

Teaching Fishing or Giving Away Fish?

Education Grantmaking for Research and Policy

With The Best of Intentions:
Lessons Learned In K-12 Education Philanthropy
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Why Philanthropy Can Play A Key Role In Research and Policy

- ▶ How we codify change
- ▶ Insufficient incentives in the field
- ▶ Insufficient federal, state, and local investment

Why Research and Policy Matter in K-12 Education

- ▶ Importance of Public Policy to Change
- ▶ Politics of Education
- ▶ Special Interest Politics

How Much?

- ▶ Top 30 K-12 Grantmakers \$77 million in 2002 or 12 percent of their grantmaking.
- ▶ Top 10 K-12 Grantmakers, 15 percent (but only 4 of top 10 investing more than \$1 in \$5).
- ▶ Few foundations indicate a substantial change in these patterns in the next several years.

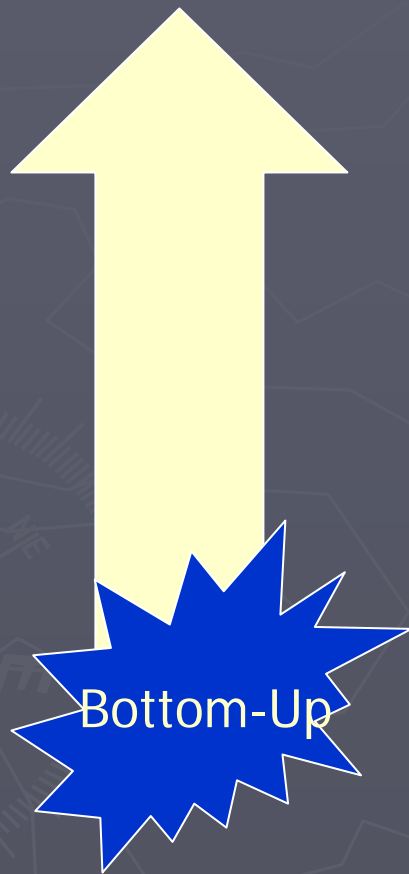
Why Not More?

- ▶ Legal Constraints

- ▶ Politics

- ▶ Where To Give

Two Theories Of Change



4 Models

- ▶ Policy Networks
- ▶ Issue Advocacy
- ▶ Agenda Setting
- ▶ Building Downstream Capacity

Policy Networks

- ▶ Formal or informal groups of key policy actors -- academics, advocates, and policymakers -- working together to address an issue.
- ▶ Same issue, different solutions
- ▶ Ford Foundation and school finance
- ▶ Hewlett in California today.

Issue Advocacy

- ▶ Formal or informal groups of key policy actors -- academics, advocates, and policymakers -- working together to address an issue.
- ▶ Multiple groups and actors but *one* solution/issue.
- ▶ Bradley and other foundations on school vouchers

Agenda Setting

- ▶ Moving an issue from a marginal position on the policy agenda to a mainstream one.
- ▶ “Flooding the zone”
- ▶ Gates on High Schools
- ▶ Upsides and downsides

Building Downstream Capacity

- ▶ Supporting the development of researchers, policy entrepreneurs, analysts, etc...
- ▶ Spencer Foundation
- ▶ Actionable work?

Conclusion

- ▶ Research and policy matter
- ▶ Relatively low-priority for foundations today
- ▶ Despite the challenges, there are models of how to make an impact in this area