RE SCHOOL COLORADO

2025

LEARNING HAPPENS EVERYWHERE

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

this report serves as a comprehensive reflection of RESCHOOL's work, impact, and key accomplishments. It highlights how RESCHOOL has advanced its mission to create an equitable education system where learning happens everywhere and is accessible to all young people. By centering families, students, and communities, RESCHOOL has worked alongside partners to remove barriers and unlock resources that expand access to meaningful learning experiences. This summary provides an overview of the organization's focus areas, core initiatives, and the tangible outcomes achieved through collaborative efforts.

HOW RESCHOOL WORKS

RESCHOOL's approach centers deep community collaboration, co-design, and systems thinking. Communities identify their needs, the opportunities they seek, and surface challenges they face in navigating learning for their children. In partnership, RESCHOOL responds by testing new concepts and creating tools and resources, and then implements these in partnerships with communities. This interactive process has resulted in the creation of concepts like Learning Dollars and Learner Advocates, and the creation of several tools to guide communities through collaborative learning, including Design Lab and REVOLVE, the game.

THE RESCHOOL MODEL

RESCHOOL's model includes three core components that work together to expand learning access: Learning Dollars, Learner Advocates, and a network of trusted Learner Providers. Families and youth are at the center of this ecosystem, supported by responsive systems and cross-sector investments. Together, these elements create the infrastructure for a more equitable learning ecosystem that leads to positive outcomes for youth, communities, and families.



SNAPSHOT OF RESCHOOL'S IMPACT: 2013 - 2025

SIM+ of funding raised and then reinvested in communities: \$700,000 learning dollars (direct cash to families for out-ofschool learning) \$235,000 learning providers (grants to providers to create or expand programs) \$130,000 learner advocates (support families to access opportunities and navigate system barriers) \$170,000+ in institutional scholarship and program funding for **RESCHOOL**-affiliated youth and families 15,000+ youth and families reached via RESCHOOL's resources and funds 50+ organizations partnered with RESCHOOL to resource, design, build, evaluate, communicate, and grow ideas 450+ learning providers illuminated across the Denver Learning Ecosystem

In the coming years, we aim to:

LOOKING AHEAD

- Expand the reach and sustainability of Learning Dollars
- Explore cross-sector collaboration and system plays to bolster the ecosystem
- Capture competencies, skills, and knowledge gained in out-of-school learning
- Strengthen our impact measurement and communication strategies

By continuing to reimagine education systems, respond to families, and invest directly in communities, we move closer to a world where every learner has access to the opportunities they need to thrive.

ABOUT RESCHOOL

RESCHOOL is creating a more equitable education system by expanding access to learning beyond schools for Colorado youth and by surfacing and addressing systemic barriers that prevent youth and families from engaging in the ecosystem.

MISSION

Create an equitable education system where learning that happens everywhere is fully accessible to all young people.

VISION

All young people have full access to communities, opportunities, and resources to live the lives they want to lead.

INVEST

We direct funding, resources, and networks to underresourced communities.



CONNECT We build authentic relationships, rooted in shared goals.

We honor histories, lived experiences, and community knowledge to ensure our work is rooted in empathy and

CORE VALUES

CARE

responsiveness.

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ELEVATE We uplift voices and ideas through codesign and advocacy.



CATALYZE

We push for systemic shifts that reflect community priorities.

OUR APPROACH: PEOPLE-CENTERED DESIGN

At RESCHOOL, we believe that those most affected by inequitable education systems, young people, families, and communities, are best positioned to design solutions that meet their needs. Our approach is collaborative, iterative, and deeply responsive to community insights.



ORIGINS

RESCHOOL was born in 2013 out of a deep frustration with the limits of traditional education reform. At the time, Colorado was focused on standards, assessments, educator effectiveness, and blended learning. Amy Anderson, then Associate Commissioner at the Colorado Department of Education, had helped lead some of these efforts, but saw firsthand how they continued to fall short for too many youth whose needs and lived experiences didn't align with the system. Seeking a better way, she stepped away from the state role to get closer to communities and learn directly from families and young people. What emerged was a bold idea: reimagine education from the ground up by co-designing a new system with those most affected by its inequities.

