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IMPACT REPORT 2021/2022



Our Vision

The Aurora Public Schools Foundation is a collaborator to advance private, non-profit, public and philanthropic partnerships. Since 1987, we've served to develop and leverage resources for projects and programs that drive innovation and excellence for nearly 40,000 students.

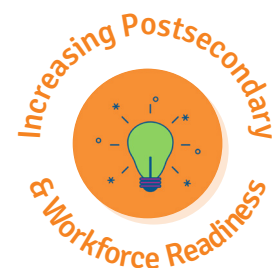
Our Vision is to make possibility a reality for every student.

Our Mission

We provide supplemental funding and resources to support possibility becoming reality for every APS student. Our programs are both longstanding in evidence and responsive to accommodate the shifting needs of our community. We prioritize programs that benefit students overcoming obstacles by addressing key barriers, increasing postsecondary readiness among our students, and closing opportunity gaps.

Our Mission is to cultivate community investment to enrich student opportunity, educators, and 65 schools.

For information on ways to get involved with the Aurora Public Schools Foundation, please visit us at www.educateaurora.org/get-involved



Layout Design by Amy Gurrentz
wildlygrounded.studio

100% of High School Students have Access to College and Career Centers

The APS Foundation was thrilled to open two new College and Career Centers this past year at William Smith High School and Aurora West College Preparatory Academy. With the opening of these two centers, 100% of APS' high school students have access to these critical supports!

College and Career Centers focus on preparing students for success after high school by helping them explore a multitude of college, career and military options. Joshua Wurtz, a senior at William Smith, said he's looking forward to spending more time at the center. "Throughout my first couple years [of high school], I wasn't entirely sure what I wanted to do. And it's just comforting to know that I can come to somebody with whatever I need to help set me on the right path," he said.



"[APSF] makes me feel like the community really cares about us as students and that they want us to be successful as much as we can."

Joshua Wurtz

College and Career Center Advisor Jordan Bills said the centers play an important role in helping prepare Aurora students to shape a successful future. "It's a scary thing, I think, for students," she said. "And I think to have someone here like myself or the other advisors at the other schools, helps provide reassurance and comfort because we've been through this process. To meet with kids who are first-generation [college students] to relieve some of those insecurities or fears is just a really exciting thing."

The centers also help students obtain financial aid to ease the burden of postsecondary education. Since the APS Foundation opened the first center at Hinkley High School in 2014-15, it has helped more than 16,800 students secure over \$139 million in scholarships!

Wurtz, who is planning to enlist in the United States Marine Corps after high school, said, "It makes me feel like the community really cares about us as students and that they want us to be successful as much as we can."

Note from the Executive Director

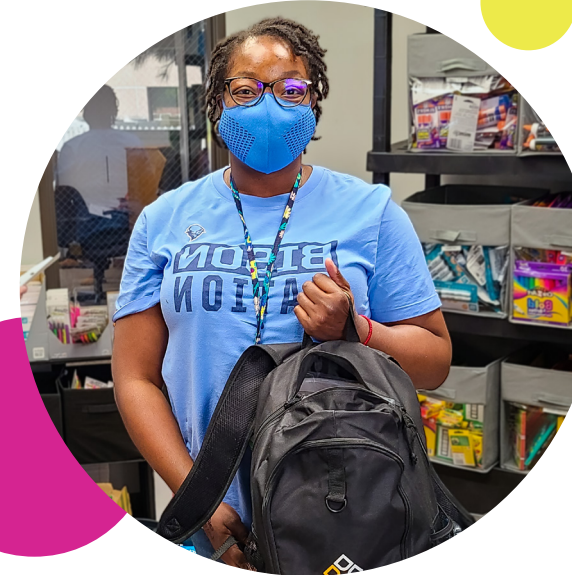
The Aurora Public Schools Foundation works tirelessly to connect Aurora Public Schools (APS) students with community resources—during the 2021-2022 school year we helped secure resources to distribute annual scholarships, supported STEM programming, offered transportation for career exposure experiences, provided social emotional learning for APS staff members, and even worked with APS Nutrition Services to provide meals for adults throughout the community through August 2021 in response to the pandemic impact.

It is through strategic partnerships that we have been able to serve students and help them on their path to postsecondary success. This report celebrates the path and mission that have led us to this point – opening the final two College and Career Centers in August 2021 ensuring 100% access to all high school students.

The report also recognizes that there is opportunity to do more. After seeking community input, and in collaboration with district leadership we are working to develop programming for greater career exposure and experiences, including connecting more students with industry experiences during their K-12 career. We want students to have clarity on their postsecondary plans whether that is going directly to the workforce, military or a postsecondary institution – and we believe career experiences and exposure programming will help provide that clarity. It will take time to build this programming, but we believe that the investment in our students now and in the future, as well as our community, makes this a worthwhile endeavor.

Thank you for partnering with us to support Aurora Public Schools' students.

