SARAH SMITH EDUCATION FOUNDATION

ANNUAL REPORT 2024 - 2025

AN INTERNATIONAL BACCALAUREATE WORLD SCHOOL

A MESSAGE FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Dear Friends, Alumni, Families, and Supporters of Sarah R Smith Elementary:

It is a true honor to lead the Sarah Smith SUPERSTAR staff and students. As your principal this year, I see firsthand the profound impact of our community's commitment, and it is my pleasure to share the 2025 Annual Report of the Sarah Smith Education Foundation. This report is a clear measure of the partnership between our school and the community that sustains our vision for educational excellence for all students.

This past year, we have seen the direct and transformative impact of your generosity across every corner of our two campuses. Through the unwavering support of donors like you, the Foundation has been able to fund critical initiatives that extend far beyond what the standard school budget can provide, enriching the daily experience of our students and staff.

Our Impact: Fostering Future-Ready Staff & Students
Thanks to your contributions, Sarah Smith students had access to:

- **Innovative Programs**: We successfully launched the new Science Lab for grades 3-5 and expanded access to inquiry based in-house science field trips preparing our students for the challenges of tomorrow.
- **Enhanced Resources:** We provided vital funding for classroom technologies such as I-Ready, MyLexia, and Happy Numbers. In addition, we are ensuring our arts and field trip programs continue to thrive. For example, our annual International Traveler's week allows all students to experience another country through their culture, arts, and global & economic impacts.
- **Staff Professional Development & Support:** The Foundation's funds help over 10 teachers a year obtain high quality professional learning through the International Baccalaureate Organization or other high quality educational conferences, easing financial burdens to the local school budget.

The Power of Partnership
The Foundation's success is a direct reflection of our community's belief in the mission we share: In everything we do at Sarah Smith we work to create an inclusive community where learning is a passion, excellence is achieved for all and the whole child is developed.

As you review the detailed reports on the following pages, you will see a transparent look at how every dollar was stewarded. I assure you that these funds are being used strategically to support our teachers and elevate the learning environment for every student.

Looking Ahead
While we celebrate this year's successes, our work is ongoing. As we look to the new academic year, we are focused on increasing the integration of STEAM into our Primary Years International Baccalaureate Programme and ensuring our students continue to have the most up to date instructional resources.

We invite you to continue your partnership with the Foundation. Whether through a financial gift, volunteering your time, or simply sharing our mission with others, your involvement is crucial to maintaining the high standard of education at Sarah R. Smith.

Thank you for investing in the potential of our students and supporting the mission of our school.

With sincere appreciation,
Stacey W. Perot
Principal, Sarah Smith Elementary
stacey.perot@apsk12.org
(404) 802-3875

Since 2006, the SSEF has invested over $3,000,000 in our school's curriculum, including programs and technology that benefit EVERY student at Sarah Smith EVERY day.

WHY

does a public school need a foundation?

The Sarah Smith school community values exceptional education beyond what's ordinary. Public resources alone can't support this, so SSEF provides the extra funding needed to maintain Sarah Smith's high educational standards.

HOW

is the Sarah Smith Education Foundation funded?

The SSEF is funded through generous contributions from our parents, grandparents, staff, faculty, and community partners.

DONATE

TO THE STAR FUND TODAY

Go to **www.atlantapublicschools.us/ssef** to learn more about the SSEF and make your contribution today.



The Sarah Smith Education Foundation (SSEF) is a non-profit 501(c)(3) organization that supports the quality of education at Sarah Smith Elementary through strategic investments in curriculum and instructional programs that directly enhance the school's mission of academic excellence for all Sarah Smith students.

$160K

INVESTED DURING 2024-2025 SCHOOL YEAR

STATEMENT OF OPERATIONS

REVENUE	
Annual Campaign	$116,747
+ Auction Event	$53,099
+ Super Star Supporters	$15,677
= Total Fundraising	$185,523
Interest Income	$17,816
Total Revenue	$203,339

EXPENSES	
- Total Fundraising	$11,257
- General Administration	$3,871
= Revenue in Excess of Expenses	$188,211
SSEF Curriculum and Classroom Funding	$160,656

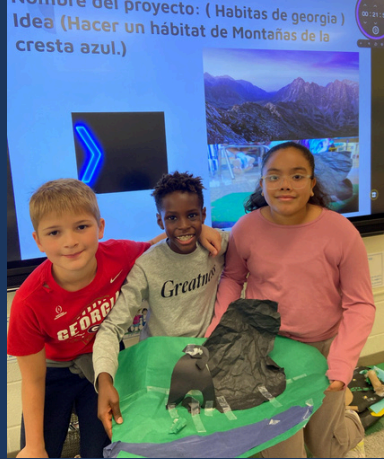
RESERVE FUND	
Balance (07.01.24)	$661,356
Increase to Reserve	$27,555
Total Fund Balance (as of 7.01.23)	$688,911

The Foundation strives to maintain a healthy reserve fund, and, in light of the Covid-19 pandemic, the reserve fund remains a crucial component of our mission to support the stability of our school throughout unforeseen challenges, including unexpected expenses, economic downturns, or fluctuations in revenue. With the end of the CARES act, expected foundation expenses will rise in 2024-2025 and beyond.



CURRICULUM & CLASSROOM

The SSEF funded more than $160,000 in educational enrichment programs, materials and training. The following is a comprehensive list of investment areas funded to support our standard of excellence and benefit every student at Sarah Smith.



ACADEMIC PROGRAMS $91,980

The largest portion of SSEF funding is dedicated to academic enrichment and curriculum-enhancing programs, with $91,980 invested in 2024–25. These dollars supported literacy and math programs, science enrichment, specials, IB resources, and global learning through International Travelers Week — all designed to deepen student learning and global citizenship.

