





AURORA PUBLIC SCHOOLS
FOUNDATION

A Breakthrough Year, Made Possible Together
2025-2026 Impact Report

From record growth in work-based learning to expanding career pathways and celebrating major program milestones, this year marked a powerful leap forward in creating opportunities for APS students.

See what your support helped set in motion.

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

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

Dear Friends of the APS Foundation,

As we reflect on another remarkable year, I am filled with pride and gratitude for everything we have accomplished together to support the students, educators, and families of Aurora Public Schools. Since 1987, the APS Foundation has served as a bridge between our schools and a community that believes in the limitless potential of our students—aligning resources around one central goal: helping every learner thrive.

Over the past year, your support helped us meet students and teachers right where they are. Together, we invested in passionate educators through **Innovation Grants** and the **Educator Emporium**, placing critical classroom resources directly into the hands of our teachers.

At the same time, we expanded our investment in **career-connected learning experiences** that connect students with real employers and real opportunities. Across APS high schools, we continued helping thousands of students discover their passions, explore their interests, and build bright futures. We are now building on that momentum by creating pathways to exploration and opportunity as early as middle school.

Looking ahead, we are energized by what comes next. The **Aurora HEART Health Sciences High School** will open its doors for the 2027-2028 school year. Located in Northwest Aurora within walking distance of the University of Colorado Anschutz Medical Campus, this high school will offer a comprehensive health sciences curriculum starting in ninth grade. Aligned directly with high-demand, high-wage careers, it represents a bold, strategic investment in career readiness and educational equity. We look forward to deepening our collaboration with UCHealth, Community College of Aurora, and the Anschutz Medical Campus as this vision becomes reality.

None of this happens without you. Whether you are a donor, partner, volunteer, or community champion—your relentless support fuels a transformative impact: year after year, opportunity after opportunity, student after student.

Thank you for standing with us, for supporting this work, and for believing in what is possible for every student in Aurora Public Schools.

With gratitude,



Jill Ruiter
Executive Director
Aurora Public Schools Foundation

213%

Growth in Work-Based Learning Student Participation

More APS students are gaining hands-on experiences, exploring careers, and building skills for their futures.

2025–2026 compared to 2024–2025

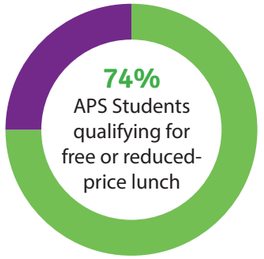


About the Students We Serve

Aurora Public Schools Insights

38,000
Total APS student enrollment

59
Total APS schools



42% Multilingual Learners

57% Hispanic Students

17% Black Students

2025-2026 Program Impact

Work-Based Learning

- More than **6,800** unique students participated in work-based learning experiences
- More than **1,000** industry-recognized credentials earned by APS students

Why Work-Based Learning?

Students who participated in work-based learning experiences during the 2025-2026 school year, including including mentorships, site visits, career panels, and project-based learning:

17%
Higher GPAs on average

4%
Higher school attendance

23%
More likely to be on track to graduate

106%
More likely to be concurrently enrolled in a post-secondary program

Scholarships

- **69** scholarships to **57** students
- **$97,600** in scholarships awarded

Innovation Grants

- **49** Innovation Grants awarded
- Total grant awards **$23,977**

Educator Emporium

- **411** unique educators served
- **8,940** estimated students supported

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHT

Three Years of Building What's Possible



Launched in 2023, ConstrucTECH, an innovative career pathway for APS high school students at Gateway High School and Vista Peak Preparatory, is making strides for students! Starting in 9th grade, students in the program are able to obtain hands-on trade experience and earn industry-recognized credentials that prepare them for post-secondary success, all before graduating from high school.

2025–2026 School Year Highlights

- Over 80% of ConstrucTECH students engaged in six or more work-based learning experiences.
- 63% of eligible Year 3 students secured internship placements.
- 23 Year 3 students are on track to transition to Year 4 coursework at Community College of Aurora's Center for Applied Science and Technology.

