



AURORA PUBLIC SCHOOLS
FOUNDATION

IMPACT REPORT

2024/2025



Igniting Futures through Work-Based Learning Opportunities

Each year, the Aurora Public Schools Foundation supports APS in creating and expanding extraordinary learning opportunities that extend beyond the classroom. Space Day at Buckley Space Force Base is a shining example of what's possible when community, curiosity, and innovation collide.

This year, more than 400 APS middle and high school students participated in a full day of immersive, hands-on STEM experiences at Buckley Space Force Base. Throughout the day, students participated in a variety of activities, including:

- **Launching their own foam rockets**, learning the basics of aerodynamics and propulsion
- **Programming line-tracking and color-sensing robots**, sharpening skills in coding and automation
- **Traveling through the cosmos using virtual reality headsets**, sparking awe and wonder about the universe
- **Speaking one-on-one with experts** in aerospace, aviation, and military careers, gaining insight into real-world applications of STEM education

Experiences like Space Day are more than exciting field trips—they are transformational moments that can define a student's future. By making STEM accessible, inspiring, and engaging, we help prepare students to become the innovators, engineers, and explorers of tomorrow.

Thanks to the strong partnerships that make events like Space Day possible, we continue to advance our mission of cultivating community investment to enrich student opportunity.



Scan the QR code to view
the AuroraTV story:



Launch of Innovation Grants for APS Educators

In 2025, we started the **Innovation Grant Program**, designed to inspire and elevate the creativity of APS educators and staff. This new initiative reflects our belief that bold, forward-thinking ideas can unlock inspiration and a world of possibility for students across the district.

Through this grant program, we provide funding for innovative instructional practices, transformative technology, and dynamic projects that align with both the Foundation's mission and the strategic priorities of Aurora Public Schools. From reimagining classroom engagement to expanding real-world learning experiences, these grants are already making a powerful impact.

Here are just a few of the inspiring projects funded this year:

- **Altura Elementary School** expanded its STEM programming with cutting-edge 3D printing and smart robotics, empowering young innovators to design, build, and explore.
- **Clara Brown Entrepreneurial Academy** is partnering with YouthBiz to deliver engaging workshops led by local youth entrepreneurs, sparking interest in business and leadership, and training teachers to foster young entrepreneurs.
- **Mrachek Middle School** welcomed "The Snake Man"; a hands-on, live animal presentation that brought science to life for curious learners.

We are excited to continue supporting APS educators in shaping innovative, meaningful learning experiences that prepare our students for success in school and beyond!

Scan the QR code to learn more or apply:



Letter from the Executive Director

Dear Friends of the APS Foundation,

As we reflect on this remarkable year, I am filled with pride and gratitude for what we have accomplished together to support the students, educators, and families of Aurora Public Schools. With a steadfast commitment to innovation and opportunity, the APS Foundation continues to serve as a bridge between our schools and the broader community.

This year, we were thrilled to launch a new endowment fund, a significant milestone for our organization. This fund is designed to provide long-term sustainability and flexibility, ensuring we are prepared to meet the ever-evolving needs of our students—today and for generations to come. This important step forward strengthens our ability to be a responsive and reliable partner in our community.

We also deepened our investment in work-based learning and career-connected programming, giving students real-world experiences that illuminate future pathways.

- **UCHealth** welcomed APS middle and high school students for immersive career exploration visits, giving them a window into a wide variety of healthcare roles.
- At **Buckley Space Force Base's** Space Day, students connected directly with aerospace and defense professionals, gaining insight into careers they may never have imagined.
- At **CSU Spur**, students explored animal health and environmental sciences by observing live surgeries, studying animal anatomy, learning about equine therapy practices, working with agricultural experts, and designing waterways to see environmental systems in action.
- **Lockheed Martin** hosted an incredible visit centered on the Orion Project, linking students to real-world applications in space exploration and technology.

