Focus Area: Advocacy
Strategy:
We support advocacy, engagement and power-building efforts focused on transforming educational systems so young people have increased academic success and access to college, career and community pathways.

Funded proposals & programs may include:
- Systems change efforts that address racial and other inequities
- Efforts to increase pay and respect for teachers
- Supporting families in advocating for themselves and their children
- Supporting youth organizing, civic engagement and activism
- Federal, tribal and state collaboration toward college, career and community pathways
- Establishing equitable and culturally-appropriate educational policies and practices
- Increasing funding for K-12 college, career and community pathways programs, particularly those related to STEAM
- Ensuring higher quality employment opportunities are accessible to all young people

Focus Area: College, Career & Community Pathways
Strategy:
We strive to strengthen K-12 school and district systems’ work – in partnership with higher education institutions, government entities, businesses, unions and non-profits – to provide students with equitable access to effective college/career preparation programs, experiences and supports so they can obtain a high quality job or start a business in their community aligned with their interests.

Funded proposals & programs may include:
- Addressing systemic inequities, including trauma-Informed approaches and internet connectivity
- Creating or improving career and technical education, career pathways events and programs or dual credit offerings focused on priority regional occupations
- Providing professional development and other support for college and career awareness and counseling
- Increasing work-based learning and mentorship opportunities

Focus Area: Growing and Supporting Teachers & Educational Leaders
Strategy:
We strive to grow and support K-12 educational leaders and teachers in our seven-county area in an effort to influence teacher retention and recruitment.

Funded proposals & programs may include:
- Innovative teacher recruitment and retention programs
- Support for education assistants in attaining their teaching license
- Professional development to improve place-based and culturally responsive teaching practices
- Professional development to build inquiry or project-based learning pedagogy in instructional staff
- Professional development for school leaders – including school boards, superintendents, principals, teacher coaches, and instructional leaders

Focus Area: Social Emotional & Neuro-sequential Learning
Strategy:
We strive to increase K-12 student access to better prepared educators who provide students with robust opportunities to learn in environments that are responsive to learners’ needs and interests, particularly in SEL, neuro-sequential learning, and trauma-informed instruction practices.

Funded proposals & programs may include:
- Student programming
- Educator and staff development
- Culturally responsive education practices
- Building student and staff culture
- Restorative justice practices

Focus Area: STEAM
Strategy:
We strive to strengthen K-12 school and district systems, teacher preparation and professional development so that all children, educators, and leaders have increased access to strong career pathways, especially in STEAM.

Funded proposals & programs may include:
- Building STEAM initiatives for K-12 participants,
- Professional development
- Student programming
- Culturally responsive and place-based pedagogies
- Building district, school, and/or staff capacity around STEAM opportunities