

FOUNDATION Q&A

(you asked us, we'll tell you!)

The Foundation for Reed Schools promotes the well-being of the children in our district by ensuring educational excellence and by fostering community involvement in our schools.

This is achieved by raising critical financial resources, which fund programs such as Art, Foreign Language, Music, P.E. and Technology.

PUBLIC SCHOOL IS SUPPOSED TO BE FREE. WHY SHOULD I DONATE TO THE FOUNDATION?

Public education is free, but quality education is not. We expect our children to receive a higher quality education than public funding alone can provide. This year, our District needs your help more than ever to maintain all of the programs we have come to expect for our children including art, music, physical education, foreign language and technology. These programs cost our District approximately \$1,250 per student per year. The Foundation hopes to reach its increased fundraising goal of \$1.3 million for the 2009-2010 school year with the support of 100% of the families in our District.

HOW MUCH SHOULD I DONATE TO THE FOUNDATION?

Please donate an amount that is meaningful for you. The Foundation raises the largest percentage of its annual fundraising goal through tax-deductible donations to the Annual Giving Campaign from parents, community neighbors, local businesses, grandparents and District alumni. Our 2009-2010 goal is to raise \$1.3 million with the support of 100% of our District families. Donations can be spread over the entire year under any installment plan that fits your needs. Last year, donations to the Annual Giving Campaign ranged from less than \$100 to \$15,000. And participation matters! Every donation is valuable and Foundation participation figures aid the District and our schools in applications for grants that also provide needed funding.

WHY IS THE FOUNDATION RAISING MORE MONEY THIS YEAR?

Simply put, the Foundation needs to raise more money this year because of a decline in anticipated property tax revenue, a decrease in funding from the state, and an increase in enrollment in our District. Since 2003, our District has experienced an average annual increase of property tax revenue around 8%. In 2009-2010, a 4% increase is estimated, which is our lowest increase since 1995. Over the next three years, the District estimates that revenue increases will be less than 3% annually, resulting in a reduction of over \$1 million in anticipated revenue.

At the same time, enrollment in our schools has increased each year, while the amount of money the District receives from the state does not increase with enrollment. In fact, as a result of the recent state budget crisis, our District is expected to lose approximately \$750,000 over the next two fiscal years in state funding. Your support of the Foundation helps bridge the funding gap and ensures that our kids continue to enjoy the art, music, physical education, foreign language and technology programs that they deserve.