

They're depending on us.



It is no secret that school systems across Michigan – including Portage – are at a crossroads; state funding continues to decrease while demands on public school systems increase. When Lansing passed Proposal A in 1994, funding for public education changed drastically in Michigan. Proposal A took away local control of our schools, shifting that control to the state.

In response to our community's request to seek alternative, private funding, the Portage Education Foundation has created Protecting Education's Future: Now (PEF: Now). PEF: Now will give our schools immediate access to funds to maintain the superior education that is Portage Public Schools.



Place
Stamp
Here

Portage
Education
Foundation



Portage Education Foundation
PO Box 2043
Portage, MI 49081-2043

PEF Protecting education's future NOW!

*When
a community
believes
in education
and is willing to rally,
powerful things
will happen.*



www.portageeducationfoundation.org

The Portage Education Foundation

The PEF, established in 1990, is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit that has awarded more than \$390,000 in support of students, staff and district initiatives throughout Portage Schools. The PEF has assisted hundreds of students and faculty with grants to cover a variety of costs not typically covered by district or individual school budgets.

Protecting Education's Future: Now

In response to community feedback on how to address the school-funding crisis, PEF: Now was established in 2010. Its steering committee is made up of representatives from each school, members of the community and local business leaders.

Only \$1 a Day Helps to Keep the Cutbacks Away

Donate \$1 a day per household and business to help us raise \$1.3 million to help save programs and protect our education!



Contributions to PEF: Now are tax-deductible.* For more information on the Portage Education Foundation or PEF: Now, please contact us:

Protecting Education's Future: Now
PO Box 2043 | Portage, MI 49081-2043
info@portageeducationfoundation.org

Or visit us online
www.portageeducationfoundation.org

We want to hear from you! Please share your thoughts, stories and questions.

Commonly Asked Questions:

Why should I support PEF: Now?

Since 2002–2003, Portage Public Schools has cut \$5 million from its budget. While PPS has made every effort to prevent cuts from impacting its instructional services, the district cannot continue to provide an outstanding education without financial support. Our schools are no longer receiving sufficient support from Lansing.

How can we be in a funding crisis – aren't we building new schools?

These are two separate issues. By law, monies raised from a bond initiative cannot be used for classroom activities or teacher salaries. The bond was earmarked for new schools, renovations and improved technology. Bond monies cannot be used to pay operational expenses.

Who should contribute?

Portage Public Schools' parents and alumni, local homeowners, and area businesses all share an essential role in the success of our public school system.

How will funds be allocated?

In the spring, the district will identify needs and share them with the PEF: Now Steering Committee. The Steering Committee, made up of school and community volunteers, will then formulate a proposal on how the donations should be allocated. The Steering Committee will then present its proposal to the PEF Board for a final vote. In the final step, the Portage Public Schools Board of Education votes to accept the donation.

How much should I contribute?

We are requesting \$30 a month, which is the equivalent of approximately \$1 a day – that's less than the average coffee or soda. We hope every family and area business will contribute to the extent that they can.

Our Children's Future Depends on Our Action Today.

Invest today in the future of Portage. Working together, we can help the Portage Public Schools continue to offer an outstanding education to our students – an education not possible with public funding alone.

Monthly Contributions (12 month commitment)

\$ 1 per day = \$30 per month
\$ 2 per day = \$60 per month
\$ 3 per day = \$90 per month
Other \$ _____ Monthly

Annual Contributions
\$5,000 Platinum Level
\$2,500 Gold Level
\$1,000 Silver Level
\$ _____ Other

Name _____ Phone _____
Address _____ City _____ State _____ ZIP _____
E-mail _____ Payment: Check Credit Card
Number _____ Expiration _____ Security Code _____
Signature _____
 Add me to the supporters list on Web site as _____

Please enclose a matching gift form if your company matches contributions. Please make checks payable to: PEF: NOW

Complete this form today to donate, or visit us now online: www.portageeducationfoundation.org

