



St. Louis Public Schools Foundation Guiding Principles

We believe that all students have a right to equal educational opportunity that affords them access to high quality education. Our community and region will become stronger only when these opportunities enable ALL students to obtain the tools, skills and support they need to overcome the effects of poverty, racial and socioeconomic disparity.

SLPS Foundation & Pursuit of Equity

The St. Louis Public Schools Foundation raises private dollars for students in Saint Louis Public School classrooms. The Saint Louis Public Schools District serves more than 23,000 students in the region; more than 80% of its students live in poverty, and 20% of the population has experienced homelessness.

SLPS Foundation-funded programs assist SLPS to improve students' educational opportunities by supporting the priorities in the District's Transformation Plan. For example, in the past year: we have expanded college preparation for students who will be the first in their families to pursue postsecondary degrees; helped ensure that the City's youngest learners can attend quality, all-day, free early childhood education; recognized the innovation of excellent school leaders; and co-designed a district-wide approach to support students impacted by trauma and toxic stress.

The SLPS Foundation **pursues systemic change**. True educational equity won't come from a few targeted programmatic investments or even a subset of excellent schools. These efforts provide invaluable experiences for students and families; however, SLPS Foundation works with the SLPS district as a whole, recognizing that enduring change **requires an aligned system of policies, leadership, and practices** that work together to address the needs of the broadest range of children.

The SLPS Foundation works on behalf of the District's students to **ensure philanthropic equity for education in our region**. It envisions a community in which SLPS students are supported by private philanthropy at the same level as charter or private school students, and sees a huge return on investment for ALL if this strategy is pursued.

SLPS Foundation contributions are used to **advance outcomes outlined in the District's strategic plan**; none of the Foundation's funds support the District's legal fees.

What is SLPS Foundation position on the tax litigation?

The SLPS Foundation believes that the litigation raises longstanding, critical issues that must be addressed and resolved by the court. The court's decision, expected in spring 2017, will provide clarity and resolution to all parties. Once a decision is made by the court, SLPS Foundation will determine how it can play a productive role in advancing solutions that prioritize equity.

A Long-term Vision & Action

The current debate about litigation is emblematic of a larger issue that the SLPS Foundation will address: inadequate public support of public classrooms. Since its passage in 2005, the State of Missouri has never fully funded the Missouri Foundation Formula, its K-12 funding plan. Additionally, the State does not provide consistent or adequate funding for early childhood education. The SLPS Foundation will join with other regional leaders to advocate for a commitment to public funding that is equitable and sufficient and that gives all students access to high quality education.