Three Years in the Making

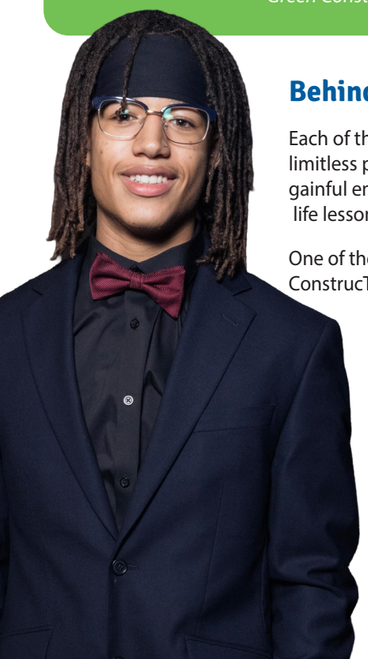
Through financial start-up funding, support for work-based learning opportunities, and connections to industry partners, APS Foundation has played a pivotal role in launching and sustaining the program over the past three years. These investments, made possible through the generosity of supporters like you, have helped turn an innovative idea into meaningful opportunities for APS students.

The Impact: Three Years of ConstrucTECH

165
Students enrolled

615+
Industry certifications earned by APS students
including OSHA 10, Carpentry, Electrical, Plumbing, and the HBI Green Construction credential

6
Construction trade specializations



Behind Every Number Is a Student's Future

WATCH JAYCEN'S STORY

Each of these numbers represents a young person with dreams, challenges, and limitless potential. Career-connected learning opportunities not only open doors to gainful employment after high school or college, but also teach students important life lessons that prepare them for adulthood.

One of these students is Jaycen Harvell, a recent graduate of Vista Peak Prep and ConstrucTECH participant, whose inspiring story was featured at our 2026 Relentless Gala.

Made Possible Through Partnership

We want to acknowledge our industry partners who work directly with students and prepare them for successful careers. Our ConstrucTECH partners include Flintco, Fransen Pittman, JE Dunn, PCL, Adolfson & Peterson, Habitat for Humanity, and the Colorado Contractors Association, among others. These learning experiences would not be possible without them!

Likewise, your support for APS Foundation impacts hundreds of students like Jaycen, empowering them to discover what's possible and build bright futures. **Thank you for believing in their potential!**

PROGRAM MILESTONE

More Than Supplies. Five Years of Possibility.

Celebrating five years of community generosity, supported educators, and students ready to learn.

"Thank you very much for our binders. We appreciate you for the supplies. Thank you for being soft hearted. I feel good because my writing is beautiful…"

Those words came from Briel, a third-grader at Aurora Highlands P-8, in one of 26 thank you notes from her classroom.

For Briel, a simple binder meant feeling organized, confident, and proud of her writing. For her teacher, Jackie Pasillas, it meant having the supplies her students needed without paying out of pocket.

That's the difference the Educator Emporium has been making for five years.

Launched in 2021, when the pandemic was placing growing financial pressure on families and educators, the Educator Emporium began with a simple idea: give APS teachers access to brand-new classroom supplies at no cost.

Through a partnership with District Credit Union, and an initial in-kind donation from the Tower Road Walmart, that idea became a reality. In its first year, educators from 35 schools visited the Emporium. Today, **teachers from all 59 APS schools** are represented annually, accessing supplies that help them focus their resources and energy where they matter most: their students.

"This is the first time in five years of teaching that I did not have to use my own money to get supplies for my students," shared one APS elementary teacher.

Five Years, Made Possible Together

The Educator Emporium is powered by a community that continues to show up for APS educators and students.

More than 150 volunteers have contributed nearly 600 hours stocking shelves, organizing supplies, and welcoming teachers. That includes current and retired APS staff, high school students, and community partners such as Canvas Credit Union, Gaylord Rockies Resort & Convention Center, Alpine Bank, and Southern Glazer's. As one APS staff member shared:

"Thank you to all of the people who volunteer and organize it and make it such an asset for our students. Everyone has been so friendly and helpful."