So, with Amy at the lead, the Donnell-Kay Foundation launched RESCHOOL as a bold experiment to design a new education system that:



- <u>Bridged traditional boundaries</u>: Instead of navigating disjointed systems, learners would access a continuum of opportunities spanning early childhood to workforce development.
- <u>Customized learning experiences</u>: Every learner would have a personalized pathway, supported by an advocate to help them navigate their educational journey.
- <u>Fostered connectivity</u>: By leveraging technology and community networks, the system would promote both virtual and hands-on learning experiences.
- <u>Remained dynamic and responsive</u>: Rather than becoming rigid and bureaucratic, this system would be designed for continuous evolution and improvement.

EVOLUTION AND FOCUS

The RESCHOOL team's first deep community engagement began in 2014, when we shadowed youth and families to understand how they accessed education, childcare, and enrichment programs. What we found were stark disparities. While families with financial means accessed a range of academic and extracurricular support, families facing poverty encountered financial, informational, and systemic barriers. Despite high aspirations, they lacked access to tutoring, after-school care, and culturally relevant learning programs. For these families, navigating opportunity felt like solving a puzzle without all the pieces. Early on, we realized our work was twofold: expand access to meaningful learning and remove barriers that block it.

Most families in RESCHOOL's network chose to remain in public K-12 schools but sought resources and experiences outside that system. They also needed safe, engaging spaces for their children during out-of-school hours while they worked.

In 2018, RESCHOOL transitioned from an initiative within the Donnell-Kay Foundation to an independent nonprofit. Our focus shifted from designing a new system to building a more expansive one, centering families, maximizing learning within and beyond schools, and empowering families to direct resources in their children's best interests.

Inspired by the work of leaders like Caroline Hill, Mauricio Miller, Clayton Christensen, and Greater Good Studio, RESCHOOL began partnering with:



Nonconsumers: Families and providers operating outside traditional K-12 systems

Under-consumers: Families facing systemic barriers to accessing out-of-school learning

Marginalized communities: Those historically excluded from or underserved by education systems

through authentic relationships, co-design, and investment in community-led solutions, RESCHOOL continues to evolve alongside the families and communities we serve, building a more equitable learning ecosystem across Colorado.

THE RESCHOOL MODEL

Learning is a dynamic, ever-evolving process that occurs in schools, libraries, parks, community centers, and homes. As we have walked alongside families accessing learning across communities, common interests and needs have emerged, evolving into concepts and resources that are essential elements to RESCHOOL's model: Learning Dollars, Learner Advocate Networks, Learning Providers.

As we've interacted with systems and have a clearer understanding of their strengths and limitations, the RESCHOOL model has evolved beyond the three foundational elements to include a focus on systems - in particular, how they can be designed to be responsive to the families they intend to serve, how they can be funded to ensure all young people can fully engage in them, and how they can demonstrate impact.



LEARNING DOLLARS: RESOURCING OUT-OF-SCHOOL LEARNING

WHY LEARNING DOLLARS MATTER

For many families, access to learning outside of school can feel like a privilege reserved for those with financial means. RESCHOOL was founded on the belief

that learning should be dynamic, flexible, and accessible to all, regardless of income, zip code, or background. By providing families with funding for out-of-school learning, RESCHOOL shifts the power dynamic, enabling families to be the architects of their children's learning journeys, not passive participants in a one-size-fits-all system.

Families use Learning Dollars in diverse, personalized ways. These investments fall into the following areas:

HOW FAMILIES USE LEARNING DOLLARS



LEARNER ADVOCATES: GUIDING FAMILIES[,] EDUCATIONAL CHOICES

WHY LEARNER ADVOCATES MATTER

the idea for learner advocates came directly from families early in RESCHOOL's journey. While the term may vary-Promotoras, Navigators-this role has existed

in communities for generations: people who help others access opportunity and navigate barriers. Whether formal or informal, advocates play a vital role in connecting families to resources.

