

Business  
Partnership  
Program



*Making a positive impact on your  
community and your business*

# *What is the Fulton Education Foundation?*



Founded in 1986, the Fulton Education Foundation was created to extend the reach of the Fulton County School Board and strengthen the relationship between schools and their community. The Foundation enhances the performance and lives of Fulton County students and faculty by facilitating innovative programs in four key areas: Student Achievement, Physical Well-Being of Students, Professional Development and Teaching Methods, and Teacher and Staff Recognition.

The 501(c)(3) non-profit organization strives to bridge the gaps that can result from student population growth and insufficient budgets, while supporting the Fulton County School System's ongoing tradition of excellence.

The Fulton Education Foundation relies heavily on its board of directors, business affiliates and members of the community to fund and implement its programs. Governed by a volunteer board of executives and local community leaders, the Foundation continually assesses supporting programs that aid the Fulton County School System in achieving its goals.

# *About*

## *Fulton County School System*

Founded in 1871, the Fulton County School System (FCSS) is 80 miles in length and ranges from the cities of Chattahoochee Hills and Palmetto in the south to the cities of Milton, Alpharetta, and Johns Creek in the north. The fourth largest school system in Georgia, FCSS has more than 12,000 employees, including 6,800 teachers and other certified personnel, working in nearly 100 schools and 15 administrative support buildings. Our student population is more than 90,000 and each year that number continues to grow.

Fulton County Schools are among the most diverse schools in Georgia, with student populations from a variety of cultural, socio-economic and developmental backgrounds. Families are attracted to Fulton County because of its consistent and well-deserved reputation for having a quality school system. Businesses also establish a foothold in the county because employees want to live and work in communities with excellent schools.

Fulton County Schools continue to win national and local awards for student and faculty achievements as well as academic excellence. Our schools are educating future generations of Atlanta's working professionals.



*We cannot hold a torch to light another's  
path without brightening our own.  
~ Ben Sweetland*

# *Putting Our Vision into Action*

Our business partners make it possible for the Fulton Education Foundation to support and sponsor system-wide initiatives and events. The primary objectives and corresponding programs include:

## **Promote Student Achievement**

- Assist with funding SAT preparation classes
- Fulton County Technology Competition
- “Yes I Can” Award for achievements by disabled students
- Music Education Scholarships



Photo by Djamal Balbed



Photo by Al Benefield



## **Enhance the Physical Well-Being of Children**

- Vision and Hearing Assistance
- Bus Road-e-o
- Defibrillators

## **Support & Develop Teachers and Enhance Training Methods**

- Technology Leadership Forum
- Fulton Institute of Technology (FIT)

## **Provide Teacher and Staff Recognition**

- The Main Event/Teacher of the Year
- Retirement Dinner



Photo by Holly Brown

*Education: a debt due from  
present to future generations.  
~ George Peabody*

# *Partnering With Fulton Education Foundation*

Partnering with the Foundation doesn't only help ensure the continued excellence of students and faculty. It also positively impacts the community and your business. Our business partners have benefited from their involvement by:

- Making a beneficial contribution to their community
- Empowering the next generation of Georgia professionals
- Networking with key Fulton County School System decision-makers



Photo by Holly Brown

*“It’s always an honor to sponsor a Fulton Education Foundation event. We recognize the investment we are making in the future of metropolitan Atlanta and enjoy the benefits of marketing exposure for our company.”*

*Alvaro Rizo-Patron*

**PARSONS**



Photo by Kylee Moose

*Education costs money, but  
then so does ignorance.  
~ Claus Moser*

# Getting Involved

Businesses can get involved in a variety of ways by:

- Supporting specific initiatives
- Crafting individualized programs
- Sponsoring the Foundation as a whole

Each program offers different opportunities for exposure, networking and impact. Businesses can sponsor by making tax-deductible monetary donations or by providing in-kind sponsorships. Events also allow opportunities for volunteering and speaking.



Photo by Holly Brown

*“As part of our sponsorship, we have been actively involved with both the Fulton County Schools facilities and sponsoring numerous events. It has allowed us to help Fulton County Schools’ key technology and keeps Layer 3 ”top of mind” within the School System and among other Atlanta community leaders.’*

*Rodney Turner*



Photo by Holly Brown

*A teacher affects eternity; he can never  
tell where his influence stops.  
~ Henry B. Adams*

# *Program Details and Sponsorship Opportunities*

## **Promoting Student Achievement**

**SAT Preparation:** SAT preparation is invaluable in the college admissions process, but study courses can be costly. Fulton County Schools has partnered with The Princeton Review to develop a low-cost study option. But even with these competitive rates, some students need help to pay for the courses. Business partners and the Foundation ensure that more students are able to prepare for college with SAT study.

