

Bain Capital Contributes \$100,000 to UP Education Network’s Campaign to Solve Digital Inequity

Contribution providing devices, internet, and IT support to ensure digital equity for all UP scholars

BOSTON – January 14, 2021 — [UP Education Network](#), a nonprofit organization that partners with school districts, parents and staff to significantly improve formerly struggling Massachusetts schools, today announced that [Bain Capital](#) has contributed \$100,000 to strengthen digital equity for all UP scholars. The contribution will provide UP Education Network’s students across five schools with devices, adequate internet access, and more IT support, ensuring every student successfully learns from home for what could be the remainder of the school year.

The transition to remote learning during the pandemic highlighted the digital inequity among students, especially those in underserved communities. According to [a study by Pew Research Center](#), 59% of parents from economically disadvantaged communities who had children in schools that were remote at the time said their children would likely face at least one of three digital obstacles, including having to do schoolwork on a cellphone, no reliable internet connection at home, and no access to a computer at home. UP Education Network has been working to address digital inequity in the Boston-area community, developing new and unique systems and partnering with companies to provide their students, teachers, and families with what they need for effective remote learning.

“This generous donation from Bain Capital will benefit so many of our students, teachers, and families,” said Veronica Conforme, CEO of UP Education Network. “While the unprecedented learning challenges brought on by the pandemic remain significant, this contribution will allow us to move forward and focus on our students’ education, knowing they have the necessary infrastructure needed to handle the reality of remote learning.”

“Digital inequity is a prevalent and significant issue that will persist beyond the pandemic, and we are proud to support UP Education Network in their efforts to keep students learning,” said Greg Shell, a Managing Director of Bain Capital and member of the UP Board of Trustees. “With up to 20% of UP’s scholars lacking adequate internet to support remote learning, this is a long-standing problem of inequity highlighted by the pandemic. These issues have and will continue to impact our communities without the proper support.”

Currently, UP’s Boston schools are reassessing plans to reopen utilizing a hybrid learning model, starting with high needs students, then phasing in the rest of their K-8th grade students over the coming weeks where families opt in, and if the city’s COVID-19 positivity rate falls below 4%. They will continue to provide a remote learning option likely through the end of the school year.

About Bain Capital

[Bain Capital, LP](#) is one of the world’s leading private multi-asset investment firms that creates lasting impact for our investors, teams, businesses, and the communities in which we live. Since our founding in 1984, we’ve applied our insight and experience to organically expand into numerous asset classes including [private equity](#), [credit](#), [public equity](#), [venture capital](#), [real estate](#) and other strategic areas of focus. The firm has offices on four continents, more than 1,200 employees and approximately \$105 billion in assets under management. To learn more, visit www.baincapital.com or follow [Bain Capital on Twitter](#).

About UP Education Network

UP Education Network is a nonprofit organization in Massachusetts that partners with school districts, families, and staff to improve formerly struggling district schools into exceptional learning environments where scholars cultivate sharp minds, share their kind hearts, and explore their path and potential. UP serves more than 2,500 scholars across five schools, two in Lawrence, MA and three in Boston, MA. To learn more about UP, visit our website: www.upeducationnetwork.org, or follow us on [Instagram](#) and [Facebook](#).

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