Looking ahead, we are energized by what's in store for the future! Thank you for standing with us this year. Whether you are a donor, partner, volunteer, or a community champion—your support fuels our impact.

With gratitude,

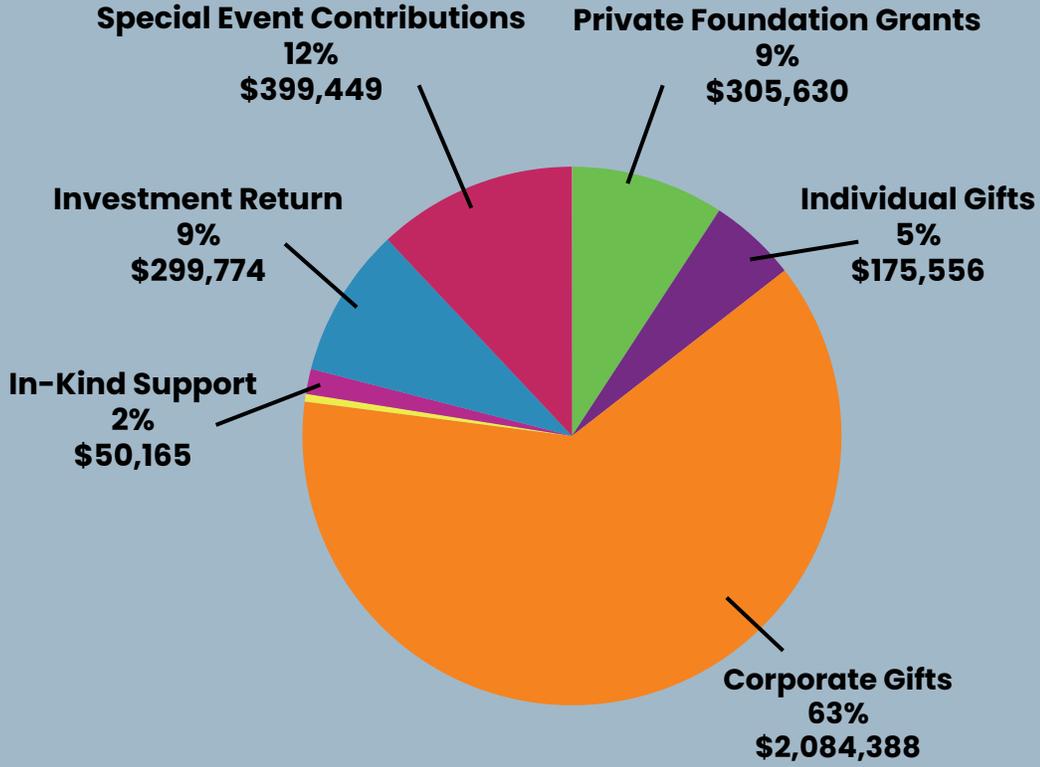


Jill Ruiter
Executive Director
Aurora Public Schools Foundation

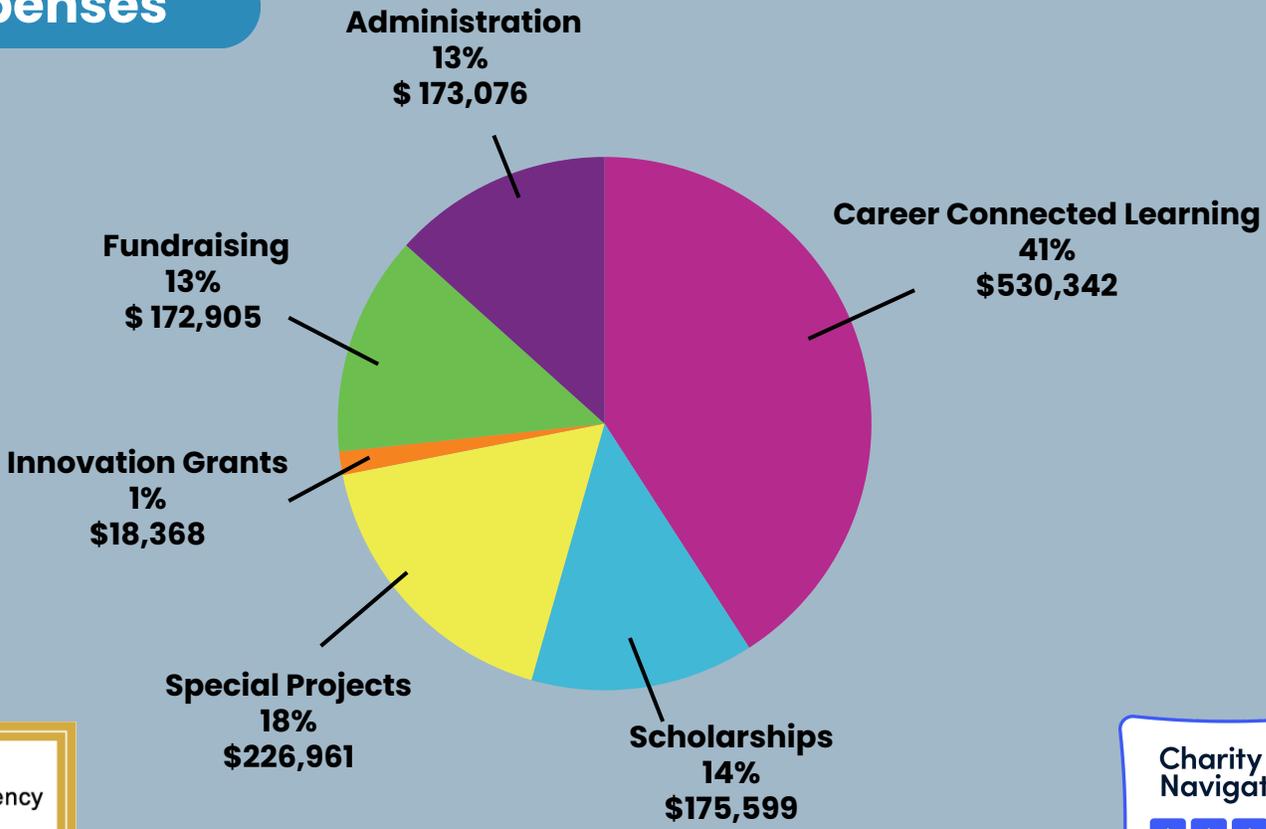


Financial Transparency

Revenue



Expenses



Empowering Classrooms Through Corporate Kindness: Spotlight on Civitas

When it comes to uplifting APS educators and students, the support of dedicated community partners makes all the difference. **Civitas Resources** is an outstanding example of a community partner making this important work possible.

Civitas has been the Title Sponsor of the Foundation's Annual Relentless Gala for four consecutive years, helping raise critical funds to advance student opportunity and educator support across the district. Their commitment goes well beyond financial contributions.

This past year, **Civitas**, along with our partners at **Alpine Bank, Canvas Credit Union, the Denver Broncos, Gaylord Rockies, Southern Glazer's, Visit Aurora** and several other incredible organizations, rolled up their sleeves and volunteered in the Educator Emporium—the Foundation's free school supply store designed to ensure every APS teacher has what they need to help students thrive in the classroom. Thanks to their efforts and the continued generosity of our supporters, the Educator Emporium has served over 2,500 educators from schools across the district since its opening in 2021. From stocking shelves to organizing materials, and helping educators as they shop, volunteers have played a direct role in transforming classrooms.

The collective impact of these partnerships exemplifies what's possible when a community comes together with a shared purpose—to remove barriers and expand opportunity for every student and teacher in Aurora Public Schools. To Civitas Resources and all of our committed volunteers and partners: thank you for turning your values into action and helping us build a brighter future for APS.



Scan the QR code for a link to volunteer at the Educator Emporium:



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 40,000 students, 5,000 educators, and 59 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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