At RESCHOOL, we call it the Learner Advocate Network to emphasize that no one person can do it all. It takes a network of people-some directly supporting families, others gathering provider info, distributing resources, or advocating for systemic change based on what families are experiencing.

Advocates are trusted partners who support families in using Learning Dollars, identifying outof-school opportunities, and unlocking scholarships or public funds. They also bring visibility to systemic challenges that can be addressed through real-time problem-solving or long-term change.

RESCHOOL launched its first Learner Advocate Network in 2015 with Boulder Housing Partners and has since expanded and adapted the model across Colorado. We've supported learner advocates in a variety of settings:

LEARNER ADVOCATE NETWORK MODELS

EMPLOYER-ANCHORED

(2017–2022) Offered as a benefit at two Denver hospitals, RESCHOOL advocates helped employees, particularly low-wage workers, navigate education systems and access Learning Dollars.

COMMUNITY-ANCHORED

In partnership with housing authorities, nonprofits, and community leaders, RESCHOOL advocates help families access Learning Dollars, Pick-a-Passes, and other resources.

SCHOOL-ANCHORED

Family Learning Centers, coaches, and educators have also served as advocates, supported by RESCHOOL's lead advocate, to connect families with opportunities beyond school.

LEARNING PROVIDERS: EXPANDING COMMUNITY-BASED ACCESS

WHY COMMUNITY PROVIDERS MATTER

Families play a vital role in shaping their children's education, but so do the community organizations that offer learning beyond school. These providers are deeply

embedded in the neighborhoods they serve, offering culturally responsive, identity-affirming, and accessible programming.

Despite their impact, many grassroots learning providers face funding challenges. Traditional grant systems often prioritize large institutions, leaving smaller, community-rooted organizations underfunded and unable to scale. RESCHOOL helps fill this gap by investing directly in local providers and removing financial barriers to cultural learning through its **Provider Dollars** initiative and **Pick-a-Pass** program.

Through Provider Dollars, RESCHOOL funds grassroots learning spaces to grow programs, expand locations, and serve more youth. These organizations act as anchors in their communities, supporting children to explore interests, build confidence, and feel seen in their learning. Providers RESCHOOL has supported and amplified include:



LEARNING PROVIDERS: EXPANDING COMMUNITY-BASED ACCESS

PICK-A-PASS: ACCESS TO CULTURAL LEARNING

RESCHOOL believes education should extend into museums, zoos, theaters, and gardens, spaces that are often out of reach for families due to cost or limited access.

to address this, Pick-a-Pass offers families free year-long memberships to local cultural institutions. These memberships include:

- Unlimited entry
- Early registration access
- Discounts for summer camps, events, and classes

this program turns privileged spaces into inclusive ones, making repeated visits possible and allowing children to build deeper connections over time. Instead of a single field trip, they develop curiosity, critical thinking, and a love of learning that grows with each visit.



STRENGTHENING THE ECOSYSTEM: TOOLS THAT EMPOWER FAMILIES & FUNDERS

TRUSTED INFORMATION ABOUT THE PROVIDER LANDSCAPE

People need access to trusted and accessible information to make informed decisions. This includes families as well as funders and partners supporting providers outside of schools. To address this gap, RESCHOOL and its partners have developed tools to support families and funders alike:

DENVER LEARNING ECOSYSTEM SITE

An interactive map listing 400+ out-of-school providers that elevates grassroots organizations, spotlight service gaps, foster partnerships, and strengthen advocacy for greater investment in youth-serving systems.

DISCOVER LEARNING

A curated, searchable directory of out-of-school learning programs organized by age, interest, and location. This free resource helps families explore local options and supports providers in reaching new communities.

FAMILY CHOICE JOURNAL

A guided reflection tool that supports families in identifying their values, needs, and goals when selecting schools and outof-school learning opportunities. It promotes intentional, studentcentered decision-making.



