

Baxter's \$5 mil. bankrolls public schools' science efforts

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Mayor Daley's goal of making science fun for Chicago public school students — and improving historically dismal science test scores — got

a \$5 million shot in the arm Thursday.

Deerfield-based Baxter International made a five-year, \$5 million donation with the potential to touch the lives of 75,000 junior high and high school students and improve the skills

of 450 teachers by 2012.

Specifically, Baxter's Science@Work gift will include: \$1 million to help launch two new Renaissance 2010 schools, each serving up to 600 students; \$2 million to develop a Biotechnology Center of Excellence at Lind-

blom Math & Science Academy, where Baxter employees will volunteer, and \$2 million to train 96 teachers each year, 66 of them at the Illinois Institute of Technology.

Over the five-year life of the grant, 90 percent of the system's 500 biology teach-

ers will get training. The donation also will bankroll so-called "Baxter Boxes" filled with tools and materials used to teach biotechnology to teachers.

"We have a responsibility to ensure that future generations are given every oppor-

tunity to be educated in and inspired by science. . . . Through these education initiatives, we're literally investing in the future," said Baxter Chairman and CEO Robert L. Parkinson Jr.

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