



CIS ANNUAL FUND BASICS

What is the Annual Fund?

The Annual Fund is Columbia Independent School's annual gift-giving campaign. It is an essential component of the CIS operating budget and vital to the continued growth and achievement of the school. Each year, we look to the community at large—including trustees, parents, past parents, grandparents, alumni, and friends—to provide the funds needed above tuition to uphold our level of excellence in education.

When does the Annual Fund campaign take place?

Officially, the Annual Fund campaign runs the length of the school's fiscal year, July 1st through June 30th. *Supporters of the school can make a contribution to the Annual Fund at any point during this timeframe.* Many donors contribute prior to calendar year-end (December 31st) to take advantage of the tax benefits of their gift. However, you are free to offer a pledge or make a gift at any point in time during the year.

Why should I contribute?

Your support of the Annual Fund is necessary for several reasons, including:

- The Annual Fund provides dollars needed for the school's operating budget, with a goal of providing essential funding amounting to about 10% of the budget for the school year.
- By serving as one piece of the "budgetary puzzle," the Annual Fund makes a CIS education more affordable for all school families. In short, *it effectively reduces tuition expense by more than \$2,000 per student!*
- The Annual Fund plays an important role in minimizing the annual increase in tuition—and allowing the tuition that our school families pay to remain much lower than the actual cost of educating a child at CIS.
- In providing dollars for the school's operating budget, of which the largest expense is teacher salaries, the Annual Fund plays a major role in compensating the school's outstanding staff.
- Your participation in the Annual Fund is crucial to the school's success in obtaining outside funding from foundations and corporations. Each gift is a vote of confidence in our school's educational activities.
- The Annual Fund offers you a voluntary, *tax-deductible* way to invest in the mission of CIS!
- Especially now, a time of growth and progress, it is crucial for CIS to have a strong Annual Fund.

Why is 100% parent participation in the Annual Fund important?

Through participation in school events, volunteerism, and commitment to the Annual Fund, our school community demonstrates to its students and faculty the high value it places on a CIS education. Above and beyond the obvious economic benefit to CIS, full participation is an important criterion that foundations and charitable organizations use when allocating donations.

How can I contribute?

- Make a gift online by clicking the DonateNow button on the CIS home page.
- Make a gift of cash. Checks should be made payable to *Columbia Independent School*. Gifts may be mailed or delivered to CIS Development Office.
- Make a gift using your Visa, MasterCard or Discover credit card.
- Double your donation by making a matching gift through your company or your spouse's company. Simply submit a matching gift form with your donation.

*Every gift makes a difference! No matter the size,
your gift has a significant affect on the quality of education at CIS.*

What is the difference between the Annual Fund and the Capital Campaign?

The Annual Fund supports the school's yearly operating budget and helps close the gap that exists between what it costs to provide a CIS education and what tuition covers. The entire CIS school community is asked to support the Annual Fund each year. Since the Annual Fund is designed to offset annual expenses, contributions are typically paid in full within the school year.

Capital campaigns are conducted periodically to provide significant funds for growth, such as the Building Excellence Capital Campaign to fund renovations for the new JK-12 campus for Columbia Independent School. Contributions are generally pledged over 3-5 years. As with the Annual Fund, all members of the CIS school community—including grandparents, alumni parents, and friends—will be asked to support the Capital Campaign, according to their means, in addition to their support of the Annual Fund.

The Annual Fund helps us live. The Capital Campaign helps us grow.