DISCOVER EXPERIENCES FACEBOOK PAGE

An online community where RESCHOOL-connected families share timely local opportunities—including camps, events, and jobs making it easier to stay informed and connected year-round.

FRAMING SUCCESS: THE RESCHOOL LEARNING FRAMEWORK

We believe success in young adulthood starts early, and it's about more than just "college and career readiness." It's about developing a sense of meaning, purpose, and belonging in life.

Young people who consistently engage in diverse, community-based learning opportunities:

Build confidence and a strong sense of self
Learn how to navigate complex systems
Develop agency and decision-making skills
Gain competencies that serve as a foundation for life and work
Form relationships with adults and peers who support them

SIMULATING POSSIBILITY: REVOLVE THE GAME

Players track their experiences across schools, communities, and homes, capturing the competencies and knowledge they gain along the way. Highlights include:

- the value of real-world learning
- The need for seamless access to learning across settings
- How youth build confidence, identity, and skills through layered experiences

to illustrate what an equitable learning ecosystem can look like, RESCHOOL created <u>REVOLVE</u>, a role-playing game where players simulate a full year of learning.



THE FRAMEWORK FOR LEARNING

At the heart of REVOLVE is the RESCHOOL Framework for Learning, which outlines four key domains where youth should be supported and challenged:



ACADEMIC

SUCCESS



ECONOMIC

AGENCY



SOCIAL

BELONGING

Self

Manager

Socially Intelligent



CIVIC

ENGAGEMENT

Academically

Prepared

Solution

Seeker

Sense of Self

Agency

the framework emphasizes access to rich developmental experiences that prepare youth not just for graduation, but for lifelong contribution, connection, and selfdirection.

It is an evolving focus of RESCHOOL's current work in communities. The Framework focuses on success in the academic, economic, social, and civic tasks of adulthood. Its core purpose is to ensure all learners have access to a multitude of rich developmental experiences that lead to agency, a clear sense of self, and a core set of transferable competencies.

This is our vision for all youth, not just the personas in the game.

RESCHOOL'S IMPACT: 2013 - 2025

Since its founding in 2013, RESCHOOL has made significant strides in creating more equitable learning ecosystems - the full range of school and out-of-school experiences, resources, and people that shape a young person's educational journey. Through targeted investments, strategic partnerships, and innovative programming, RESCHOOL has raised over \$1 million from philanthropy and invested it in local communities and families to expand learning opportunities for low-income youth.

KEY ACCOMPLISHMENTS

SIM+ of funding raised and then reinvested in communities:

- \$700,000 learning dollars (direct cash to families for out-ofschool learning)
- \$235,000 learning providers (grants to providers to create or expand programs)
- \$130,000 learner advocates (support families to access opportunities and navigate system barriers)
- \$170,000+ in institutional scholarship and program funding for RESCHOOL-affiliated youth and families
- I5,000+ youth and families reached via RESCHOOL's resources and funds
- 50+ organizations partnered with RESCHOOL to resource, design, build, evaluate, communicate, and grow ideas
- ¥50+ learning providers illuminated across the Denver Learning Ecosystem

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE PAST 18 MONTHS (JAN 2024 - JUNE 2025)

Distributed \$150,000 to over 165 youth and families in Denver to fund out-of-school learning experiences and educational resources. Invested \$70,000 in 15 community-based learning providers to expand youth programming across the Denver Metro Area. Provided over \$15,000 in Pick-a-Pass memberships to 60 families for yearlong access to local museums, zoos, and cultural institutions.

Launched the Denver Learning Ecosystem Site to map out-of-school providers and increase visibility of learning opportunities citywide. Co-authored the Invest in Families Briefs with Outschool.org to share insights and guide funders and system leaders in family-centered design.



RESOURCES & TOOLS

RESCHOOL has developed and scaled a suite of resources and tools actively shaping how families, funders, and providers engage with Colorado's out-of-school learning ecosystem. These tools have helped thousands of families access opportunities, surfaced systemic gaps, and enabled more strategic investments in community-rooted learning. Together, they reflect RESCHOOL's

role as a builder and catalyst for a more equitable and navigable learning system.

