



RADNOR EDUCATIONAL FOUNDATION

FUNDING POSSIBILITIES | BUILDING FUTURES | ENRICHING OUR COMMUNITY

2025-2026 ANNUAL REPORT



Dear Friends and Supporters of the Radnor Educational Foundation,

As I reflect on my final year as President of the Board of Trustees for the Radnor Educational Foundation (REF), I am filled with immense gratitude and pride. It has been an incredible honor to serve alongside such dedicated staff, volunteers, educators, administrators, community members and donors who share one common belief: every Radnor student deserves an exceptional educational experience. This year, that belief was put into action in remarkable ways.

Because of your generosity, REF funded 26 grants totaling more than \$86,000 this past year, bringing innovative learning opportunities, cutting-edge resources, and inspiring experiences to thousands of students and hundreds of educators across the Radnor Township School District. From Dr. Jeffrey Selingo's presentation on the college search process to the Pathfinders after-school program, hydroponic gardens, literacy programs, and student-led service projects like Casseroles for a Cause, these grants show that learning extends far beyond textbooks and classroom walls. They help students discover their passions, serve others, build confidence, and prepare for lives of curiosity and purpose.

None of this happens by accident. It happens because of extraordinary teachers who dream bigger for their students. It happens because administrators embrace innovation. It happens because staff and volunteers dedicate countless hours behind the scenes. And it happens because of a community that continues to invest its time, talent, and resources to ensure every Radnor student has the opportunity to thrive.

As my time with REF comes to a close, I want to thank you for your trust, your generosity, your partnership, and your unwavering commitment to the students and staff of the Radnor Township School District. It has been an absolute privilege to serve our incredible school community for the past eight years. I look forward to cheering REF on from the sidelines, knowing that its mission – and the people who bring it to life – will continue to enrich the educational experience of Radnor students for years to come.

With sincere gratitude,
Karen Conen
President, Board of Trustees



About Our Foundation

The Radnor Educational Foundation (REF) is a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization that serves as a complementary funding source to the Radnor Township School District.

Through three grant cycles, REF funds projects that support STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Math) programs, curriculum enhancement, cultural arts, technology, professional development, and community engagement. REF also provides temporary financial assistance to families experiencing economic hardship through its Neighbors Helping Neighbors program.

www.radnoereducationalfoundation.org

Our Mission

The Radnor Educational Foundation (REF) is a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization with a mission to gather and provide funds to support and enrich the educational experience, maintain academic excellence, and encourage innovative opportunities to the students of the Radnor Township School District.

How We Accomplish This

When a teacher, administrator, student, member of the PTO, parent or Radnor community organization has an idea for a positive way to supplement the curriculum and encourage student growth and/or learning, they come to REF for the money needed to bring their idea to fruition.

REF works closely with Radnor's school district administration team to ensure that the idea aligns with the district's mission of academic excellence.



Our Grants in 25-26



Fall Grants

Grant #1 SMART Music

\$2,030 | Wayne Elementary School | 550 students benefited

Think xylophones and other instruments that students can play daily, with easier transport and storage! The SonorSMART Series instruments elevate performance with their enhanced sound developed through acoustical research and innovative resonance chamber designs. The instruments fit in seamlessly to current educational standards of providing a depth of sound creating abilities focusing on the use of Carl Orff's Instrumentarium and pedagogy.

Grant #2 Instructional Rigor Books

\$7,865 | RTSD | 3,600 students benefited

This grant allowed teachers across all five of Radnor's public schools to prioritize high-impact strategies that create observable improvements in student learning by shifting instructional practices from surface learning to deeper experiences where students synthesize knowledge and engage in creative, original thinking. The grant benefited a significant number of K–12 students by strengthening administrative and instructional capacity, fostering shared leadership, and embedding high-leverage practices across the district.

Our Grants in 25-26



Grant #3 Tabletop Hydroponic Growing Gardens

\$300 | Radnor Middle School | 815 students benefited

The grant kickstarted a small indoor garden at Radnor Middle School's cafeteria using small hydroponic gardens with grow lights. The plan is to grow herbs, vegetables, and fruit to use in student meals. School gardens offer a fantastic opportunity to promote healthy eating habits for children. By involving students in the process of growing their own fruits and vegetables, they develop a deeper appreciation for fresh, nutritious food.

