

# SAISD FOUNDATION

HONOR. INVEST. CULTIVATE.



## 2022–2023 Annual Report

Scan for  
Our Impact



# Board Chair, Shari Albright

---



It has been an honor to serve as the board chair of the SAISD Foundation during 2023 and I am looking forward to a very productive year ahead in 2024. At the Foundation, we have grown both in our impact and reach, and in the number of those delivering upon that work, day in and day out. Under the leadership of our Executive Director, Judy Geelhoed, and our growing team of five full-time dedicated foundation staff, this year has been filled with new and expansive initiatives. Some of these you will read about in the pages that follow, including the expansion of

our Book Buddies program to include our new bus that delivers books to schools allowing students to build their home reading libraries, essential for developing strong literacy skills and a lifelong love of reading. You'll also see a return, post-pandemic, to a myriad of learning expeditions to enrich learning for students as they use the community as an extension of their classrooms, and a growing number of college visits for juniors and seniors districtwide, which are critical to continuing to build a college-going culture.

We also have supported our new SAISD superintendent, Dr. Jaime Aquino, throughout his first year in his new role and have helped him to learn about San Antonio and those who support our district and this Foundation. And, we have engaged with the district as it has taken on its rightsizing initiative, and are now turning to dedicate our efforts as the Foundation to lend support to schools in the transitions taking place from the rightsizing efforts.

At the SAISD Foundation, we are committed to a vision where all students and teachers thrive in San Antonio ISD public schools. And, that is a vision that takes all

of us to make possible. As we wind down this year, we are grateful for the generous time, talents, partnerships, resources, connections, creativity, and yes, funding that has been provided to make the opportunities that you see in this report possible. And yet the work continues.

We hope you will join us to grow this work for the children, families, and educators of SAISD in 2024. On behalf of all of us at the SAISD Foundation, a heartfelt thank you!

*Shvi B. Wajsbort*



# 2023 Board of Directors

## **Executive Committee**

*Shari Albright, Chair*

Charles Butt Foundation

*Ernest Bromley, Immediate Past Chair*

Pescador Public Strategies

*Mike Grundon, Treasurer*

Firstmark Credit Union

*Carlos Maestas, Development*

Key Ideas

*Mario Barrera, Governance & HR*

Norton Rose Fulbright

*Rick Crider, Programs*

Port San Antonio

*Connie Gonzalez, Secretary & Communications*

Brooks

## **Directors**

Deborah Amini, Community Member

Jose Ramon Campos, Commonwealth Coffeehouse

Richard Carranza, IXL Learning

Julian Casillas, Linebarger

Jacob Cavazos, Broadway Bank

Elaine De Los Santos, Community Member

Brian Dillard, City of San Antonio

Katie Ferrier, Greater San Antonio Chamber

Tiffany Grant, Communities in Schools

Tyler Jones, Frost

Ben Jordan, CPS Energy

Amanda Lee Keammerer, Javilud

Tony Magaro, Southwest Research Institute

Tiffany O'Neill, Holdsworth Center

Veronica Oviedo, Spurs Sports & Entertainment

Erika Robinson, Trinity University

Ron Thomas, Community Member

Stephanie Ward, St. Mary's University

Kristopher Wickerham, H-E-B

Christine Wong, Texas A&M San Antonio



# BY THE NUMBERS

703

Educator  
Grants Awarded

Dollars Earned in  
Average Daily  
Attendance

9M

26k

Students  
Received Books

Volunteers

821

1,578

Individual, Corporate  
& Foundation Donors

Class of 2022  
Enrolled in College

56%

# 703 Educator Grants Awarded

The SAISD Foundation reached a new record for the 2022-2023 school year – 703 educator grants and awards! From educator grants to teacher of the year awards, we are honored to invest in our hard-working San Antonio ISD teachers and educators.

Our whole-school principal grants are the largest grant awards we make and often provide transformational experiences for a campus. The whole-school STEM grant at Wilson Elementary helped build an ecosystem of STEM integration from robotics and coding to 3D printing and drones. The principal grant awarded to Sam Houston High School helped launch their theater program to reach new heights. The grant made it possible for them to produce *The Wiz*, their first musical in over a decade.

