

## 2011 Survey to Membership on Education Funding

A total of 88 SDWF members (44% of membership) responded to the survey on Education Funding, a higher response than any previous survey.

Members were asked what they saw as the most important benefit of education and were also asked to choose, from a set of categories, the level of schooling, the population and the type of assistance that they thought most important.

### Benefits of education

In responding to the question on the benefits of education, many referred to the benefits of education for personal growth – the enlightenment and critical thinking skills that education can develop and its importance for living a good life. Another frequent theme was the value of education for careers and a productive work life. The benefits of a well-educated population to society as a whole was a less-frequently mentioned advantage of education.

### Level of schooling

When asked to choose what level of schooling was most important to support, members' opinions were divided, though three out of four respondents (77%) selected an area of K-12 education.

Most favored was a focus on elementary school, chosen by 35%. About one in four (24%) thought high school most important and 18% chose middle school as a focus.

Smaller numbers favored pre-school (14%) or adult education (8%) and there was virtually no interest in a focus on post-secondary education (1%).

### Population served

To a very large extent, members chose focusing on poverty level children and families---nearly two-thirds (62%) favored this choice.

The only other populations that were picked as most important by 10% or more of the members were Latinos/Latinas (14%) and foster children (11%).

### Types of Assistance

The most popular type of assistance selected from a series of choices was mentoring/tutoring/counseling activities to help individual students stay on track—favored by 42%.

Programs for parents and after-school enrichment programs did receive some, but much lesser support (14% supported each of these choices). All other activities proposed (career training programs, drop-out prevention programs, programs for immigrants, teacher development programs, nonprofits that work to improve education, and organizations that provide tech support) were favored by less than 10%.

### Additional comments

Thirty-five members made additional comments, mainly about the characteristics that we should look for in programs. However, the most frequent comments (13 in all) were about the difficulty of making only one choice on these questions.

# 2011 Survey to Membership

## Funding Area: Education

**Question 1** – What do you see as the most important benefit of education?

**Question 2** – What level of schooling do you think is most important to support?

- Pre-school – early care and education from zero to five years improves school readiness and overall development for the rest of a child’s life
- Middle school – for many, middle school is a difficult time of transition. A child’s performance in middle school is predictive of high school completion.
- High school – Only 7 out of 10 California high school students successfully graduate from high school. High school drop-outs earn far less than graduates and are much more likely to be unemployed and caught up in crime.
- Post-secondary education - community or four-year colleges provide the credentials or degrees that create pathways to careers
- Adult education – includes a range of activities: such as ESL (English as a Second Language) and GED (high school equivalency) classes, job training and other programs designed to help adults improve their life situation

**Question 3** – What population should we serve?

- Latinos/Latinas – currently 44% of the school population in San Diego and our fastest growing population segment. 38% of them do not graduate from high school.
- Poverty-level children and families – high school students from low-income families are six times more likely to drop out of school than students from higher income families
- Foster children – Often forced to change schools, they fall behind in their education. At age 18 they lose support from the state and have no provision for education, jobs or housing
- Disadvantaged adults who have educational limitations (e.g. ex-convicts, English language learners)
- Teenage parents – they tend to drop out of school and diminish their –and their children’s - chances in life.
- Gifted children – students with high abilities may become bored with school unless offered a challenging education that fosters their talents.
- Other (please specify)

**Question 4** – What type of assistance should be provided?

- Mentoring/tutoring/counseling activities that encourage individual students to improve school performance and attendance and stay on track to high school and beyond
- After-school enrichment and extended learning programs designed to enhance learning
- Career training programs that focus on the link between jobs and education, either in schools or as a separate program
- Dropout recovery programs designed to provide the incentives and opportunities to reconnect young people who have left school
- Programs for parents that provide information and resources to encourage them to become more engaged in their children’s education and/or increase their own capabilities
- Programs for immigrants and other underserved people that help them develop necessary life skills.
- Teacher development programs which provide training that helps teachers improve their success in the classroom
- Organizations that provide computers for classrooms or other technical assistance or materials
- Non-profit organizations that provide information and resources for the improvement of education
- Other (please specify)

