



THE FAYETTE
EDUCATION
FOUNDATION



2024

IMPACT REPORT

Dear Friends,

As we reflect on this past year, we are incredibly proud of what we have achieved together to support Fayette County Public Schools. With your support, we successfully launched two new initiatives: LearnLocal and Building Bridges to Opportunity; continued to build on the success of our Bright Ideas Grants program; and welcomed Dolly Parton to town to celebrate growth in the Imagination Library - all while keeping our focus on building excellence and equity in public education.

In November, Kentucky voters were asked whether they wanted to rewrite part of the constitution to let the state legislature allocate taxpayer dollars to other educational opportunities, such as private or charter schools. Fayette and every other county voted against the measure with a resounding statement of “keep public dollars in public schools.”

With this renewed confidence in our public schools, The Fayette Education Foundation resolves to continue to connect the private sector with our public schools to ensure a world-class education for all students.

As we look forward to 2025, we are excited about the Foundation board’s adoption of our Impactful Programs framework to keep our work focused. While we will continue to partner with the Blue Grass Community Foundation on some current and future projects, we are officially going out on our own.

Despite potential changes to public education in the future, we are confident the citizens of Lexington/Fayette County will continue to support the successes and challenges of our public schools.

With your support, our ability to adapt will ensure our success.

Warm regards,

Carrie Boling
Executive Director

Abdul Muhammad
Board Chair

In partnership with



2024



Imagination Library in Lexington

Dolly Parton Visits Lexington



Kindergarten readiness scores in Fayette County have increased from 42% in 2021 to 51% this past school year.

Still, nearly half of incoming Fayette County kindergartners do not meet the basic standards for starting their education. Our students are behind before they even step foot inside a school.

Building literacy and language skills help children become kindergarten-ready, so they enter school with a love of books and are ready to learn. This is important for school success because eventually they move from learning to read, to reading to learn.

The books are free to families regardless of income.

The Fayette Education Foundation is responsible for the local cost of delivery, splitting the \$163,000 annual bill with the Kentucky state legislature. Local support by individuals and businesses is critical to the success of this program.

73,770

Books delivered in 2024

8,992

Total children served

\$81,636.11

Local cost for book delivery in 2024

2024



Collaboration

Partnerships are critical to strong public schools. Highlights of our 2024 partnerships are featured below.

● Building Bridges to Opportunity

In partnership with One Lexington and Blue Grass Community Foundation, Building Bridges to Opportunity is a coalition of state and local governments in collaboration with Fayette County Public Schools and The Fayette Education Foundation investing in the support, opportunity and resources for those affected by gun violence starting in July 2024.

- \$180,000 invested in scholarships for seniors of color majoring in criminal justice or related field
- \$150,000 for trauma informed care and in-school programming
- \$100,000 invested in scholarships for non-traditional post-secondary skills development
- \$70,000 invested in student support services for early years of post-secondary enrollment

