



Create a Lasting Legacy at The Independence School with a Planned Gift in Your Estate Plan

A carefully prepared estate plan is one of the most effective ways to ensure your loved ones are provided for according to your wishes. It also offers a unique opportunity to make a meaningful and lasting impact at The Independence School without affecting your financial flexibility during your lifetime.

Whether you are beginning the estate planning process or updating an existing estate plan, we are here to work alongside you and your advisors to help include The Independence School in a way that aligns with your personal, financial, and philanthropic goals.

Why Donors Choose to Leave Planned Gifts

Many donors desire to make a planned gift for one or more of the following reasons:

- Leaving a legacy reflecting their values
- Ensuring their financial security is unaffected during their lifetimes
- Have assets beyond those intended for heirs or assets that may not be suitable to leave to heirs
- Honoring or memorializing a loved one
- Building a family tradition of philanthropy and supporting causes that matter to their family
- Reducing the burden of taxes on beneficiaries or achieving estate tax savings

Features and Benefits of a Planned Gift to The Independence School

Including The Independence School in your estate plan offers unique advantages that may include:

- **Flexibility**– You can modify or update your planned gift during your lifetime. Additionally, planned gifts can be made as a specific dollar amount, a percentage of your estate, or a particular asset.
- **Control**– You maintain full access and use of your assets during your lifetime.
- **Tax Efficiency**– A planned gift to The Independence School, which is a non-profit organization, through your estate plan may reduce estate taxes and lessen the burden on beneficiaries.
- **Peace of Mind**– Spouses, children and other loved ones can be provided for first, while still honoring your charitable wishes.

Ways to Include The Independence School in Your Estate Plan

An estate plan can consist of more than just a last will and testament and often employs additional planning vehicles such as:

- Revocable and irrevocable trusts
- Charitable remainder or lead trusts
- Life insurance policies
- Retirement benefit plan beneficiary designations
- Family partnerships and other vehicles

Because estate planning involves complex legal, financial, and personal considerations, we encourage you to work with your attorney or advisors, as they can provide the individualized guidance for your particular situation. The Independence School will gladly collaborate with your team to ensure your planned gift aligns with your intentions and achieves your goals, while helping The Independence School plan for the future.

There are several types of planned gifts to consider, including:

- **Specific Bequests** – A specific bequest allows you to leave a specific designated amount of money or specific asset, or a specific percentage of your estate to The Independence School.
- **Residual Bequests** – A residual bequest allows you to leave what remains of your estate to The Independence School only after all debts, expenses, taxes, and other bequests have been paid and fulfilled.
- **Contingent Bequests** – A contingent bequest allows you to name The Independence School as a contingent beneficiary that would receive assets when other bequests fail. For example, you could name an individual to receive a bequest, but if that individual is not living, The Independence School would then receive the bequest.

Sample Bequest Language

Below are examples of bequest language that could be included in your estate plan. Please consult with your attorney for specific language; however, we encourage you to share this document with your legal advisor.

I. Unrestricted Bequest

A. Percentage of Estate Residue

“I devise and bequeath (all/or ____%) of the remainder of my property to The Independence School, Inc., Newark, Delaware, to be used or disposed of as its Gift Acceptance Committee in its sole discretion deems appropriate.”

B. Specific Amount or Percentage of Entire Estate

“I bequeath the sum of \$____ (OR ____% of my property) to The Independence School, Inc., Newark, Delaware, to be used or disposed of as its Gift Acceptance Committee in its sole discretion deems appropriate.”

II. Restricted Bequest*

“I bequeath the sum of \$ ____ to The Independence School, Inc., Newark, Delaware, for the following use and purpose: [INSERT PURPOSE]”

**For a gift subject to a restriction, we suggest the following provision:*

“If, in the judgment of the Gift Acceptance Committee of The Independence School, Inc., it becomes impossible to accomplish the designated purposes of this gift, the funds may be used for related purposes and in such manner as may be determined by the Gift Acceptance Committee.”

III. Specific Personal Property or Works of Art**

“I bequeath [DESCRIBE ITEM] to The Independence School, Inc., Newark, Delaware, to be used or disposed of at the sole discretion of its Gift Acceptance Committee.”

***Please contact Julie Goldston at 302-239-0330 or jgoldston@indyde.org before making a bequest of specific personal property or art.*

IV. Specific real property***

“I devise all of my right, title, and interest, whether owned directly or indirectly, in and to the real property located at [ADDRESS AND/OR TAX PARCEL NUMBER] to The Independence School, Inc., Newark, Delaware, to be used or disposed of at the sole discretion of its Gift Acceptance Committee.”

****Please contact Julie Goldston at 302-239-0330 or jgoldston@indyde.org before making a bequest of real property.*

We are Here to Help

If you are considering including The Independence School in your estate plan or would like a confidential conversation regarding planned giving, please contact Michele Harra, Director of Advancement and Enrollment Management, or Julie Goldston, Advancement Manager, at 302-239-0330 ext. 3, or by email at mharra@indyde.org or jgoldston@indyde.org.

Together, we can ensure your legacy shapes the future of The Independence School for generations to come.

The Independence School
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