**Question 5** – Please share any additional comments or feedback.

## 2011 Survey to Membership Funding Area: Education

### Question 1 – Required open-ended response

What do you see as the most important benefit of education?	
<i>answered question</i>	88
<i>skipped question</i>	0

Number	Response Text
1	preperation for life and career
2	personal and economic independence
3	To give people an opportunity to build a sustainable income level and maximize their potential to earn more and be self-sufficient .
4	At the top of this page, Ben Franklin said it perfectly!
5	Teaching skills needed for a productive life, and inspiring folks to do something they find interesting with their life (including introducing them to paths they may not know exist).
6	life skills
7	Personal opportunity to advance
8	The future of our world - but on a smaller scale of our community. Without an educated population we face many serious problems.
9	Quality of life. Everything depends upon it.
10	Inspiring and Equipping people of all ages with the knowledge and power to make changes in their lives and our world.
11	Jobs- preparing youth to get a job in this ever changing economy.
12	To prepare students for the outside world
13	Being able to read and write and therefore gaining the capacity to teach oneself to become a lifelong learner
14	It stretches ones mind to keep learning
15	Being able to fully participate in society, contribute, and bring one's family out of poverty (if that's the case)
16	Helping people to love learning for their entire life by teaching them to think critically and abstractly.
17	A thinking, educated populace with expanded opportunity for individuals' future
18	To prepare youth to succeed in a rapidly changing world and to be stimulated to explore all options.
19	development of self
20	equalizing people
21	a child/ person's ability to navigate through life.
22	skill acquired for life long learning
23	I believe education is the cornerstone of our democracyand that a well educated populace is necessary for our civic and economic future.
24	Imparting skills needed for successful adulthood, including the ability to be a life-long learner.
25	Ability to function in and contribute to an ever evolving society.
26	Putting good teachers in front of students,helps then learn and with knowledge comes wisdom.
27	active and engaged participants in our society

## 2011 Survey to Membership Funding Area: Education

28	As a pathway to success
29	Education is the key to a civilized and fair society.
30	Teach young people how to determine what their personal values and priorities are and how to live a life that fulfills those things.
31	Education prepares everyone for a productive life --education is about knowledge, values, and skills.
32	Having a large and diverse workforce that can also think about societal issues in ways that lead to cohesion, rather than separation.
33	College readiness and job preparedness.
34	The opportunities it gives you to be independent, competitive and grounded.
35	To develop individuals who can think critically.
36	To prepare kids to be productive and informed members of society.
37	Understanding and tolerance
38	learning to see (understand) things in a new way
39	Self-sufficiency, social mobility
40	enlightenment- education gives people the tools to better function and understand the world
41	In order to participate in any aspect of our society, one needs to be educated and informed.
42	An inquisitive mind, an broad base interest the complex world and the people who inhabit it, an appreciation of various points of view.
43	personal independence; achieving dreams and goals; following passion
44	Stimulation, growth and ability to engage in meaningful work
45	Learning about the world and finding one's place in it.
46	That a person would be less likely to be swayed by propoganda and that they would make decisions based on facts and not political bias for one.
47	a confident, capable,connected human being who is able to participate fully in society and in life.
48	To develop the competence and confidence of the next generation
49	Ability to be self-supporting and self-actualizing
50	Provides critical thinking processes as well as tools to read, write, analyze, communicate. Not sure this question makes sense....way too general.
51	An educated population worthy of making good governing decisions. For the individual, an education for a lifetime.
52	Enlightened, productive children
53	Opening new doors -- both intellectually (seeing things in a new light) and practically (new professional opportunities).
54	To learn how to learn, think and problem solve
55	Basic understanding of the world in which we live and better decision-making skills.
56	Teaching people how to understand life and provide them with tools to improve themselves and their surroundings.
57	It builds confidence that one has the ability succeed.
58	opening the minds and learning about the world
59	developing good, educated citizens
60	Education is a great equalizer.