Grant #4 Building Literacy Through Instructional Design

\$2,500 | RTSD | 800 students benefited

Teachers used new, small-group reading materials that align with both Common Core ELA standards and Michael McDowell's *Rigor Redefined* instructional tools. The selected texts are short, high-interest, and purposefully chosen to promote deep learning and transfer, working in tandem with electronic devices in the classroom. These texts will serve as anchor materials for inquiry-based small group instruction, Socratic seminars, and interdisciplinary projects, setting the stage for innovative strategies that cultivate original, critical, and creative thinking.

Our Grants in 25-26



Grant #5 Spin, Shape, Sustain

\$7,260 | Radnor High School | 120 students benefited

The arts program at Radnor High School has been recognized for its level of excellence. Three new pottery wheels, stools and supplies will spark student creativity, perseverance and confidence as the 2 functioning pottery wheels are at capacity. This grant enriches students' learning experiences and provides innovative educational opportunities.

Grant #6 Outdoor Musical Instruments & Sensory Garden Add Ons

\$4,650 | Radnor Elementary School | 600 students benefited

The existing dedicated space that supports student well-being, emotional regulation, and hands-on learning will offer birdhouses, rain drums, wind chimes, butterfly stations, a decorative water feature, a pathway, and plants, as well as yoga mats and blocks to support outdoor wellness practices. These features will encourage hands-on learning in science, social/emotional development, and mindfulness while engaging families, staff, and volunteers in the garden's creation and care.

Our Grants in 25-26



Grant #7 Nationally Recognized College Placement Speaker: Jeffrey Selingo

\$7,500 | Radnor High School + Radnor Middle School | 1,100 students benefited

This grant brought Dr. Jeffrey Selingo, nationally recognized higher education author and journalist, to speak about making thoughtful choices in the college search process for students in grades 8-12. The author of *Dream School*, Dr. Selingo challenges families to look beyond rankings and prestige, offering a more meaningful framework for finding the right college fit. Drawing on decades of research and reporting, he helps demystify admissions and highlights the many pathways to success after high school. His message empowered students and families to approach the process with confidence, clarity, and a healthier perspective on what truly matters in higher education.

Grant #8 Ukeleles for the Music Classroom

\$1,205 | Itham Elementary School | 100 students benefited

This grant provides a class set of 25 ukuleles and a storage rack to offer an extension of the current music curriculum. Integrating the ukulele into music classrooms will offer another extension to song accompaniment, as well as basic chordal knowledge. Music concepts such as matching pitch, steady beat, triple and duple meter, form and songwriting can all be enhanced and supported through the use of ukuleles.

Our Grants in 25-26



Grant #9 Pathfinders After-School Activities Program

\$5,000 | Wayne Elementary School | 30 students benefited

This after-school initiative is designed to support our most at-need students – those facing socioeconomic challenges, academic hurdles, and limited access to enrichment opportunities. The program provides a safe, nurturing space for students to receive academic support after school hours end, engage in collaborative play, develop social-emotional skills, and participate in meaningful enrichment activities. Funds were also used for nutritious food during seasonal celebrations and milestone events to foster community and joy, as well as outdoor programs and other environmental learning experiences that promote wellness and curiosity.

Grant #10 Casseroles for a Cause

\$950 | RTSD | 50 students benefited

Casseroles for a Cause is a Radnor High School club that was formed during the 2024-2025 school year. Its mission is to eliminate hunger in Philadelphia by making casseroles at various school events (such as the MLK Day of Service) and educating the community about food insecurity, one club, one casserole, and one meal at a time. Casseroles for a Cause planned 2 casserole-making days, which accommodated students from all five Radnor schools to help in casserole production.

****Student-requested grant***

Our Grants in 25-26



Grant #11 Measure Mobility Physical Education Devices

\$2,828 | Radnor Elementary School | 600 students benefited

Completed laps walking or running within a set time is a standard measure used in Physical Education class to assess aspects of a student's mobility and physical development. These funds provided an individual, portable RFID reader for students to wear on the wrist during PE class, which is then tracked as it passes a reader, registering lap counts and times. This improves assessment accuracy and frees the teacher's attention to engage in instruction and observation. Collected lap count data can be used for progress monitoring and goal setting with assurances of high accuracy.

Grant #12: Ancient History Picture Books

\$3,500 | Radnor Middle School + Ithan, Radnor and Wayne Elementary Schools | 300 students benefited

The grant covered books for a literacy sharing project between our 7th graders and all three sets of 2nd graders in Radnor elementary schools, where the 7th graders paired two-on-two with the 2nd graders to read a picture book tied to our curriculum in Ancient World History. Each 2nd grader heard two stories from their older schoolmates and completed a literacy activity with the 7th graders. In addition to the curricular connection, this provides the opportunity for 7th graders to be in a leadership position and to model good literacy behaviors to younger students.

