

ANNUAL REPORT

2023



Missouri
Public
Education
Foundation

The Missouri Public Education Foundation (MPEF) was established as a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization in 2022 to be a positive voice for Missouri public education. MPEF's purpose is to educate the general public on the positive impacts of public education through a combination of communication, outreach, advocacy, and research initiatives.

The Missouri Public Education Foundation is governed by a Board of Directors. The Advisory Council lends additional support and expertise by incorporating the perspectives of key stakeholder groups across Missouri.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

O. Victor Lenz, Chair, *St. Louis*
Jan Mees, Secretary, *Columbia*
Linda Daugherty, *Nixa*
Jolie Justus, *Kansas City*
Ron Lankford, *Webb City*
John Martin, *Kansas City*
Janet Tilley, *Columbia*

ADVISORY COUNCIL

Larry Felton, *St. Louis*
Gale "Hap" Hairston, *Columbia*
Jay Hartman, *St. Louis*
Darbie Valenti Huff, *Savannah*
Sara Pylate, *Jackson*
Linda Quinley, *Columbia*
Zac Rantz, *Nixa*
Jerry Valentine, *Columbia*

THEORY OF CHANGE

In Missouri, education policy debates are ever present – at the state house and in local communities. Issues such as charter school expansion; open enrollment; teacher pay and retention; and accountability are the subject of legislation year after year. However, there are few organizations working to produce unbiased accurate research about Missouri’s public schools and its impacts on students, families, communities, and society. MPEF is poised to become just such an organization that becomes a trusted voice for public education.

The three main initiatives of MPEF are intended to promote the importance of public education and highlight its positive effects while also actively identifying research- and data-based solutions that will improve outcomes for students and communities in both the short and long term.

**1****RESEARCH****2****POLICY
ADVOCACY****3****EDUCATOR
SUPPORT**

LOOKING BACK ON 2023

In 2023, the Missouri Public Education Foundation (MPEF) made significant progress toward establishing a statewide presence. We hired a strategic consultant, Dorothy Rohde-Collins, to establish and implement a strategic plan to fulfill the organization's mission. The MPEF business plan outlines our organizational priorities and the types of projects we plan to work on over the next several years. This document is intended to keep the organization focused on its goals as well as offer potential funders insight into our vision. We are also hard at working building our web presence and anticipate launching publicly in late 2024.

2023

FINANCIAL OVERVIEW

\$54,100**2023 Income****\$7,617****2023 Expenses**

2024 PREVIEW

So far in 2024 we have:

Established an Advisory Council to provide additional expertise and support to the MPEF Board of Directors and Strategic Consultant. This group meets monthly to shape the research agenda, communications, and strategic direction of the organization.

Secured more than \$75,000 in grant funding from MIT Blueprint Labs to conduct original research in conjunction with Lehigh University and Washington University. The study will quantify the impact of Missouri permanent charter school closure on teachers and students.