



2022

Annual Report

E·f(ec) Education
Foundation
of Eagle County
be part of the solution



E·f(ec)

Education
Foundation
of Eagle County

be part of the solution
efec.org

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EFEC is a 501(c)(3) tax-exempt organization.
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2022 Annual Report

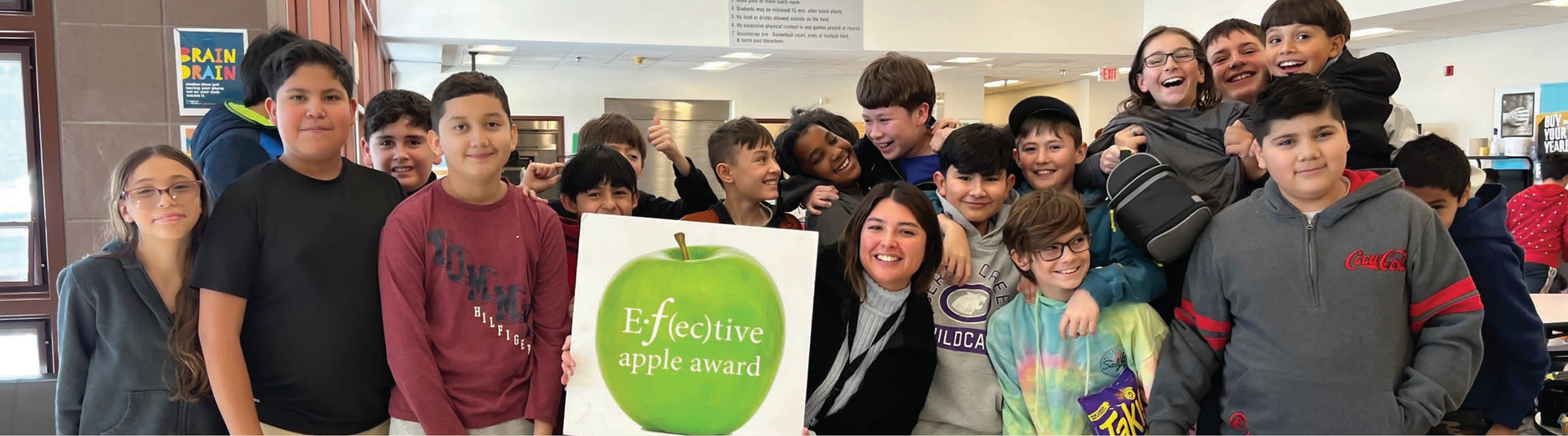
“ People across the state are starting to understand that a major crisis looms for Colorado’s K-12 schools and that if we don’t competitively fund our schools, we will continue to lose quality educators to other states. ”

- Phil Qualman,
Superintendent of
Eagle County School District

E·f(ec) was founded in 2001.
Stats in this report are since 2012.

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Dear Friends

Dear Friends of Education,

Studies show that teachers are the most significant in-school factor affecting student success. It is impossible to overstate the importance of our educators.

At the Education Foundation of Eagle County, we are proudly the #1 teacher retention effort in Eagle County. We support continuing education, provide resources, and recognize excellence among our community's educators and school support staff to foster retention.

In this report, you will find a highlight of each of our programs. You will notice that every program and advocacy effort is driven to support our most precious resource, our educators.



Our community and the state continue to face significant challenges in attracting and retaining teachers and school staff. We hope you enjoy this snapshot of our work and invite you to join us in being part of the solution.