Our innovative grants support SAISD teachers in creating unique learning experiences and environments for their students. Mr. Aleman at Burbank High School won an innovative grant to expand the hydroponic garden we had supported him in launching a few years ago in his chemistry classroom. In addition to the practical hands-on applications in chemistry, Mr. Aleman shares, “It’s a big driver of attendance in my room. If a student is having a bad day or does not want to participate, I can ask them to do me a favor for the garden then their mood is always improved.”

Anyone who knows a teacher knows they can do so much with so little. Our \$500 mini-grants continue to make a big impact by purchasing exactly what teachers know their students will benefit from most from classroom tools to supplies for afterschool clubs.





Mrs. Castro, a teacher from Mission Academy, was awarded a mini-grant to purchase graphic novels for her classroom. “The graphic novels improved their reading fluency and comprehension. I even had my students who struggle with reading able to create projects without any pushback!” said Castro. And, at Cotton Academy, Mrs. Hook received 18 chess sets to expand her high-interest chess club. Mrs. Hook reported, “These new chess boards really boosted their confidence in the ability to play the game. So much so, that (our chess club) even entered tournaments this year. Your gift didn’t just impact the Chess Club participants this year, but will continue to impact all our future participants as well.”

The Foundation’s New Teacher Shopping Day provided 323 teachers new to San Antonio ISD with a \$100 shopping credit when they visited our volunteers at Learning Zone, H-E-B, or Target just following SAISD New Teacher Orientation. New teachers picked up items they needed to start the school year right! The best part? Whether they had been a teacher for two years or 20 years, if it was their first year teaching in SAISD, they qualified.

We are proud to have helped SAISD launch their Teacher of the Year program over ten years ago and we are honored to continue to partner with the district on this program. In addition to supporting the \$100 store vouchers for all campus winners, the SAISD Foundation awards an additional \$500 grant to the three all-district winners annually.





# Attend, Achieve & Win:



The state of Texas funds public schools based on average daily attendance and with attendance rates still not having fully rebounded since COVID-19, increasing attendance was a key goal for both San Antonio ISD and the SAISD Foundation during the 2022 - 2023 academic year. One of the key strategies to drive attendance was the “Attend, Achieve & Win” program. Promotion of the program began with the start of the school year on all campuses and included incentives for each set of nine weeks, based on criteria for earning digital tickets for both high attendance and increased attendance. Winners were selected by the Foundation at random and awarded prizes including bikes, gift cards, and starter bank accounts.

We wrapped up the “Attend, Achieve & Win” attendance incentive program by awarding one lucky SAISD family with a 2023 RAV4 from our friends at Frost Bank and Cavender Toyota! The ten finalists were selected in a random drawing of over 378,000 digital tickets earned by SAISD students throughout the year, and joined us for a chance to select the winning car key. Sherly Gonzalez Dubon, a Tafolla Middle School student turned her key and opened the door as confetti exploded around her. The Dubon family had just won a new car. This prize made a significant impact on a family who didn’t have a car.

At the event, Superintendent Jaime Aquino was proud to announce that this program contributed to the overall 3% increase in student attendance over last year resulting in over \$9 million in state funding to support SAISD students and educators.

## *Adding Value*



# Book Buddies Bus

This summer we worked to reimagine our Book Buddies program, launching a new endeavor – the Book Buddies Bus! In partnership with SAISD’s English & Language Arts, Library Media Services and Transportation Departments and generous funders and volunteers, the vision became reality with the start of the 2023–24 school year! During our inaugural visit supporting students at Storm Elementary with our friends from San Antonio Retired Teacher’s Association (SAARTA) volunteering on the bus, the reaction of students confirmed the redesign in program delivery adds value.

Seeing the surprised faces as students entered the bus stocked with books for them to take home, reminded us of the important role this project plays in literacy efforts. Excited students selected their six books and many chose to grab stool and start reading on the spot!