A digital curation of out-of-school learning providers, designed for families to search for local programs aligned with their children's ages, interests, and needs.

A guided reflection tool designed to help families and young people clarify their values, needs, and priorities when selecting schools and out-of-school learning.

> FAMILY CHOICE JOURNAL

DISCOVER LEARNING

DESIGN LAB A set of resources and strategies to guide people through communityanchored design and system transformation.

DENVER LEARNING ECOSYSTEM

A digital set of maps designed to illuminate out-ofschool learning opportunities that exist for youth across Denver, and a call to action for funders, systems leaders, and community champions to help resource, strengthen, and sustain this web of learning.

REVOLVE

A learner-centered card game where players live a year of a young person's life, negotiating decisions and navigating learning.

THOUGHT LEADERSHIP AND ADVOCACY

RESCHOOL has contributed to national/regional publications and discussions on education transformation through research, reports, podcasts, blogs, and convenings, sharing insights from our work in the field and highlighting the importance of learner/family-empowered education systems.

the RESCHOOL team has advocated for and supported the implementation of innovative strategies to resource and sustain learning ecosystems via a mix of public and philanthropic funding, including a 2021 statewide ballot initiative (LEAP), Denver's My Spark, and Colorado's Path4Ward program.





In partnership with Outschool.org, RESCHOOL co-authored the Invest in Families briefs to share key lessons from a decade of direct-to-family funding. The accompanying webinar explored how funders and system leaders can design learning support models that center family voice, expand access, and drive equity.

STORIES OF IMPACT: FAMILIES, YOUTH & PROVIDERS

LEARNING DOLLARS QUOTES:

We've always struggled to afford things for our kids. This gave them a chance to try something new without us having to choose between that and rent.

- Parent, Learning Dollars recipient

We homeschool and sometimes it's hard to know what else is out there. The program helped us find a robotics club and a music teacher. Now my kids are more confident and connected. - Parent, Learning Dollars recipient

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I used to think I was bad at math. But my tutor explained it in a way that finally made sense. I don't dread it anymore. - Youth, Learning Dollars recipient

QUOTES FROM PROVIDERS:

this will be our 4th year offering this free camp to the community. We are thankful RESCHOOL has supported this initiative in the past and we hope to continue this partnership. - Collaborative Healing Initiative within Communities (CHIC) We have partnered with ReSchool for over 2 years and love that our missions work together to provide new opportunities to a variety of people. We have our own RESCHOOL prices for families. - the Art Garage



FAMILY STORIES:

One student, 17, struggled in traditional school and faced mental health challenges. Through RESCHOOL, his mother enrolled him in a GED program and used Learning Dollars for tutoring, gym memberships, and even a zoo pass for his younger brother. What was once a source of stress-like gaming-became a tool for learning and connection. RESCHOOL helped him and his family reimagine what learning and well-being could look like.

LEARNINGS, REFLECTIONS, AND NEXT STEPS

Over the last decade, as we've walked alongside families and learning providers across Colorado, we've seen both the transformational power of out-of-school learning and the deep inequities that limit access to it. Young people spend 80% of their waking hours outside of school, time that holds enormous potential to shape identity, develop skills, and build connections.

We've watched youth explore who they are through sports, STEM, the arts, civic engagement, internships, and mentorships. Yet, too often, families with fewer resources are locked out, facing high costs, limited information, and fragmented systems that are hard to navigate.

At RESCHOOL, we've learned that when families are equipped with the right resources, supports, and trusted connections, their children thrive. We've also seen that meaningful learning happens everywhere, not just in classrooms.

that's why we're committed to building learning ecosystems that are comprehensive, communitycentered, and equitable. Here are five insights that are shaping our path forward:

I. LEVERAGE COMMUNITY NETWORKS BEYOND SCHOOLS

Learning happens in schools, but it shouldn't end there. When we connect families to community learning networks, we unlock access to mentors, creative programs, and career pathways that help youth grow.