With great gratitude,

Wendy Rimel – President
The Board of Directors & Trustees

Our Members

Board of Directors

Wendy Rimel – President
Tessa Kirchner – Vice President
Lori Pohl – Treasurer
Elisabeth Gart
William Harris
Julie Jackson
Shelly Jarnot
Charles Overy
Kelly Pope
Phillip Qualman
Matt Scherr

Trustees

Mary Blair – Co-Secretary
Louise Funk – President Emeritus
Dana Maurer – Co-Secretary
Felicia Battle
Molly Gallagher
Lindsay Hawkins
Shelley Herron
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Libby Navarro
Julie Norberg
Juan Peña
Jill Rubinstein
Diana Scherr
MaryAnn Stavney
Trista Sutter

Colorado's Education

PROBLEM

The Education Foundation of Eagle County exists because Colorado has a big problem when it comes to properly funding education.



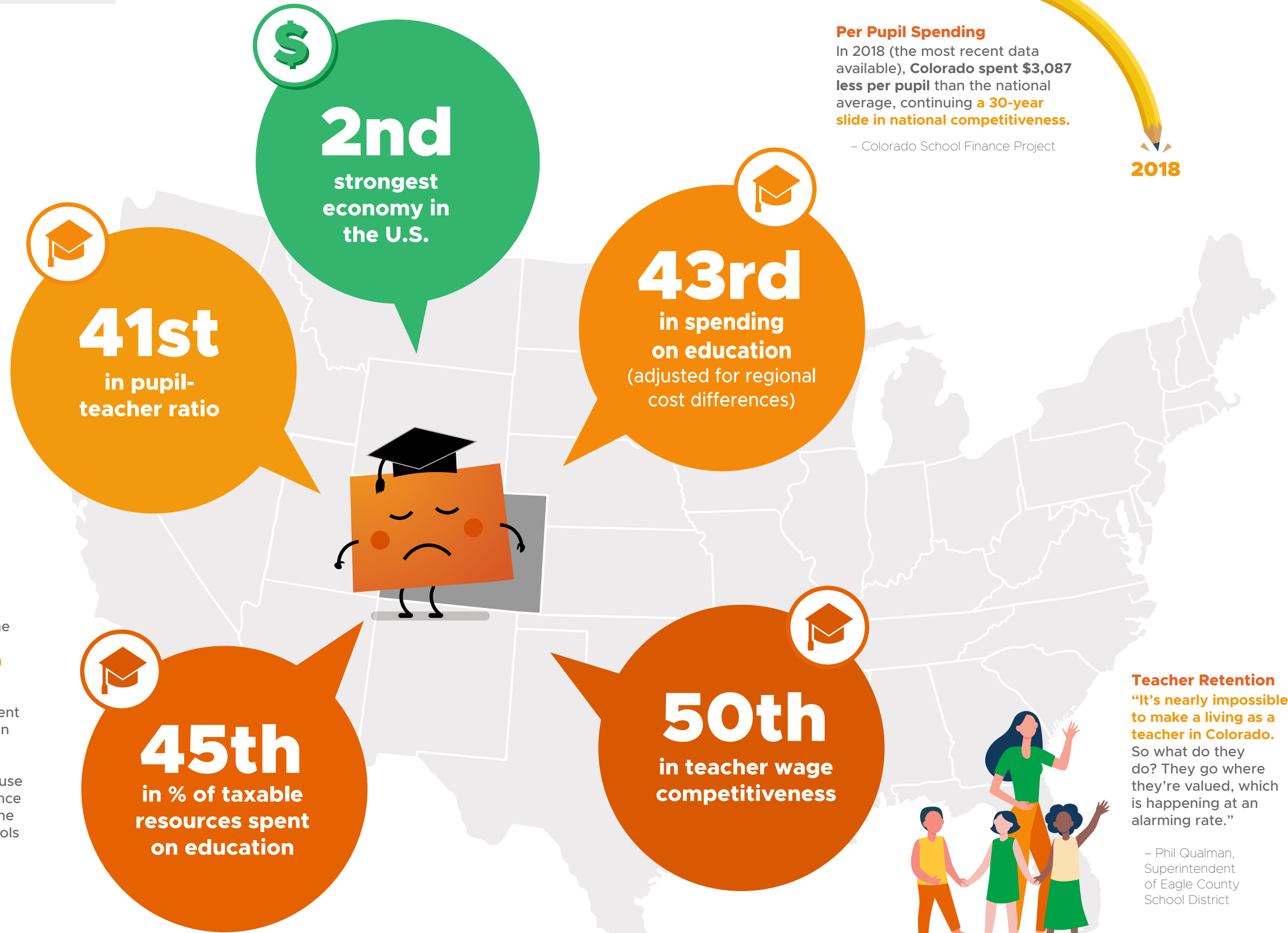
Underfunding

Colorado has a long history of underfunding public schools. Reaching the national average would cost \$2.1 - \$2.8 billion annually. We're not only behind the national average, current funding is \$572 million behind inflation from 2008.



BS Factor

Introduced by the legislature in 2009, the Budget Stabilization (BS) Factor has taken more than \$11 billion away from public schools. With the recent passage of Proposition 121 (income tax reduction), legislators will likely continue to use the BS Factor to balance the state budget on the shoulders of our schools and students.



Stats from Great Ed Colorado





Be Part of the Solution

Our Mission

The Education Foundation of Eagle County, E·f(ec), is committed to supporting public education and the intellectual and emotional needs of students, especially focusing on in-school programs for enrichment, mental health support, and efforts to attract and retain top teacher talent.

E·f(ec) is the #1 Teacher Retention Effort in Eagle County

Classroom Grants

Every fall since 2012, principals and teachers are invited to apply for classroom funding for Equity, STEM, and Arts & Music.

This grant program effectively empowers teachers to educate with an innovative and engaging curriculum that ensures successful outcomes for every student, regardless of their socioeconomic status.

IMPACT:

Your support has allowed E·f(ec) to provide more than \$500,000 in school staffing, paraprofessional classroom support, STEM materials, technology, musical instruments, art programming, and curriculum.

“With E·f(ec)’s grant, our goal to enhance math interventions in elementary and middle school in both English and Spanish is possible!”

- Homestake Peak School Educator



