

## What's the difference between donor-designated grants and any other grant?

Donor-designated grant money is used only for the donor's specific wishes. It might be an organic garden or classroom computers — that's up to the donor. The money "passes through" SBEF to fund the specified project. Other grants are funded by money raised at our events or unrestricted donations. Each year, we accept grant applications submitted by district and school staff or volunteers. A Board committee carefully considers all applications.

## How do you determine where SBEF's grant money goes?

A Foundation Board committee reviews the applications to determine how the money can best be used — the most bang for the buck, so to speak. Donations fund innovative and diverse programs in three different ways. Some examples:

**SEED MONEY** – SpringBoard Mentoring Program, Altharetta Yeargin Art Museum

**DISTRICT GRANTS** – Summer STEM (science, technology, engineering, math) camps, transformative J. Landon Short Mini-Grants for Educators, Work-Based Learning special education programs

**CAMPUS GRANTS** – Sensory-based motor labs, focus-enhancing bike-like reading desks, TI-84 calculators for students, Chromebooks for English language learners

SBEF has been called the research and development arm of the district because our grants fund classroom or grade-level programs that are often expanded across the district.

## How do you select scholarship recipients?

We look at each student's holistic achievement: personal qualities, school and community involvement, family life and academics. Recipients are honored at our Bright Stars of Spring Branch event in May.

## Does SBEF have an endowment?

Yes, the Fund for the Future endowment, established in 2008, augments SBEF grants and scholarships. Donations to the endowment are invested and never spent. Earned income will provide programs for generations of SBISD students. The money cannot be diverted outside the district.

## Does SBEF have a planned giving program?

Yes! We invite you to join the Legacy Circle and make SBEF part of your financial and estate plans. As a member, you will decide how you want your gift to be used: an unrestricted bequest (authorizes SBEF to allocate funds according to the greatest need) or a gift to Fund for the Future endowment to be invested. Your estate planner can help determine your best Legacy Circle options.

## What are the district's demographics?

The diversity of our 44 square miles may surprise you. Our student demographics: 58.9 percent are economically disadvantaged; 55.6 percent are academically at risk; 34.2 percent have limited English.

## Why should I support SBEF?

A donation to SBEF is a donation to the SBISD community. We live in a very special place where we support our neighbors and our schools. The district relies on SBEF to fund the projects not covered by state funding or local taxes. Your donations matter to the kids of SBISD. Check out our website to see more information about our grants at work in our schools.



# FAQ





## Spring Branch Education Foundation believes in student success.

As the nonprofit organization partnering with Spring Branch ISD, we fund programs that enrich the education of Every Child. Led by a volunteer board of community leaders, we raise funds through donations and community events. Thanks to a generous community, we give scholarships to a growing number of seniors each year, and we award grants as diverse as mentoring programs, classroom libraries, technology and more.

Our board and volunteers believe in quality, public education for all children; and we believe strong schools build strong communities.

Organized in 1993, we now routinely donate more than \$1 million each year to the district. You can help. We are Making Our Schools Better, Together.

## Our Mission

Spring Branch Education Foundation is committed to supporting our students and educators. We partner with the district and community to fund programs that enhance education and prepare our students for the future.

## Our Vision

In partnership with our district and community, enable all students to achieve post-secondary education and reach their full potential.

## Our Challenge

Like public school districts around Texas, SBISD benefited from the 86<sup>th</sup> Legislature's passage of House Bill 3 in Spring 2019. It provided a much-needed infusion of funds for public education while providing tax relief for taxpayers. We are grateful for the relief; however, SBISD continues to operate under a deficit budget and will continue to pay recapture payments, now known as Excess Local Revenue, to the state. The payment back to the state is approximately double what the district will receive from the state in formula funding.

## Our Solution

Private funding, through the Foundation, remains in the district and helps enhance quality of education. SBEF raises funds only for SBISD. The Foundation donates more than \$1 million each year to the district, reaching across the district through grants and scholarships.

## Our Stewardship

On average, our operating expenses are just 9 percent, meaning we spend only \$.09 for every dollar we raise. And 99 percent of our revenue is gifted to SBISD. Our board of directors funds approximately 28 percent of our operating expenses.



## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS:

### What's the difference between the Foundation and a PTA? Does SBEF divert funds from a PTA?

We work closely with the district's PTAs and do not divert money from them. Rather, we strengthen schools by providing an avenue to fund programs that are not included in a PTA's budget. Your donations, through SBEF, can be designated for a specific program on any campus. Gifts are tax-deductible, and donors receive district-wide recognition.

### If I want to support a program at my child's school, why shouldn't I write a check to the school?

When a donation is made, other than for a campus fundraising project, payment should be made to Spring Branch Education Foundation, the charitable organization through which donations to the district are channeled. SBEF has routine procedures in place to recognize and provide correct documentation to support tax-deductible donations. At your direction, 100 percent of your donation will be used to fund a specific campus activity.

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