

Bartlesville Education Promise Provides Nearly \$850,000 To Help Students Achieve

Bartlesville Education Promise, recognized as one of Oklahoma's leading non-profit foundations in aiding education, has invested nearly \$850,000 over the last seven years in helping local public school students become more successful.

The Bartlesville-based, citizen-led organization has worked closely with the public school system in developing extensive after-school tutoring and summer enrichment programs. Bartlesville Education Promise (BEP) has received awards from both Oklahoma Foundation for Excellence in 2017 and 19 and from the Oklahoma Center for Nonprofits in 2021 for most outstanding school support organization.

Much of BEP's financial support is directed toward improving reading skills in elementary schools and toward preparing middle and high school students for graduation and productive careers. Although the COVID pandemic forced some efforts to be scaled back during the current school year, in the previous year, BEP programs benefitted approximately 3,100 students while providing part-time employment to about 140 teachers.

"Many of the BEP programs can help students make up for the lost ground that may have occurred in their education during the pandemic," said Martin Garber, chairman of the BEP 12-member board. "For example, we're supporting make-up classes at the high school, tutoring in preparation for PSAT testing, and after-school learning opportunities at both the Boys and Girls Club and Westside Community Center."

For many years, BEP has been working with the Bartlesville School District to provide support of several summer programs. These include Transition Camps for 6th and 9th graders preparing for middle and high school, virtual tutoring for elementary students who are challenged to pass a state-mandated reading test, and a Leadership Camp for 3-5th graders taught by the district's Gifted and Talented staff.

Funding for Bartlesville Education Promise since its founding in 2015 has come primarily from local citizens, corporations and foundations. Subsequently, it also has received grants from two statewide nonprofits –Oklahoma Foundation for Excellence and Oklahoma Center for Nonprofits – that have honored BEP undertakings.

"Since its inception, BEP has raised and provided well over three-quarters of a million dollars to help the students be more challenged and successful both in the classroom and during summer break," Garber said. "Our donors have been gratified by the way the school district and teachers have embraced our goals."

Garber noted that out of the total funds provided, about \$450,000 has gone to in-school programs and \$350,000 toward summer activities. He also noted that BEP has no paid staff, so its administrative costs are quite low compared to most nonprofits – amounting to about 7 percent of the total funds raised, which is less than half of the administrative costs for an average foundation.

[*Read more about Bartlesville Education Promise*](#)