

# Dear Families and Community Members:

We want to thank each of you for the time, energy and kindness you pour into our community. Each student, just as a single aspen tree, is honored as an individual at Aspen Academy. Each has their own distinctive abilities, learning styles, interests, and magnificent dreams that will determine the uniqueness of their own path of growth. Yet, no matter where or what our students grow to become, they will always be strengthened by their community. You are part of that community.

The Annual Fund is a critical vehicle for supporting the mission and vision of Aspen Academy. Each year, nearly 100% of our community (families, faculty, staff, and board) contribute to the funds we raise in support of Aspen’s mission and vision. The Aspen Academy Annual Fund supports:

- **Teachers:** professional development offered to all faculty to fund growth in leading, educating, and inspiring our students.
- **Students:** tuition assistance and financial aid allow us to serve even more students with our next-generation academics, innovative character and leadership curricula, and global citizenship.
- **Learning:** curriculum and program enhancement funds our vision to remain a national leader in innovative and transformative education.

These mission critical items are not covered by student tuition, but allow us to live our mission to edify and inspire students and educators to grow, learn, and lead. Achieving 100% family participation in the Annual Fund is a long held tradition at Aspen Academy and in independent schools around the nation. We thank you in advance for investing at the level that is comfortable for you.

Love,



Founder & President of  
Aspen Academy



# Annual Fund FAQs

## What does the Annual Fund Support?

Annual Fund giving supports financial aid for students in need, teacher professional development and learning via curriculum enhancement.

## Why am I being asked to support the Annual Fund in addition to paying tuition?

Tuition alone does not cover the full expense for a student to attend Aspen Academy. As an independent school and 501(c)3 non-profit organization, Aspen Academy relies on the generosity of our community to improve and fund these critical areas that cannot be covered by tuition and fees.

## Why not raise tuition?

Aspen Academy maintains the lowest tuition of the state’s Association of Colorado Independent Schools. At our tuition levels, the school is able to make an Aspen Academy education more affordable to more families. Tuition and fees don’t fully cover the costs of these areas so we, like every independent school, conduct an Annual Fund.

Many families appreciate the opportunity to claim a federal tax deduction and in some cases, a state tax credit. Gifts to the school are tax deductible, but tuition is not.

## Who supports the Annual Fund?

We strive to receive 100% participation from current families, trustees, faculty, staff, administrators, grandparents and other friends.

## How much should I give?

You are the only one who knows how much you are able to give, and we ask only that you give to the best of your ability. Gifts range from \$50-\$50,000. The median annual giving per student at an independent school in 2018-2019 was \$1,644. We encourage each family to make the school a philanthropic priority especially while your children are in attendance.

## Why is participation important?

The school’s financial strength is dependent upon the participation of all members of its constituency. Participation sends a strong message of support for the school and our students.

## May I make a pledge in fulfillment of an Annual Fund Gift?

Yes. Gifts to the Annual Fund Campaign may be fulfilled by pledges and you may pay in installments.



