



IMPACT REPORT

2023/2024

Work-Based Learning Opportunities for Students

Work-based learning, or the opportunity for students to participate in hands-on, real world experiences in a career field, is a priority for the Aurora Public Schools Foundation. This past year, we have supported over 6,250 APS students with work-based learning opportunities.

These experiences include:

- **Learning About Work** through career fairs, panels with industry speakers, and worksite tours;
- **Learning Through Work** with clinical experiences, internships, supervised project experience, and industry sponsored projects;
- **And Learning At Work** with apprenticeships, on-the-job training, and employee development.

**To learn more about Career Trek,
a work-based learning opportunity
for 8th graders in APS, Scan the QR
code here!**



“*This [Career Trek] was very educational and what I want to do in life. I really wanted to become a psychiatrist but after looking at these other options, it makes me consider all my other job interests.*”



Denver Broncos Foundation Partners with APS and the APS Foundation to Provide Work-Based Learning Opportunities, Book Fair, and Much More!



This year, Aurora Public Schools and the APS Foundation have partnered up with the Denver Broncos Foundation to make a huge impact for our students, schools, and community! Through the generous support of the Denver Broncos Foundation, students at Montview Elementary School were treated to an exciting book fair where every child got to choose four brand-new books to take home free of cost. Helping to foster a love for reading and to ensure that students have access to books at home. The Denver Broncos Foundation's commitment doesn't stop there; they have helped create a safe and engaging space for kids to play and grow with the construction of a brand-new playground at Montview through KABOOM!

At Gateway High School and its feeder middle and elementary schools, the Denver Broncos Foundation has sponsored a Secondary Pathway Specialist position. This key role will focus on expanding work-based learning opportunities and providing post-secondary support to students as they prepare for life after graduation. From internships to career readiness programs, this investment will empower students to explore diverse career paths, setting them up for success.

Middle school girls across the district are also benefiting from the Denver Broncos Foundation's investment by helping launch Aurora Public School's first-ever middle school girls flag football program. Further, the Denver Broncos Foundation has provided new helmets for the Vista PEAK Preparatory football team, ensuring that our student-athletes have the protection they need to play safely.

The Denver Broncos Foundation has also funded the Playworks program, which brings safe and healthy play to elementary schools, helping students build social-emotional skills through structured recess activities. And at Kenton Elementary, the Broncos have supported the establishment of A Precious Child Satellite Resource Center, to provide essential resources to families in need.

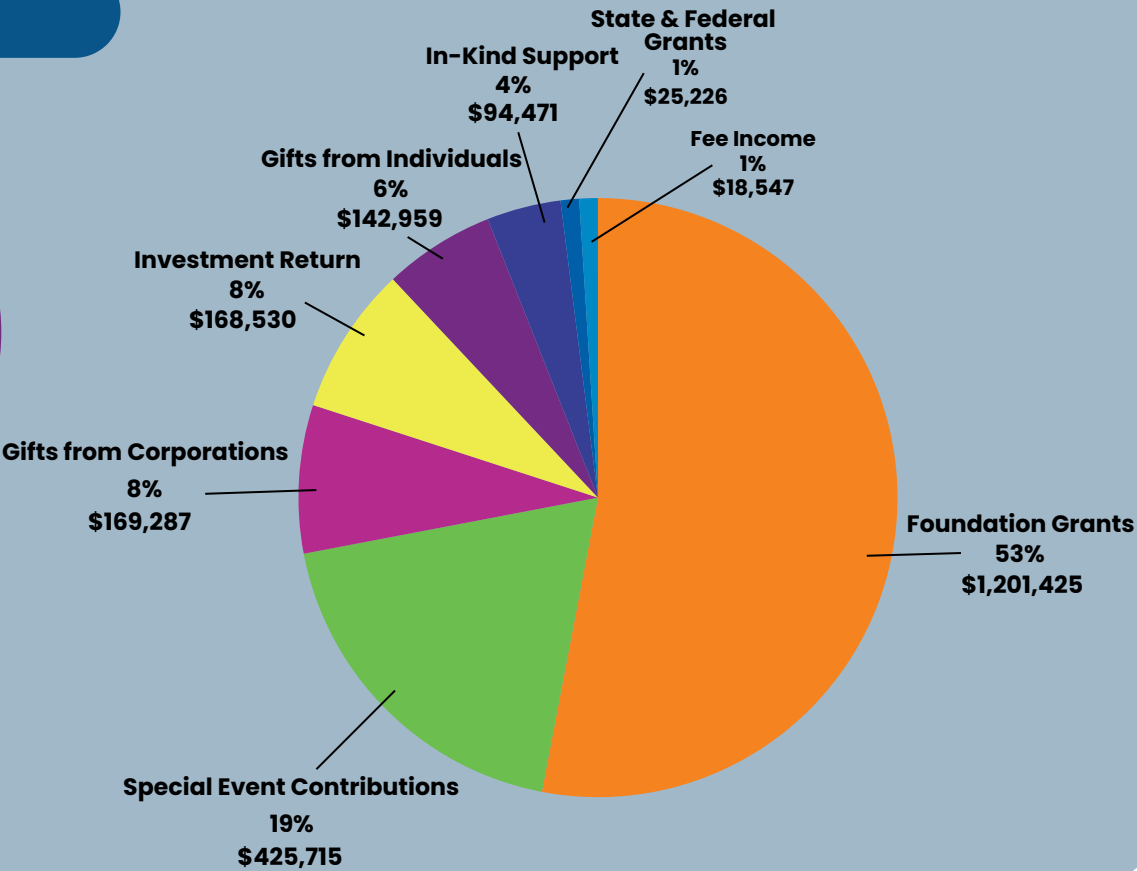
This partnership with the Denver Broncos Foundation exemplifies the power of community and collaboration in helping students succeed in the classroom, on the field, and beyond! We are grateful to the Denver Broncos and the Denver Broncos Foundation for their commitment to education and for creating life-changing opportunities for APS students.