Jill Ruiter
Executive Director



Educator Emporium

The COVID-19 pandemic has put a strain on teachers and families in the school district. To an increasing degree, teachers were absorbing the cost of supplemental materials for the classroom as well as school supplies for their students. The Educator Emporium was created in 2021, as a resource to alleviate this financial burden on teachers by providing, at no cost, much needed supplies to support instructional programming for their students.

“Thank you so much! As teachers, we spend so much of our money on supplies for our classrooms. Being able to come and shop at the Emporium and get all that we needed for free was amazing. It really means so much!” -APS teacher

The program was developed as a partnership between Aurora Public Schools Foundation, Aurora Public Schools Professional Learning Department and District Credit Union. Further, the creation of this program stemmed from a significant in-kind donation from Wal-Mart (local store at Tower Rd.).

“Thank you so much! As teachers, we spend so much of our money on supplies for our classrooms. Being able to come and shop at the Emporium and get all that we needed for free was amazing. It really means so much!”

APS Teacher

The Educator Emporium is open to all APS educators and other student facing staff members (i.e. counselors, therapists, etc.) at all grade levels, all throughout the school year. The Educator Emporium is open twice monthly for educators to “shop.”

Since the Emporium's October 2021 opening, educators from **63 APS schools** have participated to gather supplies for their classrooms and students!



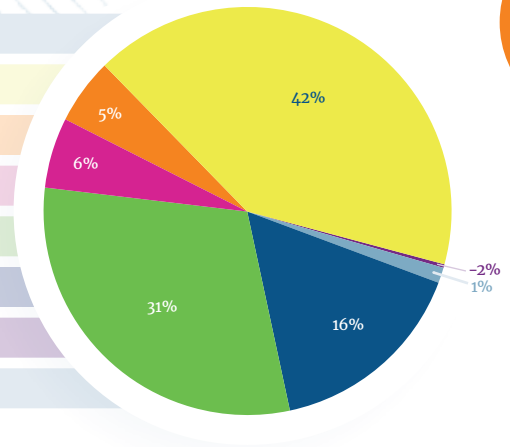
Financial Transparency

We believe that standing together requires trust. And trust can only be developed through integrity and transparency, as demonstrated by the Aurora Public Schools Foundation's commitment to the highest financial and compliance standards.

During the 2021-2022 school year, **88% of all funds** were **directly invested** in student programs.

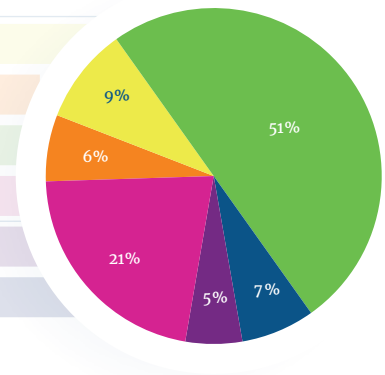
Revenue

State Grants	\$7,091	0%
Private Foundation Grants	\$811,184	42%
In-Kind Support	\$101,028	5%
Gifts from Individuals	\$106,205	6%
Gifts from Corporations	\$595,1433	31%
Special Event Contributions (net)	\$314,1951	16%
Investment Return	\$(29,946)	-2%
Fee Income	\$21,161	1%
TOTAL	\$1,926,062	100%



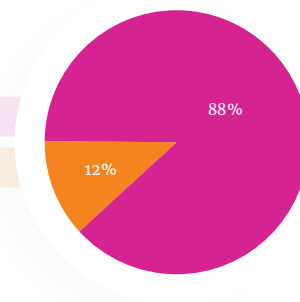
Expenses

College and Career Centers	\$208,640	9%
Scholarships	\$144,353	6%
Special Projects	\$1,165,919	51%
Food and Crisis Relief	\$485,046	21%
Fundraising	\$112,541	5%
Administration	\$157,021	7%
TOTAL	\$2,273,520	100%



Programs to Overhead Ratio

Program Services	\$2,003,958	88%
Fundraising and Administration	\$269,562	12%
TOTAL	\$2,273,520	100%



2022 Scholarship Recipients

Rediet Moges

“I am extremely excited to hear I have been awarded the **Gerkin Family Expository Writing Scholarship**.

This scholarship is an honor to have won because I will be able to worry less about paying for college and get to focus on my education.

My family and I are extremely grateful to the Gerkin Family for having funded this and supporting me on my education journey. Thank you!

”



Eva Vargas Byrne

“It’s important that everyone has the opportunity to follow their dreams. This scholarship is here to **help an underrepresented group of people push forward** and meet their goals despite the doubts and lack of understanding from society. And for that I am truly grateful.”



Eli Garcia

“I am so grateful to have been allowed to immerse myself in all aspects of college life because of wonderful scholarships.

Through this scholarship, I have been brought so much happiness because **I will be able to attend college without financial worry**.

Growing up in a household with such a financial barricade, bringing up college to my parents was always an awkward conversation.

My goals are to attend the University of Boulder and get an engineering degree, but none of this would have been possible without the generosity of the **Denise Davis Scholarship**.

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