Principal: Robert Wells
ADF Student Acheivement Award

Jefferson Terrace Academy
Joy Watson: *TIGER Tech Labs - Invent, Grow and Explore*
Principal: Joy Watson
ADF Impact Award

Woodlawn High School
Fnu Usha Kamal: *Panther STEAMers: Drones, Data, & Digital Skills*
Principal: John Jenkins
ADF Impact Award

Line4Line
Lucy Perera: *"Book of the Month" program in EBRPSS*
Principal: Susan Gauthier
ADF Impact Award

Marching with Pride: Band Together EBR



Last year, the Foundation joined EBR Schools and community partners in launching Band Together EBR, an initiative to provide new marching band uniforms for 11 EBR high schools and ensure student musicians can proudly represent their schools and community.

The push for new band uniforms is part of a larger effort to improve the "high school experience," an area where district leaders say Baton Rouge secondary schools have fallen behind their peers.

Band programs give students the opportunity to develop discipline, leadership, teamwork, creativity and confidence while participating in experiences ranging from Mardi Gras parades and community events to regional and national competitions.

Yet many EBR high schools are performing in uniforms that are decades old or have no band uniforms at all. With a complete set of uniforms costing approximately $35,000 to $45,000 per school, meeting this need requires significant community investment.

Building on the progress made in 2025–2026, the Foundation will continue working alongside EBR Schools and community partners to secure funding for the remaining schools prioritized by need. Our goal is to help every participating band march with pride.

> *When our students put on their uniforms, they are not just representing their schools; they are representing their communities. Music education strengthens critical thinking, builds confidence, encourages teamwork, and develops the discipline and perseverance that contribute to academic achievement and lifelong success. Through Band Together EBR, we are not simply investing in new uniforms; we are investing in our students, their potential, and their futures.*
>
> ~Dr. Sean Joffrion
> Administrative Director of Fine Arts, EBRPSS

Thank you

The Nathanson Family Foundation

Liberty High School Band Uniforms



Thank you

STUDYVILLE

BRYC
BATON ROUGE YOUTH COALITION

emergent method

CSRS
a Westwood company

Northeast High School Band Uniforms

Learn more about EBR's arts and music programs:
https://www.ebrfinearts.com/

We couldn't have done it without your generous support.

Thank you

to the many individuals, businesses, and organizations who believe in the power of public education.

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Louisiana Department of Education

Huey and Angelina Wilson Foundation

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ADF Academic Distinction Fund

fuel Future Use of Energy in Louisiana

Studyville

BRYC Baton Rouge Youth Coalition

emergent method

CSRS a Westwood company

The Nathanson Family Foundation

HES Facilities Management

To learn more about our work or to support the Foundation: www.foundationebr.org