## 2011 Survey to Membership Funding Area: Education

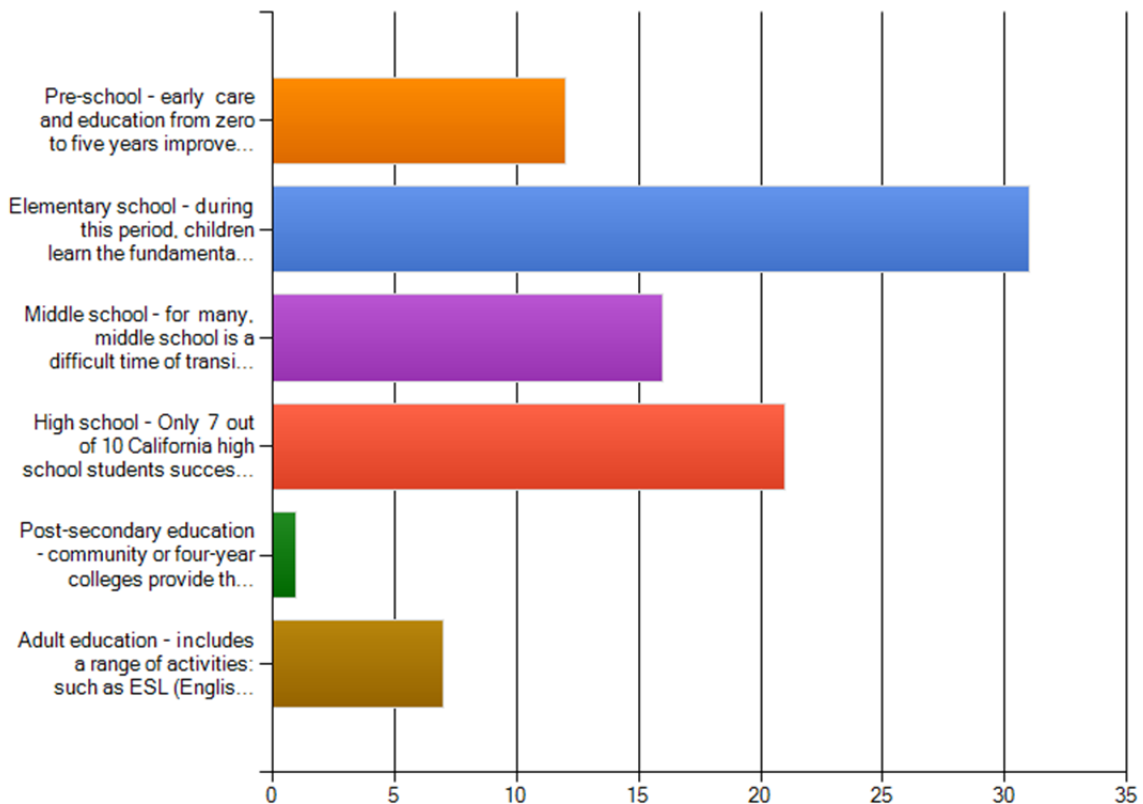
61	bringing young adults up to be good citizens, aware of and connected with, their government, their community, the arts and other key issues in their lives
62	An ability to better understand the world and to pursue knowledge wherever one chooses.
63	Preparation for employment and improved quality of life
64	a better life
65	The future of our country.
66	The opportunity to become an informed, employed citizen of the community.
67	informed citizens
68	To make smart decisions in life, to be aware of opportunities and more importantly take advantage of those opportunities. To have a career that keeps you financially stable.
69	I like learning
70	Give students skills that will make them employable.
71	life enrichment and vocational preparation
72	Education broadens a person's perspective, thereby enriching life on both a personal and global scale.
73	ability to secure employment to sustain oneself and ones family
74	becoming acquainted with experiences outside of your own environment
75	Preparing an educated work force for the future, both in California or other states. Education just is not viewed as a high priority when it's the only priority for our future.
76	building for the future
77	The opportunities that education provides.
78	To prepare people to be contributing, self-supporting members of society.
79	an informed citizenry
80	To develop civilized, thoughtful and aware individuals
81	Opening one up to ideas
82	The opportunity to learn about the world in every way so you can contribute to your family, community and country.
83	preparation for the world. education is power. a thinking mind is a creative, useful mind.
84	Instructional units that vary by student ability, that may also be carried by that student when they move.
85	preparation for living sensitively & productively in a multicultural community & world
86	I do not think that there is one answer to this question. A few benefits to note are self-belief, more local and worldly knowledge, better thinking skills, and many more. The three I made note of are key to exploring potential, both in professional and personal lives.
87	Education should bring a greater awareness of what is outside of their present experience.
88	a good life

