

Joint Statement from Dalio Philanthropies and Fund for Teachers:

Together we face the increasingly likely prospect of long-term impacts from the ongoing COVID 19 pandemic. Fund for Teachers and Dalio Philanthropies remain committed to Connecticut teachers and are actively working to find ways to support our Fellows during these challenging and uncertain times.

The pandemic sadly forced 2020 Fellows to put their fellowships on hold. Because grant related travel and plans for active fellowships were disrupted, the period of the 2020 grants was extended 12 months beyond the original completion date to September 2021. **Consequently, Fund for Teachers and Dalio Philanthropies have decided not to open applications in November 2020 for additional 2021 Fellows since our commitment must go toward ensuring that the 2020 Fellows have an excellent and rewarding experience.**

Nevertheless, Fund for Teachers will continue to serve our Fellows and Connecticut teachers the best ways we can by introducing and implementing new programming opportunities during this 'holdover' period. While we know this situation is disappointing, we are confident there is no group better prepared for doing the hard things. Teachers are well practiced in responding to contingencies and reacting to unforeseen challenges. We know that teachers are most effective, and improve most in their practice, when they are problem solvers and innovators, who take risks to learn, reflect and collaborate.

We look forward to Fall 2021 when we will once again open the application process for additional Connecticut summer fellowship grants.

Thank you for leading the way; you inspire your students and colleagues to become leaders and change-makers for a more equitable, better world.