We've seen this through learning dollars, advocates, and partnerships with community spaces. Cities and schools can also play a role, sharing fields, facilities, and public infrastructure to expand what's possible after school and in the summer.

2. FUND LEARNING BEYOND SCHOOL WALLS

For learning to be truly equitable, it must be resourced. RESCHOOL has seeded this through Learning Dollars and Provider Dollars, but we cannot fund this work alone.

Over the next few years, we'll lead efforts to pursue public funding solutions, from policy and legislation to expanded philanthropy and private-sector partnerships, to sustain and grow the out-of-school learning ecosystem.

3. SUPPORT INFORMATION ACCESS AND NAVIGATION

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Too often, families don't just lack resources, they lack clear, trusted information. Tools like DISCOVER Learning and our Facebook group are helping, but some families need a person, not just a link.

That's why we invest in Learner Advocates, community-based guides who help families understand, access, and act on opportunities that fit their lives.

4. RECOGNIZE LEARNING ACROSS ENVIRONMENTS

Youth gain skills and knowledge outside of school, but rarely get recognition for it. Our tools like REVOLVE and our new partnership with Remix Designs are helping families, schools, and youth document learning across all settings.

This is about equity in visibility: if we can see and validate out-ofschool learning, we can better support youth in reaching their full potential.

5. BUILD SYSTEMS WITH, AND FOR, COMMUNITIES

The most effective ecosystems aren't scaled from the top; they're built from the ground up. RESCHOOL co-designs with local partners, iterates based on what works, and supports systems that reflect the realities of each community.

Learning ecosystems are dynamic. They thrive when families, providers, educators, and funders come together to build something rooted in shared ownership.

LOOKING AHEAD: EXPANDING OUR REACH & DEEPENING OUR IMPACT

As we look to the future, RESCHOOL will:

Expand Learning Dollars to reach more families across Colorado

Strengthen provider partnerships through the Denver Learning Ecosystem site and co-created solutions

Elevate out-of-school learning by validating skills and knowledge gained beyond classrooms

Measure and share our impact to ensure we're growing toward equity and sustainability

At RESCHOOL, we believe equity starts with access, and access starts with community trust, resourced ecosystems, and shared vision.

We invite you to join us in this work: funders, families, providers, system leaders, and neighbors. Together, we can ensure every young person in Colorado, not just those with privilege, has the opportunity to explore, thrive, and lead.

Amy Anderson Executive Director, RESCHOOL

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

RESCHOOL extends our deepest gratitude to the individuals, organizations, and institutions reflected in this report that have partnered with us over the last 12 years to make learning that happens everywhere more accessible for Colorado youth. We are honored to work alongside you to reimagine what learning looks like when communities are at the center.

Learner Advocates, Providers & Collaborators

to the community organizations, learner providers, and advocates—thank you for co-creating vibrant learning ecosystems and supporting youth and families in ways that are engaging, responsive, and grounded in care.

ReSchool Staff & Board

We also thank our dedicated staff, contractors, and board of directors, whose vision and commitment guide our work each day. Special thanks to Amy Anderson, Sasha Pisterman, Paola Ramirez, Selamawit Gebre, and Mariama Noguera-Devers for your contributions to this report.

Philanthropic Partners

We extend heartfelt thanks to our funders over the past 12 years for investing in bold, peoplecentered solutions. Your belief in our mission has enabled us to continue innovating and expanding access to meaningful learning opportunities for youth across Colorado.

- Margulf Foundation
- Carson Foundation
- DK Foundation
- Daniels Fund
- Colorado Trust
- Rose Community
 Foundation
- Gates Family Foundation
- Gary Community Ventures
- Fox Family Foundation
- Colorado Gives Foundation

- Anschutz Foundation
- Colorado Health
 Foundation
- W.K.Kellogg Foundation
- Wend Collective
- Voqal Partners
- Jacque M. Littlefield Foundation
- Walton Family Foundation
- EdPrize
- Chan zuckerberg Institute

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