



Private Capital Helping Public Schools Prepare All Students for College or Career



Meetings rally community 2

Community meetings held in July and August generated excitement and enthusiasm.

Spotlight on DTO leader 3

Learn more about Iranetta Wright, who will lead the Duval Transformation Office and its 36 schools.

QEA kickoff event 5

Mark your calendar for October 6 for an in person update on progress of the fund investments.

New school year kicks off with most Quality Education for All Fund investments under way

Schools start the year fully staffed, full of energy and ready to transform

August 18 marked the beginning of the 2014-2015 school. On the first week, the 36 transformation schools were full of energy, thanks to the investments of the Quality Education for All Fund. Most of initiatives are under way, including:

- The inaugural class of Jacksonville Teacher Residents completed their first semester of their Master's program at UNF. The 11 have been placed at Andrew Jackson, Raines, and Ribault high schools, and Gilbert and Northwestern middle schools, where they will be in the classrooms of eight mentor teachers.
- DTO schools were 97% staffed on the first day of school, including

high-performing teachers recruited and retained by performance pay bonuses. They include 38 teachers who transferred in and will receive the incentive and 92 teachers who will be retained and receive the incentive. In addition, 14 high-performing principals are leading DTO schools and will receive the incentive. And 195 teachers have been moved out of these schools upon the authority and request of the principal.

- This year, Teach for America corps members will be focused in secondary STEM subject areas. Half of the new corps members are in DTO schools.

- The second cohort of School Leadership Fellows completed their first summer at Columbia University. They are Administrative Interns at Jackson HS, Raines HS and Ribault MS under the tutelage of a high-performing principal. The first cohort of fellows completed their final summer at Columbia, and will begin their roles as Assistant Principals in the 2014-2015 school year.

Leading up to the start of school were several events designed to inform and engage citizens, parents and educators in the communities surrounding the 36 schools.



District hosts community events to showcase QEA Fund investments

The gatherings, held at Jackson, Ribault and Raines high schools, drew more than 1,000 people and generated significant positive energy and excitement among parents and community members.

To engage the community surrounding the 36 schools that are the focus of the Quality Education for All Fund investments, Duval County Public Schools hosted three meetings at Andrew Jackson, William Raines and Jean Ribault high schools. The new Duval Transformation Office coordinated the events, held on July 28, July 31 and August 4.

The marching bands and spirit squads from each high school greeted attendees as they entered the auditorium. The program began with the Duval County School Board members who represent citizens in the area: District 4 representative **Paula Wright** at Jackson and Ribault and District 5 representative **Connie Hall** at Raines. Following their welcome, parents, students, teachers and community members in the

meeting heard directly from Superintendent **Nikolai Vitti** on the details of how the QEA Fund came into existence and why it will focus on these three feeder patterns, as well as specifics on the investments to be made.

The presentation led directly into a panel discussion with a diverse group of speakers chosen to give their perspective on how QEA will impact their school, community and city. The panels included a representative from the school's SAC and PTA, a teacher from the school, a student from the school, QEA Advisory Board members **Wayne Weaver** and **Laurie DuBow**, a member of The Community Foundation staff and the region chief for the entire Duval Transformation Office, **Iranetta Wright**. Moderated by **Trey Csar**, President of the Jacksonville Public Education Fund, and **Torin Dailey**, Vice

Chair of the Jacksonville Public Education Fund Board of Directors, the panels gave the audience a variety of perspectives on the QEA Fund investments in the DTO schools.

Audience members then had a chance to ask questions about the implementation and intended impact of the initiative. Parents, caregivers and community members shared their enthusiasm about this new approach to reform in the Raines, Ribault and Jackson feeder patterns. Many voiced the need for the community to do its part to ensure that the program is successful. The event ended with raffle giveaways and food from the local Red's Food Truck.

These are the first of what will be many meetings and events geared towards engaging the communities that surround the Transformation region.

Spotlight on: Iranetta Wright

A look at the leader of the Duval Transformation Office, who will guide the district's initiatives to transform the 36 targeted schools

The new Region Chief of the Duval Transformation Office is a leader not new to Duval County Public Schools, or the work of transforming its most challenged schools. Iranetta Wright has been selected by Superintendent Vitti to lead the newly formed Duval Transformation Office — or DTO — a department within Duval County Public Schools that will be focused exclusively on the 36 schools that are the focus of the Quality Education for All Fund. The DTO, under Wright's management, will be responsible for handling the day-to-day concerns within 36 schools with designated staff from each district department handling those concerns. Wright will report directly to the superintendent.

Iranetta Wright brings with her years of instructional experience and expertise, as well as leadership knowledge and a track record of proven results. She most recently was the region chief for Region 4, and prior to that role was the



principal at Andrew Jackson High School. Wright was also principal at Lakeshore Middle School, and vice principal at Fletcher High School. Her experience leading secondary schools has provided her with the skills needed to take on this challenging new position.