● Driving Possibilities

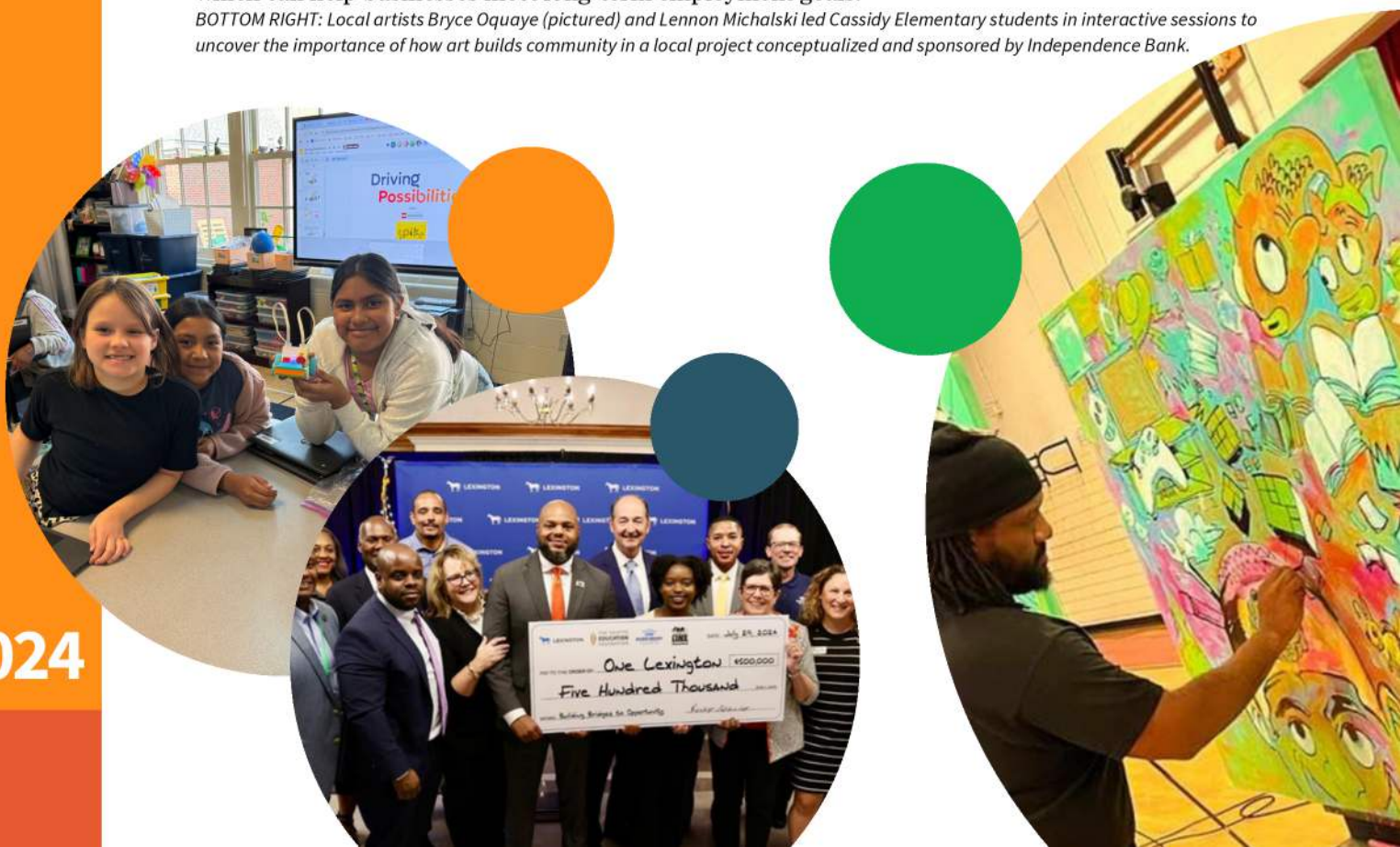
In partnership with Toyota and National Centers for Families Learning, Driving Possibilities is in year two of a five year commitment. Driving Possibilities coordinates community-based services for innovative solutions to overcome barriers that impact success, with a focus on transportation systems/options and language barriers, to provide equitable and excellent STEM educational experiences for students and families to create a pipeline for the community's STEM workforce needs.

BOTTOM LEFT: Russell Cave Elementary students participate in STEM Day activities by building and programming LEGOs sponsored by Toyota.

● LearnLocal

LearnLocal is a Foundation initiative to empower students and educators through partnerships. Partnerships give students the opportunity to learn about careers, while reinforcing basic curriculum, which can help businesses meet long-term employment goals.

BOTTOM RIGHT: Local artists Bryce Oquaye (pictured) and Lennon Michalski led Cassidy Elementary students in interactive sessions to uncover the importance of how art builds community in a local project conceptualized and sponsored by Independence Bank.





In 2024, The Fayette Education Foundation awarded almost \$55,000 in Bright Ideas Grants for 29 projects in Fayette County Public Schools. Since inception, more than \$158,000 has been awarded to 86 projects across the district. Thanks to investments from civic-minded companies and other organizations in Lexington, students are provided with additional experiences that stimulate learning beyond what some school budgets allow.



Featured Project - **Tates Creek High School**

Collaboration between the Tate Creek High School Orchestra and the Lexington Philharmonic to provide students with a unique, immersive musical experience masterclasses, joint performances, and mentorship opportunities.



Featured Project - **Leestown Middle School**

Purchase of Bambu Lab P1S 3D printer, cardboard automata boxes, and Databot sensor, so Leestown Middle School students can delve into engineering, design, and data analysis while fostering creativity and problem-solving skills.



Featured Project - **Mary Todd Elementary**

Enhancement of Mary Todd Elementary's outdoor classroom to create specific gardening spaces where students can plant, monitor, care for, and harvest a variety of vegetables and flowers.

