

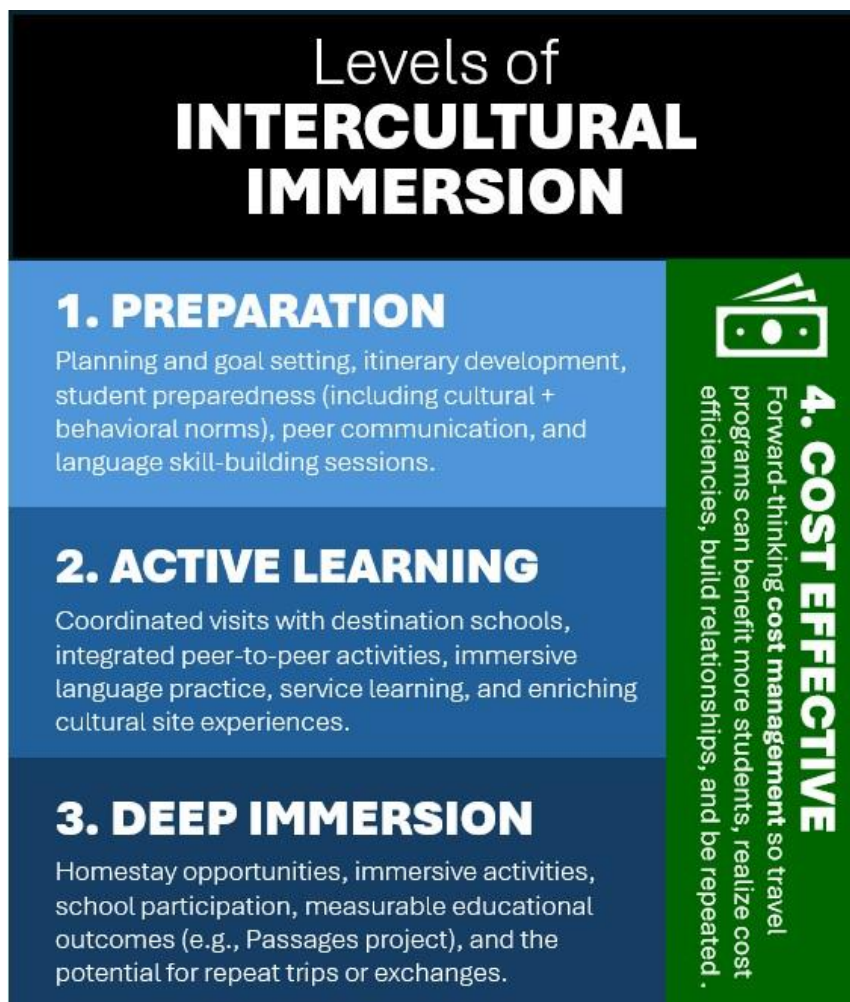


We changed our name in September 2024 to broaden our student reach and refine our focus. You will see use referred to as both **DCIS Foundation** and **Denver Center for Intercultural Scholars**. Our website remains the same (dcisfoundation.org).

## Questions & Answers

**What has changed?** Dr. Dan Lutz’s visionary goal of incorporating an [international curriculum](#) into public education has inspired many DPS schools to embrace multilingual and intercultural education. The DCIS Foundation celebrates this progress and is excited to gradually expand our reach, impacting more students and encouraging more immersive travel experiences. Bottom line: We’re growing.

**What do you mean by “immersive”? What is an example?**



*EXAMPLE: DCIS developed an **Immersive Japanese Travel Trip** that took place at the end of 2024. The Japanese teacher and her students developed it without the use of a vendor to help reduce costs. This trip included a school visit, homestays, peer-to-peer Japanese language practice, and cultural engagement activities.*

**Why do we use "intercultural" instead of "international" in our new name?** We use "intercultural" to cover both international and local/national travel opportunities. For example, if a school teaches Lakota, an immersive trip for them might be in the United States. For our younger students, local field trips are needed.

**Why do we use "scholars" in the name?** We call students who travel with the help of our funding "scholars" to honor their efforts and respect their future contributions to our world.

**What about the DPS decision to restructure DCIS schools?** In late 2024, DPS closed the DCIS high school, leaving DCIS Middle School fully intact with an eye to grow and serve a larger population of students. Because the DCIS Foundation is an independent 501©3 nonprofit organization but we will continue to support DCIS schools and slowly add other schools that fit with our strategy.

**What other schools do you work with?** Partnering with other DPS schools will be a thoughtful process. Our first new school partner is [Morey Middle School](#).

**How do we distribute scholarships?** Starting in the 2025 - 2026 academic year, our funding structure will change to a "standardized scholarship model". That means students will know the amount of the scholarship (group or individual) and the number of scholarships available will be posted on our website. The "standardized scholarship model" will aid predictability for the foundation and help schools to plan more easily – however, it may mean that not all applicants will not get an award.

**What don't we fund?** We believe that educational travel must be immersive for the greatest impact. Therefore, we will no longer fund trips without evidence of multiple immersive activities and an effort toward cost-effective approaches. This refined focus enriches the learning experience while allowing more students to benefit.

**What is the role of the school?** The school is responsible for developing the trips and submitting applications along with their students. DCIS Foundation focuses solely on fundraising, advocating for immersive activities, and awarding scholarships and grants.

**Do you provide support to schools?** Starting in the 2025-2026 academic year, we will provide partner schools with a toolkit and coaching.

**How much have we donated? What is our impact?** [Since 1997](#), we have:

- Donated over \$670,000 for educational travel.
- Impacted 5600+ students in four schools.
- Visited 45 countries and practiced seven different languages.
- Volunteered over 83,000 hours.

**Who runs the DCIS Foundation?** We are supported by an all-volunteer and smart board of directors, an advisory board, an alumni leadership council, and volunteers. [Board members](#) are insightful, deeply engaged, and bring a broad range of perspectives and professional skills

to their role. A part-time executive director/CEO recruits board members and oversees nonprofit's operations.

**Where do the donations come from? How can I get involved?** 98% of our donations are from individuals who love our mission, and 2% are from grants. We do not get any funding from the state or federal government, so our 2 fundraising events are critical. Our annual in-person [GALA](#) is our largest fundraising event and is typically held on the last Saturday in April, followed by our online YEAR-END FUNDRAISING CAMPAIGN (this includes Colorado Gives Day) held at the end of the year. Donations can also be made any day of the year via our [website](#).

**What inspires us?** Our scholars, our alumni scholars, our teachers, our community, and special visionaries that understand the educational power of travel. Check out these [great ideas](#).