

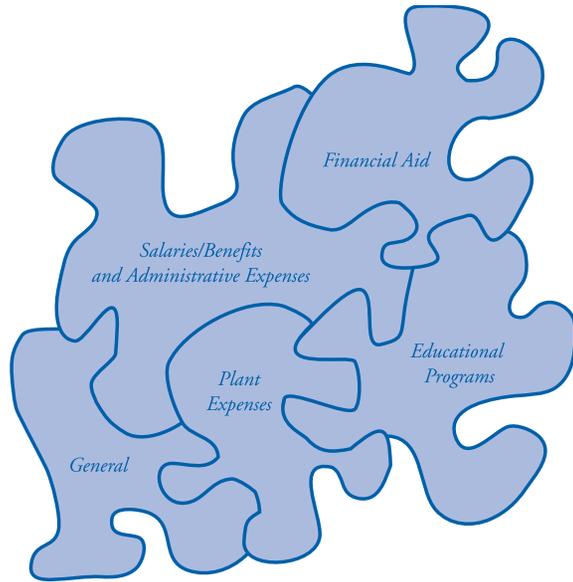
In Support of Independent Education



*Association of Independent Maryland & DC Schools
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The Association of Independent Maryland & DC Schools (AIMS), organized in 1967, is an association of about 120 independent, college preparatory schools in Maryland and the District of Columbia, representing more than 40,000 students and more than 5,000 teachers, administrators, and staff. AIMS works in cooperation with the Maryland State Department of Education and is a member of the Maryland chapter of the Council for Private Education and the National Association of Independent Schools.

Expenses



What does independent school education mean to you and your child?

You choose to send your child to an independent school in order to provide him or her the finest education possible. Independent schools meet that challenge by:

- hiring and retaining outstanding teachers
- maintaining small class sizes
- offering enriched academic and co-curricular programs
- providing the individual attention necessary to help your child develop academically, socially, and emotionally.

As a result, most children who graduate from independent schools are well prepared to meet the challenges of college and beyond.

The cost of education in an independent school is high. Why should parents also contribute to the Annual Fund?

A first-rate education is expensive, and many independent schools are not able to cover total costs through tuition alone. In fact, the gap between tuition revenue and expenses can be significant.

That is why independent schools rely heavily upon tax deductible, voluntary donations from parents, alumni, and friends. These generous annual contributions allow independent schools to provide the margin of excellence for their students - the very reason you chose an independent school in the first place! This is the reason why the Annual Fund is often referred to as the lifeblood of an independent school - because it provides the financial resources necessary to sustain an outstanding faculty and curriculum.

How does the Annual Fund work?

You will receive yearly solicitations on behalf of the Annual Fund of your child's school - in writing, and occasionally by phone or in person. The Association of Independent Maryland & DC Schools (AIMS) urges you to respond generously to these requests, according to your ability. Whether large or small, *every* gift contributes to the school's financial success and helps to boost the school's participation rate, which is an important benchmark when applying for support from foundations and corporations.

How can I find out more about the giving options I have at my child's school?

To find out more about how you can help your independent school to sustain its excellence, contact the development office. Although the simplest way to make a gift is, of course, to write a check, there are other ways to contribute that may be to your advantage. For example, you may want to discuss a donation of appreciated securities, or of personal or real property. The development office can also help you to understand how to use life insurance, bequests, and trusts in ways that may be both advantageous to you and help to secure the future of your school. In addition, your contributions of time as a volunteer are always highly valued and are vital to your school's success.

From time to time, in addition to the Annual Fund, your school may conduct a Capital Campaign to help fund campus improvements, faculty salaries, or endowments. Capital Campaigns also rely on generous, tax deductible contributions and are essential to the success of an independent school. Talk to your school's development office about opportunities in this important area.

