
ANNUAL GIVING CAMPAIGN '10

SOS: SUSTAIN OUR SCHOOLS



January 21, 2010

Dear Parent:

The Eureka Schools Foundation (ESF) continues to serve as your reliable partner in supporting excellence across all of the schools in the Eureka Union School District (EUSD). ESF is a non-profit foundation that serves to bridge the gap in unpredictable and insufficient education funding from our state government. Through \$4.5 million in grants over 18 years -- strengthening enrichment education, providing cutting-edge classroom technology and accelerated teacher excellence -- your partnership with ESF has sustained our school district's superior performance in a climate of economic uncertainty.

The Annual Giving Campaign is a once-a-year fundraising campaign specifically targeted to preserving teacher salaries for our district's academic enrichment programs. ESF kicks off this year's campaign in the midst of a continuing public school funding crisis that forces EUSD to cut more than \$2.4 million for the 2010-11 school year, on top of over \$1.3 million in cuts affecting the current year. While historically Annual Giving has helped fund about half of the cost of enrichment education (around \$320,000 yearly), EUSD has asked ESF to attempt to cover the ENTIRE enrichment budget – more than \$600,000 – starting this fall. **Changes to elements of our children's school experience that most of us would consider unthinkable – elimination of staffed libraries, loss of music in our schools, the pink-slipping of trusted teachers, and/or significantly increasing class sizes to preserve any of these essentials – are a clear possibility unless we act together as a community.**

Where do your donations go?

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Your tax-deductible donation to the campaign will preserve full teacher funding for these invaluable, at-risk programs:

- **Ongoing library resources and aides in all schools**
- **Technology/computer teaching aides in all schools**
- **Weekly music instruction in grades 4-6**
- **Extra-curricular band instruction in grades 4-8**
- **Before and after school Spanish language instruction in grades K-6**
- **After-school athletics coaches salaries in grades 7&8**

We can preserve academic success despite limited public resources if we work together. **The \$600,000+ price tag of enrichment works out to approximately \$175 per student** with full participation of every family in the district. Particularly in these difficult economic times, we welcome contributions from every family at **whatever amount is feasible for you** and we thank you for your generosity and commitment to your community. **We need participation of ALL district families to be successful.**

Here's how to be part of the solution: **make your tax-deductible donation via check or credit card the remit envelope provided, or online at eurekaschoolsfoundation.org.** Please consider a **recurring monthly donation** out of your credit card or bank account; you can set this up easily at our online site. Following receipt of your donation, you will receive a confirmation letter for your tax purposes.

Please consider a donation as soon as possible. Families who have not donated by February 1 will receive a contact from one of your peers – grassroots “contact team” parent volunteers from your child’s school - in February and early March to inform you about the campaign and inquire about a donation.

To learn more about the current budget crisis in our district and our community’s role in a solution, please also consider attending one of the “State of the District” meetings taking place this month:

Tuesday, January 26 6:30pm - 8pm Excelsior Multi-purpose Room

OR

Thursday, January 28 6:30pm – 8pm Oakhills/Ridgeview Multi-purpose Room

Thanks in advance for being part of the solution.

Regards,