

TAHOE ★ TRUCKEE

EXCELLENCE IN EDUCATION FOUNDATION

IDENTIFY. INVEST. INSPIRE.

2025/26 ANNUAL REPORT

OUR MISSION

The Tahoe Truckee Excellence in Education Foundation enhances public education within the Tahoe Truckee Unified School District (TTUSD) to strengthen the learning experience for students.

WHO WE ARE

The Tahoe Truckee Excellence in Education Foundation partners with local businesses and community members to raise funds to support the Tahoe Truckee Unified School District. Each year, the Foundation invests an average of $250,000 in classroom grants, educational resources, and partnerships that benefit students and teachers. With over 35 years of committed support for local education, the Foundation remains instrumental in enhancing learning opportunities for TTUSD students.

TAHOE TRUCKEE
EXCELLENCE IN EDUCATION FOUNDATION
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$6.9 MILLION
funded since inception

11 schools and **2** programs serving over **4,000** students in a geographic area of **720** square miles



FINANCIALS

2025/26 Gross Revenue Sources

Skiing for Schools	$141,819	24%
Golfing for Schools	$157,648	27%
"Friends of Education" Donation Income	$96,351	16%
Investment Income Endowment Fund Interest Available to Spend	$72,000	12%
Other Contributions	$118,286	20%
TOTALS	**$586,104**	**100%**



2025/26 Expenditure Sources

Grants Funded	$212,835	44%
Teacher Fellows and Staff Star Awards	$20,000	4%
Programs	$126,380	26%
Administrative	$61,172	13%
Donor Development	$59,469	12%
TOTALS	**$479,856**	**100%**



As a lean local organization, our overhead and donor development expenses (approximately 25% combined) reflect essential fixed costs and small-scale operational realities rather than programmatic inefficiency. In line with evolving nonprofit best practices, these investments directly power our capacity to manage complex district partnerships, sustain our prior-year funding model, and maximize long-term impact for local educators.

Amounts presented are rounded to the next dollar.

HOW WE DO IT

Excellence in Education raises funds through community partnerships, which have driven the success of our long-standing fundraising programs: Golfing for Schools and Skiing for Schools. Individual contributions are welcomed through the TTUSD Payroll Deduction program, the Foundation's Friends of Education donation program, and our annual Support Our Students fundraising campaign. We also secure grants from philanthropic foundations and other grantmaking organizations.

Additionally, Excellence in Education continues to grow its endowment fund, with a balance of $2.7 million as of June 30, 2026.

Investing in Education

Grant monies support programs designed to enhance the learning experience for all students, promote student engagement, provide hands-on and outdoor learning experiences, and encourage quality academic performance.

$232,835 Total funded by EXCELLENCE IN EDUCATION in the 2025/26 fiscal year for GRANTS, RESOURCES, and EDUCATOR AWARDS

71 classroom grants awarded to individual teachers within Tahoe Truckee Unified School District totaling $163,400

Over $32,000 funded literacy and language initiatives, supporting decodable reader sets, thematic classroom libraries, bilingual lending materials, graphic novels for reading intervention, and writing subscriptions. Approximately $15,000 was invested in math, science, and STEM resources, including molecular biology laboratory equipment for DNA sequencing, FOSS science kits, interactive aquatic tanks, and SPIKE Prime robotics. More than $40,000 expanded Career and Technical Education (CTE), hands-on history, and the arts through a CNC router for Gone Boarding, new ceramics wheels, musical instruments, podcasting soundboards, and historical expedition costumes. Over $25,000 supported social-emotional learning, inclusive communication, physical health, and special needs, funding playground AAC boards, Therapeutic Listening tools, garden beds, Gaga Ball pits, and early childhood gross motor equipment.

Board Designated Grants

Board-designated grants are funded through the interest earned from the Foundation's endowment fund. The Foundation's policy is to spend up to 3.25% of the three-year trailing average investment balance annually. In 2025/26, five board-designated grants were funded for a total of $42,272.

