

The Pacifica Education Foundation (PEF) is an all-volunteer nonprofit founded in 2008 that works to ensure that students across the Pacifica School District have equitable access to enriching music, the arts, and science programs. During the 2025-26 school year, community support allowed PEF to maintain its core music and arts programs while expanding hands-on science opportunities.

2,600+

STUDENTS SERVED

6

PUBLIC SCHOOLS

TK-8

GRADES SERVED

100%

VOLUNTEER-RUN

2025-26 PROGRAM IMPACT

MUSIC

Music education for elementary students

For the fourth consecutive year, PEF funded one of two elementary music teachers, along with all program supplies. PEF's funding has made it possible for weekly instruction to reach every TK-5 student across PSD's five elementary schools (beyond the program's original focus on grades 3 through 5) providing hands-on learning in instruments, vocal performance, music notation, and theory.



1,700+

Elementary students received music instruction and built persistence, creativity, and collaboration skills

Middle School Band

PEF continued supporting middle-school band programs at Ingrid B. Lacy Middle School and Cabrillo School, funding the practical needs that make participation possible, including instruments and repairs, sheet music, summer band, and field trips.



180

Middle schoolers developed their skills in discipline, focus and teamwork in the band

THE ARTS

SPARC Poetry: Giving students a voice

PEF funded SPARC Poetry (Stage Performance + Rhythmic Culture) for all fifth graders districtwide — a weekly workshop over 26 weeks that builds writing, performance, and social-emotional skills.

SPARC reports that across their Bay Area programs, **82% of students write about overcoming obstacles and cultivating personal strength.**



290

5th graders developed social-emotional skills through storytelling and reflection and built confidence performing in front of peers

SCIENCE

Science from Scientists: Hands on STEM

In 2025 - 26, PEF funded an expansion of Science from Scientists (SciSci) to 6th graders at both IBL Middle School and Cabrillo School. SciSci sends trained scientist-educators to lead bi-weekly hands-on STEM lessons connecting classroom concepts to real-world problem solving.

PEF provided roughly half of the program funding for the sixth graders, with other SciSci donors providing the funding for the balance of the program costs.

87% of Teachers at 80+ schools that SciSci serves nationwide reported that their **students demonstrated increased STEM confidence and were more engaged in science after the SciSci program.**



280

6th graders became more engaged in science and more likely to see themselves in STEM careers through hands-on workshops and training



COMMUNITY IMPACT

PEF's impact is powered by a broad network of families, educators, volunteers, businesses, and donors, whose collective support comes through memberships, donations, grants, and community events.

65+

Local Business Partners Offering Benefits to PEF Members

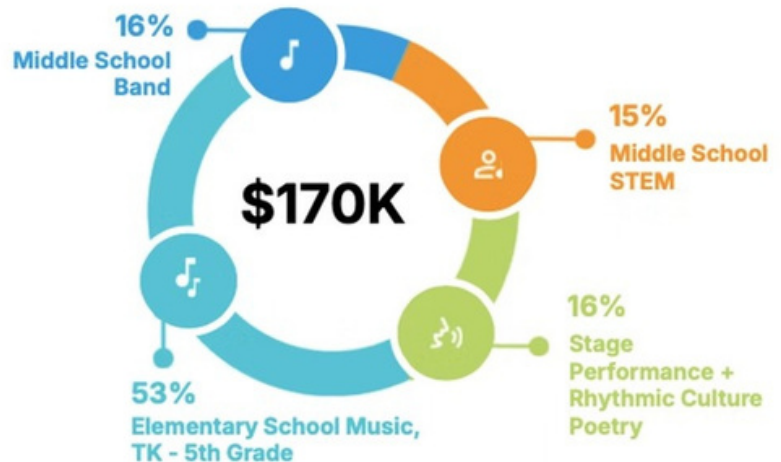
\$150K

Raised during PEF's two annual fundraisers — Donation Days and the PEF Gala

285

Individuals and Families Supporting PEF with an Annual Membership

PEF Programs Budget 2025–2026



\$24.6K

Pacifica School District is the 2nd-lowest-funded (per student) among San Mateo County's 17 elementary/middle-school districts — a \$24,600 gap versus the top-funded district, making community support essential.

Why this work matters

PEF'S districtwide model expands equitable access to music, the arts and science programming while strategically leveraging community support to extend the reach and impact of available public funding.

Looking ahead

Next year, PEF's focus is to sustain its existing music, arts and science programming and to expand where funding can make the greatest difference — including extending the hands-on Science from Scientists program to 3rd–5th grade at all five elementary schools.



Thank you.

Every membership, donation, grant, volunteer hour and business partnership contributes to this impact. We especially encourage anyone who wants to support kids in the PSD to lend their time and talents. Learn more at <https://www.pacificaef.org/volunteer>.