## 2011 Survey to Membership Funding Area: Education

### Question 2

What level of schooling do you think is most important to support? (CHOOSE ONE)		
Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Pre-school - early care and education from zero to five years improves school readiness and overall development for the rest of a child's life	13.6%	12
Elementary school - during this period, children learn the fundamental skills of literacy and math that are the basis for all future learning	35.2%	31
Middle school - for many, middle school is a difficult time of transition. A child's performance in middle school is predictive of high school completion.	18.2%	16
High school - Only 7 out of 10 California high school students successfully graduate from high school. High school drop-outs earn far less than graduates and are much more likely to be unemployed and caught up in crime.	23.9%	21
Post-secondary education - community or four-year colleges provide the credentials or degrees that create pathways to careers	1.1%	1
Adult education - includes a range of activities: such as ESL (English as a Second Language) and GED (high school equivalency) classes, job training and other programs designed to help adults improve their life situation	8.0%	7
<i>answered question</i>		<b>88</b>
<i>skipped question</i>		<b>0</b>

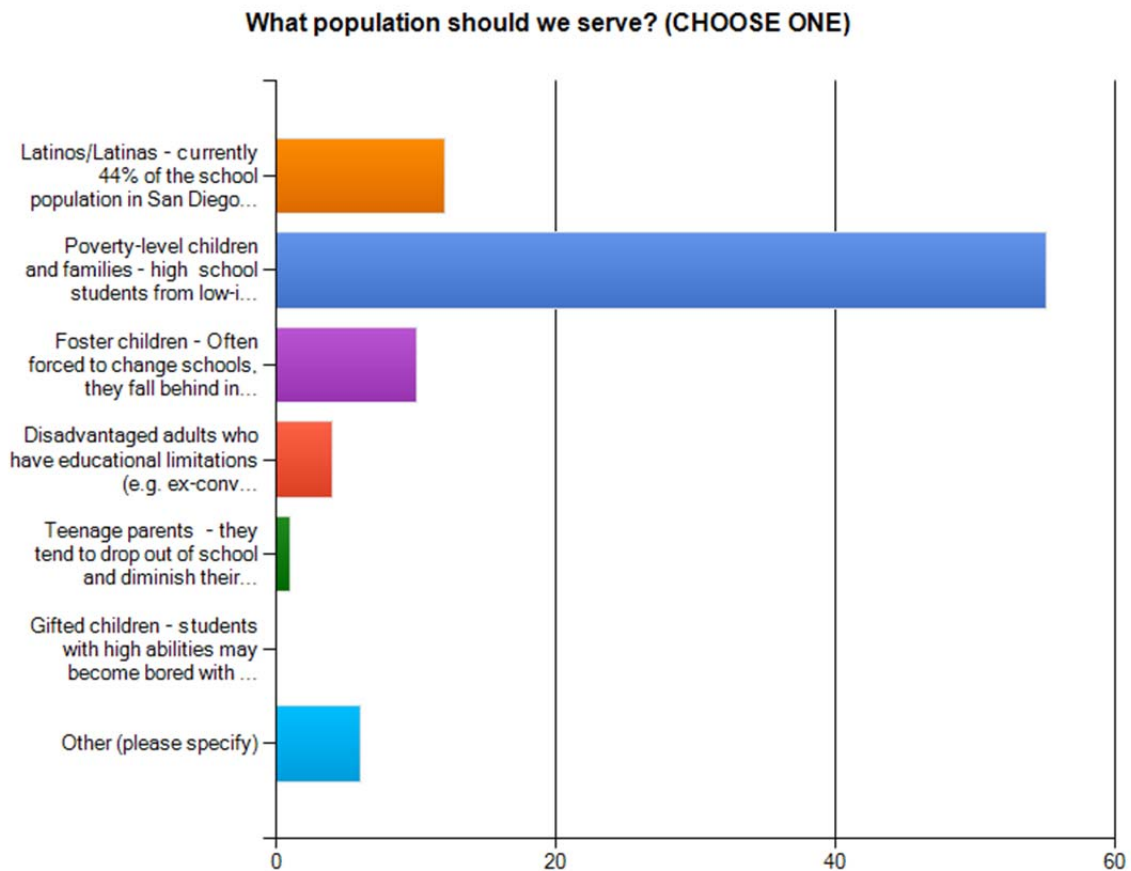
**What level of schooling do you think is most important to support? (CHOOSE ONE)**