Our Grants in 25-26



Winter Grants

Grant #13 Play Presentation of “Joe Turner’s Come and Gone”

\$2,744 | Radnor High School | 55 students benefited

Students who are members of RHS's inaugural AP African-American Studies classes, and the Viewpoints on Modern America & AP English Language courses attended the revival of August Wilson's “Joe Turner’s Come and Gone” (JTCaG) on Broadway. A long-respected part of Wilson's "Pittsburgh Cycle" of plays, JTCaG surrounds African-American life in early 20th Century America and the Great Migration. In addition to the presentation, the AP AF-AM coursework involved a required research presentation from students as a part of their final AP test grade.

Grant #14 Middle School Field Day Community & Belonging

\$1,500 | Radnor Middle School | 500 students benefited

With our district's “Belonging Initiative” in mind, Radnor Middle School hosted a school-wide Field Day to celebrate the end of the school year. Through activities that students and staff experienced together, the Field Day promoted community, wellness, and belonging for everyone at Radnor Middle School. One of the community-building activities was for RMS students to assist in the creation of DIY carnival games; working with Technology Education Teachers, they planned and designed games that can be used at Field Day for years to come.

Our Grants in 25-26



Grant #15 Multicultural Potluck Event

\$2,000 | Radnor High School and Community | 300 community members benefited

Radnor High School holds an annual Multicultural Potluck event, which introduces students, families, and staff to different foods from different cultures, and provides a safe space for students to celebrate their unique culture. The potluck gives everyone the chance to bring in food from their specific culture, ranging from European to Central and South American foods, African, Middle Eastern, and Asian cuisines. This potluck gives students the opportunity to showcase their background, and participants can diversify their palates and learn more about food from around the world. Grant funds were utilized to supplement the costs of the event, including food stations, supplies, decorations, music, and a photo booth. Ultimately, students are exposed to a number of cultures via food.

Grant #16 SOARS Program

\$10,000 | Radnor High School | 10 students benefited

The Radnor High School Secondary Opportunities for Adult Readiness Skills (SOARS) Program services a population comprised of individuals who are impacted by significant developmental and/or intellectual delays which make acquiring, transferring, and retaining new skills difficult. The population is generally well served through experience-based learning. The grant funded an extended-stay type of apartment to foster independent living during school hours only, provided basic provisions for meal planning and preparation, and covered several "field trips" to support healthy leisure time activities -- while offering enriching experiences related to the Independent Living domain of Transition Planning. This comprehensive approach to transition planning, implementation, and delivery of service will allow for cross-curricular PA state standards to be instructed using a natural setting.

Our Grants in 25-26



Grant #17 Garden Tower to Table \$1,200 | Radnor High School | 1,100 students benefited

This project involved students in planting, tending, and harvesting herbs, vegetables and fruits in the garden tower located in their classroom. The harvested produce was delivered to the high school cafeteria to be used in many recipes, sauces, and side salads, and made available at breakfast and lunches for all students who participate in the National School Breakfast and Lunch Program. The high school nutritional services coordinator oversaw the elements of the grant program.

Grant #18 Outdoor Garden Space and Supplies

**Parent-requested grant*

\$1,200 | Ithan Elementary School | 512 students benefited

Once in place, students will have opportunities to engage in outdoor garden activities, such as: what to grow, where & how to plant, making garden maps, story sharing from family garden experiences & common knowledge of the plants, sprouting seeds, planting and labeling into big pots, caring for plants (watering, weeding, trellising), documenting what we learn into student journals, learning the heritage of different seeds, and how plants work together in plant communities. Students will get to work with their hands, learn how a garden grows, and make meaningful connections to lessons in their Life-Sciences units, allowing additional synergy with the new STEELS standards in Pennsylvania.

Our Grants in 25-26



Grant #19 Voter Registration with League of Women Voters

\$1,000 | Radnor High School | 320 students benefited

This voter registration project has become an annual tradition at Radnor High School. During practice for graduation, members of the League of Women Voters (LWV), student interns, and former graduates addressed the approximately 320 members of the RHS Class of 2026 to encourage them to vote. Directions were provided on how to register and how to obtain and use a mail-in ballot. Timelines and potential pitfalls in the process were underscored. An envelope of voting and registration information was handed to each senior, which included a voter registration form, a card with a QR code to register online, information about what will be on the ballot, and a link to Vote 411, the one-stop spot for voter and election information of the LWV. After receiving their envelopes, each student chose an Insomnia cookie as a sweet reward for their efforts. Eligible students were identified for registration, enabling them to vote in the spring primary.

