

GE Foundation Gives \$18M To Improve Education

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The GE Foundation announced Wednesday it will give \$18 million to support the roll-out of new education standards throughout the country, including in Cincinnati.

The money will be spent primarily on tools that will help teachers to share best practices as they work to implement the new standards. The GE Foundation has already created a website, www.achievethecore.org, to provide teachers free resources and is organizing conferences where teachers can learn more about the new standards.

The Common Core State Standards is a major curriculum update adopted by 46 states that will change the way students are taught. The new curriculum is intended to make sure kids get a consistent quality of public education from state to state and is aimed at better preparing K-12 students for 21st-century careers.

Ohio, Kentucky and Indiana adopted the standards in 2010. They must be in place by the 2014-15 school year and will be accompanied by new assessments tests for students. Many districts are starting to roll the new curriculum out now.

Locally, the GE Foundation has already awarded Cincinnati Public Schools \$5.3 million specifically to train teachers on the new standards. The \$18 million will have more of a national focus.

GE Foundation is the philanthropic arm of the Connecticut-based GE. It's subsidiary GE Aviation is located in Evendale.

From the desk of Jessica Brown