

# Worcester County Education Foundation



*connecting our students to their future*

# The Heart & Future of Our Community

Dear Friends:

Worcester County Public Schools will always be the heart and future of our community. Collectively, through a strong financial commitment from our Worcester County Commissioners, dedicated leadership from our Board of Education, and the support of families and local businesses, we have reaped the benefits of providing a Blue Ribbon Education as we watch so many of our students return to Worcester County, perpetuating the economic engine of our community.

But today, our public school system has an opportunity to compete globally and propel our students toward college and future career markets. This opportunity is the **Digital Conversion** of our schools. As the digital world changes at the speed of light, our traditional classrooms lined with desks and chalkboards, pen, paper, and spiral notebooks, must be transformed so that every student in Worcester County, upon graduation, has a chance to compete and function in the digital world. Without digital conversion, our teachers are quickly losing the ability to adequately educate our students in the universal digital language that is the future.

When today's students graduate from high school, it will be imperative that they are well versed in digital applications, as well as have the ability to intelligently and clearly communicate, conduct experiments, graph, design, and carry out routine business digitally. Everyday, hands-on experience is the only way to prepare students to confidently function now and in the future. Even today, many adults are challenged when completing an online job or college application or online voter registration simply because they lack digital experience. The fact is, the digital future is now.

In response to the pressing need to provide every student equal access to a digitized education, parents and community leaders have formed the **Worcester County Education Foundation**, an independent, public-private partnership that will raise money to fund the necessary Digital Conversion and the future needs of our schools.

Won't you join us at this threshold in American public education? With your help, every child in Worcester County will be given the tools and the education to compete and flourish in the new digital age. After all, our students are the **Heart and Future of our Community**.

Sincerely,

Todd Ferrante

WCEF Chairman

Greg Shockley

WCE Vice Chairman

*connecting our students to their future*

## Our Mission & Vision

**100% Committed to Providing Worcester County Students  
Equal Access to a Digital Education**



### Worcester County Education Foundation

#### Our Mission Statement

The Worcester County Education Foundation is committed to establishing a proactive partnership between the community and the public school system by linking community resources with the educational needs of its students to prepare them to succeed.



Front Row (from left): Hope Palmer, Patti Miller, Todd Ferrante, Lou Taylor, Toni Keiser  
Back Row (from left): John Quinn, Chris Woodley, Ray Thompson, Kari Berger, Shirley Sultani, Susan Trimble, Janet Morse, Lee Chisholm, Bill Gordy (not pictured: Greg Shockley, Deborah Anderson, Jack Burbage, Todd Burbage, Al (Hondo) Handy, Duke Marshall, Angie McCracken, Tara Zaiser Miller, Chad Vent)

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# Basic Facts About Our Public Schools

## Worcester County Public Schools (WCPS) Serves 6,684 Students Student Population is Approximately 15% of the County

Students eligible for Free and Reduced Meals (FARMS): 44% of our students live in households at or below poverty and are eligible for FARMS. The state average is 38%.

Students Receiving Special Services:  
FARMS: 2,941  
English Learners: 226  
Special Education: 833

### Worcester County Students By Race

0.20%	American Indian/Alaskan
2.00%	Asian
6.00%	Hispanic
19.50%	African American
67.20%	White
5.10%	Two or More
0.00%	Hawaiian/Pacific Islander

### Worcester County Public School Statistics

Student Population: 6,684 School Day: 6 hours, 42 minutes School Year: 180 days

**Student Population: 6,684**

**School Day: 6 hours, 42 minutes**

**School Year: 180 days**

#### The School System

- 5 elementary schools
- 1 intermediate school
- 3 middle schools
- 1 special school
- 3 high schools
- 1 career & technology high school

#### Food Services

- 60 food service employees
- 393,853 breakfasts
- 468,212 lunches
- 20,300 after-school snacks
- 28,737 after-school supper meals
- 2,704 adult day care
- 913,806 total meals prepared