****Student-requested grant***

Our Grants in 25-26



Spring Grants

Grant #20 Music to Life with Tembo

\$400 | Wayne Elementary School | 550 students benefited

Tembo is a new playful instrument that enables everyone to create music from the very first touch! It is a playful, magnetic drum machine, sequencer, and sampler created by the hardware startup Musical Beings. Designed to be highly accessible and intuitive, it allows users to build rhythmic beats and loops by placing small magnetic tokens, called "beats," onto a wooden grid. Students are able to explore these musical instruments, or plug in guitars, mics, or any instrument to jam together and turn Tembo into a musical home.

Grant #21 Girls Lead

\$8,000 | Radnor Middle School | 22 students benefited

The Girls Lead program teaches skills to young girls with untapped leadership potential to help avoid pitfalls common to adolescent girls, and teaching skills such as decision making, conflict resolution, problem solving, and communications – all leading to more confident young women. Both 7th and 8th grade girls participated in a 15-session, guidance counselor-facilitated program, allowing the students to engage with their community. A collaborative project was produced by the 2 student cohorts and presented to their peers at a regional conference consisting of several hundred young women. Examples of these projects have included hunger issues, bullying, under-resourced youth, and more. The program is both evidence-based and experiential, enabling participants to experience and incorporate the four life skills listed into their daily choices.

Our Grants in 25-26



Grant #22 Yearbook Materials **\$3,000 | Radnor High School | 1,100 students benefited**

The Radnor High School yearbook is an annual production that allows students from all grades to participate in its creation. This project empowered Radnor students to build their photography skills, which will be used to tell the story of Radnor High School. This project also allows the yearbook staff to increase the inclusive nature of yearbook. The goal of the grant is to capture each student in a candid way, and provide access to the equipment for future classroom/project use.

Grant #23 A Future on Display **\$6,619 | RTSD | 3,600 students benefited**

A set of professional grade display panels will support student art exhibitions across all five Radnor public schools. These high-quality, accessible, mobile art exhibits are needed during District Youth Art Month, and are also used for community nights, curriculum celebrations, and other student showcases. This investment will enhance arts visibility, promote student creativity, and strengthen school community engagement. The boards are designed for long-term use, ensuring a sustainable investment that will serve thousands of students for many years to come.

Our Grants in 25-26



Grant #24 Student School Supplies

\$3,000 | Wayne Elementary School | 50 students benefited

This program provided the funding needed for school social workers to offer a comprehensive school supply kit to students in need or students experiencing socio-economic challenges. The kits are premade and can be shipped directly to the student's home. This program also gives parents the opportunity to donate supplies, allowing a place for people wanting to help. This program allows students who might struggle to obtain the necessary school supplies with the same footing as other children in the school community. This program helps ensure that students have equal access to supplies that allow them to experience a complete learning journey.

Grant #25 Drum Perks

\$1,895 | RTSD | 350 students benefited

Drum Perks is an interactive, high-energy drumming experience that teaches students the core values of best effort, respect, and focus through music, teamwork, and cultural exploration. Students were active participants, learning rhythmic patterns, collaborating in large group performances, and reflecting on how teamwork and perseverance support success both academically and socially. Through interactive drumming, students practice cooperation, emotional expression, active listening, and community building. Drum Perks provided a joyful and accessible way for students of all ages to connect, build confidence, and strengthen positive relationships.

