



2025-2026

Annual Report



2025-2026

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Mission

The mission of the Maize Education Foundation is to enhance excellence in education for all students. We will expand our relationships within the community and with local businesses to provide unique educational opportunities in our schools, thereby stimulating optimism, inspiration and enthusiasm among students and teachers.

Vision

To be the premier non-profit organization supporting educational excellence in the Maize Public Schools.

Core Values

Dedication | Perseverance | Innovation | Civic responsibility
Passion | Integrity | Tenacity | Compassion

A message from the President

As I reflect on this past year serving as President of the Maize Education Foundation, I am filled with gratitude. It has been an incredible privilege to work alongside a passionate board, dedicated district leaders, generous community partners, and so many individuals who believe deeply in the power of public education. Together, we have continued to invest in what matters most: our students, our educators, and the future of Maize USD 266.

This year was one of meaningful growth and exciting innovation for our Foundation. One of our proudest accomplishments was launching the 266 Club, an initiative designed to secure the long-term sustainability of the Maize Education Foundation. Our vision is simple but ambitious: to build a Foundation that is self-sustaining, allowing future board members and staff to focus less on fundraising and more on strengthening relationships, expanding programs, and creating opportunities that directly impact our schools. The 266 Club represents an investment not just in today, but in generations of Maize students still to come.

We were also honored to expand our impact by partnering to fund Blessings in a Backpack for our secondary students. Ensuring students have access to food on weekends and school breaks is about far more than meeting a basic need, it is about helping every child come to school ready to learn, grow, and thrive. Supporting the whole child has always been at the heart of our mission, and this partnership is a meaningful example of that commitment in action.

Another exciting milestone was reimagining our Challenge Grant process. This year, applicants participated in Shark Tank-style presentations, giving them the opportunity to share their ideas, passions, and classroom needs directly with our board. What began as a new format quickly became one of my favorite experiences of the year. Hearing firsthand from our educators allowed us to better understand their vision and build deeper connections with the incredible people serving our students every day. The process reminded us that behind every grant request is an educator working tirelessly to create meaningful learning experiences for children.

Of course, none of this would have been possible without the continued support of our signature events. Our Annual Golf Tournament, Partnerships and Pathways Breakfast, and Birds and Bulls Gala once again brought together businesses, families, educators, and community members who share a common belief that investing in education strengthens our entire community.

As I conclude my term as President, I do so with tremendous confidence in the future of this Foundation. We have strengthened traditions, introduced new ideas, and laid important groundwork that will continue serving our schools for years to come. Most importantly, I have been reminded time and again that the greatest asset of the Maize Education Foundation is not a program or an event, it is the people.

Thank you for allowing me the honor of serving this incredible organization. It has been a joy to witness the generosity, innovation, and unwavering commitment that defines our community. I look forward to watching the Foundation continue to grow, knowing its best days are still ahead.

With sincere gratitude,
Dr. Lyndsey Brown
President, Maize Education Foundation





Scholarships

\$4,000 Awarded

The Foundation continues the support of graduating Maize USD 266 students by offering scholarships. Through private funding and public contributions, the Foundation currently maintains three funds in support of these scholarships.



Student Enrichment Grants

\$8,328 Awarded

Students in grades 7-12 may apply for a grant of up to \$500 to help cover the costs associated with certain educational activities and experiences such as leadership seminars, educational camps, community service projects, and more.



Challenge Grants

\$43,722 Awarded

Challenge Grants are awarded for Maize USD 266 employees to provide opportunities in and out of the classroom that give students a competitive education and encourage civic engagement and leadership.



Other Support

\$16,700 Allocated

The Foundation is always seeking new ways to back Maize USD 266. This year, funding supported Blessings in a Backpack, Summer Send-Off, First Year Teachers, Celebrating Excellence Awards, and new programs not yet announced.



With funding from a Maize Education Foundation Student Enrichment Grant, Maize High School junior Isaac Fulks had the opportunity to attend the 2025 National High School Journalism Convention in Seattle, Washington. While at the conference, he learned technical skills and gained some professional perspective.

Traveling to Seattle for the conference presented new learning opportunities that Isaac had not anticipated. “Something that I learned unexpectedly was how to shoot photos in a new environment,” he shared. “Unlike Kansas, Seattle is constantly overcast which led me to figure out new shooting techniques depending on my environment.” Adapting to new conditions helped Isaac sharpen his photography skills and build confidence in working outside familiar settings.

The conference also offered practical advice on building a career in photography, including information on what types of gear Isaac should invest in next. Beyond technical growth, the conference provided valuable connections. Networking proved to be a key theme throughout the experience, reinforcing an important life lesson: “In the journalism field, and really any part of life, connections are the key to success,” Isaac said.

Isaac credits the Maize Education Foundation’s Student Enrichment Grant for making the experience possible, and explained that he likely would not have been able to attend the conference without the support of Maize Education Foundation funds.