#### School Bus Transportation

- 80 buses
- 1,548,275 miles a year
- 8,601.5 miles a day
- 70 bus contractors
- Ninety-two percent (92%) of students qualify for bus transportation
- Ongoing driver training and bus inspections are conducted

#### Technology

- Working toward a 1:1 computer ratio (one student to one device) in all schools
- Replaced 488 outdated desktop computers in labs for instruction and assessment
- Broadband internet and connections to fiber optic network for all schools
- Wireless network in all schools
- Automated notification system is used to communicate important messages

#### Facilities, Operations, and Maintenance

- 13 maintenance technicians
- 73 custodians
- 1,266,875 sq.ft. of building space is repaired and maintained
- 39,936 sq. ft. of portable classroom space is repaired and maintained
- 429 acres total: grass cutting and landscaping of 306 acres and 15 sites

#### Health Care Professionals

- 16 school nurses had a total of 69,017 office visits over the 2013-2014 school year
- 89% of students were able to return to the classroom after treatment

#### School Safety

- School Security Deputies are stationed at each school facility
- 14 electronic entry systems
- 14 visitor identification systems with background checks

## EQUAL ACCESS MEANS EQUAL LEARNING

The apple (pie) chart illustrates (in green) a percentage of students in Worcester County, who are likely unable to afford the cost of an appropriate digital device and digital access necessary for their grade level. Providing students equal access to digital learning is essential to a teacher's ability to provide equal learning.

*Estimate is based on mean household annual income & the percent of Worcester County families who are eligible for free and reduced meals (FARMS).*

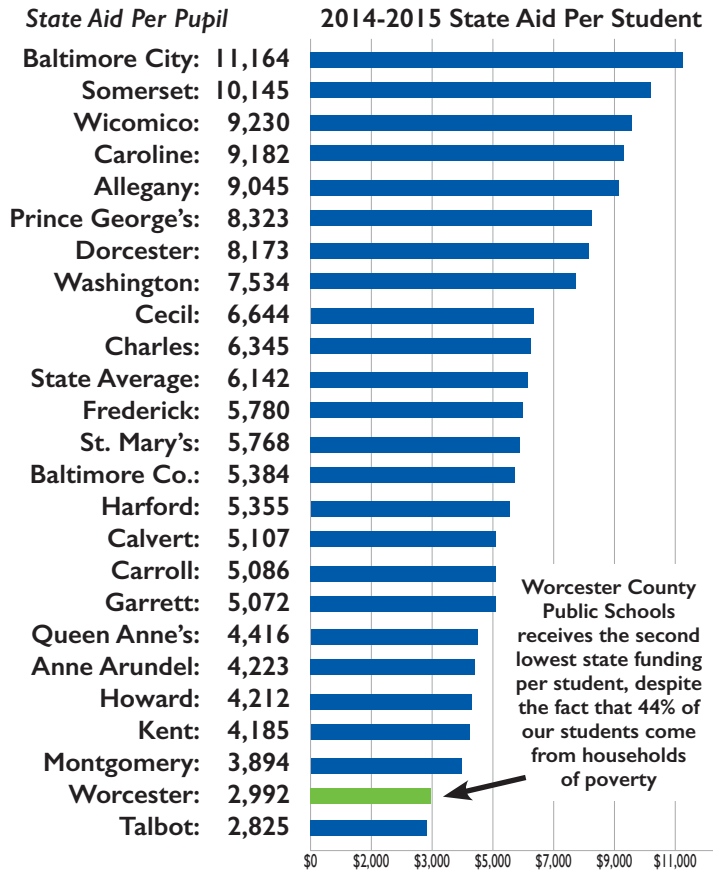


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## Reality of the Inadequate Public Schools' State Funding Formula

State aid for education is based on the taxable wealth base of the county. The higher a county's taxable wealth, the lower the state aid for education, regardless of true mean income. Worcester, with a high taxable wealth per student, receives the second lowest amount of funding per pupil from the state.

This funding formula provides inadequate funding for digital conversion.



