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**Achievement Network launches Breakthrough Results Fund to improve instruction in underserved communities in up to six school systems**

*Funded by a \$10 million grant from Ballmer Group Donor Advised Fund, the initiative will work at the school and system level in multiyear partnerships and share results*

BOSTON, MA (May 17, 2018) – Achievement Network (ANet) announced it will launch the [Breakthrough Results Fund](#), a multi-year collaboration with up to six school systems focused on creating coherent supports for great instruction at both the school and central-office levels. The Fund will bring ANet’s resources for teachers and coaching for school and system leaders to these new partners in underserved communities and study their improvement journey over the next four years. Participating systems will be identified through a competitive selection process.

[Rigorous external research](#) has shown that schools working with ANet see approximately six months of additional learning over two years when they have the right basic conditions in place. Research has also shown that system-wide improvement takes time—often several years—to produce improved student outcomes.

The Breakthrough Results Fund is designed to help school systems apply the learnings from such research to an ANet partnership so they are best positioned to address the opportunity gaps their students face. Through the Fund, ANet will support districts and charter management organizations (CMOs), at the school and system levels, to implement the structures, practices, and tools that research and ANet’s experience have demonstrated lead to improved student outcomes. ANet’s coaches and researchers will study the impact these changes have in classrooms and share what they learn with the education field at large.

“We know that improving teaching and learning is hard but possible—and that it takes time. The Breakthrough Results Fund will be a four-year partnership so that districts have the runway to build these practices over time,” said Mora Segal, CEO of ANet. “We will also demystify that change for superintendents, principals, and teachers by sharing what instructional improvement looks like across entire school systems.”

The \$10 million grant from Ballmer Group Donor Advised Fund allows ANet to provide each participating system 1-to-1 matching funds of up to \$1 million over four years. The remaining funds will support the project’s evaluation, lesson sharing, and innovation efforts. Ballmer Group, founded by philanthropist and civic activist Connie Ballmer and her husband Steve Ballmer, chairman of the LA Clippers and former CEO of Microsoft, supports efforts to improve economic mobility for children and families in the United States who are disproportionately likely to remain in poverty. “Education is a critical part of improving economic mobility in the United States,” says Jeff Edmondson, managing director of Ballmer Group. “The Breakthrough Results Fund creates a

unique way to grow ANet’s direct impact and influence the broader conversation on how to help educators improve student learning.”

ANet will announce the names of Breakthrough Results Fund cohort systems in summer 2018. The selected systems will receive ANet’s [full partnership support](#) for 10 schools—including coaching, instructional tools, interim assessments, and professional learning. Participating districts and CMOs will also receive [system-level support](#) beginning in fall 2018 to enable and reinforce the school-level work.

#### About Achievement Network (ANet)

For over twelve years, Achievement Network (ANet) has worked to ensure schools provide equitable opportunities for *all* children by supporting teaching and learning grounded in standards, data, and the practices of great educators. ANet works alongside school and system leadership teams to strengthen their school- and system-wide practice and culture of using learning standards and data to get breakthrough results for students. They do so by providing comprehensive partnerships with elementary through high schools including interim assessments in ELA and math; aligned instructional resources; and coaching for school leadership teams to build their skills and content knowledge as instructional leaders.

Through these partnerships, ANet seeks to support schools serving predominantly low-income, minority student populations. Working with over 800 underserved schools and 100 systems across 15 states and the District of Columbia gives ANet on-the-ground insight into how schools and systems are successfully transitioning to new practices leading to school-wide improvement. ANet has offices in Boston, MA; California; Chicago, IL; Cleveland, OH; Denver, CO; Detroit, MI; Memphis, TN; New Orleans, LA; New York, NY; Nevada; Springfield, MA; Syracuse, NY; and Washington, D.C.

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