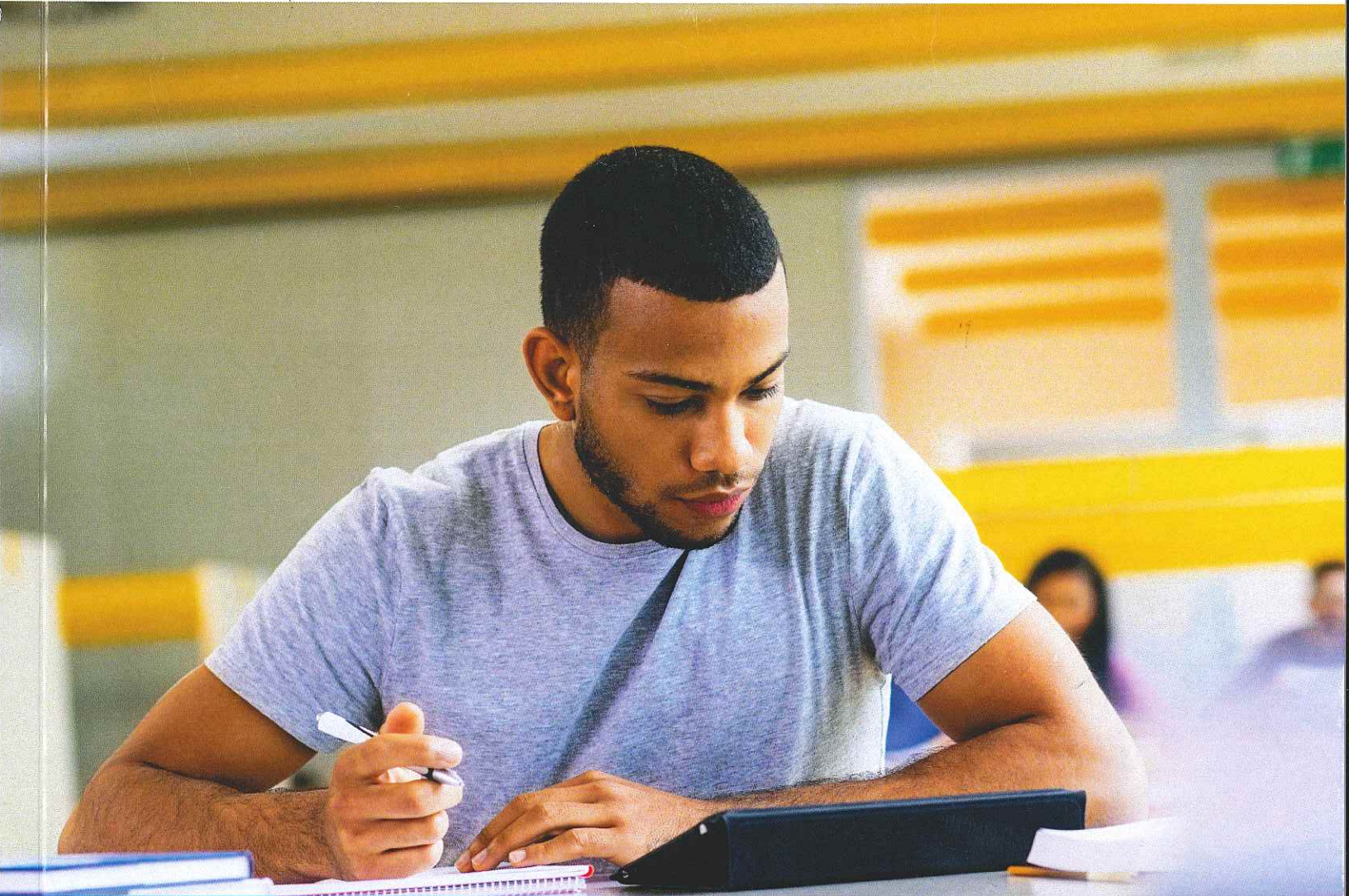




THE CHAD SCHOOL FOUNDATION



# AN EXAMINATION OF NEWARK EDUCATION PHILANTHROPY: 2012-2015

A CHAD POLICY ROUNDTABLE REPORT  
REGINALD LEWIS

JUNE 2016

Center, NCSF designed a series of modules and professional development opportunities for charter leaders, administrators, special education managers, and classroom teachers.

The "Special Education Boot Camp 101" is one of several examples of the Center's tailored supports and assistance provided to the Newark charter sector. Participants were exposed to sessions addressing content and topics that include, but are not limited to the following:

- Keys to successful programs and frontline practices that are closing the achievement gap in successful charter schools;
- Reviews on kinds of data requirements necessary to keep abreast of academic and behavior performance and compliance benchmarks;
- Examination of a comprehensive range of inclusion interventions; and,
- Review of common negative classroom behaviors and graduated behavior intervention strategies, including the basic steps required for the collaborative assessment of functional behavior and development of simple, effective Behavior Intervention Plans.

## **INNOVATION**

NCSF support for technical assistance in the area of Innovation has largely involved collaboration with the Redbird Advanced Learning group, a national resource organization providing assistance around the integration of technology to enhance teaching and learning in schools. Several charters have implemented a variety of approaches for professional development through Redbird's "Professional Learning Platform" (PLP), including the establishment of professional development committees for different topics and devoting a portion of a professional development day to the platform. Approximately 580 Newark charter school teachers are using the PLP to learn about topics such as Blended Learning, Google Apps for Education, Digital Citizenship, and How to Analyze Student Data. Principals can track teacher progress and are participating in virtual monthly leadership support meetings.

## **BOARD DEVELOPMENT**

NCSF has worked to strengthen the boards and governing bodies of the Newark sector through grants to Leadership Newark (LN) and Volunteer Consulting Group (VCG). NCSF grant dollars to Leadership Newark (LN), the city's long-serving leadership development organization, has enabled LN to conduct a series of trainings and related activities designed to match prospective charter trustees with schools seeking to fill gaps in expertise on charter boards. LN has trained nearly 50 people who live and/or work in Newark in charter school board governance. The majority of these candidates completed a profile to be provided to schools to facilitate the matching process. Additional board candidates are being considered from LN's 63-member cohort. A recent board matching event hosted by LN was attended by 10 charter schools and 25 potential board members.

Through VCG's Good Governance Initiative, individuals have been recruited, trained and placed on Newark charter school boards. To date, VCG has produced 30 candidates, with nine that have been presented for placement.