Classroom Libraries & Learning-to-Read Resources $11,961

SSEF funds provided new classroom library books for teachers, as well as phonics and decoding materials to strengthen early literacy instruction. Additional investments supported iReady, a digital program that builds fluency and comprehension, along with Morpheme Magic to reinforce word study skills. Together, these resources ensure students have access to strong foundational literacy supports across grade levels.

Grades: All

Specialist Programs - Art, Language, Music & PE.....$8,662

SSEF provides funds for program-enhancing training, materials, and equipment to supplement what APS provides. This year, support included PE equipment (pickleball sets, scooters, soccer balls, parachutes, and safety/first aid supplies), art materials, music instruments and sheet music for performances, microphones to improve sound quality, and Spanish classroom resources to enrich language instruction.

Grades: All

High Touch High Tech $19,940

Local scientists bring hands-on, inquiry-based science programs directly into SRS classrooms. These "in-house field trips" align with Georgia Standards of Excellence and give students memorable applications of scientific concepts — such as weather investigations in 1st grade and cosmic explorations in 4th grade.

Grades: All

International Baccalaureate Inquiry Materials, Resources, Dues & Programming Fees $20,794

SRS is an International Baccalaureate Primary Years Program school. The IB program promotes active learning, well-roundedness, and global citizenship, shaping the entire curriculum at SRS. SSEF funds cover IB dues, program fees, and inquiry materials. This year, support also included evaluation expenses, adoption of Toddle as a lesson-planning tool, and purchase of science lab resources to strengthen inquiry-based learning across grade levels.

Grades: All

Math Workbooks & Manipulatives.....$17,350

SSEF funds supported both digital and hands-on resources to strengthen math instruction across grade levels. Investments included Happy Numbers and Struggly applications, printed math workbooks aligned to Georgia DOE standards, and a variety of manipulatives such as classroom clocks, coins, place value tools, and number games. These materials help students build essential skills in number sense, problem-solving, and mathematical reasoning through interactive practice.

Science and Social Studies.....$8,273

SSEF funds supported interactive programs and resources that deepen student engagement in science and social studies. Investments included Generation Genius, Science A-Z, and Stemscopes to strengthen curriculum, along with support for family Science Night, which gave students the opportunity to explore scientific concepts beyond the classroom.

Grades: 3-5

International Travelers Week.....$5,000

The International Travelers Program is a week-long immersion in a foreign country's culture, history, and language. Unique to Sarah Smith, it brings global learning to every student through parent, teacher, and community collaboration. This year, students traveled to Mexico through hands-on curriculum experiences such as art projects with monarch butterflies, gardens, maracas, and luchador masks, as well as cultural traditions like folkloric dance and music. Assemblies and experience stations further enriched learning, connecting students with authentic Mexican music, history, and celebrations. As part of SRS's IB framework, International Travelers Week extends the classroom curriculum by helping students build knowledge, skills, and global perspectives beyond the textbook.

Grades: All



TALENT & MANAGEMENT

The SSEF is committed to supporting faculty development opportunities that encourage teaching innovation and excellence. Investments in this area include a focus on improving teacher efficacy in International Baccalaureate Primary Years Program.



TOTAL TALENT & MANAGEMENT PROGRAMS $68,676

In addition to student programs, SSEF invests in faculty development opportunities that encourage teaching innovation and excellence. Investments in this area include a focus on improving teacher efficacy in the International Baccalaureate Primary Years Program.

Classroom Investment Funds.....$22,901

SSEF funds supported interactive programs and resources that deepen student engagement in science and social studies. Investments included Generation Genius, Science A-Z, and Stemscopes to strengthen curriculum, along with support for family Science Night, which gave students the opportunity to explore scientific concepts beyond the classroom.

International Baccalaureate Training.....$32,636

SSEF funds are available for all teachers to attend required B training and development opportunities. These sessions deepen teacher expertise in the Primary Years Program and strengthen classroom instruction, ensuring students experience inquiry-based learning across every subject.

Teacher Training, Enrichment & Grants.....$13,139

SSEF invests directly in our teachers through grants and professional learning. The Teacher Initiatives Grant Program provides up to $500 for educators to pilot innovative ideas and bring fresh approaches into their classrooms. SSEF also funds training in areas such as reading and writing instruction, dyslexia, GATE, faculty support, and leadership development. These opportunities ensure teachers have the tools, resources, and knowledge to better support every SRS student.

DONORS

Thank you for supporting the quality of education at Sarah Smith. Your contributions help to maintain the high level of educational excellence that we have all come to expect at Sarah Smith.

Parent, Faculty and Community Donors contributed $203,339 to our fundraising in 2024-2025.

SHOOTING STAR ($10,000+)

The Donley Family

SUPER STAR ($5,000-10,000)

Jenny & Frank Fotia
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4 STAR SUPPORTERS $1,500+

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Pig N Chik
PRUMC
Ready, Set, Fun!
Willy's Mexicana Grill
Wing Factory

2 STAR SUPPORTERS $250+

Buff City Soap
Papa Johns (Roswell Rd)
Planet Fitness Brookhaven
Pink Barre

Thank You For Your Donations!

Please go to **www.atlantapublicschools.us/ssef** to donate for the 2025 - 2026 school year.

Donation levels reflect actual donations/pledges received as of 06/30/2024. Corporate matching gifts are included upon receipt. We strive for accuracy; however, please inform us of any errors.

Sarah Smith
EDUCATION FOUNDATION

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