



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

FIRE Foundation Denver Awards \$780K for Inclusive Catholic Education

- *Largest grant year brings total funding to \$1.9M for special education in Denver Catholic schools*
- *Grants awarded to 22 Denver Catholic schools to directly benefit more than 200 students and more than 4,600 classmates*

DENVER — May 20, 2025 — FIRE Foundation of Denver has awarded \$780,000 in grants to 22 Denver Catholic Schools for the 2025–2026 school year, to support students with special needs. This marks the fourth year in support of its mission to champion the inclusion of students with disabilities in Catholic schools. FIRE Denver has now funded more than \$1.9 million in grants and professional development since its inception in 2021.

By the Numbers:

- 214 students directly supported by this year's grants
- 644 additional students indirectly benefit from the funding
- 4,634 classmates impacted across the Archdiocese of Denver
- 22 out of 45 Catholic schools in the archdiocese are actively collaborating with FIRE Denver to foster inclusive educational environments.

Quote from FIRE Foundation of Denver Executive Director, Kyle Van Frank:

"This unprecedented growth underscores our community's unwavering commitment to ensuring that every child, regardless of ability, has access to a Catholic education. The remarkable increase in both funding and participation reflects a collective dedication to more fully living out our Catholic faith. Colorado families with special education needs want the choice to send their kids to Catholic Schools and FIRE Denver helps make that a reality.

"Inclusion is not merely a program; it's a reflection of our Catholic values in action. By supporting inclusive education, we are nurturing a culture of empathy, compassion, and mutual respect that benefits all students."



\$780,000 in Grants

The grants will support a network of 16 Partner Schools, the Office of Catholic Schools (OCS), and six Spark Schools. Partner Schools receive direct financial assistance to enhance their inclusive programs, while Spark Schools engage in professional development and community-building initiatives alongside Partner Schools.

FIRE Denver's School Grants Program focuses on providing resources for staff salaries, professional development, and adaptive technology, all key components in creating successful inclusive classrooms. The organization collaborates closely with the Archdiocese of Denver's Office of Catholic Schools to ensure that these resources effectively support students with needs and diagnoses ranging from Autism to Down syndrome, hearing impairments to physical challenges.

FIRE Foundation Denver holds its largest fundraising event, BonFIRE, in August. Anyone interested in attending or donating can learn more at auctria.events/bonfire25.

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About FIRE Foundation of Denver

FIRE Foundation of Denver provides children with disabilities and learning differences the opportunity for an inclusive Catholic education within the Archdiocese of Denver's Catholic schools. Through its fundraising, FIRE Denver supports professional development, special educators, paraprofessionals, technology, and equipment to create environments where students of all abilities learn, grow, and thrive. Founded in 2021, FIRE Foundation of Denver is the largest affiliate of FIRE Foundation Kansas City that began in 1996. Visit firefoundationdenver.org.

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