Our Grants in 25-26



Grant #26 RTSD Summer Reading Camp

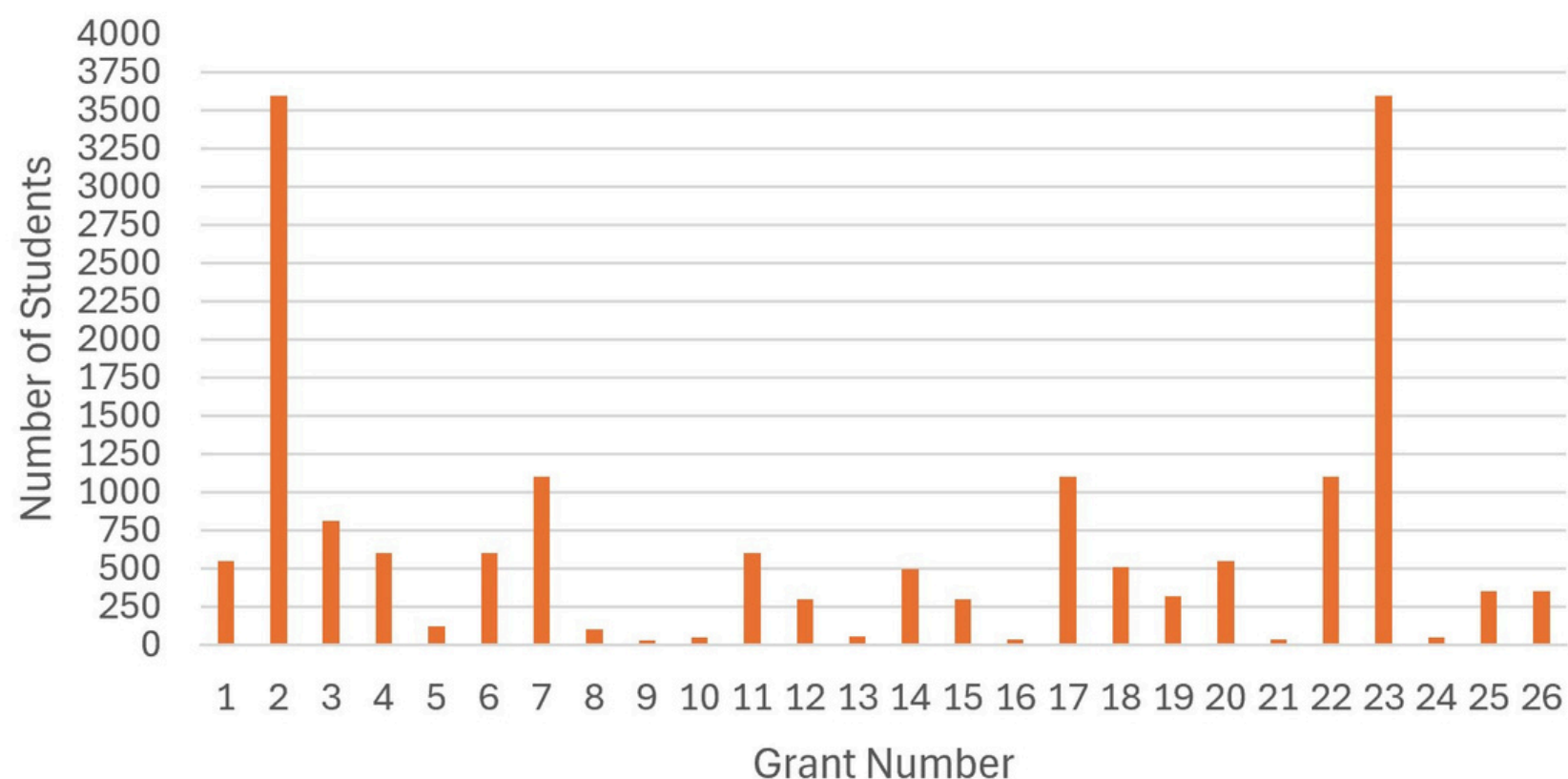
\$3,000 | RTSD | 350 students benefited

The Radnor Township School District (RTSD) Summer Reading Camp provides additional learning opportunities for students at risk for low achievement, including low reading scores, English Language Learners (ELL), and special education students. There are three camps that operated through the month of July: Extended School Year (ESY) for students with IEPs that need additional support through the summer months, English Language Development (ELD) for students from bilingual families who qualify for English support at school, and Literacy Camp (LIT) for additional literacy support. This grant program provided a fun reward at the end of their hard work. Attendance each day at camp is rewarded as students earn “Book Bucks.” At the end of camp, students visited Children’s Book World in Haverford, PA, where they purchased a book/s with their rewards. Children actively read to be able to enjoy this fun trip!