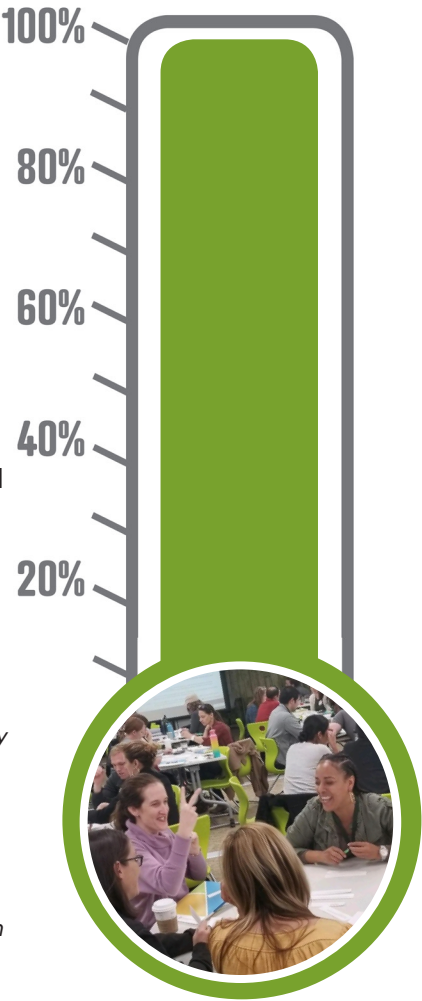


# The Annual Fund Provides Important Resources For: LEARNING

## TEACHERS

Education is a never-ending process. It doesn't stop after earning a degree and starting a career. Your contributions to the Annual Fund encourage your children's teachers to pursue professional development, to ensure the best learning outcomes for their students. Educational technology and curriculum standards are constantly evolving, making it challenging for teachers to keep up with trends and best practices in the field. Professional development transforms teachers into better and more apt educators by enabling them to create relevant and tailored course instructions for today's students. Research by the U.S. Department of Education's Institute of Education Sciences concluded that student achievement can improve by as much as 21 percentile points as a result of teachers' participation in well-designed professional development programs. Your generous support of the annual fund helps Aspen Academy to attract, retain and grow the nation's finest teachers.

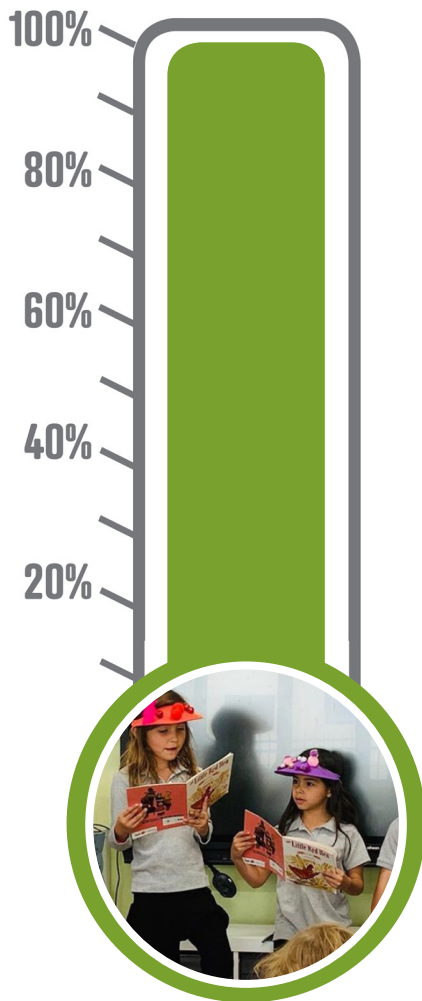
*"I was selected through a rigorous application process to be a part of the prestigious group of educators from around the country to participate in three-week course at the New York Historical Society studying women of the Revolutionary and Civil Wars. While I earned that opportunity on my merit, it was the Annual Fund that made it possible for me to attend. As a result, I know with certainty that our students are receiving the most cutting-edge curriculum and learning practices in the nation when they're in my class."*  
- Jake Lovett, Social Studies



## STUDENTS

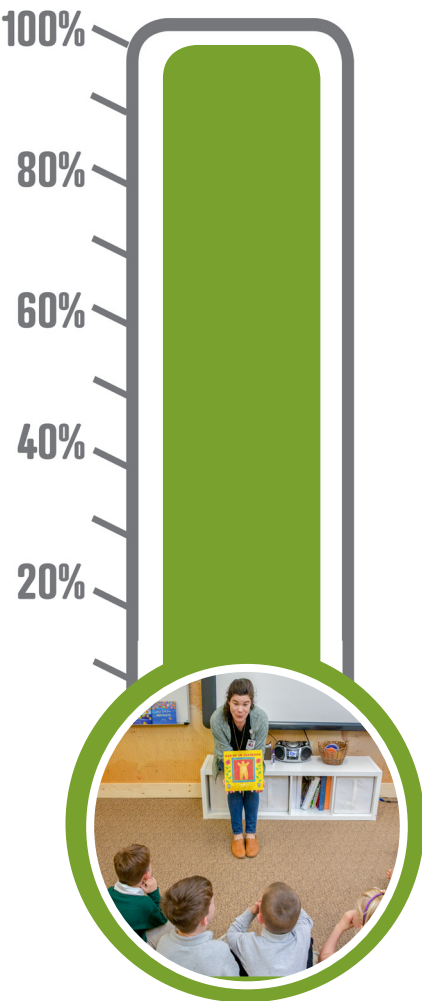
The Annual Fund allows us to invest in need-based financial aid programs is to keep costs more affordable for families who do not have the means to pay the full tuition, even though their child has the potential to thrive in the school community. By doing so, we are able to build important socio-economic diversity as well as to recognize and reward special talents of children whose parents may not have the means to afford full independent school tuition. Your contributions to the Annual Fund help to create a more diverse, equitable and inclusive community.