QEA Fund in the news

WJCT 89.9 FM

<http://news.wjct.org/post/duval-schools-strive-recruit-and-retain-top-teachers-new-program>

<http://news.wjct.org/post/life-lessons-meet-some-jacksonvilles-newest-teachers>

<http://news.wjct.org/post/life-lessons-new-teacher-residents-get-first-look-jax-schools>

<http://news.wjct.org/post/district-talks-quality-education-parents-students-first-qea-community-meeting>

<http://news.wjct.org/post/life-lessons-students-becoming-teachers>

Action News Jax

<http://www.actionnewsjax.com/n>

[ews/news/local/duval-removes-200-low-performing-teachers-33-schools-ngp8Y/](http://news.wjct.org/post/duval-removes-200-low-performing-teachers-33-schools-ngp8Y/)

The Florida Times Union

<http://members.jacksonville.com/news/metro/2014-08-01/story/quality-fund-aims-transform-36-duval-schools>

Educators get on the bus to connect with neighborhoods



All teachers in the 36 Duval Transformation Office schools took a community bus tour to familiarize them with the neighborhoods that surround their schools. The event was also

an invaluable opportunity for teachers to meet their peers at other feeder pattern schools. See photos and reflections from the day at the new QEAFund.org!

\$50 million technology investment made possible by Quality Education for All Fund's \$5 million



School Board Chairwoman **Becki Couch** and Superintendent **Nikolai Vitti** announced in August that Duval County Public Schools will invest \$58 million in upgrading district technology and data systems thanks to investment from the Quality Education for All Fund and \$50 million from the federal Qualified Zone Academy Bond program. The initiative will substantially improve student, teacher and parent access to technology throughout the district.

"We have taken a tremendous step forward in modernizing our educational system for all students, regardless of school performance or a student's zip code," Vitti said at a press conference August 13.

This is the district's second success in accessing QZAB funding, which requires 10 percent local match.

The local match dollars for the second award

came from the Quality Education for All Fund (\$5 million), EMTC Inc. (\$2.5 million) and Collaborative Solutions (\$.5 million).

The new funding will provide:

- High density wireless in all DCPS schools
- A new Microsoft developed portal data system for parents, students, teachers and community partners
- One to one, or two to one devices for all middle schools district-wide and for all Duval Transformation schools
- Teacher interactive bundle (interactive whiteboards, document camera, audio, clickers) for all middle school teachers and core teachers in the transformation schools
- A new laptop for all teachers district-wide

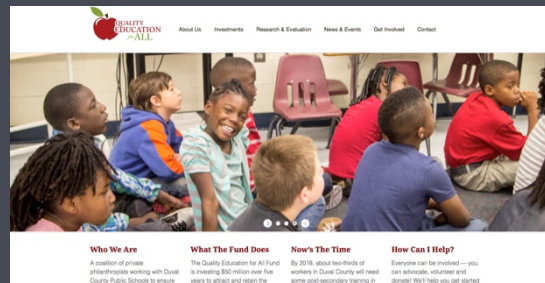
See a full outline of the investments by [downloading this PDF](#). The [original QZAB funding](#) included wireless at 41 schools as well as the one to one devices and teacher packages.

"This \$50 million investment will revolutionize what is happening in our schools on a day to day basis and makes our schools competitive with the best private schools," Vitti said.

Kickoff event to be held October 6 with events, tours

Donors, community leaders, citizens and educators will gather on Monday, October 6 for a kickoff event at a DTO school! Mark your calendars for an exclusive donor breakfast from 8:30-10 a.m. at The Community Foundation, 245 Riverside Ave. Then, board a bus to take a school tour to view teachers in action! The day will culminate with an evening ONE by ONE community meeting to gather citizens from throughout Duval County to the cause of the 36 DTO schools.

The new QEAFund.org
The Quality Education for All
website is live and updated!



Investors in the Quality Education for All Fund

\$5,000,000 and above

Gary and Nancy Chartrand

Dan and Cindy Edelman

PGA Tour, Inc. on behalf of THE PLAYERS
Championship

David and Linda Stein

J. Wayne and Delores Barr Weaver

\$250,000-\$999,999

Edward L. (Ted) Baker

John Baker

Robert and Margaret Hill

Jay and Deanie Stein

Joannie Wellhouse Newton

The Newton CLT III-1997

Bobby and Polly Stein

Hap and Brooke Stein

\$1,000,000-\$4,999,999

DuBow Family

Preston H. Haskell

The Petway Family Foundation, Inc.

Gilchrist B. Berg

Florida Blue

David and Ann Hicks

Jack and Mary Jane Uible

\$249,999 and below

James H. Winston

Everbank

Fletcher Management/Jerome Fletcher

Cris & Jerry Hayes

Alex & Caroline Graham Charitable Fund

Billy J. Walker

Southeastern Council of Foundations

Helen Lane

The Lord's Foundation

Sol Brotman

Mary and Frank Watson Advised Fund