

# Support RCHS through the 2024 Phoenix Fund

## *A Message from RCHS Leadership*

September 2024

Dear Phoenix families,

Raleigh Charter High School is at its best when our community works together. Since our early days as a school, teachers, students, staff, and parents have shared their time, talents, and energy to build a supportive and collaborative learning environment where every student has the opportunity to learn and grow.

Throughout our 25-year history, we have adapted our approach to *meet the changing needs of our students while remaining steadfast to our mission*. Together, through hard work and intentionality, we continue to make Raleigh Charter High School a place where students are both challenged and supported to become *knowledgeable, thoughtful, contributing citizens*.

We like to say that we do things differently at Raleigh Charter High School. *Our educational model relies on two critical components: small class sizes and excellent teachers*. Small class sizes allow teachers and students to develop meaningful relationships based on trust and mutual respect where students can be comfortable to share and to be heard, to try and to fail without fear, to encourage one another in their efforts and achievements.

Raleigh Charter teachers are experts in their academic disciplines and are *deeply committed to each student's growth*. Each day, our teachers work hard to create a challenging yet supportive atmosphere in their classrooms. Teachers aim to *cultivate a love of learning*, giving students different opportunities to learn and ways to shine. Through collaborative projects like the annual World History Artifact Museum, lively discussions and debates, and hands-on activities like chemistry labs, teachers provide students with many ways to *engage with the curriculum* and *apply what they are learning to the real world*.



Our mission of citizenship grounds everything we do, both inside and outside the classroom. By leading and participating in student-led clubs, engaging in service projects through our Community Work Day programs, and interacting with the broader Triangle community on Flex Days, students begin to ***develop an understanding of the world around us and practice what it means to be good citizens.***

Our ability to maintain this model and deliver high-quality education to our students relies heavily on generous financial support from our families. Your annual Phoenix Fund contributions help close the gap between the consistently ***low per-pupil funding*** we receive from the state and the ***true cost of providing exceptional education.*** Unlike traditional public schools, we don't receive funding for our building and facility costs. This means we must stretch every dollar to cover the costs of operating our school. This year our average facility cost is projected to be ***\$1,600 per student.***

At Raleigh Charter, learning is an active, social, and creative endeavor. Our goal is to help students develop a lifelong love of learning, so they can continue to use their knowledge to improve their communities and our world. Just as we ask our students to participate fully in their learning, we ask our families to participate in Raleigh Charter as well.

We ask ***every family*** to financially support our school ***every year.*** Whether you are able to make a large gift or a small donation, your contribution will be highly valued and wisely used. Every family's ability to give varies, but we hope you will choose to invest in our school and stretch to do the most that you can. Your gift helps your student and every student at Raleigh Charter High School.

With gratitude.

Lisa Huddleston, Principal  
Paul McSorley, RCHS Board Chair



# Your Support Makes RCHS Possible

*Give to the Phoenix Fund today!*

## *What is the Phoenix Fund?*

- Our annual fund for operational support.
- Included as a line item in our annual budget.
- Helps pay for essential day-to-day operations, NOT extras.



**\$325,000**  
Our annual fundraising goal

## *Why do we need the Phoenix Fund?*

We are committed to an educational model defined by **small classes** taught by **experienced, passionate, dedicated teachers**. Maintaining this model is integral to our success as a school, and it comes at a significant cost.

**70% of our faculty**  
hold advanced degrees

RCHS teachers have an average of  
**18 years** of teaching experience

## *What financial challenges do we face?*

While traditional public schools and public charter schools both receive funding from state and local governments, **our funding is well below the state and national averages.**

As a charter school, **we do not receive public funding to pay for our building or facilities.** Additionally, charter schools do not receive funds from school bonds or the NC education lottery.

We stretch our limited per-pupil funds to cover all of the expenses of operating a school from paying teachers to providing supplies to keeping the lights on.

Contributions to the Phoenix Fund play a **critical role** in our budget and help us cover these costs.

*(More info on back)*

### **Average Funding Per Pupil**

\*United States **\$19,000**

\*North Carolina **\$16,000**

RCHS **\$10,000**

\*Data source: NEA Rankings and Estimates Report for 2022-23, published April 2024

**RCHS facilities expenses are projected to total about \$900,000 this year, which averages about \$1,600 per student.**

## ***What do your Phoenix Fund gifts help provide?***

- Experiential learning through Flex Days and Community Work Day programs
- Textbooks and classroom supplies
- Professional development for our faculty
- Technology resources and lab equipment

Additionally, your contributions help us pay for teacher salaries, our mortgage and utility costs.

We strive for  
100% participation  
from our current families.

Every gift of  
every size makes a  
difference!

## ***How can you help?***

Raleigh Charter has a long history of generous and caring support from our families. We ask every family to contribute to the Phoenix Fund every year.

For many, contributing a smaller monthly amount is a more comfortable way to give rather than making a one-time gift. **Setting up a recurring gift** now ensures your continued support of RCHS for as long as you would like to give.

For details, visit: [raleighcharterhs.org/recurring-gifts](http://raleighcharterhs.org/recurring-gifts)

Additionally, we are fortunate to receive **matching donations** from many companies. Asking your employer to match your contribution can double (or even triple!) the impact of your gift.

For details, visit: [raleighcharterhs.org/matching-gifts](http://raleighcharterhs.org/matching-gifts)

To learn more about supporting RCHS, visit [raleighcharterhs.org/giving](http://raleighcharterhs.org/giving) or contact our Development Team anytime:

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***We would love to hear from you!***



- ▶ **Write a check**
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*Raleigh Charter High School is a 501(c)(3) charitable organization. Your gift is tax deductible to the full extent of the law.*