Urban schools in the United States face considerable challenges that inhibit student learning, including low attendance, lack of parental involvement, and limited community engagement. These challenges make it difficult for students to achieve the academic success that is necessary to compete for educational and vocational opportunities later in life. The Brown School is deeply committed to improving educational quality and outcomes in local schools. Through our Urban Education Initiative, the Brown School is working to meet the critical needs of students and produce a new generation of professionals trained to play an expanded role in the urban education reform process.

HOW THE BROWN SCHOOL IS Making a Difference

Students attending urban schools often have unmet social, emotional, and health needs that affect their readiness for learning.

Applying evidence-based social work and public health strategies to address these needs is a key component of the Brown School’s approach to K-12 education. Faculty members and students involved in our Urban Education Initiative facilitate collaboration among school administrators, social and health services agencies, businesses, and philanthropic organizations.

They foster a community-wide commitment to urban education by:

→ Connecting students with community services
→ Strengthening the relationship between parents and schools
→ Providing educators with resources and tools to improve learning

“The Urban Education Initiative identifies barriers to students’ success, then searches out evidence-based interventions for the children we serve.”

AARON JENNINGS, MSW ‘09
Urban Education Initiative program manager
HOW THE BROWN SCHOOL IS Implementing Change

The Urban Education Initiative has grown to include core partnerships with three local schools: KIPP Inspire Academy, a charter school in St. Louis; Roosevelt High School in the St. Louis Public School District; and Brittany Woods Middle School in the University City School District.

- Provide access to social and health services and extracurricular activities
- Assist with curriculum development
- Offer classroom coaching and professional development activities for teachers
- Evaluate student and school performance

Through field work, students gain significant hands-on experience in implementing community school approaches.

Since 2010, more than 100 students who participated in the Urban Education Initiative have graduated and are working in St. Louis and around the country to transform schools into vibrant hubs that offer a multitude of services for students, parents, and communities.

FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

Investing in the Brown School

Your support will help the Brown School to enhance and expand its Urban Education Initiative. Our priorities include:

- Endowed funds to provide ongoing support for program leadership, staffing, research, and evaluation
- An endowed professorship in urban education and social work to recruit and retain a national expert in the field
- School coordinators working in each of our partner and affiliate schools
- Scholarships to assist talented students who seek to specialize in urban education reform
- Stipends that allow students to gain practical training in area schools

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