92 supported schools in the Chicago region and Northwest Indiana serving nearly 25,000 students

80% of students identify as Black or Hispanic

70% of students reside in low-income households

84% of scholars choose to attend a Catholic or quality Chicago Public School option

95% high school graduation rate

85% of graduating scholars enroll in college

$30M invested annually in scholarships, programs, faculty support, and operational improvements in support of the mission of Big Shoulders Fund.

Why Big Shoulders Fund?

The Big Shoulders Fund Teacher Development Program aims to improve the recruitment, training, and retention of quality teachers in Big Shoulders Fund schools by generating a pipeline of excellent educators and future leaders. We support motivated, mission-driven teachers to be the best they can be.

Why a Big Shoulders School?

Tuition Assistance. Tiered tuition assistance available immediately to any pre-service teacher candidate completing field experiences and/or student teaching in a Big Shoulders Fund school.

Job Placement. As a network of 92 schools in the Chicagoland area, Big Shoulders Fund offers near-guaranteed job placement in our schools.

Pathways to Leadership. Teachers in our schools who want to develop leadership skills or become principals have the opportunity to pursue those goals as well as receive tuition-assistance.

Coaching & Professional Development. Big Shoulders Fund has talented education coaches who work with principals and teachers who desire to improve their professional skills. Big Shoulders also provides ongoing professional development opportunities to support our faculty with the latest trends in instruction, classroom management, social-emotional learning, and more.

Mission-Driven. Our schools are staffed with principals and teachers who embrace and carry out our shared mission of providing a quality, values-based education for Chicago's children.