



RSU 22 Education Foundation

Community Partners for Inspired Education

ANNUAL REPORT

The RSU22 Education Foundation's Annual Report highlights our accomplishments, financial transparency, and the positive impact we've made in the district and the community over the past year. This report serves as both a reflection on our achievements and a look ahead at the continued progress we strive to make in support of education, students, and our community.

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A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

As president of the RSU22 Education Foundation, I am excited to share this year's annual report with you. It's been a year of laying a strong foundation, setting up key policies, and establishing the structures necessary for a sustainable and impactful organization. I am thrilled about what we've been able to achieve together, and I am energized by the possibilities for the future.

The support from our community continues to inspire us, and with your help, we are poised to create even greater opportunities for innovation and excellence in education. As we look to the future, I am filled with optimism about the continued impact we can make in our schools and beyond. Together, we are building something truly special—a strong, vibrant foundation that will support our district for years to come.

Thank you for being part of this exciting journey. The best is yet to come!

Angela Ellingwood



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WELCOME TO OUR FOUNDATION

The purpose of the annual report is to provide a comprehensive overview of the RSU22 Education Foundation's activities, achievements, and financial status over the past year. It serves as a tool for transparency, allowing stakeholders—such as the foundation board, school board, donors, and the community—to understand how resources were used, the impact the foundation had, and the progress made toward its mission. Additionally, the report is a marketing tool designed to showcase the foundation's successes, build trust with current and potential supporters, and encourage further engagement and support for the foundation's future initiatives.



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VISION AND MISSION

VISION

The Foundation will encourage community-wide financial and inspirational support for our district's students and teachers, promoting excellence for the present and into the future.

MISSION

The RSU 22 Education Foundation is an independent, non-profit organization of community members committed to fostering innovations and excellence in RSU 22 schools by: funding initiatives that fall outside the school budget; partnering with the school district to help achieve its vision; and building community-wide support for the benefit of our schools.



YEAR IN REVIEW

This year has been a transformative one for the RSU22 Education Foundation, as we worked diligently to put the right systems and structures in place to ensure that we are working smarter, not harder. We focused on establishing clear policies, efficient processes, and bringing in the right people to help us fulfill our mission. By building a strong foundation, we are positioning ourselves to make a lasting impact without spreading ourselves too thin.

The support from our dedicated volunteers, new board members, and community partners has been crucial in making this happen. Together, we've streamlined our efforts and set the stage for even greater success in the future. Read on to see how these efforts have shaped our work and supported the continued growth of RSU22 students and teachers.

Organizational Growth and Community Engagement

Board and Leadership Updates:

This year, we were incredibly fortunate again to have Mary Anne Royal serve as secretary and Peter Witt as treasurer. Their expertise played a crucial role in reestablishing our policies and procedures, setting a strong foundation for our continued success. As of February 2025, both have stepped down, and we are deeply grateful for their contributions.

We are excited to welcome Chris Linder as our new treasurer, bringing a wealth of nonprofit experience and financial expertise to the team. We are also actively seeking new members for the positions of Secretary and Vice President to help guide us as we continue to grow and achieve our mission.

YEAR IN REVIEW

Successful Fundraising Event:

In October, we hosted our Business and Community Expo, which brought together 20 local vendors. Even though the event was not as successful as years past, we feel it was a success for our “new” Foundation. We got to know new businesses and become reacquainted with ones that we already had relationships with and we connected with community members spreading the word about our mission and goals. The Expo helped us raise funds for initiatives that fall outside the school budget and we were able to re-establish the Mini Grant Fund. As a result, we now have \$2,000 available to fund innovative classroom projects that directly benefit our students.

Impactful Programs and Initiatives

Mini Grants and Community Outreach:

Through the proceeds from the Expo, we were able to reintroduce the Mini Grant Fund. This fund will allow RSU22 teachers to apply for grants of up to \$500 for classroom projects and initiatives that fall outside of the school budget. We are excited to see the creativity and innovation these grants will inspire.

We have seen a positive response to our community outreach efforts, with donations and support coming in from local parents and businesses. We've strengthened our ties with the community by promoting school initiatives, including the successful "yard bombing" project by a 6th-grade class at Reeds Brook Middle School.

Community and School Collaboration:

This year, the foundation worked closely with the community. One notable example was when an HA Art class partnered with Fundamental Foot Care to decorate windows for the winter holidays. As you can see, it is not all about raising money, it is about relationship-building and community engagement. The kids enjoyed getting out into the community to spread joy through art and the clients at Fundamental Foot Care were thrilled to see their creations.



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FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT

Financial Stability and Growth:

Our foundation has maintained financial transparency and growth. We continue to improve our online donation systems and have successfully integrated platforms like Give Butter and Stripe for seamless financial transactions. The Expo's success provided funds to reinvest in our mission, and we are grateful for the continued support from our community.

Allocating Funds:

In addition to supporting mini-grants, we have made a commitment to ensure all proceeds from the Expo will go directly into the Mini Grant Fund. This approach helps us stay focused on our mission while also engaging the community to make a direct impact.

