



Frequently Asked Questions

What is an education foundation?

The Southeast Polk Education Foundation has come to be in order to supplement, augment, and complement existing programs and activities within the Southeast Polk Community School District. Foundations are made up of concerned citizens who understand that as education has evolved, a need has arisen to develop a means to raise funds for innovative and effective programs to improve student achievement and nurture lifelong learning.

Why do we need a foundation? Don't we have good schools?

The schools at Southeast Polk are outstanding. The district educates about 6,700 students across all grade levels, with a teaching staff of about 450. The Southeast Polk Education Foundation will expand opportunities for our students beyond existing programs, focusing primarily on academic ventures. The foundation is an avenue for the community to participate in the education system, thus making a positive impact on the lives of our students. Your contribution will help guarantee our children's success.

What is the relationship between the district and the foundation? Does the foundation affect the district budget? Will it affect my taxes?

Since it does not take the place of the programs under the care of the School Board and town, your taxes will not be affected. The foundation will spend only funds raised by donation. The foundation is independent of the district. It is a separate 501 (c) (3) non-profit organization governed by its own Board of Directors, created to support programs that increase opportunities for our children. The foundation will not fund programs that are a part of the programs already provided by the district and School Board.

How does the community benefit from the foundation? If I have no children in the school district, how will I be affected by the foundation?

As community members, we will all benefit from ensuring that the community's children have the best possible education. The quality of our schools is a vital part of our success as a community. The school system affects property values, the likelihood of new businesses/industries gravitating to the community, and life in general. A contribution will keep giving through the legacy of the original good it does.

How does a school or teacher receive a grant from the foundation?

Teachers, principals, and other certified staff can submit a grant proposal to the foundation. Proposals are submitted using the appropriate application. The proposal is then reviewed to guarantee that it fits the mission and vision of the foundation. Then the proposal is weighed against other proposals and, if approved, funds will be dispersed to the school.

Do other school districts have foundations?

Yes. School districts nationwide have established foundations for the purpose of enhancing opportunities for students.

Is my donation tax-deductible?

Yes. Your donation is tax-deductible because the Southeast Polk Education Foundation is a 501 (c) (3) organization. Additionally, if you donate to our endowment fund at the Community Foundation of Polk County, your donation is eligible for the Endow Iowa Tax Credit. This means you are eligible for a 25% tax credit on your gift.

How does the foundation raise money?

Funds are raised from donations from community members, business sponsors, etc., by direct appeals and through community-wide educational and social events. Funds are raised using these methods:

- General donations
- Planned giving (wills, trusts, estate plans, etc.)
- Gifts of stock
- Matched giving
- Fundraisers

Can I target my donation to a specific area or program?

Yes. You can target your donation to a specific school, program, event, etc., of your choice. You can also donate to the unrestricted fund.

Whom should I contact if I have questions?

View our Contact Information page to contact foundation staff. We welcome communication from the community.