

Fall Foundations Summit 2011

Questions and Answers

Question: What does the Poway Unified School District Foundation do?

Answer: In support of the Poway Unified School District's strategic vision, the mission of the PUSD Foundation is to provide funding, resources, support, and opportunities for District activities and programs in order to expand and enrich the educational experiences of our students.

The Poway Unified School District Foundation is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization with a board of directors. Current Board Members are: Toni Kraft (President), Jane Vvedensky (Vice President), Tiffany Lynch (Treasurer); Fred Pierce, Chris Rowe, Jon Alan Baker, Lance Witmond, and Malliga Tholandi (Members at Large); and Kathleen Porter (Executive Director).

The Foundation provides financial resources to support our PUSD K-12 programs. While school site foundations typically focus on site-specific needs, the PUSD Foundation was created to address district-wide needs.

The PUSD Foundation is currently focusing its efforts on support in the following areas: 1) S.T.E.A.M. (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Math) Skills for all students; 2) College and Career Readiness; and 3) Rigor, Relevance and Relationships

To date, the PUSD Foundation has provided over \$1.7 million dollars to Poway Unified School District for student programs. The PUSD Foundation relies on support from local business and community members to maintain our standard of excellence in all we do to provide opportunities for the success of our students.

Examples of ways the PUSD Foundation supports student activities and programs include but are not limited to:

- The Partners in Education Program and Activities
- Participation in local, state and national competitions, such as DECA, Science Olympiad, Robotics
- Career days and participation with our industry partners, such as Women in Engineering; field trips to Junior Achievement's Biztown
- College Fairs and career exploration programs
- Student internships
- Technology in the classrooms
- Career Exploration software
- Training and supplies for Project Lead the Way
- Programs in Science, Technology, Engineering, Art and Math
- PSAT to all sophomores

Question: Does the Poway Unified School District share parent information with Poway Unified School District Foundation?

Answer: The Poway Unified School District does not share parent information with the Poway Unified School District Foundation. Further, as a general rule, the District Foundation does not solicit parents when asking for donations.

The District Foundation has followed the rule of thumb that site foundations seek parent donations, and the District Foundation seeks corporate sponsors and non-PUSD parent donations.

Site foundations have better access to parents through their principals and should go through that channel when seeking individuals to solicit for donations. If there are things that you need to succeed, please let us know. The PUSD Foundation wants to ensure that you have the information and support you need to be successful. We may not be able to provide everything asked for, but we will certainly look into the possibilities and provide you with responses.

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**Question:** Are there any fundraising guidelines or policies for everyone that are posted anywhere?

**Answer:** Yes, there are some general guidelines for fundraising. These are posted on the PUSD website, and can be accessed at: [http://www.powayusd.com/donation\\_guidelines.shtml](http://www.powayusd.com/donation_guidelines.shtml).

The PUSD Foundation can help to share best practices in fundraising (to include templates for correspondence, requests, recordkeeping, etc...) which your individual foundation can elect to adopt.

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Question: Are teachers allowed to ask for donations?

Answer: Yes, teachers may ask for donations. (The key word here is “donation.” Donations are voluntary; fees, on the other hand, cannot be charged or asked for.) It is especially effective for a teacher to ask for donations for a specific purpose. Be sure to ask if there are teachers at your school willing to ask for donations. Some teachers are not comfortable asking for donations, but others are. If you clearly communicate the value to teachers of assisting you in asking parents to support your foundation, you will most likely find a teacher willing to make “the ask” with you.

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**Question:** Will you provide us with information about the budget cuts and their impact so that we can more effectively raise awareness about the needs?

**Answer:** Yes, we can work with the District Office to gather information to quantify the impact of the budget cuts. With that District-wide data, your foundation leaders can work with your site principal to identify the effects at your specific school site.

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Question: We are having some challenges in working with our PTA and also in communicating to our parents why my school has both a PTA and a foundation? What is the difference? Do they work together?

Answer:

Our local school Parent Teacher Associations are affiliates with a national organization that has decades of experience working together. The national organization provides leadership and support to local school PTA's through the national, state, regional and local chapter governance.

Foundations, on the other hand, are not affiliates with any national organization; each school foundation is its own 501c3 organization. We recognize the need for collaboration and support among our foundations, and we're hopeful that by convening meetings like this one, we're taking a step toward better communication and support for our foundations that is similar to that support provided district-wide to the PTA's.

Your school culture is the most likely factor in determining the ability of your site foundation to work with your PTA. If you need support in forging a collegial relationship, you may want to enlist the help of your principal. All of us are working toward a common goal – which is to improve the educational experiences of our students. There are some very good examples in the District of PTA's and foundations working together effectively. Jennifer Zaheer, the Palomar Council president, did attend the Fall Foundations Summit. She is aware of some of the difficulties that sites are experiencing and is supportive of the foundations and PTA's working together. She can help us to clearly articulate the Foundation and PTA differences and the reasons that both are important and valuable at our school sites.

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**Question:** Will Dr. Collins' message be available for us to show our site foundation leaders?

**Answer:** Yes, we will post a link to Dr. Collins' message as well as to the PowerPoint and the Questions and Answers from tonight's meeting.