Sierra Watershed Education Partnerships
$9,000
In support of the Winter Discovery Center at Tahoe Cross Country Center. The program provides winter ecology field trips for students that combine environmental science exploration with cross-country skiing experiences.

Aim High
$20,000
A free summer academic enrichment program for TTUSD Middle School students.

Rising Educator Scholarships
$7,500
Three $2,500 scholarships were awarded to TTUSD students pursuing a career in education.

McGinity Scholarships
$4,000
Two $2,000 scholarships were awarded to TTUSD students continuing their education in healthcare.

Scholarships were awarded in spring 2026 but paid out in fiscal year 2027.

THE LINDA BROWN FELLOWS AND STAR AWARDS

The Linda Brown Fellows and Star Awards annually recognize and reward exceptional teachers and classified (non-teaching) staff in the Tahoe Truckee Unified School District. In 2025/26, four Linda Brown Fellows and four Star Award recipients were honored. Each recipient receives $1,500 for personal use. Additionally, Fellows recipients each receive a $2,000 grant for educational enhancement in their classroom.

$20,000 awarded to FOUR Linda Brown Fellows and FOUR Star Award recipients

FRIENDS OF EDUCATION

Thank you to the following businesses and individuals who supported Excellence in Education during the 2025/26 fiscal year.

BUSINESSES & INDIVIDUAL DONORS

$35,000+
Anonymous

$15,000-$20,000
The Crescent Porter Hale Foundation

$10,000-$14,999
Olander Family Foundation
Palisades Tahoe Ski Holdings, LLC
Tahoe Mountain Resorts Foundation
The Vail Resorts Charitable Fund

$5,000
Cristina and Joe Hennessey
Snow Family Trust

$2,000-$4,999
Jeri Lynn Johnson
Kim and Amber Kennedy
Max and Nancy Gisko
Mountain Hardware & Sports
Norma Parson

$1,000-$1,499
Al and Susan Adams
Anonymous
Craig and Carol Lundin
Kathryn Aaker
Michael C Shepherd *
Michael Graham
Robert and Jennie Bousquet
Robert Zimmerman
Tahoe Donner Association
Tahoe Getaways
Tahoe Mountain Resort Lodging, LLC
West Orthodontics

$500-$999
Ami Jampolis
Lindsay Hill
Liz and Peter Gifford
Michael and Carol Sabarese
Rakkan Ramen Truckee
Roger Kahn
Ryan Group Architects
Tahoe Sierra Board of Realtors

UP TO $500
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Amanda and Brian Helm
Amber Burke
Amber Forster
Amy and John Yarbrough
Amy and Kase Macosko
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Victoria Conway
Wendy Devore
William and Marilyn Forni
William Witmer
Yvonne M Logan *

GOLFING FOR SCHOOLS PARTNERS

Coyote Moon Golf Course
The Links at Everline
Northstar Golf Course
Ponderosa Golf Course
Tahoe City Golf Course
Tahoe Donner Golf Course
Tahoe Mountain Club
(Gray's Crossing and
Old Greenwood)

SKIING FOR SCHOOLS PARTNERS

Boreal Mountain Resort / Woodward Tahoe
Northstar California
Palisades Tahoe
Royal Gorge Cross-Country Ski Resort
Sugar Bowl
Tahoe Donner Downhill Ski Resort & Cross Country Ski Center
Tahoe XC

IN-KIND DONORS

Alpenglow Sports
Grocery Outlet
Pacos
Tahoe Dave's Ski & Boards

** Indicates Tahoe Truckee Unified School District employees who donate to Excellence in Education through TTUSD's payroll deduction program.*

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STAFF

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Kerstin Kramer, Superintendent/ Chief Learning Officer

TAHOE TRUCKEE
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Tahoe Truckee Excellence in Education Foundation

It is our intention to recognize every donor. If we have overlooked any business or individual, please advise us so we may include them in our next annual report.