



AURORA PUBLIC SCHOOLS
FOUNDATION

IMPACT REPORT

2022/2023

10 Years of Impact

Since 2014, the Aurora Public Schools Foundation has focused on career and college readiness by establishing College and Career Centers in each of the seven APS high schools. APS College and Career Centers support three primary goals for high school students, including:

1. Increasing student graduation rates
2. Promoting postsecondary academic and career readiness pathways
3. Ensuring postsecondary success beyond students' graduation

We are pleased to announce that the College and Career Centers (CCCs) have achieved these goals with a sustained increase of four-year graduation rates, increased scholarship amounts awarded, and a consistent rise in cumulative GPA scores at the majority of APS high schools with CCCs.

During the 2022-23 school year alone, 2,093 high school students received support from their College and Career Center. In conjunction with other factors and support services, the CCCs have helped to increase overall graduation rates from 45.5% in 2010 to 75.9% in 2022 - a 30% increase! Additionally, students have cumulatively received nearly \$4 million a year more, in scholarship funds. This equates to over \$23.3 million in scholarships that APS students received in the 2022-23 school year alone! Finally, since the inception of CCCs at APS high schools, students' GPAs have increased by 0.41 points.

“From the College and Career Center, I learned about different career options, I learned the differences between a university, technical college, and community college, and I now know that with scholarships and financial aid, I can go to college even though I don't have a lot of money. After I graduate, I plan to get my CDL and use scholarships, FASFA, and the money I make from working to pay for college. I think I want to be an electrician, but I'm still deciding.”

-Aurora Central High School Student, Class of 2023

Scan the QR code to hear Sandra's story, a Hinkley High School, Class of 2016 graduate.



Note from the Executive Director



Since inception, the Aurora Public Schools Foundation has aimed to provide the resources and support necessary for possibility to become reality for every Aurora Public Schools (APS) student. While our programs and funding have changed over time to accommodate shifting needs, one thing that has remained is our mission to address key barriers, increase postsecondary readiness, and close opportunity gaps for our students and community. We have addressed key barriers through programs and initiatives like the Educator Emporium and worked to close opportunity gaps with scholarships, internships, and additional student resources. Further, the Aurora Public Schools Foundation has focused on increasing postsecondary and workforce readiness through the funding of College and Career Centers, and through expanding work-based learning so that students can earn credentials and gain critical career exposure during their high school years.

In the aftermath of the COVID-19 pandemic, APS students attending two, four year or technical universities after high school dropped by 10%, to only 36% of graduates. However, 90% of top jobs in Colorado require a credential beyond a high school diploma. This sparked the APS Foundation, in partnership with Aurora Public Schools, to think differently about college and career readiness. We are now offering high school students expanded opportunities to earn industry credentials and participate in an accredited construction trades program. This enables students graduate high school with credentials to either immediately join the workforce or matriculate to a postsecondary institution to further their field of study, all free of charge!

We've been working closely with local industry partners to make these opportunities a reality for students. Additionally, we recently hired a Partners and Programs Manager, Rachel Heilbronner Adkins, to help bridge the gap between industry and education. We recognize that we need to think outside the box to connect K-12 education and workforce development, to ensure that students are well equipped for a successful future upon graduation.

We cannot do this critical work alone. Thank you for your commitment to the students of Aurora Public Schools!

Sincerely,
Jill Ruiter

To connect with Rachel, please email her at rheilbronner@aurorak12.org



Educator Emporium: Supporting Aurora's Educators

The Educator Emporium - a free school supply "store" - opened in fall of 2021 as a way to address key barriers and obstacles faced by our community. While schools were back to in-person learning and COVID-19 cases were declining, our students, families and school staff still faced many challenges. With nearly 75% of APS students on free and reduced lunch, and educators spending an average of \$750 per year on school supplies for their classrooms, the APS Foundation felt compelled to help alleviate this financial strain on families and educators.

In August of 2021, the APS Foundation found an opportunity to partner with a local Walmart store that offered to donate multiple pallets of brand new school supplies to the district. As a result, the Educator Emporium opened, providing APS educators with free school supplies for their students and classrooms. Since the opening, over 650 educators from all 53 APS schools have visited the Educator Emporium! They have raved about the impact of this program, stating,



"The variety of items available were perfect for what my students needed. I appreciate the generosity that is provided for teachers to help our students be successful."

"Thank you for all you are doing to fill in the gaps for our students!"

"Thank you so much for this service! Last year, I spent hundreds of dollars on supplies. The Educator Emporium eased that financial burden for me this year and allowed me to provide supplies for all of my students!"

If you would like to make a donation to provide school supplies to our educators and classrooms, please scan the QR code:



To purchase school supplies directly or host a school supply drive at your office, church, or other community location, please view our "wishlist" here:





OUR VISION

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

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 35,000 students, 5,000 educators, and 63 schools.

