

ENHANCING EDUCATIONAL EXCELLENCE SINCE 2000

2025 Annual Report



Grant Programs

The Maynard Education Foundation (MEF) funds proposals that bring innovative ideas to the Maynard Public Schools and provides opportunities for staff and students that are not typically covered by the district budget. MEF awards three different types of grants:

Educator Grants

For pilot programs, materials, resources, guest speakers, enrichment activities, conferences, and professional development opportunities.

Student Grants

For student-initiated and student-led projects focused on improving the Maynard Public Schools (MPS). The student grant recipient works in collaboration with a MPS educator or staff member.

Leadership Grants

For administrators seeking to make a difference throughout the school system.

www.maynardeducation.org

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Mission Statement

The Maynard Education Foundation is an independent, non-profit 501(c)3 organization that uses its philanthropic contributions to enhance educational excellence in the Maynard Public Schools by funding ideas and projects which promote and celebrate academic rigor and achievement, excitement about learning, and innovation in instruction.

Letter from President

In 2000, thanks to the initial efforts of Superintendent Dr. Donald Kennedy, he and a small group of dedicated community members had an idea to enrich the educational opportunities for Maynard students. With a generous gift from Joe Mullin and the Wellesley Management Group, the Maynard Education Foundation (MEF) was born.

In the 25 years since, MEF has funded more than 300 grants, investing nearly \$400,000 in innovative projects and programs. As impressive as the numbers are, the impact is more accurately witnessed in the intangibles: the eyes of a child who just got a big idea, an educator's passion project come to life, and the pride of a community that understands the power of education. In this report, you'll find just a handful of stories that show you what I mean.

These stories have been made possible by volunteers, board members, educators, students, individual donors, and local businesses who show up year after year. We are deeply grateful for each person and organization that has contributed their time, talents, and resources to our shared mission. The ripple effect as we come together is powerful.

As we celebrate this milestone year, we look ahead to the next 25 with optimism and purpose. Our vision is clear: to ensure we can maintain and grow the opportunities available in Maynard Public Schools for another quarter century (and beyond!). Fiscally, we are committed to strengthening our endowment so that MEF can meet the needs of today's students while building a foundation for generations to come.

As you read these stories, we hope you feel proud of what we have accomplished together and are inspired to help shape the next chapter through financial gifts, volunteering, or simply sharing our mission.



Thank you for believing in our students and for helping us make this work possible.

With gratitude,

Amanda Hemm

Trio of MEF presidents Jim McCann, Fiona Nauseda (middle), and Amanda Hemm (left)

  @maynardeducationfoundation

25 Years of Community Support

This year, we've looked back on 25 years of the Maynard Education Foundation and have been awed by the impact of one simple desire: to enrich the educational opportunities for Maynard students beyond what the school budget could provide.

That vision sparked the creation of the Maynard Education Foundation by a group of passionate citizens: **Dr. Donald Kennedy, James McCann, William Kohlman, Terry Herring, Joan Shankle, Moira Rodgers, Stacie Cassat Green, Bud Ferris, Peter Cirioni, and Mary Brannelly.** In the first year they awarded \$4,000 to 10 grants.

"We are looking for programs that enrich our current programs and inspire something new that is not annually funded," said Jim McCann, president of the foundation. "If the programs are successful, hopefully they will be picked up by the school committee and added to the curriculum."

As reported by *The Boston Globe* in 2002

Since then, MEF has awarded 320 grants and nearly \$400,000 to our school—igniting creativity, enriching classrooms, and supporting educators who go the extra mile. To see these stories in action, follow us on social media and visit our YouTube channel: @maynard-education-foundation.

Total # of Grants since 2000 **320**

Total \$ of Grants since 2000 **\$396,213**

MEF is proud to fund ideas that promote innovation, provide new opportunities to all learners, and enhance and enrich our students' educational experience.

Student Grants

Inspiring Future Leaders

Senior Projects are the capstone of the high school experience. Students spend the year researching topics of personal interest and creating projects designed to impact the greater community. This program sets Maynard High School apart from other local schools.



One such project was **Disrupting Success.** With funding from MEF, DESE, and the PTO, Hannah Peters, Class of 2025, arranged a workshop with motivational public speaker Mr. Jeff Dess to provide a leadership seminar focused on personal growth and leadership styles to 8th, 9th, and 10th graders. Afterward, students integrated their learning by building birdhouses that highlighted different leadership styles. The key takeaway: everyone is a leader, and leadership isn't about taking charge—it's about what you contribute.

