

Phillips Foundation donates \$500k to Allen Jay Middle school

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The Phillips Foundation has pledged \$500,000 to help support and expand Allen Jay Middle, a preparatory academy in High Point that is part of **Guilford County Schools**.

The donation was announced at the annual State of Our Schools event held by GCS on Jan. 23, a news release from the district said. The Phillips Foundation targets its grants at the areas of education, family services, arts, economic development and housing in Greensboro and Guilford County.

Allen Jay Middle opened last fall with its first class of 110 fifth-graders. The school was part of the district's 2012 Strategic Plan and it emphasizes leadership and college readiness and uses high-energy teaching styles, music and movement to keep students engaged, said Principal Kevin Wheat.

"The donation from the Phillips Foundation will allow additional scholars to experience the unique, innovative instructional model at Allen Jay Preparatory Academy," Wheat said. "Additional support structures and academic services will be used to accelerate students toward academic excellence."

Allen Jay Middle will expand to serve both fifth- and sixth-graders next year. The Phillips Foundation has also donated more than \$2 million in support of a new GCS partnership with Teach For America.

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