FINANCIAL TRANSPARENCY

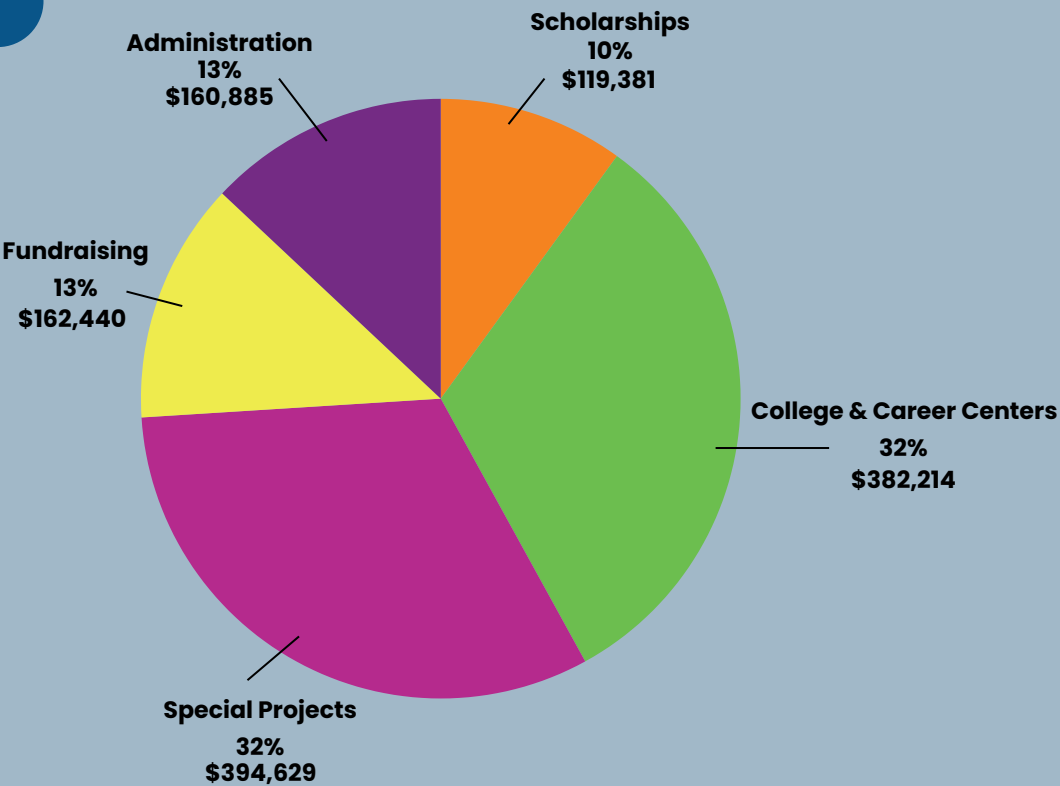
We believe that standing together requires trust. And trust can only be developed through integrity and transparency, as demonstrated by the Aurora Public Schools Foundation's commitment to the highest financial and compliance standards.

Revenue:



Expenses:

The APS Foundation has earned the Gold Transparency Award and a score of 97 from Charity Navigator this year!



Note from the Executive Director

Dear Friends and Supporters,

This past year has been nothing short of incredible for the Aurora Public Schools Foundation, as we've continued to grow and support even more opportunities for Aurora students. At the heart of our work is a spirit of relentless commitment—a dedication to fostering development for every student in our district to make possibility a reality. Together, as a community, and as a Foundation, we have embraced this mindset, pushing forward, even in the face of challenges. And, as a result, we have experienced remarkable growth!

Our Aurora community has seen tremendous growth, through new residents, businesses, and more. Our APS district has grown with our new Superintendent, Michael Giles Jr., and the launch of the latest Strategic Plan, Destination APS. And as a Foundation, we have expanded college and work-based learning opportunities for students, served more educators and classrooms through the Educator Emporium, and grown our community of supporters.

From this, we have also seen the growth of our students, who continue to inspire us with their determination to learn, lead, and succeed! Students like Steeven, who had to overcome immense challenges to make his dreams come true, exemplify what it means to be relentless!



**Scan the QR code here to
view Steeven's story!**



None of this would have been possible without you—our supporters, partners, and advocates. You are an essential part of the APS Foundation's mission, and your dedication ensures that we can continue to meet the ever-evolving needs of our community. I am deeply grateful for your unwavering commitment, and I look forward to all that we will accomplish together in the next year ahead.

With deepest appreciation,

Jill Ruiter

Executive Director,

Aurora Public Schools Foundation



Supporting APS Educators and Students through the Educator Emporium

In the fall of 2021, the Educator Emporium, a no-cost school supplies "store" for APS educators, was launched to help prevent educators from needing to spend their own money on supplies for their classrooms. In January, 2024, the APS Foundation moved the Emporium from a donated space, provided by our generous partners at The District Credit Union, to a modular building on the Aurora Public Schools District campus.

The Emporium is primarily staffed by community volunteers, like the William Smith High School Rudder Club, the Gaylord Rockies and Visit Aurora volunteer teams. Funding and supplies for the Emporium comes from generous individual, corporation, and grant donations.

Since the opening of the Educator Emporium, over 1,000 teachers from all 63 APS schools have been able to gather supplies!

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



To sign up to volunteer in the Emporium, scan the QR code here:



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



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.

To connect with us, follow us on social media or contact us using the information below!



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