More than 90% of teachers spend their own money on school supplies and other necessities for their students every year according to the National Education Association, the largest teachers' union in the country.

Caulk Memorial Scholarship

The Emmanuel "Manny" Caulk Jr. Memorial Scholarship was established in memory of the Fayette County Public Schools superintendent after his death in December 2020. The scholarship is open to future teachers in response to the teacher shortage and the district's strategic priority of a Highly Effective and Culturally Responsive Workforce.



Addison Magsig

Frederick Douglass High School, Class of 2024

Revenue & Expenditures as of June 30, 2024

In FY24, the Foundation saw its combined revenue increase 36% year over year. The Fayette Education Foundation supports its mission through a combination of contributions from corporations, individuals, grants and other sources.

The Fayette Education Foundation is grateful for the generosity of our partners and donors who elevate student achievement with each and every dollar invested in our schools, teachers, leaders and students.

Revenue

Combined Revenue: **\$1,008,603**

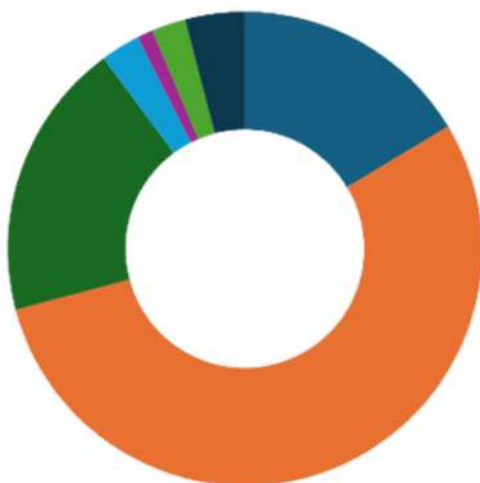
Program Investment

Total All Programs: **\$376,847**

Combined Expenses

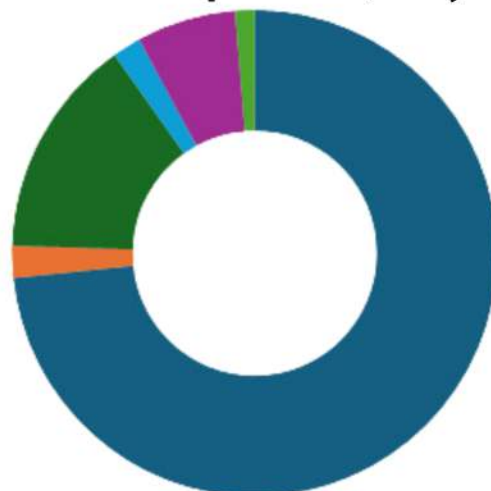
Total Expenses: **\$513,627**

Program Investments: \$376,847



- Bright Ideas Grants: 16%
- Driving Possibilities: 55%
- Imagination Library: 19%
- Scholarship: 3%
- Teachers for Tomorrow: 1%
- Teacher of the Year: 2%
- Special Projects: 4%

Combined Expenses: \$513,627



- Program Investments: 73%
- Marketing: 2%
- Personnel: 15%
- Admin/Office Supplies: 2%
- Fundraising: 7%
- Fiscal Sponsor/Credit Card Fees: 1%
- Scholarship: 2%

2024



For a complete list
of donors:



2024-25 Board of Directors

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Vice Chair: **Kaelyn Query Caldwell**, Lexington Event Company

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Jordan Woods, student, Lafayette HS

Serenity Wright, University of Kentucky Social Innovation

Latarika Young, Lexmark

The mission of The Fayette Education Foundation is to support educational excellence in Fayette County Public Schools by promoting equity for all students.

The Fayette Education Foundation is a proud sponsor of the FCPS Global Awards for Excellence in Education. BELOW from left to right: Latarika Young, Former FEF Board Chair; 2024 Teacher of the Year Angela Justice, Stonewall Elementary; Carrie Boling, FEF Executive Director; and 2024 Teacher of the Year Aaron Cain, Henry Clay High School.





P.O. Box 910951
Lexington, KY 40591-0951

Our Priorities

Equitable access to resources for all students

- Invest in teachers and staff.
- Support early childhood education.
- Drive and strengthen community partnerships.

Out-of-school support for students and families

- Engage and support families.
- Invest in out-of-school time student experiences.

Success after FCPS

- Expand access to career exploration.
- Involve partners and businesses in career-based experiences.



fayettefoundation.org

Donate Now