**Our Mission is to cultivate community
investment to enrich student opportunity.**

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

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



aurorapublicschoolsfoundation



@apsfoundation



Aurora Public Schools Foundation



@aps_foundation





The Power of Internships: Chimmy's Story

Chimamaka Megafu (Chimmy) is a 2023 graduate of Rangeview High School who interned with the APS Foundation during the fall of 2022. At the time, Chimmy knew that she was interested in business and had a passion for helping her community. Through her internship, Chimmy learned about marketing, business/nonprofit operations, communication skills, event organization, data management technology, and more!

“Interning at the APS Foundation gave me a good perspective on how business and nonprofit organizations work. It also helped me to realize how important relationships are. I now know that building relationships is crucial for business and nonprofit organization success.”

Chimmy's internship opportunity helped her confirm that business is a great fit for her. She is now in her first year of college at the University of Colorado, Boulder, majoring in business. Further, Chimmy dreams of one day starting her own nonprofit to support children and her community.

Additionally, through her internship, Chimmy was connected to the Civitas Community Foundation Scholarship Program and selected for a \$10,000 scholarship! Receiving the scholarship has allowed Chimmy to focus on her schoolwork, adjust to a new campus, and live on her own for the first time; instead of worrying about paying for school.

We are so proud of Chimmy as she has thrived in college, getting through her first set of midterms and doing great in her Math Analysis class, a subject that she was very nervous about! Further, Chimmy has been working on advocating for herself more, asking for help when she needs it, and taking advantage of opportunities to learn more about different career options. Her advice to current high school students is this,

“Take advantage of internships, they are very important because they give you perspective and experience in fields that you might want to go into. They also help take the pressure off of making big decisions, like what you want to do for your career, because you have the experience to make an educated decision. Also, build relationships with people because it can open doors and help you learn a lot.”



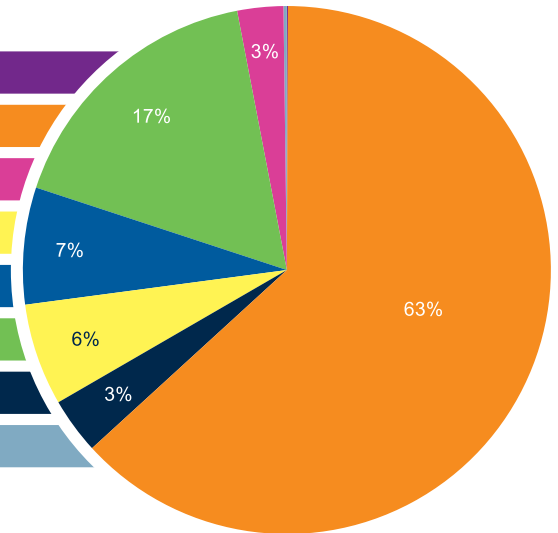
2023
CIVITAS
Scholar

Financial Transparency

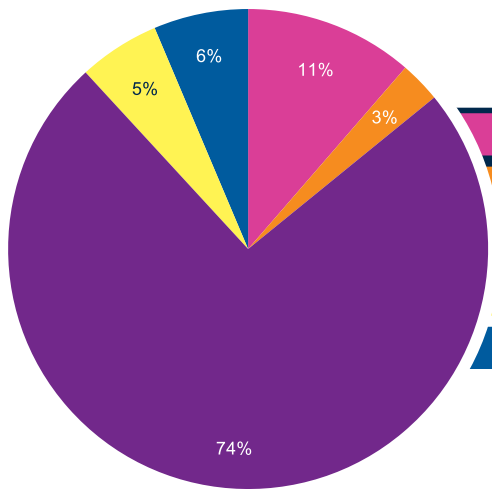
We believe that standing together requires trust. And trust can only be developed through integrity and transparency, as demonstrated by the Aurora Public Schools Foundation's commitment to the highest financial and compliance standards.

Revenue

State Grants	\$1,867	0%
Private Foundation Grants	\$1,741,839	63%
In-Kind Support	\$94,809	3%
Gifts from Individuals	\$172,467	6%
Gifts from Corporations	\$197,374	7%
Special Event Contributions	\$466,882	17%
Investment Return	\$77,691	3%
Fee Income	\$5,667	0%
TOTAL	\$2,758,596	100%



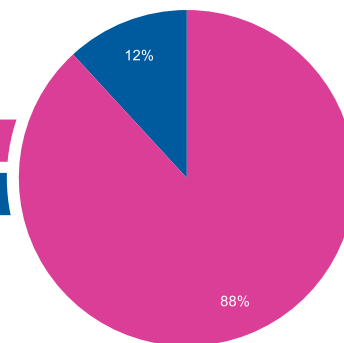
Expenses



College & Career Centers	\$269,884	11%
Scholarships	\$65,420	3%
Special Projects	\$1,757,100	74%
Fundraising	\$129,929	5%
Administration	\$151,142	6%
TOTAL	\$2,373,475	100%

Programs to Overhead Ratio

Program Services	\$2,092,404	88%
Fundraising & Administration	\$281,071	12%
TOTAL	\$2,758,596	100%



During the 2022-2023 school year, **88% of all funds** were **directly invested** in student programs.