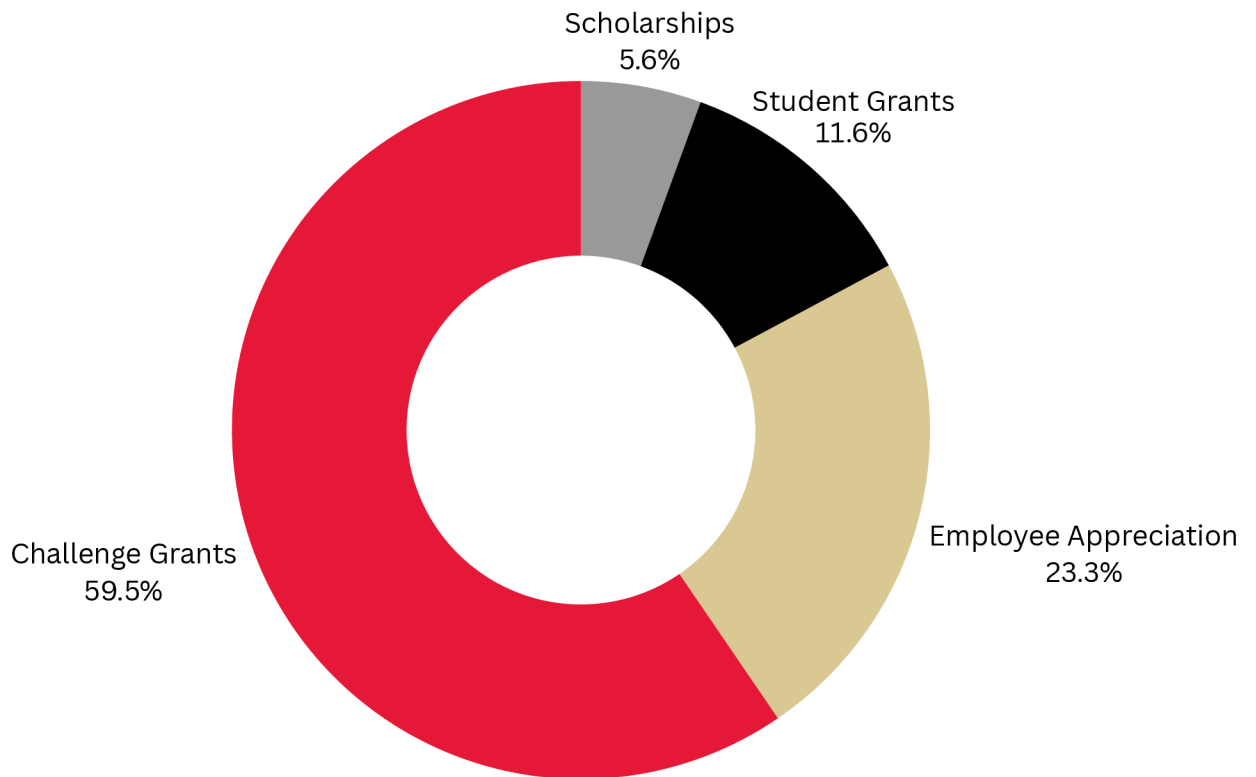
Through experiences like this, the Maize Education Foundation continues to invest in students’ passions, helping them explore careers, build confidence, and see what’s possible beyond the classroom.

“The enrichment grant is AMAZING at opening opportunities for students.”

- Isaac Fulks, Junior



Program Allocations



At Maize Education Foundation, we are dedicated to enriching the educational experience for both students and educators across our district. Our diverse range of programs is designed to inspire innovation, celebrate excellence, and support academic achievement. From Challenge Grants for educators to Student Enrichment Grants, we are committed to fostering growth at every level. Additionally, we offer first-year teacher stipends to support new educators, honor outstanding contributions by supporting the district's Celebrating Excellence Awards, and provide scholarships to help students achieve their higher education dreams. Together, we help students succeed.

**Consolidated Statement of Activities
Year Ended June 30, 2026**

Revenue, Gains, and Other Support

Fundraising Revenues	\$177,700
Miscellaneous Gifts and Donations	\$11,052
Total Revenue, Gains, and Other Support	\$188,753

Expenses

Grants and Scholarships	\$67,087
Staff Appreciation	\$10,364
Total Program Expenses	\$77,451

Fundraising Expenses	\$54,669
Administrative and Overhead	\$45,334
Total Overhead	\$100,003

Total Expenses	\$177,454
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**Statement of Financial Position Year
Ended June 30, 2026**

Assets

Operating Checking Account	\$40,195
Money Market Accounts	\$118,686
Investments	\$64,867
Total Assets	\$223,748

Net Assets

Unrestricted Funds	\$125,700
Restricted Funds	\$33,181
Restricted Endowment	\$64,867
Total Assets	\$223,748





Contact Us

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