Congrats to these outstanding 2025 alum for their Senior Projects:

- **Little Free Art Galleries** – Riley Carven
- **Chris's Abs Class** – Chris Wilkins
- **Women in Sports Documentary** – Izzy Burke
- **Sounds of MHS: A Zine** – Ava Wiseley
- **Positivity Board** – Brenna Bernard
- **Temperature Regulated Fan** – Nathaniel Mauroy & Joshua Curtin
- **Enhanced Learning from DNA** – Alessandra Gamez



MEF proudly continued to support the Maynard DECA Club and President Miller Norris.

"I want people to watch my documentary and fully realize that it's not easy to be a girl in sports, whether you're an athlete or working in the industry. I hope that younger girls watch the documentary and become inspired and excited to be an athlete."

Izzy Burke



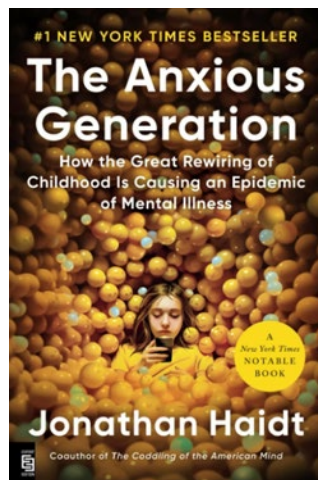
Addressing Current Issues Collaboratively

Often one of the biggest challenges affecting a student's success in the classroom has little to do with what's happening inside the classroom but more with what's happening **outside** the classroom.

As more and more students have increased access to social media, smartphones, and digital technologies, more teachers and parents are witnessing an increase in anxiety and classroom disruptions. In an effort to understand this issue, MEF funded a district wide pilot project entitled the **Anxious Generation – A Book Study**.

In collaboration with Maynard bookstore Felixology, MEF provided 30 copies of the best selling novel *The Anxious Generation* by Jonathan Haidt. The project, led by Kate Murray, Green Meadow Assistant Principal, and Melissa Graham, 8th grade teacher, brought together 30 Maynard parents, teachers, and staff once a week for 6 weeks over the summer to focus on understanding the root causes of rising anxiety and mental health challenges among young people, as presented by Haidt.

The group explored practical strategies—at home, in schools, and in society—to foster healthier digital habits and stronger developmental foundations.

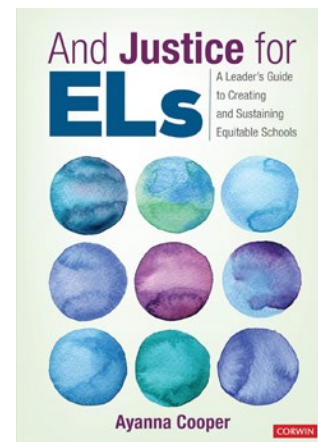


"It is likely this endeavor may lead to increased professional development, parent education opportunities, and be a catalyst to drive policy. I am very pleased with the overall experience and am grateful MEF helped to provide us with the resources to make it happen."

Melissa Graham

Given the importance and relevancy of this topic, another session is already planned for the Fall. We anticipate continued community collaboration and engagement as the schools implement the "Away for the Day" cellphone use policy.

Over the past few years, Maynard has experienced a rapid growth in the number of multilingual learners in the district—currently 7.5% of students. Recognizing a need for professional development to support these students, Green Meadow Staff requested funding to create the **Justice for ELs book study**. Dr. Charles Gobron, Kate Murray, and Karen Murphy engaged nearly 30 staff members in a five month program based on the book *And Justice for ELs*, written by Ayanna Cooper. Participants developed strategic resources and are creating a sustainable educational environment where English Learners will thrive. At the conclusion of the project, there was a request for ongoing professional development opportunities focused on multilingual learners.



Parents and caregivers need knowledge and tools to support teenagers in today's world. **In Plain Sight**, a grant funded program led by MHS Vice Principal Olga Doktorov, was an information night and safety training in partnership with the Maynard police department and the SAFE coalition. The topics included a legal briefing on juvenile driving and hosting parties, a hands-on activity to recognize drug paraphernalia in a mock teenage bedroom and a Narcan training.



"It was an evening focused on building relationships, the importance of community, and supporting our teens."

Amanda Hemm
MEF President

Experiential Learning

This year, MEF funded a variety of grants that provided innovative tools for hands-on learning. Experiential learning fosters deeper understanding of concepts while encouraging problem solving, communication, and collaboration.

The first grade team introduced a new approach to teaching language and verbal abilities: using **STEAM Stations to Boost Language Skills**. With grant funding, Jennifer Lewis and the other 1st grade teachers created science, technology, engineering, art, and math (STEAM) kits that were used to teach language concepts and vocabulary. These kits helped provide a fun and engaging way to increase students' confidence describing complex situations.



In Green Meadow, special educators, Megan Baudin and Nikki Harrington, introduced **The Sensory Steamroller**, a tool that offers an immersive way for a child to experience deep pressure stimulation while working on motor skills, body awareness, and shoulder stability.