**Fulton County Technology Competition:** An arena of emphasis for the school system is the annual Fulton County Technology Competition. Grades 3-12 students develop projects in various technology categories from multimedia production to project programming with computer-based solutions. Students compete at the school level and winners compete at the system-wide level each January. The champions go on to represent Fulton County Schools at the state competition. At the system-wide level, business partners impact the competition by awarding prizes for students who excel.

**“Yes I Can!” Award:** Each year, students with disabilities are recognized for their achievements and their “yes I can!” spirit. The award was established in 1981 by the Foundation to acknowledge exceptional children and encourage them to succeed at their full potential. The program recognizes student achievement in academics, arts, community service, employment, extra-curricular activities, and independent living.

**Music Education Scholarships:** Due to the current economic climate, funds for public education have been dramatically reduced and the Fulton County School System has been forced to make difficult funding decisions for its programs. Last spring, the district's long-standing band and orchestra program for elementary students was eliminated. However, it was converted to a fee-based, after-school program so that young students could still have exposure to music education at an early age. The Fulton Education Foundation is proud to provide music scholarships for students that otherwise could not participate in the program.



Photo by Dan Gillette

## Physical well-Being of Children

**Vision and Hearing Assistance:** Although the schools provide student screenings for vision and hearing, many families cannot afford next-level exams, eyeglasses and hearing aids. The Fulton Education Foundation and its business partners provide the resources to remove the barriers that keep some of these students from learning.

**Bus Road-e-o:** To ensure the ongoing safety of Fulton County School children as they are transported to and from school and field trips, bus drivers participate in an annual training event called the Bus Road-e-o. Drivers compete and are recognized for their skills in parking, maneuvering and safety.

**Defibrillators:** Published studies continue to show that the presence of Automatic External Defibrillators (AEDs) in public places can dramatically increase the survival chances for those suffering cardiac arrhythmias. The Foundation works with the Fulton County School System to support the purchase of defibrillators.



*Education is the most powerful weapon which  
you can use to change the world.  
~ Nelson Mandela*



Photo by Djamal Balbed

## Support & Develop Teachers and Enhance Teaching Methods

**Technology Leadership Forum:** A key challenge for teachers is keeping up with rapidly changing technologies and imparting them to the student population. The Foundation both recognizes and further develops leadership in technology through the Forum. Principals may apply to participate or they may nominate another representative from their school to attend the six-month program. Applicants must demonstrate both a strong interest and a history of leadership with new technologies. Once approved, representatives attend all Forum sessions and develop a comprehensive technology plan addressing instruction, information access, family engagement and performance feedback. This program is an excellent opportunity for our business partners to help advance faculty's knowledge and continued professional development.

**Fulton Institute of Technology:** Fulton County Schools is launching the Fulton Institute of Technology (FIT), a multi-year initiative integrating science, technology, engineering and mathematics in state-of-the-art learning facilities. FIT will offer technical programs that fuse practical and virtual learning in a technology-rich environment. Students will take courses in specific career pathways such as manufacturing technology, information technology, energy systems, etc., and will gain hands-on experience through the applied curriculum, job shadowing and internships.



*Change does not necessarily assure progress, but progress implacably requires change. Education is essential to change, for education creates both new wants and the ability to satisfy them.*

*~ Henry Steele Commager*

## Teacher and Staff Recognition

**The Main Event/Teacher of the Year:** “The Main Event” is held each fall to recognize both an outstanding teacher and school professional from each individual school. The System also selects the overall “Teacher of the Year” from among the top elementary, middle and high school teachers of the year. Support professionals are also honored. Teachers and professionals are nominated earlier in the year by their peers and are evaluated by a committee based on their achievements, commitment to excellence and dedication to their profession. This event is truly a celebration of educational excellence as children from various schools perform at the event, and business and community partners are recognized for their contributions to Fulton County Schools.

**Retirement Dinner:** Each spring, the Foundation also contributes to the Fulton County Schools Retirement Dinner honoring the current school year’s retirees. Family members, former retirees and supporters are invited to attend. At this event, the school system and Foundation recognize the longstanding contribution of faculty and staff.



## Additional Sponsorship Opportunities

**“Fore” Kids Golf Classic:** Each year we host the “Fore” Kids Golf Classic to raise funds for all of the Fulton Education Foundation initiatives. This anchor event takes place at a local country club and provides an excellent opportunity for sponsorship, networking and enjoyment for our business partners.



**Year-Long Sponsorships:** In addition to sponsoring specific events, business partners can have an even greater impact by sponsoring the Fulton Education Foundation or by sponsoring any one of the valuable programs described herein. Business partners can gain exposure at all the events and receive recognition with the various initiatives that we sponsor.



Photo by Djamal Balbed

*Kindness trumps greed: it asks for sharing. Kindness trumps fear: it calls forth gratefulness and love. Kindness trumps even stupidity, for with sharing and love, one learns. ~ Mark Estrin*

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