

Foundation for
Madison's
Public Schools

ADOPT-A-SCHOOL

FOUNDATION FOR MADISON'S PUBLIC SCHOOLS

PROGRAM

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WHEN I GROW UP
I WANT TO BE A

- Scientist
- chef
- author
- nurse

The Foundation for Madison's Public Schools is an independent, community non-profit organization dedicated to sustaining and extending the excellence of Madison's public schools. It is independent from the Board of Education but endorsed by it.



THE FOUNDATION:

- raises funds that will benefit children in Madison's public schools now and long into the future
- makes grants for creative and innovative projects that are outside the core school budget
- advocates and facilitates partnerships between the schools, community organizations and private, corporate and other donors throughout Madison

FMPS defines “**adopting a school**” as a mutually enriching personal and professional relationship between a private sector business or organization and one of Madison's public schools. **Adopting a school enables the establishment of a structured partnership between a business and a school.** By adopting a school, a business enters into a partnership that can start small and strategically grow over time. Adoptions vary from school to school and partner to partner, but they all share the common goal of improving student achievement.



INDIVIDUAL SCHOOL ENDOWMENT INITIATIVE

The Foundation for Madison's Public Schools has developed the **Individual School Endowment Initiative**, which is unique in the country. This initiative is designed to build an endowment fund for each of the 47 schools in the district. Through the generosity of John and Leslie Taylor and the Clay-Price Fund, each school has been offered a challenge grant of \$5,000. Once a school is able to raise \$5,000, they earn the \$5,000 match which enables them to establish their \$10,000 Individual School Endowment Fund. As of March, 2006, 41 schools have met the match and established endowment funds; a total of more than \$700,000 has been raised specifically for this initiative. Ten schools currently have endowment fund balances greater than \$25,000. Every school has raised some funds, and all have begun working to meet the challenge.

Our long-term goal is for every school to have a \$50,000 endowment as well as having been adopted by a community business partner. **The Foundation considers the Adopt-A-School program the logical next phase of the Individual School Endowment Initiative.**

Annual income from the Individual School Endowment Funds is used to support grants for special projects in each school. A grants committee consisting of staff, teachers and parents supervise disbursement of the funds which are available through an annual grant process.

Helping to forge private partnerships for some of our financially disadvantaged schools through our Adopt-A-School program helps us to address our goal of creating equity among schools in the district. When considering business' requests to adopt-a-school, emphasis is placed on matching schools with populations that are financially less advantaged.



WHEN I GROW UP
I WANT TO BE A

- contractor
- doctor
- coach
- engineer



HOW CAN YOU ADOPT-A-SCHOOL?

The Adopt-A-School program is designed to be an **easy** and **efficient** way to bring resources to our community's schools and children.

FMPS partners interested in adopting a school are as diverse as the schools they serve, yet share the following characteristics:

- A commitment to sustain and extend the excellence of our schools
- The goal of making a true difference in the lives of students and teachers
- A commitment to providing schools with vital resources
- Realistic goals that align the resources of the business or community organization and the needs of the school
- A commitment to extend the relationship to everyone in the adopting organization
- A commitment to work together for a minimum of 12 months
- Views FMPS as an efficient facilitator of the partnership



WHAT PRIVATE SECTOR PARTNERS CAN PROVIDE SCHOOLS THEY CHOOSE TO ADOPT:

Private sector partners have a wealth of resources to offer schools. Some of those include:

RESOURCES

- In-kind donations, such as furniture, books, supplies and computers
- Incentives for teacher and student recognition events (free tickets, products, awards, etc.)
- Facilities improvement, including painting, spruce-ups, and renovations of school physical plant and grounds
- Financial contributions (contributions to the school's endowment fund, grants for special programs and events, merit-based scholarships for students, etc.)
- Create an endowment fund in your company's name that will give a grant to the school you adopt annually, forever



ACCESS

- To colleagues or employees to serve as mentors, tutors, 'classroom grandparents' or read-aloud partners for students
- To work-based opportunities for students (internships, jobs, career day speakers, etc.)
- To new prospects for partnerships that will support school improvement goals
- To space for periodic fundraising events and trainings such as staff development or parent meetings



EXPERTISE

- Staff development opportunities (training in technology, time management, team building, fund-raising, grant writing, budgeting, communication strategies, etc.)
- Assistance (in conjunction with FMPS) with individual school fundraising to enable schools to help themselves
- Assistance with strategic planning for the school
- Assistance in trouble-shooting and problem-solving
- Alternative models for structure and organizational management



- musician
- designer
- architect
- teacher

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WHAT SCHOOLS CAN PROVIDE PRIVATE SECTOR PARTNERS WHO ADOPT THEM

There are many benefits for private sector organizations choosing to adopt one of Madison's public schools, including:

INVESTMENT IN THE FUTURE

- Investment in future workforce, economic growth and community health
- Potential to reach a new market demographic
- Receive tax deductions on in-kind and financial donations

COMMUNITY RELATIONS

- Increased civic presence and positive visibility
- Positive branding of organizational culture
- Enhance your business' image in the community

EMPLOYEE BENEFITS

- Improved employee morale and sense of office teamwork
- Leadership and growth potential for employees
- Provide employees with the opportunity to be involved in the community

ACCESS AND KNOWLEDGE

- Awareness of education issues, policies, and realities
- Access to classrooms, teachers, students and parents for application of new technologies and products



THE FOUNDATION FOR MADISON'S PUBLIC SCHOOLS
ROLE IN THE ADOPT-A-SCHOOL PROGRAM

FMPS places a strong emphasis on creating relationships that will endure. FMPS serves as an efficient facilitator of partnerships; we provide guidance and information which will aid in making the best match possible and consider the following when recommending a particular school to adopt:

- Location of school and partnering business
- Resources and core competencies the business brings to the partnership
- Number of students who qualify for free and reduced lunch
- Needs of the school
- Availability of a VISTA volunteer to help coordinate efforts

FMPS will publicize partnerships, providing recognition of community partners who have adopted one of our public schools.

FMPS will compile and provide principal's Wish Lists so that potential adopting organizations have a current list of what can make a difference in a particular school.

Our team tracks the progress of individual adoptions and is available to provide effective models and guidance for private sector partners and principals.

For additional information on adopting a school, please send an email to Mary Bartzen, Individual School Endowment Initiative Director, at mbartzen@mailbag.com, or Jodi Bender Sweeney, President, at jodibswweeney@mailbag.com or call (608) 232-7820.



NEXT STEPS

Adopting a school can be very simple. It just means bringing the resources your company has to offer to our schools.

An adoption can be as easy as donating surplus books or as as complex as adopting an entire school.

We want the process for adopting a school to be as easy and efficient as possible. Please complete the enclosed enrollment form and return it to Mary Bartzen, Individual School Endowment Initiative Director, in the envelope provided or fax it to (608) 232-7822.

The Foundation will then contact you to begin facilitating the adoption.

Feel free to call (608) 232-7820 with questions.

Foundation for
Madison's
Public Schools

PRINCIPALS FOR A DAY,
PARTNERS & ADVOCATES
FOR LIFE.



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GROUP

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