Five years ago, a community came together to meet a need. Today, that commitment continues to reach classrooms across Aurora.

As we celebrate this milestone, we're looking ahead to the next five years of equipping educators with the supplies they need, so their students can focus on learning.

Here's to what we can make possible together.

Five Years of Community Impact

3,000 +
Educator Visits

$250,000
In estimated classroom supplies distributed

59
APS schools represented annually

150+
Volunteers contributing nearly 600 hours

9.5/10
Average educator recommendation rating

Behind these numbers are thousands of moments like Briel's, when having the right supplies makes a meaningful difference in a student's day.

For educators, the impact is just as personal.



Ms. Pasillas' third-grade class at Aurora Highlands P-8 celebrates new binders from the Educator Emporium

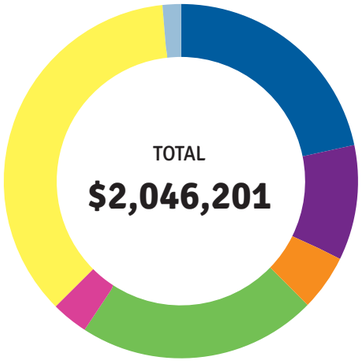
APSF FY25-2026 FINANCIAL BREAKDOWN

Community Investment. Student Opportunity.

Every dollar entrusted to Aurora Public Schools Foundation is an investment in APS students, and we steward it with care. This year, our independent auditor issued a clean, unmodified opinion, the highest an audit can deliver. Net assets grew with higher net income, and we strengthened our long-term position by moving cash into investments. Our revenue sources remain strong, and a good year in the market increased our investment income. While expenses dipped slightly, our commitment to students did not: we continue to work alongside APS to fund high-impact programs. The result is a Foundation that is financially sound, disciplined, and built to last.

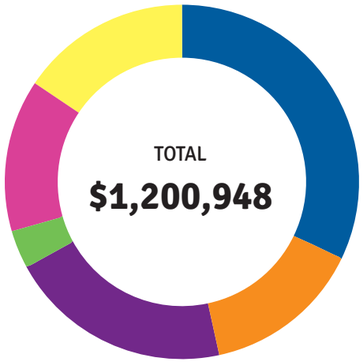


Revenue



Private Foundation Grants	$443,526	22%
Gifts from Individuals	$215,668	11%
Gifts from Corporations	$103,313	5%
Special Event Contributions (net)	$446,716	22%
In-Kind Support	$67,667	3%
Investment Return	$733,251	36%
Fee Income	$36,060	2%
TOTAL	**$2,046,201**	**100%**

Expenses



Career Connected Learning	$385,518	32%
Scholarships	$174,373	15%
Special Projects	$244,655	20%
Innovation Grants	$41,730	3%
Fundraising	$166,370	14%
Administration	$188,302	16%
TOTAL	**$1,200,948**	**100%**

The Next Opportunity Starts With You.



Every student deserves the opportunity to thrive. With your support, the Aurora Public Schools Foundation can continue removing barriers, supporting educators, and opening doors for students across Aurora.

Ways to Make an Impact

Make a Gift

Support APS students with a one-time or monthly donation that helps create opportunities in and beyond the classroom.

Multiply Your Impact

Make your generosity go further through employer matching gifts, gifts of stock, donor-advised funds, or other giving options.

Become a Community Partner

Businesses and community organizations can invest in student success through sponsorships, in-kind contributions, and program partnerships.

Give Your Time

Volunteer at the Educator Emporium, review scholarship applications, participate in events, or share your professional expertise.



Your Support Makes What's Next Possible.

Scan to Learn More









AURORA PUBLIC SCHOOLS
FOUNDATION

Let's Stay Connected

Aurora Public Schools Foundation

15701 E. 1st Ave., #206
Aurora, CO 80011

apsfoundation@aurorak12.org

(303) 326-2042

www.educateaurora.org

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Aurora Public Schools Foundation

@apsfoundation

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