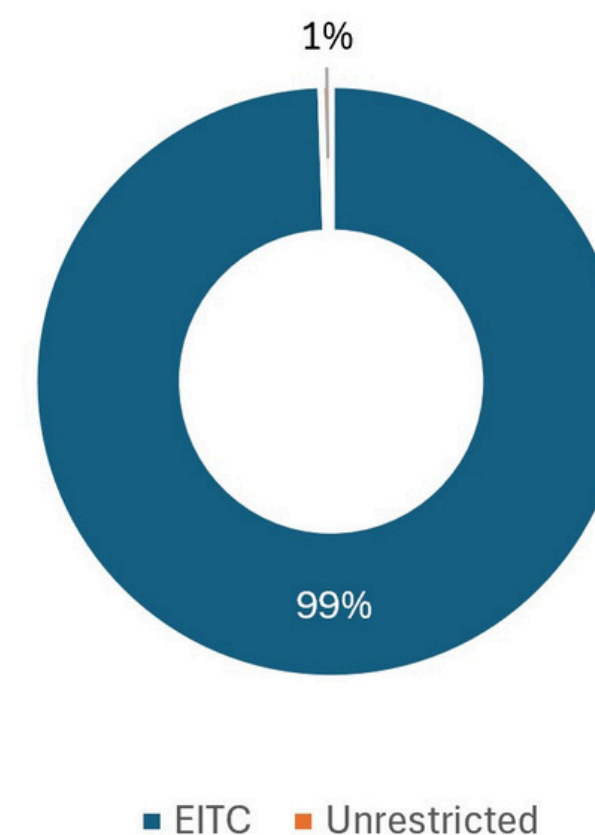
Grants Projects Funded in 2025-2026

Students Benefited from REF Grants (2025-26)



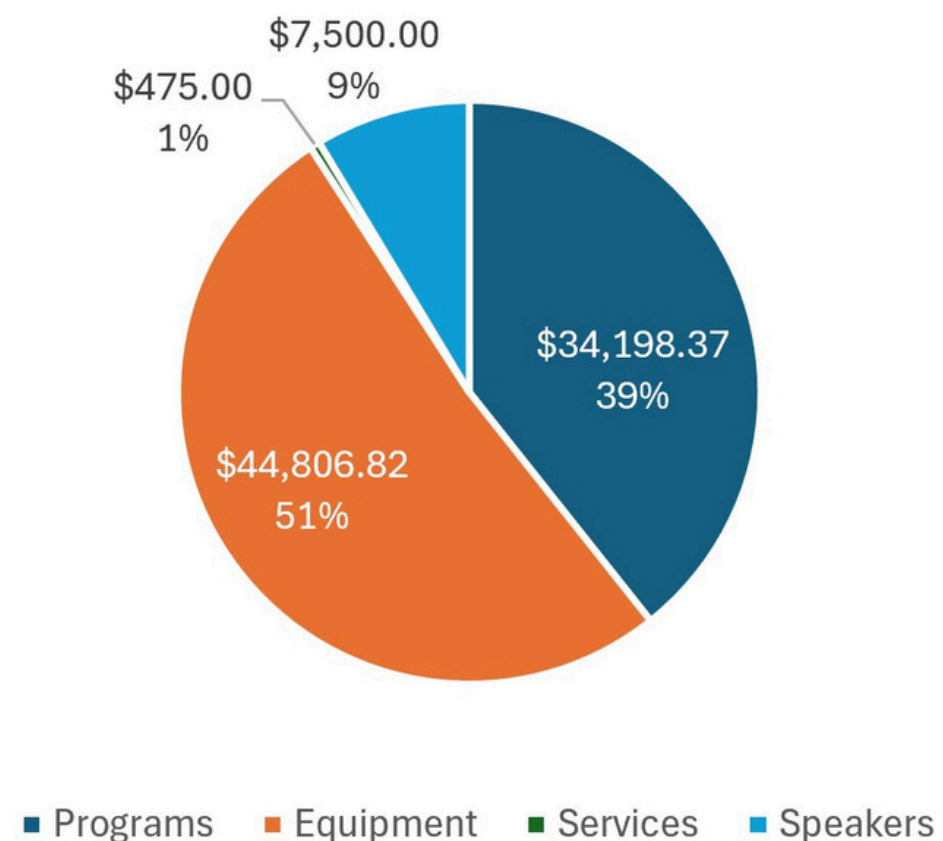
A total of **26** grants were disbursed in 2025-2026, which equates to **\$86,980**. Every Radnor student benefited from 3+ grants during our grants year.

EITC vs. Unrestricted Funds 2025-26



Aside from a grant for a community service project, the 2025-2026 grants year was focused almost entirely on advancing RTSD's academic program for 3,600 students.