E·f(ec)tive Apple Awards

This monthly program recognizes teachers who have gone above and beyond in the classroom to impact students positively and rewards them with \$500. Students, parents, and colleagues send hundreds of nominations every month of the school year, allowing E·f(ec) to recognize and celebrate educator excellence in the classroom.

“ She is enthusiastic and engages her students in their learning in a consistent, loving way. She’s one of those teachers who are all heart and soul for the children, not just in her class but in her community. She makes each day with her students count, and they love her for it. ”

- Apple Award Nomination



IMPACT:
\$52,000 in E·f(ec)tive Apple Awards for outstanding educators, impacting 105 educators.

Distinguished Teacher Scholarship Awards

This program rewards and promotes excellence in teaching by providing scholarships for educators to grow their professional knowledge and skills. As a retention effort, funding eligibility requires grantees to commit to three years of public education work in Eagle County Schools post-completion of studies.

Teacher professional development is essential to maintain a motivated, supported, and protected workforce in Eagle County.

Distinguished Teacher Scholarships are awarded at E·f(ec)'s Annual Evening of Stars teacher recognition event.

The Education Foundation of Eagle County is the #1 teacher retention effort in Eagle County.

IMPACT:
Thanks to your support, we have been able to award \$134,360 in the past seven years.



Mental Health

A Silent Epidemic Is Upon Us

According to the Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), up to one in five kids living in the U.S. shows signs or symptoms of a mental health disorder. If that isn't hard enough to swallow, in Eagle County, the numbers are shocking.

The 2019 Healthy Kids Colorado Survey, facilitated every two years, shows that Eagle County student mental health issues are rising and predicted to get worse due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

- **Pre-pandemic, 31% of Eagle County middle school youth felt sad or hopeless for 2 or more weeks. High schoolers were at 34%. Both up significantly from 2011.**

- Healthy Kids Colorado Survey (2019)

E•f(ec) is committed to identifying and backing a new, more equitable approach to social-emotional learning support for students in schools. We seek to ensure that every Eagle County School is staffed with a behavioral counselor and that each professional has the resources they need to be effective.