To find out more about our impact initiative projects along with our community service and our mini grants, go to our website:

www.rsu22foundation.org



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RSU22 STRATEGIC PLAN 2022-2027

The Education Foundation Supports the RSU22 Strategic Plan

Four Building Blocks

Student Success	Professional Excellence	Community Partnerships	Operational Excellence
Academic Excellence & Achievement	Recruitment & Retention	Family & Community Engagement	Budget Development
Foundational Skills	Professional Development	RSU 22 Educational Foundation	Fiscal & Facilities Management
Instructional Models	Best Practices	Communication & Transparency	Comprehensive Planning
Engagement		Campus Based Services	

The RSU22 Education Foundation is proud to align itself with the goals and objectives outlined in the RSU22 Strategic Plan for 2022-2027. As an organization committed to fostering innovation and excellence within our district, we see our mission as directly supporting the strategic priorities of RSU22. Our goal is for the foundation to work hand in hand with the district to ensure that students, teachers, and the broader community are equipped to thrive in an ever-changing educational landscape. On the following pages we highlight how the RSU22 Education Foundation has supported and continues to support the district's strategic plan.



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RSU22 STRATEGIC PLAN 2022-2027

1. Excellence in Teaching and Learning

The RSU22 Education Foundation supports the district's goal of improving teaching and learning by funding innovative classroom projects through initiatives like the Mini Grant Fund. These grants enable teachers to implement creative programs in areas such as STEM, art, literacy, and social-emotional learning, enriching students' educational experiences. By providing resources for new teaching methods, the foundation helps foster creativity and critical thinking, directly contributing to excellence in education.

2. Student Success and Well-Being

The strategic plan emphasizes the importance of supporting student success and well-being by providing the necessary resources for academic achievement, mental health, and overall development. The RSU22 Education Foundation aligns with this objective by funding programs and initiatives that promote both academic excellence and the social-emotional well-being of students.

For example, the foundation's support for programs like the school-based maker spaces and wellness initiatives ties directly into this strategic goal by offering students access to tools and resources that allow them to explore, create, and engage in activities that nurture their personal and academic growth. Additionally, the foundation is committed to funding projects that support student mental health, providing resources to help students cope with challenges and thrive in both their academic and personal lives.



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3. Community and Family Engagement

The RSU22 Strategic Plan places a strong emphasis on strengthening connections between schools, families, and the broader community. The RSU22 Education Foundation has played a pivotal role in achieving this objective by acting as a bridge between the school district and local businesses, organizations, and individuals.

Our foundation's events, such as the Business and Community Expo, foster these essential connections, creating opportunities for local businesses to support education and for families to engage more deeply in the educational process. Furthermore, the foundation works to ensure that parents and community members are informed and encouraged to contribute to the success of the district, whether through volunteer opportunities, donations, or other forms of support. These partnerships help to create a vibrant educational environment where everyone plays a role in student success.

4. Infrastructure and Resource Management

The RSU22 Strategic Plan outlines the importance of managing resources effectively to support educational goals. In line with this, the RSU22 Education Foundation assists by raising funds for projects and initiatives that fall outside the district's regular budget. This support helps to address gaps in resources and ensures that students and teachers have access to the tools and materials they need for success.

For instance, the foundation's efforts to raise funds for classroom technology, educational resources, and teacher professional development are in direct alignment with the district's goal of managing resources effectively. By providing funding for these crucial areas, the foundation contributes to enhancing the district's infrastructure and ensuring that RSU22 remains a leader in educational excellence.



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RSU22 STRATEGIC PLAN 2022-2027

5. Continuous Improvement and Innovation

The final goal of the RSU22 Strategic Plan is to create a culture of continuous improvement and innovation. The RSU22 Education Foundation plays a key role in supporting this goal by funding initiatives that promote forward-thinking practices within the district. From supporting the development of innovative curriculum designs to funding professional development opportunities for teachers, the foundation helps ensure that RSU22 remains adaptable and responsive to the needs of its students.

Our funding of creative educational programs, including those focused on career exploration, technology integration, and project-based learning, encourages students and teachers alike to embrace new ideas and methods. This culture of innovation helps keep RSU22 at the forefront of educational excellence, preparing students for the challenges and opportunities of the future.



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A Bright Future for RSU22 Education

As we face uncertain times, the RSU22 Education Foundation is more committed than ever to supporting the district's mission to provide exceptional educational opportunities. The foundation's role in these challenging times is crucial, as it helps bridge the gap between the available school budget and the innovative resources needed to keep students and educators thriving.

Moving forward, the foundation will focus on several key areas:

- **Innovative Educational Programs:** The foundation will continue funding programs that enrich students' learning experiences, such as STEM, arts initiatives, and wellness projects. These opportunities ensure that students can explore, create, and succeed, even as budgets tighten.
- **Community Partnerships:** Strengthening relationships between schools, local businesses, and families will be a priority. By fostering collaborations that support education, we can offer mentorship programs, career exploration, and internships that prepare students for their futures.
- **Support for Teachers:** We will expand our efforts to support teachers with grants for professional development and classroom resources, helping them implement creative teaching strategies and personalized learning experiences.
- **Student Well-Being:** In addition to academic programs, the foundation hopes to fund initiatives that address the mental and emotional well-being of students, helping them navigate challenges and thrive.
- **Building Long-Term Sustainability:** As we work to secure funding for these initiatives, we will focus on growing our donor base and building a sustainable future. By strengthening our financial foundation, we ensure that RSU22 continues to offer high-quality educational experiences for years to come.

The RSU22 Education Foundation will continue to support the district's strategic goals, fostering a culture of excellence, innovation, and collaboration. Together, we will build a resilient educational environment, one where every student has the tools, support, and opportunities to succeed.



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THANK YOU

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