

Sample Student Impact Stories

All testimonials were shared by InvestED partner schools.

1. A Shining Example.

"When our librarian reached out to me about a student's library fee, I knew we needed to help him. She wrote: 'He visits our library daily and is an avid reader. Last month he paid off a \$19 damaged book fee. This month he has another book fee for a damaged book that got wet from the snow. He probably reads upward of 20 books a month and usually is very careful with them. We want to help him as he is a shining example of a book borrower.' He lived in an RV and, unlike many students, doesn't have access to the internet and TV while he is away from home. He is a student that always has a book in hand. There was no question in my mind that he was a perfect candidate for InvestED funds."

2. A dream comes true.

"College had always been a dream of his but he didn't think it would happen. Through the years, teachers and mentors encouraged him toward that goal. He took college classes while in high school through the Running Start program, in turn he found his passion for engineering. He applied to multiple colleges and was accepted in the engineering department at University of Washington-Tacoma. He will be the first in his family to go to college! InvestED funds were there when he needed help with textbooks, transcript and application fees, and his deposit to secure his place at the college. We congratulate him on his successes and send him best wishes for his future."

3. Small act of kindness = Inspiration.

"When I shared with one of our senior girls that her fines were being paid off using InvestED money, I could see the relief in her eyes. She thanked me over and over again and wanted to know how this happened. I explained a little to her about the InvestED Fund and what they do for students all over the state of Washington. She was amazed and I think it made her consider how she could get involved in some type of fundraising to help students. Thank you, InvestED, for continuing to support schools who support their students financially and beyond!"

4. She's invested in school.

"The InvestED funds we have received this year has helped our students and their families to lift barriers that may have held them back into accessing important activities at our school. With a 35% free and reduced lunch, we have many students/families in need. We've used the funds to help pay for PE clothes, pay for class fees, and help cover ASB fees. These small fees, when paid for by InvestED funds, really help take the burden off our families. Also, since we provide all of our students with Chromebooks to help them through their educational day, we've covered the insurance. This has helped all of our families not worry about having to pay back the school for accidental damage to their Chromebooks. One particular student comes to mind when thinking about these funds. After moving in with a family friend since she had no place to live; one of our students was able to use the InvestED fund to pay for her Chromebook and ASB fee to be involved in school. She currently writes for the newspaper and contributes not only in the classroom but the school community. If she did not have help with these small fees, it would hold her back from participating fully as a student. This student appreciates that these costs were covered and feels invested in school."

5. Music to our ears.

"As I review the way our funds have been used this year, I recognize how many of our students are allowed to continue in orchestra, participate in sports and excel in electives that all require fees. As a school counselor, I often find out about these needs when students come to request a schedule change to drop an elective class. One student was ready to drop orchestra and give up playing the violin. This student struggles in many academic areas but stayed connected and confident through feeling successful in orchestra. When asked why, as too often the case is, 'my family can't afford the fee.' It was so rewarding to see the smile on her face when she realized she could continue being involved with the orchestra she had become so connected to. Beyond this, it gave her one more adult she could go to for help and trust that someone at school understood and would be there for her. Thanks for helping us help our students succeed in all areas."

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6. Small act of kindness = Obstacle removed.

"He is a senior and is one of the top students at our school. He may not be our 'typical' student seeking aid, but his family hit some hard times this year and attempted different ways of meeting his basic needs. After those attempts were unsuccessful, he reached out and humbly requested help with transportation because he didn't have reliable transportation to and from school. He advocated for himself because he did not want this obstacle to get in the way of his goals of graduating and going on to college. InvestED funding was used to purchase monthly bus passes, which enabled him freedom to stay after school as needed to work on class projects. And he graduated in the top 15 in his class!"

7. Getting to school.

"Coming to school was this student's safe place. He could eat, learn, and connect with staff and students. He lives in an area where there is no bus transportation, and for him coming to school was something he looked forward to every morning. InvestED supports his love for school by providing him with transportation to school every day. He wants me to say THANK YOU InvestED, for the support you provided him through the year!"