The National Association of School Psychologists recommends one psychologist for every 500 to 700 students. In Eagle County Schools there is one school psychologist for every 1,581 students.

Mental Health & The B.E. Partners

Throughout COVID-19, teachers skillfully managed the frontline of students' mental health and academic needs while E•f(ec) supported our educators.

E•f(ec) serves as the lead agency for the Behavioral Education (B.E.) Partners. This coalition of community agencies supports in-school social emotional learning and builds meaningful partnerships to serve students and support school counseling staff.

B.E. Partners include Bright Future Foundation, Mountain Youth, Red Ribbon Project, and SpeakUp ReachOut.

By supporting E•f(ec), you are ensuring the continuation of this critical work for our kids' and educators' mental health.



- **75% of teachers reported frequent job-related stress, compared to 40% of other working adults.**
- **27% of teachers reported symptoms of depression, compared to 10% of other adults.**

- Chalkbeat.org (June 2021)

IMPACT:

\$588,720 in the Colorado Health Foundation grants supporting the B.E. Partners coalition delivering in-school behavioral education programming.



E·f(ec)tive Volunteer Corps

Our community and state face significant challenges in attracting and retaining teachers and support staff. This program employs a network of paid individuals to cover recess and lunch duty allowing teachers to focus on what they do best.

E·f(ec)'s Volunteer Corps consists primarily of retired Hispanic community members who have raised their families in our schools. The program:

- Restores teacher planning time
- Fills critical staffing vacancies
- Provides flexible work hours and financial support for Hispanic community members

“ **The children give me so much purpose. They fill my heart with love and joy.** ”

– Rosa Carbajal,
E·f(ec) Volunteer
Corps Coordinator

IMPACT:

This program is genuinely making a difference in the lives of the teachers, students, and volunteers. Teachers come to our team gushing in gratitude. Students hug and look up to our volunteers, excited to see them every day.

State & Local Advocacy

Sustainable Long-Term Funding Through Advocacy

The Colorado education funding crisis is a direct result of state-level, voter-approved policies. E·f(ec) programs address immediate classroom needs. However, E·f(ec)'s approach to solving the education funding emergency is to engage and inform our community about policies that compromise our kids' ability to learn, thrive, and grow. E·f(ec)'s impact is represented in the following community campaigns:

2011 - 2016 E·f(ec) Advocacy

In 2016, E·f(ec) raised \$105,000 to reach out and engage with local voters to present on benefits of local funding solutions culminating in two successful ballot initiative campaigns:

- **3A Mill Levy Override:** Infused Eagle County Schools with \$8.5M annually for sustainable teacher and staff pay increases and curriculum funding. This funding also restored counselor and enrichment teacher positions that had been eliminated due to perpetual education budget cuts.
- **3B Bond:** Provided \$154M in one-time funding for 17 schools in deferred school building maintenance, repairs, and renovations; updated security at every school; technology upgrades; and construction of four new schools.

2019 - 2021 E·f(ec) Advocacy

Successful public campaign supporting 2021 ballot measure 5B, raising awareness of student mental health needs, the successes gained by restoring counselor positions, the importance of social-emotional learning, prevention and resiliency education in school. The measure successfully removed an impending 2023 sunset of the \$8.5M per year funding received from the passage of 3A in 2016.

Great Education Colorado Partner & Liaison

Recognizing that education funding is a statewide crisis, E·f(ec) works with Great Education Colorado on state initiatives towards long-term, sustainable solutions, including the following campaigns:

- 2013 - [Amendment 66](#)
- 2018 - [Amendment 73](#)
- 2019 - [Prop CC](#)
- 2020 - [Fair Tax Colorado Initiative 271](#)
- 2022 - [Initiative 63](#)

IMPACT:

Since 2011 E·f(ec)'s advocacy & campaign work have resulted in the infusion of over \$228M local dollars to Eagle County Schools.