The afterschool STEAM club added new microscope kits and architectural and engineering design materials thanks to Jim Duffy's **Biological Exploration & Engineering Design** grant. This 15 week afterschool program had participation from nearly half of the 3rd grade class. Afterschool opportunities allow students to explore interest in topics like biology, physics, and math.



In Fowler, Michael Cotter's 6th graders studied ancient civilizations by excavating replica skulls using tools from our early ancestors as part of the **Early Hominids Project**. Students constructed life-sized recreations based on the variations of the skulls and tools after developing hypotheses as to why each ancestor may have become extinct.

The **Supporting Tier 2 Students for Success** grant piloted the Magnetic Reading program helping support 4th and 5th graders with targeted reading comprehension strategies based on the science of reading. Cheri Murphy's grant also invested in Simplify Writing—an innovative writing program that teaches grammar, handwriting, and spelling.



At the high school level, communication students and community members benefited from the newly purchased **WAVM Switcher Board** thanks to a grant from educator Mike Basile. This upgrade enhanced WAVM's broadcasts with real-time graphics and a more polished production for sport games, school events, and town meetings.



Rochelle Learner's advisory program **Yogalites** helps teenagers recharge and destress with yoga and pilates equipment. To be their best in and out of the classroom, our students need to focus on mental health and well-being.

"In addition to an increase in language skills, the STEAM kits allow for creativity. Students became more comfortable failing when making designs. Students were also observed to be thinking "outside of the box" a little bit more."

Jennifer Lewis, Grade 1 Teacher

"By using a hands-on approach to learning, we strongly believe that the students will get excited about these academic areas."

Jim Duffy, Club Advisor

25 Years Strong— and This is Just the Beginning

For 25 years, the Maynard Education Foundation has been dedicated to enriching opportunities for students in the Maynard Public Schools. As we celebrate this milestone, we're also looking ahead—working to ensure MEF continues to thrive for the next 25 years and beyond.

Join us in building the future

- **Give:** Invest in MEF to create a sustainable foundation for tomorrow
- **Volunteer:** Share your time and passion to strengthen our programs
- **Attend:** Join us at events that bring our community together
- **Amplify:** Elevate our mission by becoming an ambassador

Together we enrich education

Every hour volunteered, every ticket purchased, every donation made contributes to a legacy of educational opportunity. With your partnership, MEF can continue to inspire and invest in Maynard's students—now and for generations to come.

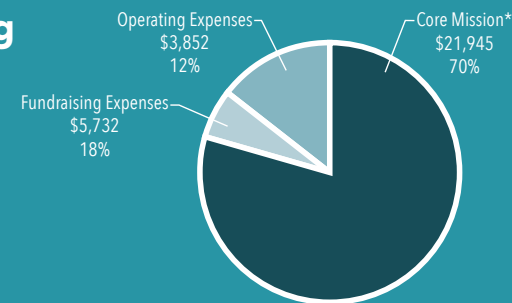
Donate Today

At Maynard Education Foundation, the donations entrusted to us go where they matter most—directly to teachers, staff, and students. We are proud that the majority of our spending directly supports educational programs and, with an incredibly low cost to raise each dollar, we're maximizing every gift to spark meaningful opportunities.

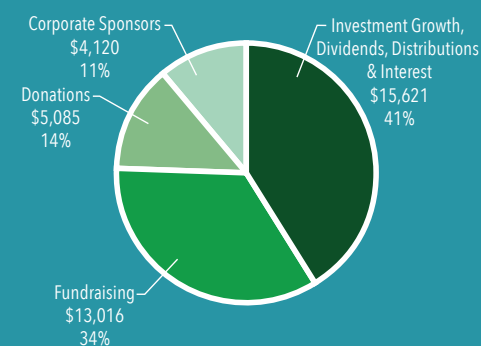
In 2000, the MEF board set a goal of building a \$500,000 endowment fund to sustain the mission for years to come. With the initial support of Joe Mullin of the Wellesley Management Group and ongoing support of Charlie Murphy and family, we are on our way to making this a reality. We invite you to help us build for the future by contributing today.



FY 2025 Spending



FY 2025 Source of Funds



*Core mission: grants and school-based activities that benefit students and educators

With Gratitude to Our Community

Maynard Education Foundation relies on the generosity of our community. From businesses who provide goods and services to the raffles and silent auctions to families who lift up educators in the Teacher Tribute campaign, we are grateful for every donation.

Thank you to our 2025 Premier and Major Sponsors

Middlesex Savings Bank	Capital Group Properties
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	Olivia & Ben Zauski

Become a Local Leader In Giving

If your business is interested in becoming a Local Leader In Giving, please reach out to our Partnerships & Giving Committee at info@maynardeducation.org



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