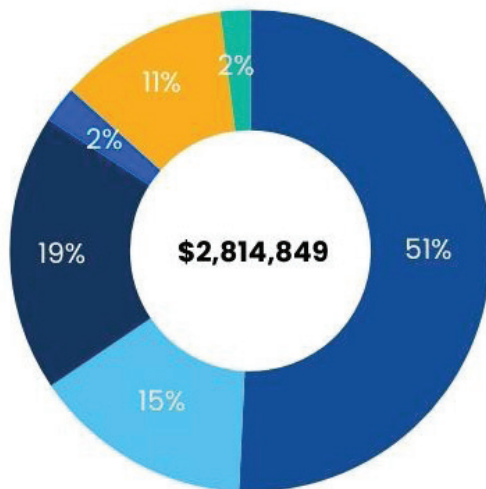
Research demonstrates that books at home are correlated to higher reading levels and increased vocabulary. Not surprisingly, it is also well documented that student choice and high-demand books also lead to increases in literacy. With increasing the reading levels of our students being one of San Antonio ISD’s four key Board Goals, we are excited to play a role through this program that brings books to students in a new and creative way without adding additional work for our hardworking school staff.



# Income & Funding Sources

As a growing organization, we are proud of the diversification of the funding sources that now support the important work of the SAISD Foundation. The pie chart below shares our income breakdown for the Foundation's fiscal year 2022. Along with more diversified funding sources, we are proud to have also increased donor retention from 29% to 34% year over year. In addition to our incredible individual donors, we are proud to have added both City and County government to the list of those investing in our students through the SAISD Foundation in 2023. In total, these investments have been made by 1,578 individual, corporate and foundation donors in 2022.

In addition to financial investments, annually 821 volunteers now donate their valuable time to our programs supporting students, young alumni and teachers.



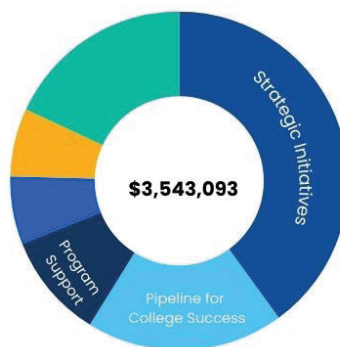
Where Our Contributions Come From



# Putting Our Funding to Work

With the close of the 2022-23 school year, the SAISD Foundation was proud to hire its fifth full-time employee. With positions focused on data and impact, finance and programs, alumni and volunteer engagement, and digital media, we are confident in our ability to continue to reach new heights. At the same time, we have been able to keep our administrative costs at 8% making sure as much of our funding reaches students and teachers as possible. We are thankful to our board and our investors who are helping us deepen our work and impact to ensure the sustainability of our powerful programs.

## 2022 Audit Report



## Where Our Contributions Go

**10%** Program Support  
\$357,794  
Field Trips  
Book Buddies  
STEM & Arts

**19%** Pipeline for College Success  
\$668,698  
PSNs, Alumni Advisor &  
College Bound Advisors  
College Tours

**40%** Strategic Initiatives  
\$1,416,798  
National Board Certified Teachers  
Dual Credit Expansion  
Office of Innovation

**18%** School Grants  
& Gifts  
\$640,104

**7%** Scholarships &  
Gap Awards  
\$231,270

**6%** Administrative &  
Fundraising  
\$228,429



*Out of every dollar spent, 92 cents goes directly to programs and services that support students and teachers in SAISD.*



*With a new milestone of 56%  
of our 2022 SAISD graduates  
enrolled in college this year, there  
has never been a better time to  
support our students!*





# Class of 2022 Reached New College Enrollment

Fueled by the significant five-year investment by Valero in creating a college-bound culture and the three-year investment of The Greehey Family Foundation in significantly increasing dual credit access and enrollment, the SAISD Foundation continues to build on that progress. Following a pilot program with the City of San Antonio's Department of Human Services, USAA invested in the continuation of four contracted full-time equivalent Postsecondary Navigators (PSNs). PSNs take on the work of the college-bound advisors' role with students post high school graduation. It is the work of PSNs to outreach to all students who graduate from a San Antonio ISD high school within one year of graduation to ensure they are on the path they chose and help them get back on track if needed.