*"I had so many amazing experiences at Aspen that not only prepared me for high school but for the next steps I would take in my life. I continue to carry the ideals from Aspen: being kind, doing good and working hard has become a part of who I am. If it weren't for Aspen, I would have never known about Culver, or the Roberts scholarship, which was a full ride scholarship to the elite boarding school that I graduated from. From there, I was awarded a full-ride scholarship to Northwestern University. I owe so much of the opportunities and successes in my life to Aspen Academy and all that it taught me."*  
-Alena Valdez, Class of 2014



Today's learners face a rapidly changing future that demands far different skills and knowledge than we needed in the 20th century. We are changing the way people think about education as we continually invest in the curriculum, tools and technology necessary to provide next generation education. The Annual Fund allows for this critical research, development and implementation work to occur in all academic domains and for all students. Generating and sustaining an environment in which this kind of relevant, cutting-edge learning that is preparing our students to have the knowledge, skills and habits they need to succeed in their future is made possible by your generous investments in the Annual Fund. This year, the Annual Fund will help to support improvements in Spanish, Music and Art.

*"Each academic domain is reviewed in full every 5-6 years at Aspen Academy to ensure that our students are receiving the best curriculum and learning methodologies. For the last two years, our team has conducted a massive research project with regard to best curriculum and teaching practices in the Language Arts domains of reading, writing, spelling, grammar, listening and speaking. The Annual Fund provided all the funds to refresh and improve our curriculum, upgrade our class and school libraries to reflect greater diversity across all cultural dimensions, bring speech and debate into our core curricula and train teachers in specific instructional methodologies designed to build deeper levels of mastery in literacy and communications studies."*  
- Joanna Weisel,  
Literacy and Communications Co-Chair



## Giving Levels

- Founders Circle: \$10,000+
- Head of School's Circle: \$2,500-\$9,999
- Scholar's Circle: \$1,000-\$2,499
- Family Partner: \$500-\$999
- Friend: Up to \$499

## Gifts Can Be Made:

- Securely online via credit card at [www.aspenacademy.org/giving](http://www.aspenacademy.org/giving)  
Click "Donate Now"
- Via check payable to Aspen Academy sent to 5859 S University Blvd, Greenwood Village, CO 80121.
- A Qualified Charitable Distribution from your IRA (which may satisfy your required minimum distribution)
- Via stock transfer
- Colorado Gives: [coloradogives.org/aspenacademy](http://coloradogives.org/aspenacademy)

## Colorado Child Care Tax Information

Aspen Academy encourages donors to increase their gift and benefit from an up-to 50% Colorado Tax Credit. The Colorado Child Care Contribution Tax Credit was established to encourage greater private support of Colorado child care programs. Because select monetary contributions to Aspen Academy qualify for this tax credit, you may be able to decrease the after-tax cost of your gifts by more than 50%.

The effect of the credit is that up-to half of your donation to Aspen Academy is offset by a reduction of your Colorado income taxes. You will still be able to claim your full contribution as a charitable deduction on your Federal and State income tax returns if you itemize deductions. Examples of the total impact on your taxes are shown in the chart to the right. As always, you should consult with your tax advisor to determine how the credit will affect you personally.

Contribution	\$1,500	\$5,000	\$10,000	\$25,000
CO Income Tax Credit * Up to 50%*	\$ 750	\$ 2,500	\$ 5,000	\$ 12,500
Federal Tax Deduction	\$ 191	\$ 635	\$ 1,270	\$ 3,176
Colorado Tax Deduction	\$ 69	\$ 232	\$ 463	\$ 1,158
Total Tax Savings	\$ 1,010	\$ 3,367	\$ 6,733	\$ 16,833
After-Tax Cost of Giving	\$ 490	\$ 1,633	\$ 3,267	\$ 8,167

Amounts in table should not be used as tax advice. Please consult your tax professional as individual tax situations vary.

### Have questions?

For more information, please do not hesitate to contact our development office at [development@aspenacademy.org](mailto:development@aspenacademy.org).