## 2011 Survey to Membership Funding Area: Education

### Question 3

What population should we serve? (CHOOSE ONE)		
Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Latinos/Latinas - currently 44% of the school population in San Diego and our fastest growing population segment. 38% of them do not graduate from high school.	13.6%	12
Poverty-level children and families - high school students from low-income families are six times more likely to drop out of school than students from higher income families	62.5%	55
Foster children - Often forced to change schools, they fall behind in their education. At age 18 they lose support from the state and have no provision for education, jobs or housing	11.4%	10
Disadvantaged adults who have educational limitations (e.g. ex-convicts, English language learners)	4.5%	4
Teenage parents - they tend to drop out of school and diminish their - and their children's - chances in life.	1.1%	1
Gifted children - students with high abilities may become bored with school unless offered a challenging education that fosters their talents.	0.0%	0
Other (please specify)	6.8%	6
<i>answered question</i>		<b>88</b>
<i>skipped question</i>		<b>0</b>



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Number	Other (please specify)
1	Poverty level & foster children
2	Other children in addition to foster children. Many of these other children have the exact same problems as foster children, although these other children happen to still be with their parents. These kids are in detrimental situations which place them at a disadvantage in school. Their teachers and counselors can often identify who they are and help them find programs to encourage catching up and success in school. Somebody needs to care.
3	all students need help in California. We are 48!!!! in the country.
4	children or teens who are at risk of falling behind
5	The greatest benefits to healthy development and well being are seen in early education. For all kids (not just latinos).
6	no specific population