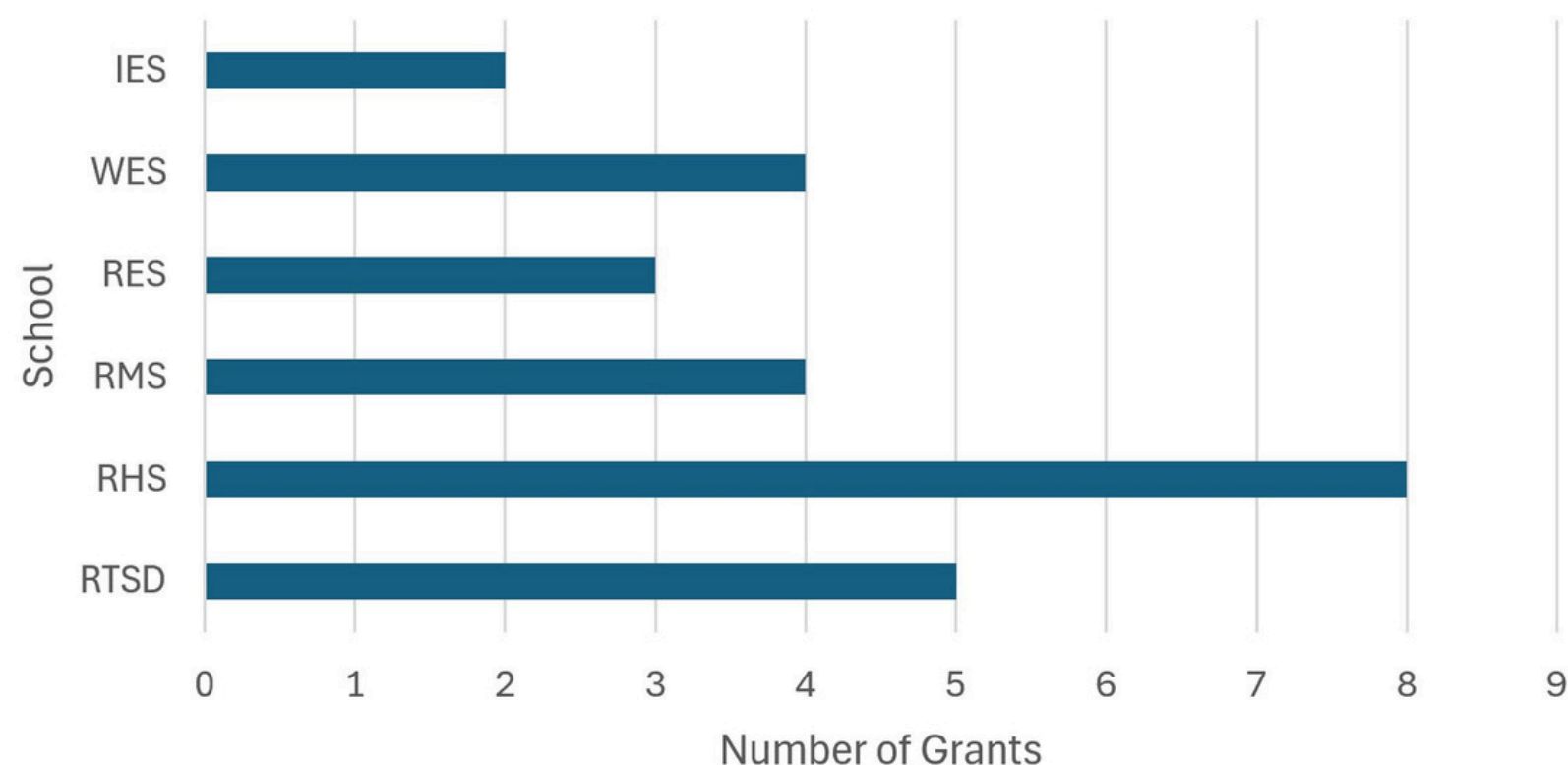
2025-26 Grants Projects Funding



This year, REF gave slightly more than half of its grants funding for equipment needs, with curriculum program funding in 2nd place, followed by speakers and services (supplies) last.

Equipment included items like books, musical instruments, plants/materials, student devices, and more to supplement classroom instruction.

2025-26 Grant Breakdown by School



All five schools requested grants this past year, with Radnor High School being approved for the most requests.

As well, grants were provided for programs, supplies, and equipment that spanned the district.



Neighbors Helping Neighbors

REF jointly administers the Neighbors Helping Neighbors (NHN) program in conjunction with Radnor Township School District (RTSD) social workers. NHN provides temporary financial assistance to Radnor school district families who need help with basic needs such as housing, utilities, food, and clothing.



Year in Review

The NHN program supported 8 requests, for a total of \$6,217. Support was delivered in the form of rent assistance, utility payments, bedding, and grocery store gift cards placed inside summer baskets and delivered to social worker-identified families in need.

In past years, NHN funding has ranged from approximately \$2,000 to more than \$7,000 per year. This restricted fund continues to provide just-in-time support.

