

An E·f(ec) TALE



The Education Foundation of Eagle County
2024 ANNUAL REPORT

Once Upon a Time

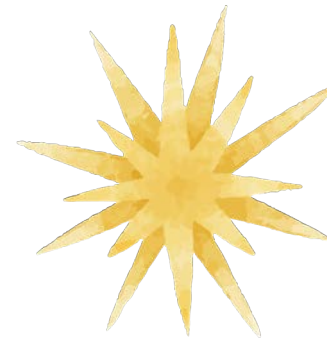
Education was highly valued and well-funded. Schools were vibrant centers of learning and creativity, where teachers were celebrated, and students dreamed boldly. Communities thrived, and every child had the opportunity to reach their potential.



But dark clouds began to gather.

In Colorado, the magic of well-funded education started to fade. Budgets tightened, schools faced impossible choices, and teachers—once the guardians of this magical realm—struggled to stay.

The students, caught in this storm, bore the brunt of the challenges.



Amid this growing darkness, a spark of hope appeared.

The Education Foundation of Eagle County rose as a beacon of light,

determined to restore the promise of education. With every program launched, grant awarded, and teacher supported, E•f(ec) rekindled the belief that education could once again be the bright foundation of our community's future.

THE STORM...

The storm is a crisis of values and investment. Long-term educator retention is key to student achievement and school improvement.

Shockingly, according to the Economic Policy Institute, **Colorado ranks 51st in competitive teacher pay**, behind all 50 states and Washington, D.C.

EDUCATOR EXODUS

These problems are pushing our education crusaders out. The 2025 Colorado Education Association Survey Observations:

Statewide Teacher Shortages

- 52%** **Teacher and Licensed Staff Shortages** are more severe than in previous years
- 69%** **Shortage of Essential Support Staff** including paraprofessionals, bus drivers, office support, and custodial workers
- 56%** **Lack of Substitute Teachers** further straining classrooms and impacting student learning



The Great National Teacher Exodus

- 82%** of Educators know someone who has **left the profession** in the past year
- 47%** of Educators are **considering leaving** the profession soon



STRESS & SAFETY

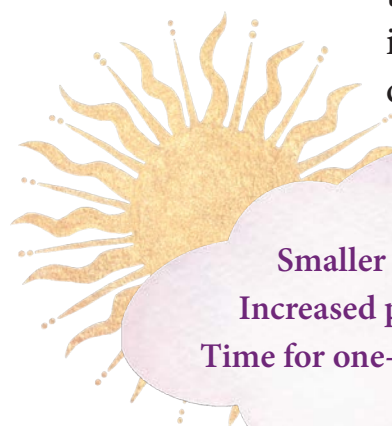
Today's teachers and education support staff are in the thick of the storm. They are under-supported, underpaid, and feel undervalued.

- 43%** **Feel Less Safe**
- 87%** **Feel Undervalued**
- 76%** **Say Politically Divisive Issues Affect Morale**
- 55%** **Can't Afford Housing**

EDUCATORS DREAM OF SUNNIER DAYS

TOP 3 THINGS that teachers would like to improve in student's day-to-day lives:

- Smaller class sizes**
- Increased planning time**
- Time for one-on-ones with students**



Sources:
Colorado Education Association
Economic Policy Institute
Great Education Colorado



A GUIDING LIGHT IN THE HEART OF THE TEMPEST

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

Colorado and Eagle County continue to face significant challenges in attracting and retaining teachers and school staff. 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 E•f(ec), 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.



E•f(ec)'s Warriors

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Learn more about our BOD warriors here: efec.org/board

HOW E•F(EC) EMBARKS ON THIS QUEST

- Community Engagement
- Distinguished Teacher Scholarship Awards
- School Support Staff Corps
- Apple Awards & Teacher Appreciation
- Classroom Grants
- Wild West Day
- Project Funway
- Evening of Stars
- Music & Arts Summer Camps
- Play Like Lily



COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Local Initiative Campaigns

\$313+ MILLION IMPACT

YES for ECSD Ballot Measures

- 2016: 3A & 3B - WIN
- 2020: 5B - WIN
- 2023: 5B - WIN

State Advocacy

- Great Education Colorado Board of Directors since 2015
- Campaigned for state ballot education funding initiatives in 2018, 2020, & 2022

Leadership Development

- E•f(ec) School Support Staff Corps
- Student Internships, Volunteer Opportunities, & Engagement Outreach

Fiscal Sponsorship

- Eagle County Gives
- BMHS Project Graduation

OUR PROGRAMS

We are making a difference in the lives of our local teachers, students, and community with these great and rewarding programs! We fund programs that enrich the learning experience, provide mental health support, and attract and retain top teacher talent.

