



IPEI

ITHACA PUBLIC EDUCATION INITIATIVE



CONNECTING SCHOOL AND COMMUNITY



Support IPEI
activities that enrich
and expand educational
opportunities for all
ICSD students!

Giving Opportunities

Annual Fund: IPEI's Annual Fund is launched each fall.

Monthly Giving: Pledge an amount to be charged to your credit card each month.

Business Partner Honor Roll: Excellent schools are important to our local economy, employees and families, and customers. Join area businesses and corporations that support IPEI.

Online at IPEI.org: Contributions to IPEI are welcome at all times of the year.

Spelling Bee Event and Team Sponsors: Proceeds from the Spelling Bee directly support IPEI's grants for teachers. BEE a part of the buzz!

Planned Gifts: Help ensure that future generations of ICSD students will reap the benefits of innovative programs and classroom activities supported by IPEI. When you let us know about your planned gift to IPEI, you become a member of the Brodhead Society and join others who are committed to the future of IPEI's mission.

Join Us

Donate your time and talent by volunteering for IPEI. Opportunities include membership on the Board of Directors and committees (grants, events, finance, development), public relations (photography, writing, social media) and general office assistance.



IPEI CONNECTS School and Community

A task force of community members committed to maintaining the excellence of Ithaca's schools met in response to a challenge set forth in the Ithaca City School District Strategic Plan of 1994. It called for a vehicle that could facilitate access to the community resources needed to ensure the success of all students in the district, and resulted in the birth of IPEI.

IPEI was incorporated as a not-for-profit 501(c)(3) organization, and its all-volunteer board of directors met for the first time in 1996.

From the beginning, IPEI was and remains dedicated to creating avenues for community involvement in public education, enabling and rewarding excellence in teaching, and helping to develop exciting educational projects that cannot be funded through tax dollars alone.

IPEI now fosters collaborative relationships between school and community through its grants programs, the *Kids Discover the Trail! Ithaca* collaboration, and through its affiliates, the Fine Arts Booster Group and IthacaSTEM Advocates.

CONNECTING SCHOOL AND COMMUNITY



Our Grants Increase Student Engagement

Teacher Grants support ICSD teachers who have ideas for innovative educational projects that involve community members inside and outside ICSD classrooms and directly involve and/or benefit student learning. Applications are accepted each fall for grants up to \$1,500 each.

Red and Gold Grants are one-time grants of up to \$500 for classroom and/or school projects developed by ICSD teachers, staff, students or community members offered four times per year. Funds are granted to strengthen and enrich activities that fall outside the criteria of IPEI's Teacher Grants program.

Connecting Classrooms Grants of up to \$10,000 fund large-scale projects that enhance student engagement and support learning consistent with school and district goals. ICSD staff are encouraged to develop partnerships between teachers within a school, across grade levels and/or between schools. The grants are designed to encourage innovative thinking, engage students, and increase the sense of community between groups of teachers and students.

Community Collaboration Grants of up to \$3000 were designed for not-for-profit organizations that wished to initiate curricular-enhancing programs in partnership with ICSD.

Kids Discover the Trail! Ithaca

Kids explore the arts, books, culture and the physical and natural worlds through *Kids Discover the Trail! Ithaca (KDT! Ithaca)*, a collaboration between IPEI, the ICSD, and the Discovery Trail.

KDT! Ithaca gives every district student the opportunity to visit a Discovery Trail site each year during elementary school. Individual classrooms from different schools are paired and share learning experiences that are aligned with the curriculum including before and after the field trips. Social interaction helps students from our eight elementary schools gain a better understanding of each other and have connections across the district before middle school.



Special Funds and Awards

IPEI Special Funds are created by donors working with IPEI to enhance educational experiences for ICSD students and teachers while honoring influential people or organizations. Each fund provides a grant or award to exceptional students, teachers and organizations.

IPEI Affiliates

Broaden Our Reach

Fine Arts Booster Group

An affiliate of Ithaca Public Education Initiative (IPEI) since it was organized in 2001, the Fine Arts Booster Group (FABG) believes the arts – music, dance, and visual, literary and theater arts – are a central part of every child’s education.

FABG volunteers advocate for, support and celebrate all the arts for all the kids, working toward a vision of increased student access, participation and equity in the district’s arts programs.



FABG communicates arts news through a listserv, awards mini-grants to teachers, repairs used instruments and donates them to the district, produces secondary school concert and play programs, and connects arts-related community resources to the schools.

IthacaSTEM Advocates

Founded in 2013 and affiliated with IPEI the same year, IthacaSTEM Advocates is an all-volunteer organization devoted to fostering the appreciation of science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) by encouraging involvement in STEM-related activities, clubs, teams, events and classes in the ICSD.

IthacaSTEM helps raise funds, seek grants and coordinate sponsorships to improve learning opportunities in STEM disciplines for all ICSD students, and facilitates communication and collaborations among STEM groups and with the community.



Support IPEI's Mission, Grants and Programs

Visit us at **IPEI.org** to make a gift online or use this form.

YES, I want to support IPEI with a tax deductible gift of:

- \$50 \$100 \$250 \$500
 \$1,000 \$5,000 or \$ _____

Name(s) as will appear in the IPEI Annual Report

Street

City

State

Zip

Phone

E-mail

Payment method:

Check payable to IPEI enclosed for \$ _____

Mastercard Visa Amount \$ _____

Card Number

Exp Date

Name as it appears on card

Signature

I would like to remain anonymous

Donation is in honor in memory of:

Send notice of this gift to (name, address):

Please contact me about donating securities.

I would like to discuss gift planning.

Return to IPEI, PO Box 4268, Ithaca, NY, 14852

**Thank
you!**

The Ithaca Public Education Initiative (IPEI) supports educators in the Ithaca City School District (ICSD) with innovative ideas that energize the curriculum and foster authentic learning experiences that reach all students.

Our programs connect ICSD classrooms with a diverse range of community resources, stretching students' imaginations, increasing engagement and enhancing education.

Connections between school and community strengthen our schools, our students and our community.

Vision

IPEI believes the education of every student in ICSD is enhanced through community connections and support.

Mission

IPEI facilitates community connections and support for students and teachers of the ICSD through engagement, collaboration, gifts, and grants.



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