Radnor Educational Foundation Award Recipients

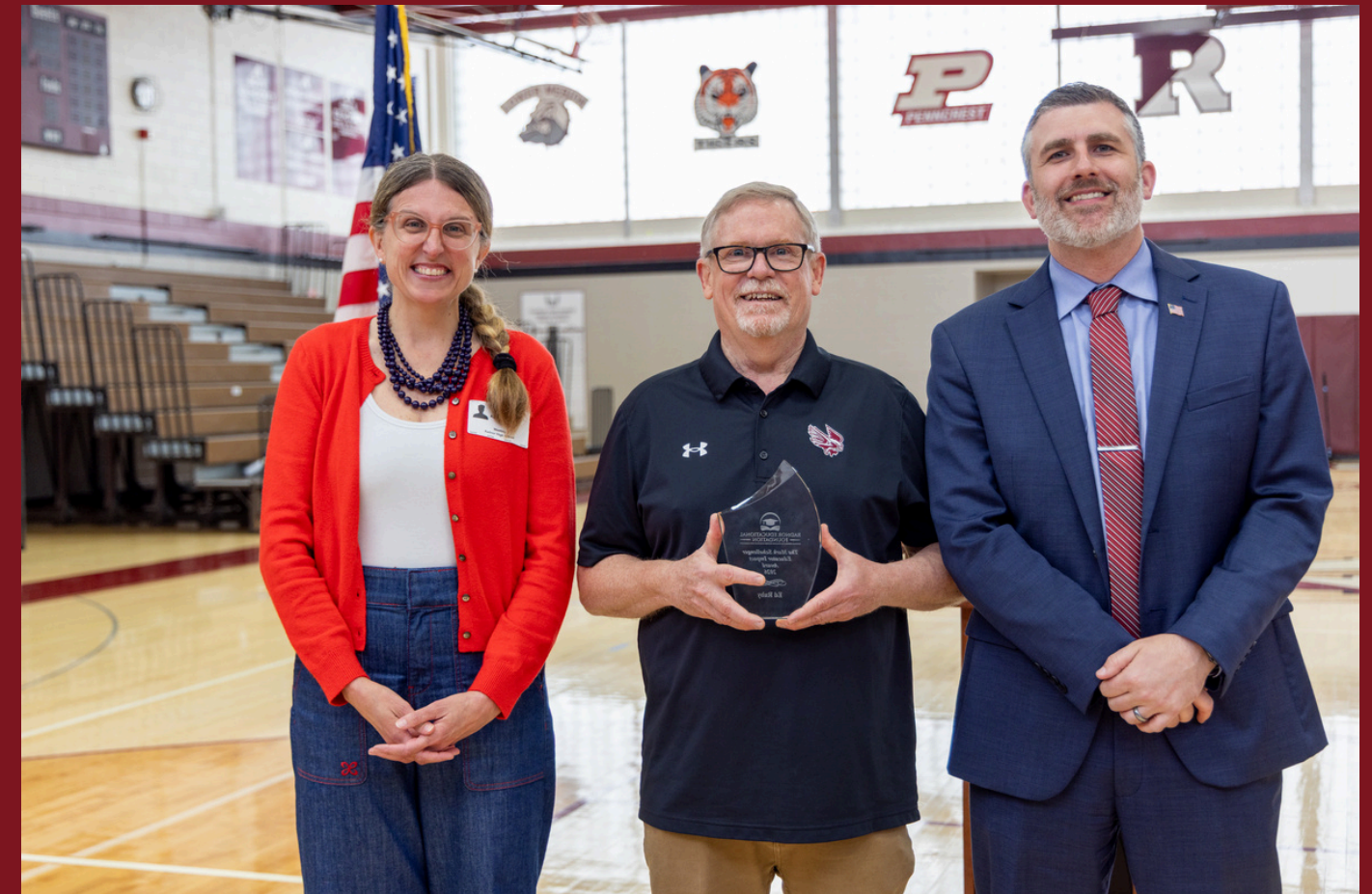
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Anne Peters Volunteer of the Year



Sue Dahlstrom

Educator Impact Award



Edward Ruby

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Amy Witmer	Governance Chair; Development/Marketing Committee



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Rachel Skrlac Lo	Grants Committee
Stacey Pollock	Development/Marketing Chair

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Student Board Representative, Grants Committee

Student Board Representative, Grants Committee

Student Board Representative, Grants Committee

Student Board Representative, Grants Committee

PTO Liaison - Ithan Elementary School

PTO Liaison - Radnor Elementary School

PTO Liaison - Radnor Middle School

PTO Liaison - Radnor High School

PTO Liaison - Wayne Elementary School



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