With this added resource, 56% of the class of 2022 had enrolled in college within one year of high school graduation – a new all-time high in SAISD. With this significant increase in college enrollment (from 49% for the class of 2021), the need to support college persistence to completion has never been more important. In addition to support in college enrollment, PSNs help students to transfer colleges and secure additional resources from the SAISD Foundation's emergency gap program to stay enrolled.

With the additional funding from USAA and the City of San Antonio through American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) for 2023, we were able to add an additional PSN and expand the work. The expansion of the "Beat the Heat" college enrollment program serves as an example. In partnership with SAISD Postsecondary Initiatives, PSNs assisted 156 SAISD recent grads in enrolling in classes at Alamo Colleges, UTSA and Texas A&M San Antonio. While visiting campuses, staff worked with students to remove enrollment barriers stopping them from registering for courses including locating vaccination records, sending final transcripts and removing a variety of holds so that students could start classes this fall.

"This program is unique to this area," Amy Pena, Dean for Student Success at San Antonio College said. "I haven't seen anything like it offered within the city. Beat the Heat aligns with the support that is offered [through Postsecondary Initiatives and the PSNs] throughout the year."

# 2022-2023 MAJOR DONORS



# Investing in Tomorrow's Workforce

In May 2023, donors, alumni and members of our board came together to award 138 scholarships to students at 15 high schools! Each ceremony created new opportunities for our alumni, community scholarship sponsors and donors to meet the recipients and for many to revisit their alma mater. The work of raising funds for scholarships and securing new scholarships happens year-round. Thanks to the generosity of our donors, this year we awarded 10 new scholarships increasing opportunities for our students and increasing the number of scholarships awarded this year by 30%. Additionally, we continue to work with reunion classes to match scholarship funds raised up to \$500 to award a scholarship the following spring in the name of that high school in class. To date, we have had seven class reunions take up that challenge and successfully award a scholarship as a part of their senior signing celebrations.



Keenly aware of the value of workforce training, this May we offered two new donor-directed vocational scholarships focused on students headed into the workforce to support tools, equipment, and tuition costs. The SAISD Foundation has also secured private foundation funding to support uniforms, equipment and tool sets for students in SAISD's growing P-TECH programs. These are workforce training programs in high-wage, high-demand fields where students earn industry-recognized certificates and can earn an applied associate's degree prior to high school graduation. The first two grants we awarded focused on programs in manufacturing and aerospace at Highlands and the construction science program at Lanier. Additionally, we continue to bring in and build relationships with local business partners to support high school industry-focused programs. For example, the partnership we orchestrated in 2022 with Cavender Toyota and Lanier Automotive Technology has resulted in industry speakers, facility tours, donated automobiles, and job shadow and employment opportunities for this high-quality program that has doubled in size in recent years.

# About Us

As the education foundation for the San Antonio Independent School District, the SAISD Foundation is a 501(c)(3) public charity with a mission to motivate the community to deepen investments in our students and teachers. Gifts from our donors help us respond to critical challenges facing our students and add value beyond what state public funding can provide to ensure our students have a robust, 21st-century education. Our investments include grants for classroom teachers, ensuring broader student access to arts and STEM, and assistance beyond K-12 graduation for students who are pursuing postsecondary degrees and industry-recognized certifications.

## Upcoming Events

**April 9, 2024 · Golf FORE Excellence Tournament · Quarry Golf Course**

**October 23, 2024 · Inspire Awards · Witte Museum**

*Reserve Your  
Spot Today!*



2411 San Pedro, San Antonio TX, 78212 | [SAISDFoundation.com](https://SAISDFoundation.com)

210-554-2235 | [SAISDFoundation@saisd.net](mailto:SAISDFoundation@saisd.net)

