

# Mountain Brook City Schools Foundation

## Questions and Answers

**1. Why is the foundation important to the Mountain Brook City School System?**

*Currently, the Mountain Brook City School System is considered to be one of the tops in the nation. In order to maintain that status, the district must continue to move forward. The foundation is providing a stable, ongoing and dependable source of income for the system, no matter what the local or state funding situation is. This source of revenue will always be there; not to solve all budget problems, but to ensure that the teachers will have a dependable funding source for areas that are critical to the progress of our district.*

**2. How will the funding always be there?**

*The foundation has established an endowment with contributions from donors. This endowment is managed by several groups with the objective of preserving the principal. An endowment spending policy has been adopted that allows the foundation to make a distribution to the school system each year while at the same time it protects the endowment.*

**3. Will the foundation be independent of the school system?**

*Yes, the Board is composed of volunteers from all over the community. It functions independently of the school system, but always with the needs of the school system in mind.*

**4. What are the top priorities for funding by the foundation?**

*Technology, Teacher Development, and Library Enhancement*

**5. Is my donation tax deductible?**

*The foundation is a 501©3 tax-exempt organization and contributions should qualify for charitable income tax deduction. Donors should contact their own tax advisor regarding individual situations.*

**6. What process will the school system use to ask you for money?**

*The system assesses needs and determines priorities for funding on an annual basis. These needs are driven by system and local school improvement goals. The School System then submits requests to the foundation Board of Directors.*

**7. Why, with possibly the highest tax base in the state, do we need a school foundation?**

*Although our taxes are high for the State of Alabama, they are not high in relation to other states. Even in areas where the taxes are high, parents must still bear the burden of private school tuition ranging anywhere from \$5,000 to \$20,000 **per child per year**. Mountain Brook does not have a large commercial tax base to support our schools and always struggles to get adequate funding from the State of Alabama. Concerned citizens recognized the need for an alternative means of funding for critical academic needs of the school system and established the Mountain Brook City Schools Foundation.*

**8. Will the money from the foundation go to build and repair buildings?**

*No.*

**9. How does Foundation fundraising affect local school fundraising?**

*Local school fundraising efforts will always be important and the foundation does not affect those efforts.*

**10. Who are the Board members and how are they selected?**

*Board members are elected each year for a four year term and represent citizens from throughout our community.*

**11. Is an education foundation to support a public school system unique?**

*No, this is not a unique idea. We are one of many public school foundations now well established across the state and nation.*

**12. What has the foundation done for our schools to date?**

*Commitments to the school system since the Foundation began making distributions in 1995 total over **\$4.4 million** in the areas of technology, teacher development and library enhancement.*

**13. Do you still need pledges?**

**YES!!!** *We want to offer everyone the opportunity to participate in this campaign that benefits the students and teachers in the Mountain Brook Schools. One time gifts or multi-year pledges are welcomed!!*

**14. How can a contribution be made?**

**Contact Information:**

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**For more information visit our website at [www.mtnbrookschoolsfoundation.com](http://www.mtnbrookschoolsfoundation.com)**