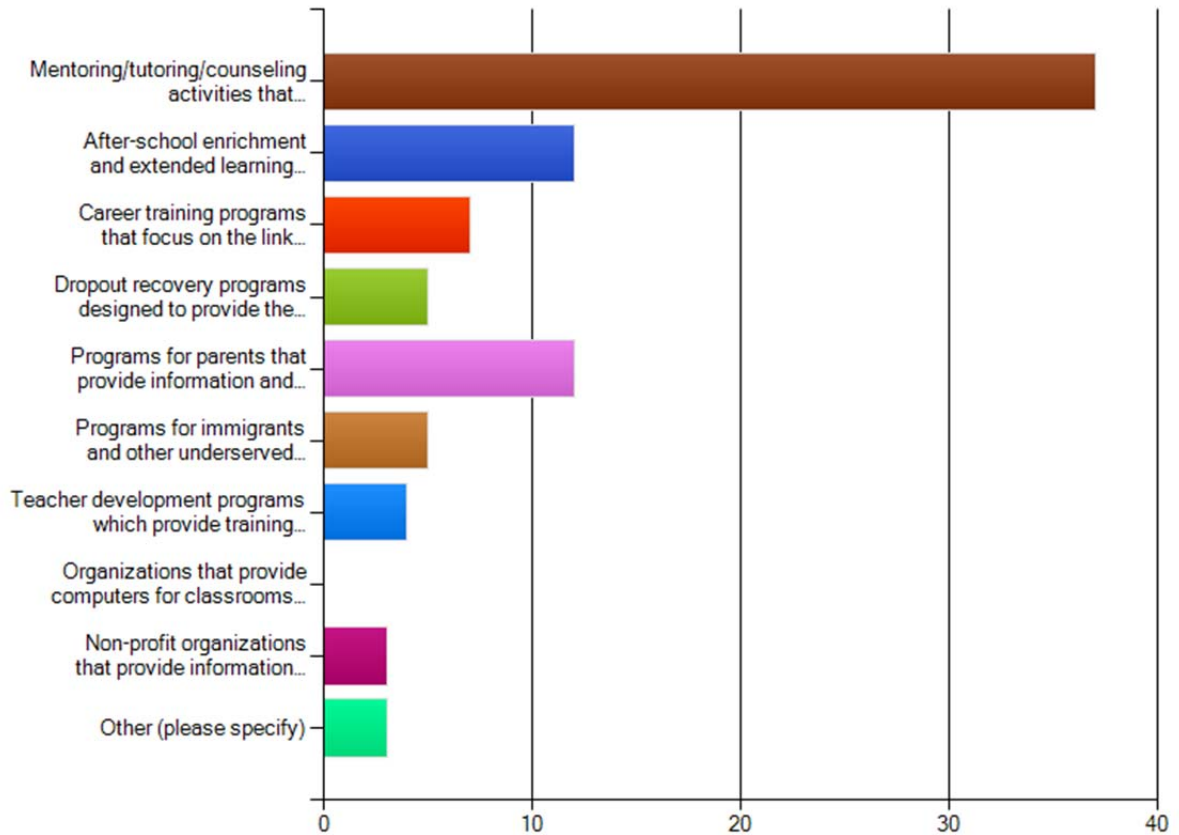
## 2011 Survey to Membership Funding Area: Education

### Question 4 – Optional open-ended response

What type of assistance should be provided? (CHOOSE ONE)		
Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Mentoring/tutoring/counseling activities that encourage individual students to improve school performance and attendance and stay on track to high school and beyond	42.0%	37
After-school enrichment and extended learning programs designed to enhance learning	13.6%	12
Career training programs that focus on the link between jobs and education, either in schools or as a separate program	8.0%	7
Dropout recovery programs designed to provide the incentives and opportunities to reconnect young people who have left school	5.7%	5
Programs for parents that provide information and resources to encourage them to become more engaged in their children's education and/or increase their own capabilities	13.6%	12
Programs for immigrants and other underserved people that help them develop necessary life skills.	5.7%	5
Teacher development programs which provide training that helps teachers improve their success in the classroom	4.5%	4
Organizations that provide computers for classrooms or other technical assistance or materials	0.0%	0
Non-profit organizations that provide information and resources for the improvement of education	3.4%	3
Other (please specify)	3.4%	3
<i>answered question</i>		<b>88</b>
<i>skipped question</i>		<b>0</b>

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**What type of assistance should be provided? (CHOOSE ONE)**



Number	Other (please specify)
1	Educational Programs demonstrating best practices with relevant age group
2	any and all of the above
3	Very difficult to answer this. How is it possible to narrow to this finite a list?