The Education Foundation of Eagle County was founded in 2001. The statistics on this page reflect impact since 2012. Our financial reports and 990s are available at efec.org/financial-transparency.

DISTINGUISHED TEACHER SCHOLARSHIP AWARDS IMPACT \$197,303



E•f(ec)'s Distinguished Teacher Scholarship Awards promote teaching excellence by providing financial support to educators and aspiring educators for licensure, professional development, and advanced degrees or certifications. Recipients must commit to three years of service in the Eagle County School District following completion of their studies.

E•f(ec)tive SCHOOL SUPPORT STAFF CORPS IMPACT \$512,764

Our community and state face significant challenges in attracting and retaining teachers and support staff. E•f(ec)'s School Staff Support Corps employs a network of paid individuals, primarily grandparents, to cover recess and lunch duty, allowing teachers to focus on what they do best.



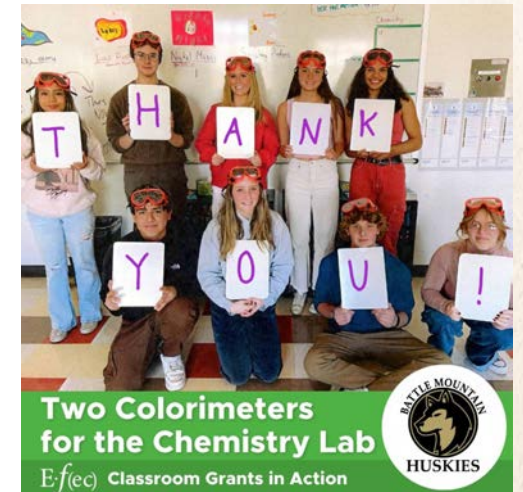
E•f(ec)tive APPLE AWARDS IMPACT \$67,500



E•f(ec)tive Apple Award is a monthly school year program that recognizes staff members throughout the Eagle County School District who have gone above and beyond to positively impact students and rewards them with a \$500 prize.

CLASSROOM GRANTS IMPACT \$443,962

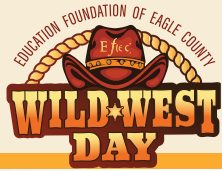
E•f(ec)'s Classroom Grant program invites principals and teachers to apply for funding to support equity, STEM, and arts & music initiatives. This program helps teachers create engaging and innovative lessons that ensure all students, regardless of socioeconomic status, have the opportunity to succeed.



STUDENT MENTAL HEALTH IMPACT \$713,420

E•f(ec) is dedicated to fostering a more equitable approach to social-emotional learning by coordinating a team of in-school providers, known as the Behavior Education Providers. This collaboration ensures that services are efficient, non-overlapping, and effectively address the full range of students' social-emotional needs.

OUR EVENTS



2024 IMPACT
\$152,645

Supporting 9 Schools, 270 Educators & 2,250 Students

Our wild western fundraising event kicks off the school year and raises funds for our pre-K through elementary schools' parent organizations.

PROJECT FUNWAY

2024 IMPACT
\$500,000+

Supporting over 1,000 Educators & 6,600 Students

Our premier fundraising event, sparks creativity and astounds audiences with one-of-a-kind, anything-but-fabric fashion that raises money to support the Education Foundation of Eagle County across all areas of its mission.



ANNUAL IMPACT
Priceless

Recognizing over 1,000 Educators & Support Staff

Our district-wide, year-end celebration recognizes educators, support staff, volunteers, and district staff. Distinguished Teacher Scholarship Awards are awarded at the event!

E·f(ec)tive
MUSIC & ARTS
camp

IMPACT SINCE 2012
\$61,316

E·f(ec) raises funding for arts & music in Eagle County public schools bringing equity into the arts and igniting young creative minds!



SLAYING THE DRAGONS

Thanks to the generous support of our donors, we are able to make a lasting impact on the lives of students and educators in our community. Your contributions help us slay the dragons of inequity and challenges in education, paving the way for brighter futures.

For a complete list of our contributors, visit efec.org/partners.

Join the Quest

BECOME AN ANNUAL PARTNER, AN EVENT SPONSOR, OR DONATE TODAY!



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Visit: efec.org
Email: info@efec.org
Call: 970.445.4544



OUR MISSION

The Education Foundation of Eagle County is committed to supporting public education and the intellectual and emotional growth of students, specifically focusing on in-school enrichment, mental health support services, and efforts to retain top teacher talent. E•f(ec)'s top priority is to maintain an excellent learning experience for students by supporting teachers and schools in Eagle County.

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