8. Small act of kindness = Academic and emotional well-being.

"I wish to thank InvestED for providing funding to our school so we could purchase a graphing calculator for one seventh grade boy. He qualifies for free meal services since his family is having difficult financial times. He has been very appreciative having a calculator like the other students in his class instead of borrowing one each day. We know how important it is for students to blend in and not stand out in a negative way. It is essential that public schools provide opportunities for all students, so it is a blessing that funds are available through InvestED to help students when funding sources within the schools fall short. I deeply appreciate the commitment of InvestED in supporting students in secondary education, which is crucial to their academic and emotional well-being. Thank you."

9. A noticeable improvement.

"Our student came into the office, bleeding from a fall on his way to school. He broke down in the health room, sobbing, because he literally had nothing but the clothes on his back and now, they were bloody and torn. With InvestED funding we were able to help this student with clothes and hygiene supplies. He now comes to school more often and washes his clothes on campus. We have watched his attendance, grades and confidence improve."

10. New shoes led him to a scholarship.

"We had a student join our school after moving from Africa. Strife and violence forced his family to seek shelter at a refugee camp. A local non-profit brought the family to our district. Our student is truly one of the most delightful young men I have ever met, and he is a true blessing to our country. When he wanted to "try" cross-country as a junior, he could not afford running shoes. InvestED dollars supplied his first pair . . . and our student was a natural. As a senior he placed in the state 4A cross-country meet, 16th at Nationals and running has led him to an athletic scholarship to a large university where is now their top runner."

11. A new sense of pride.

"A 7th grade student shared that he needed black shoes to perform in the school club he belonged too. InvestED was able to provide a shopping trip for the student to pick out his own shoes. He was even able to purchase additional pants because he had outgrown all his pants over the summer. He was very embarrassed. The student shared that it was hard for his mother, a single parent of 5, to provide new school clothes for him. He's proud to belong in the cultural club, to perform and make his family proud. Without InvestED we would never have been able to provide this opportunity for him."

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12. He can see clearly now.

"He came to me complaining of headaches. His teachers complained of him taking longer to read the Smart Board, reading directions on tests, and just completing class assignments during class time. I passed this info on to our school nurse, thinking a vision test might be in order. He came in, performed the vision test, and sure enough, he was a candidate for glasses. When we told him this, he said that his vision was fine, and that no glasses are needed. We contacted his mother who then told us that he knew that affording glasses would be a financial hardship for his family. We told her that we could help with financial assistance from InvestED. She graciously accepted and he got his new glasses! He came into the office, proudly wearing his new eyewear and exclaimed, 'I can see clearly now!' His participation has skyrocketed, he is able to keep up with the class, and his grades are significantly improved! He and his mother would like me to tell the folks at InvestED, 'THANK YOU!'"

13. Rebuilding his life.

"We had a student who was going through some severe struggles at home. He was not having his needs met and was unable to pay for school related expenses. Throughout the year, the school was able to support him financially with InvestED funding. We covered his PE clothes, ASB card, and field trips. As the year went on, his home life became more severe. CPS was involved and he and his siblings were removed and placed into another home. It was done immediately, and he was unable to take any of his things. With InvestED we were able to replace his PE clothes and other items. Once he was in his new placement, his behavior began improving as well as his grades. He even qualified for the 4th quarter celebration for Wild Waves, which is based on academic improvement. We used InvestED to help pay his way for this. We look forward to continuing to support this student as he rebuilds his life."

14. Grateful graduate.

"She firmly believes the generosity afforded to her this year through InvestED has made it tremendously easier for her to not only graduate on time but to improve her living situation as a whole. When she had to move out on her own, she needed food and toiletries. Her counselor was intent on making sure she could take advantage of all resources offered her. She received shampoo, conditioner, even help with work clothes. Because of all the support she received, she will be graduating in less than a month. She feels she could not have done it without this assistance."