Thank You For Being Part of the Solution

Thank you to our generous donors for being part of the solution! Below is a partial list of our donors. *For a complete list please visit efec.org/donors

Partner Donors

Vail Resorts EpicPromise
The Colorado Health Foundation
Town of Avon
Town of Vail
Vail Valley Cares
1st Bank
Alpine Bank
Slifer Smith & Frampton Foundation

Business Donors

Alan Bradley Windows & Doors
Beck Building
Bessie Minor Swift Foundation
Braun Associates
Brent Rimel & Ed Swinford
Coleman Custom Homes
Comcast
DLR Group
Eagle County Education Association

Eagle County Schools
Eagle Valley Behavioral Health
Eagle Valley Temps
East West Partners
Engle & Volkers, Vail
Froman Insurance
GE Johnson Construction Company
George K. Baum & Co.
Haselden Construction
Holy Cross Energy
Hovey & Harrison
Jackson Building Company
Kimberly Taylor Law
Lyons Gaddis Attorneys & Counselors
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Gina Browning & Joe Illick
Kim & Gregory Combs
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Donna DuHadway
Jennifer Filipowski
Margie & Tom Gart
Elaine & Art Kelton
Aspen Kron
Ann & William Lief
Sandye Manekin
Matt Medeiros
Jamie Pitt Miller
Julie & Blake Plumley
Amanda Precourt
Alison Rodney
Jorge Rojas

BECOME A DONOR:
If you have any questions about becoming a donor, please reach out to Wendy Rimel at wendyr@efec.org.

There are many ways to get involved to support The Education Foundation of Eagle County

Give Online

Donations can be made online at efec.org ►►



Monthly Donations

Monthly donors support the sustainability of our programs year round.

Pay By Check

Please mail checks to:
E•f(ec)
1121 Miller Ranch Road
Edwards, CO 81632

CONTACT:

If you have any questions about making a donation or about the impact of your support, please reach out to Wendy Rimel at wendyr@efec.org.

Donor-Advised Funds

As a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization, the Education Foundation of Eagle County is eligible to receive gifts from Donor-Advised Funds.

Give While You Shop

Amazon Smile

Select the Education Foundation of Eagle County as your designated charity when shopping through AmazonSmile. Shop at smile.amazon.com.

City Market Rewards

This program makes fundraising easy by donating to EFEC based on the grocery shopping you do every day. Link your card to EFEC at: CityMarket.com/account/communityrewards

Attend Our Events ►►

Project Funway and **Wild West Day** are our biggest FUNdrising events during the year. Join in the fun and help us support our local schools! (See next page!)

E·f(ec)'s EPIC EVENTS



PROJECT FUNWAY 2023

Save the Date!
SATURDAY, APRIL 1
6:00 PM

Dobson Arena Vail, CO

Project Funway is the Education Foundation of Eagle County's signature FUNdraising fashion show that astounds and delights audiences of all ages! Imaginative, brilliant, one-of-a-kind fashion designs of "anything but fabric" parade the runway in this unique fundraising event. No single runway look is ever the same! The show celebrates and supports creativity, art, and design.

VISIT  PROJECTFUNWAY.ORG



EVENING OF STARS

Friday
June 2, 2023

District-wide, year-end celebration recognizing educators, support staff, volunteers, and district staff.



SUNDAY
OCTOBER 1, 2023

Wild West Day fundraising was an idea spearheaded 32 years ago by a group of elementary school parent volunteers. The idea is to collectively combine fundraising efforts and solicit businesses and community members of Eagle County from Vail to Gypsum once a year between August and September, rather than exhausting fundraising resources by soliciting individually and year-round. The collective volunteer efforts of all ECSD elementary and Pre-K schools have proven successful year after year, raising up to \$20,000 per school.



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