## 2011 Survey to Membership Funding Area: Education

### Question 5

Please share any additional comments or feedback.	
<i>answered question</i>	35
<i>skipped question</i>	53

Number	Response Text
1	There is a lot of attention currently being given to improving the quality of teachers . We should include programs that focus in this area as an option for members to choose.
2	Change the adult, change the path of the entire family...
3	This is a very odd survey, and one that really did not seem helpful to me. A rank order, top three or ?? would have made much more sense to me.
4	Feel very strongly about everyone's ability to speak and read English - would like to see emphasis on developing those skills.
5	These were impossible choices--choosing only one for each category. Many are equally important.
6	Overall goal--reduce the high school drop out rate. Studies indicate that school readiness for pre-schoolers (5 years and younger) is key.
7	We can only make a minor dent in the current area of education. It's just plain broken. So we need to think carefully as to where we could have some modicum of success to even one or two people. It's the story of the "starfish on the beach" we're facing
8	What about helping schools or Programs that have been affected by the budget cuts? In light of the economic situation, I don't think that we should fund any new Programs.
9	whole child focus is critical
10	There are many terrific programs that already exist and are struggling during this economic downturn. We should look for those with well established track records to support
11	I would look to other alternatives to working with elementary-aged children -- programs that provide elementary teachers with assistance (training, materials, classroom aides) that enable more focused work during the regular school day.
12	Impossible to choose only one response in the questions. Recommend the membership view the movie, "Waiting for Superman." Frustrating, maddening, depressing overview of American education.
13	Pre-school, elementary, high school - all good places to put resources
14	I think we need to work hard at finding organizations that are not already well supported. Many worthwhile groups in the area of education work very quietly while others are receiving a disproportionate percentage of assistance.
15	It was very difficult to pick one or the best answer from many of the previous lists. In some cases, the answer should have been all of the above.
16	I would like to fund things that have been found to be most effective in changing success outcome, rather than just the guesses I had to make filling out this survey on what "sounds" good.

## 2011 Survey to Membership

### Funding Area: Education

17	Education is an essential element to create successful communities. We in San Diego must support our local public schools with our time, talent and treasure.
18	First 5 just committed a good deal of money to SANDAP for child care for parenting teens to keep them in school. Also, foster kids do not lose support at 18 any longer - after recent legislation.
19	The more I know, the more I know I don't know, truth based education is really really important!
20	I really it difficult to respond to this survey. Choosing 1 answer was incredibly restricting.
21	I do not see how this survey is going to provide the Grants Committee with relevant information to prepare meaningful criteria for the proposals. We might as well just take education as a general topic and not worry about trying to narrow this down. Disappointed in this survey.
22	Choosing "one" was agony. We should be involved in several initiatives and at several levels.
23	It was too difficult to only pick one option in each of the previous questions!
24	It is hard to make a single choice from each question asked since so education is so important. If possible, I think it would be nice to write the grant guidelines a littler looser to broaden the possibilities.
25	it seems like all our programs are geared toward smaller children; let's try helping the TEACHERS for a change.
26	Such a big and important area. I wanted to choose them all. I'd love to attend some programs from experts talking about reasons to focus on particular areas. Where does the research show gets the best return on investment?
27	How do we inculcate a love and desire for education and make it self-motivated? A program trying to address that question would be worthwhile.
28	Adults are often under-served in the area of education; when you educate and help the adult, you help his/her children and the entire family as well.
29	Choosing ONLY 1 of each category was extremely difficult :(
30	My second choice in the specific program would be to target drop outs and get them back in school or a GED program
31	These were very difficult choices to just choose one in each category! Thank you for the incredible work the team will be embarking on.
32	If we help the parents and younger children perhaps the children won't have the trouble in middle and high school that is happening now in some schools.
33	the topic is so broad and the education system is broken. but we have to start somewhere...
34	Would like SDWF to focus on educational needs of girls & young women
35	Most important is to monitor/review the materials that are being taught for teaching integrity, personal responsibility, moral behavior and allegiance ro God and country.