15. He felt included.

"This student enrolled in our school at the beginning of the year and is being housed in a homeless shelter. He has struggled to connect and feel like he fits in with other students. His home life is very difficult, and he is faced with daily challenges both at home and at school. Due to his family's financial status, he would not have been able to participate in our 6th grade camp without InvestED's help. Each student is required to pay \$50 for the overnight camp and we were able to provide him this opportunity due to the generosity of InvestED donors. Thank you so much for helping this student attend camp. He felt included and like he truly was a part of our 6th grade 'family' of students and staff."

16. Helping her cope.

"I would like to take the time to discuss one student in particular at our middle school. I have worked with her for the last two years in regard to high anxiety and debilitating depression. During the school year we can set up supports and wrap around techniques for her to be safe and successful at school. During the summer, however, it is very challenging and especially a lonely time for her. With the help of InvestED funds, my student is now able to attend two YMCA camps that will assist her with building resilience and coping skills. Although her mom was able to afford a one-week camp during the summer, she was stressing about being alone for most of the summer. With InvestED funding, we were able to keep her busy with two additional camps and that eased her anxiety. We not only thank you for helping this student, but for the many students you have helped remove barriers through art classes, field trips and sports participation."

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17. He's back on track.

"At our school we have a great population of kids eager and ready to learn and be a part of our great school and community. Every year we work hard to make sure that more and more of our population feels like they have the opportunity to be involved. Near our school is a housing complex for lower income families. This complex houses a huge population of minority students who have parents who are both working or come from single family homes. We work hard to make sure that they feel like they can do anything they want to do at our school including after school athletics. This year we were able to get a young man out to compete in track who didn't feel that he could prior to that because of some financial hardships. By the time that he decided he wanted to compete we'd already used our waivers that is allotted from the school. Thanks to InvestED we were able to get this young man on the track. Getting him on the track allowed his confidence to soar. With our academic requirements his grades bumped up as well. We are grateful for the help that InvestED allows us to provide. We've been able to provide shoes to students in the past as well. Thank you so much."

18. Empowered to move forward.

"She was born in Nepal and was a refugee for 11 years before coming to our area. She thinks moving to America has been the greatest thing to happen in her life so far, but it was very difficult understanding and learning a new culture and language. At first, she was sad and scared. She thought she would never fit in, but knew she had to be strong for her little brother and sister and to set an example for them. Once she started learning English through books, TV and through the ELD tutors, she felt comfortable trying new things. InvestED helped to make it possible for her to join activities and, along with her strong will, she began to make friends and feeling empowered to make a future for herself. We have seen her grow from a scared and shy little girl, to an incredibly strong, kind and giving young lady. She will be the example of what America stands for the land of opportunity. Thank you, InvestED for opening the opportunity to let her to blossom and shine."

19. Participation leads to higher grades.

"The student's mom came to my office in March distraught about her daughter's experience in 7th grade. They had moved schools, again, and she had not yet made any close friends who would support her when she had a bad day or celebrate the good days. Her grades were lower than ever before and dropping continuously.

She loves volleyball and had started to make friends with a couple of other girls that were going to be playing volleyball when the season started in April. However, her mom couldn't afford the \$15 ASB card which was a requirement to play. She also needed shoes with white soles for the gymnasium floor. Her mom was convinced that by playing volleyball after school, it would grant her daughter the time she needed to solidify her friendships with girls that had similar interests. Mom was also hoping to increase her physical activity because she led a very sedentary and solitary lifestyle.

With InvestED funds we were able to pay for her ASB card and purchase her the shoes she needed to participate in volleyball. Her time spent after school making friends and playing a sport she loved was key in changing how she viewed school. It was no longer a chore to get out of bed. She looked forward to seeing her teammates. Her grades started improving and she became more active even when she was at home. According to her mom, the biggest change for her...she was now smiling again!"

20. A sense of belonging.

"This student's family moved to our area a few months before school started. Her family was homeless and living in their vehicle. The students in this family wanted so much to be a part of something but lacked the funds to participate. We were able to help out by covering her fees so she could join track. This gave her a place to go after school, spending time doing something she loved and gave her a respite from homelessness. A sense of belonging really helped this student find hope in her current situation by receiving positive attention from her peers and coaches."