



# FIRE<sup>23</sup><sub>24</sub>

fire  
FOUNDATION

Igniting Inclusive Catholic Education

## YOUR GIFTS OF TIME, TALENT AND TREASURE KEEP FIRE'S FLAME BURNING BRIGHTLY.



Your support provides children with disabilities and learning differences the opportunity for an inclusive education at the Catholic schools they attend. Through fundraising and advocacy, FIRE plays a vital role in acquiring trained personnel, technology, and special learning materials to meet unique learning needs. There are more schools, families and children who await the spark of FIRE. **DO YOU BELIEVE THAT A SMALL MATCH LIGHTS A BIG FIRE?**

## WE NEED YOUR SUPPORT!

- VOLUNTEER** Assist with a FIRE special event, project or initiative.
- DONATE** Send a check or give online. Your donation is tax deductible.
- PRAY** Remember the children, families and educators who bring FIRE's mission to life.
- INCLUDE** Remember FIRE in your estate planning with a gift to the FIRE Foundation Endowment Fund.
- SPONSOR** Support a FUNdraising event: Play with FIRE Golf Tournament, Purses with Purpose or FIRE Ball Gala.
- ATTEND** Join us at one of the above events.



20 West 9th Street  
Kansas City, Missouri 64105

816-226-4365  
firefoundation.org

Facebook: FIRE FOUNDATION  
Twitter: FIREDUPINKC  
Instagram: FIREFOUNDATIONKC

## LIGHTING THE WAY FOR OUR KIDS.

In partnership with FIRE, 14 area Catholic schools will welcome students with disabilities and learning differences into classrooms this year. We are blessed to be able to support inclusive learning at these schools and look forward to welcoming additional schools into the FIRE family in the future.

- Holy Cross + Nativity of Mary + Notre Dame de Sion
- Our Lady of Hope + Our Lady of the Presentation
- St. Elizabeth + St. Michael the Archangel High School
- St. Patrick + St. Peter's + St. Pius X High School
- St. Regis Academy + St. Therese
- St. Thomas More + Visitation



### DID YOU KNOW?

Catholic school students who have an IEP or ISP may be eligible for a \$6,375 scholarship. For more info, visit [brightfuturesfund.org/moscholars](http://brightfuturesfund.org/moscholars)

# IT ALL ADDS UP.

Students + Teachers + Parents + Parish + Diocese = **Inclusion**

## COMMUNITY

### Who benefits from FIRE?

In a word – everyone! Some disabilities are visible. Others are not. Some students require additional support daily. Others need assistance only occasionally. What matters most is that students have access to support when they need it. FIRE helps schools provide resources and support so students can succeed and make progress toward goals. Inclusion makes learning better for ALL students and provides a perfect opportunity for living our Catholic faith daily.



**704**

STUDENTS BENEFIT FROM AVAILABLE SPECIAL EDUCATION SUPPORT

**27**

YEARS THAT FIRE HAS SUPPORTED INCLUSIVE CATHOLIC EDUCATION

**4,362**

STUDENTS' LIVES ARE ENRICHED BY INCLUSIVE EDUCATION

**14**

PARTNER SCHOOLS

**501**

STUDENTS WITH SIGNIFICANT DISABILITIES LEARN ALONGSIDE THEIR PEERS WITH DIRECT SUPPORT FROM TRAINED STAFF

**7.48**

MILLION DOLLARS HAS BEEN GRANTED BY FIRE TO SUPPORT INCLUSION

When you donate to FIRE, YOU make it possible for schools to:

- ▶ Hire para-professionals who provide appropriate support to students
- ▶ Hire special educators who guide instruction so students meet goals
- ▶ Acquire technology, curriculum and adaptive equipment that enhance learning
- ▶ Offer professional development and training so educators can address students' unique challenges more effectively
- ▶ Continue opening the doors of Catholic schools to new students with disabilities and learning differences

## FIRE OPENS DOORS, HEARTS AND MINDS.

Can you imagine the heartache of being told your parish school was not able or willing to welcome your child with disabilities and learning differences? Lack of resources is often cited as a reason for turning away students with disabilities. It shouldn't be that way at Catholic schools.

In the Diocese of Kansas City-St. Joseph, the FIRE Foundation helps schools create educational environments where students with disabilities and learning differences learn, flourish, and thrive alongside their typically developing peers. Through fundraising and advocacy, FIRE lights the way for children with a range of disabilities to share in the opportunities that Catholic schools provide. Inclusive education fosters a culture of acceptance and compassion where ALL students grow together in faith, knowledge, and friendship. Without funding from FIRE, most students with disabilities and learning differences would not be to attend Catholic schools.

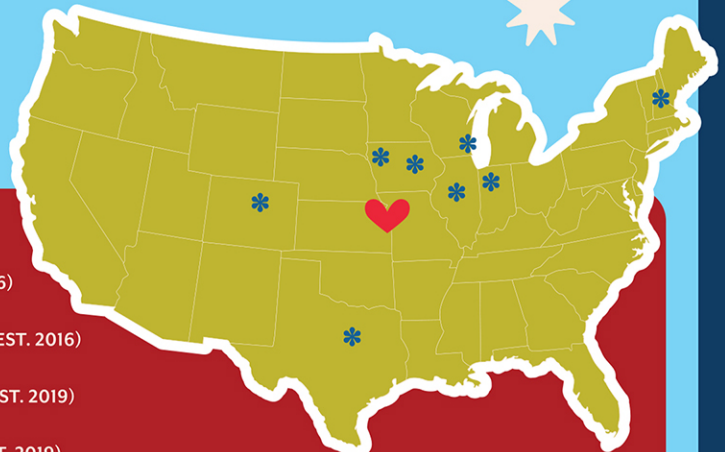
As FIRE celebrates its 27th year, the Foundation welcomes new opportunities to ignite inclusive Catholic education. Pope Francis calls us to "build an educational relationship with each student, who must feel welcomed and loved for what he or she is, with all of the limitations or potential." It is a blessing and a privilege to partner with Catholic schools that are committed to embracing the call to serve all learners.

## OUR MISSION

TO PROVIDE CHILDREN WITH SPECIAL NEEDS THE OPPORTUNITY FOR AN INCLUSIVE EDUCATION IN THE CATHOLIC SCHOOLS THEY ATTEND.

## SINCE 1996 FIRE HAS INVESTED OVER \$7 MILLION IN STUDENTS' SUCCESS.

FIRE is investing over \$800,000 in Catholic schools in our Diocese through grants, scholarships, and a Speech-Language / Occupational Therapy program during the 2023-24 school year. The Speech-Language/Occupational Therapy program provides services at 10 schools to over 170 students.



- ▶ KANSAS CITY (EST. 1996)
- ▶ NORTHEAST IOWA (EST. 2016)
- ▶ CENTRAL ILLINOIS (EST. 2019)
- ▶ NEW HAMPSHIRE (EST. 2019)
- ▶ DALLAS (EST. 2019)
- ▶ NORTHWEST INDIANA (EST. 2019)
- ▶ NORTHWEST IOWA (EST. 2021)
- ▶ DENVER (EST. 2021)
- ▶ MILWAUKEE (EST. 2022)

## FIRE IS SPREADING

The FIRE Foundation is an Independent 501©3 organization. We are proud to share our model for supporting inclusive Catholic education with our 8 affiliate partners, in 7 states, representing 37 Catholic schools.

## FIRE LEADS THE WAY

As one of our 8th grade students observed,

**"EVERYONE SHOULD FEEL A SENSE OF BELONGING. THE FIRE FOUNDATION HAS ENSURED THAT ALL ARE WELCOME."**