### Foundation Goals For Digital Conversion

**INITIAL  
CAMPAIGN GOAL:**  
**\$1,000,000**

**5 YEAR  
CAMPAIGN GOAL:**  
**\$5,000,000**

(Based on approx. cost of \$750.00 digital device/student)

[www.WCED.foundation](http://www.WCED.foundation)

## Foundation Committees Steering Committee



Todd Ferrante



Toni Keiser



Patti Miller



Greg Shockley



Lou Taylor

**Marketing Committee:** Tara Zaiser Miller, Toni Keiser, Patti Miller, Todd Ferrante, Angie McCracken, Hope Palmer, Todd Burbage, Jack Burbage

**Governance Committee:** Susan Trimble, Chad Vent, Chris Woodley, Ray Thompson, Bill Gordy

**Gift Development Committee:** Greg Shockley, Lou Taylor, Ray Thompson, Toni Keiser

**Special Events Committee:** Patti Miller, Shirley Sultani, Janet Morse, John Quinn, Susan Trimble, Kari Berger, Duke Marshall, Debbi Anderson, Todd Ferrante, Al (Hondo) Handy, Chad Vent, Lee Chisholm, Tara Zaiser Miller, Hope Palmer

# Meeting the Challenge

*In response to the increased need for Digital Conversion in our schools, the Worcester County Education Foundation is planning to equip every child from K-12 with the appropriate digital device, allowing them to practice the digital skills that are necessary to compete for the jobs of tomorrow.*

## Proposed Devices

Elementary Level  
Touch Device (such as iPads)



Middle School Level  
Hybrid Device/Chromebook)



High School Level  
Laptop Device



## WCEF Objectives

1. Accelerate the purchase and distribution of appropriate Digital Devices for K-12, so every student has equal access to a World Class Education
2. Provide financial assistance to students in need
3. Support teachers by offering annual grants
4. Fund an Endowment, creating a perpetual funding source that can offset the future needs of our Worcester County students and teachers.

## What is Digital Conversion and Why Do We Need It?

### Digital Conversion: A Shared Vision... It's more than just computers

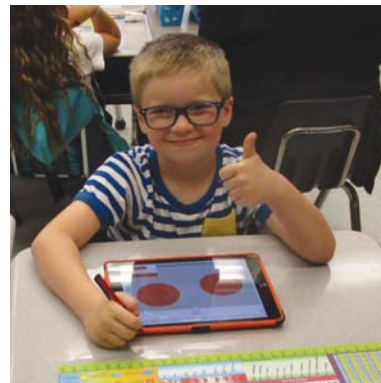


- Employing technology to improve teaching and learning through increased student engagement.
- A curriculum and instruction project first, a technology project second.
- Paradigm shift, changing the way teachers teach and students learn by utilizing sets of technological tools.

**“In today’s highly competitive global “knowledge economy,” all students need new skills for college, careers, and citizenship. The failure to give all students these new skills leaves today’s youth... and our community... at an alarming disadvantage.”**

*– The Global Achievement Gap*

College and career readiness refers to the content knowledge, skills, and habits that students must possess to be successful in postsecondary education or training that leads to a sustaining career.



A student who is ready for college and career can qualify for and succeed in entry-level, credit-bearing college courses without the need for remedial or developmental coursework; and/or has the credentials to directly enter into a career field; and/or qualifies to enter the military.

# Accomplishing Our Goals

## The Impact of Your Donations to Date (2016)



**Worcester County  
Education Foundation**

### Supporting Teachers

**\$3,000 Awarded**

in County-wide  
Teacher Grants for  
Innovative Teaching

### Protecting Our Investment

**\$21,000 +**

laptop covers provided,  
one for every  
9th grader in the  
county

### Empowering 6,684

Worcester County students  
with the digital learning  
tools necessary  
to succeed

### Updating Schools

**\$25,000**

has been donated to the  
Worcester County Board of  
Education in order to help  
accelerate the time  
line to update  
every school

### Planning for the Future

The Worcester County  
Education Foundation  
Empowerment Fund  
has been established to  
fund the future needs  
of our schools

**Providing  
Every Student  
Equal Access  
to a First Class  
Education**



## Levels of Participation

### SUPERINTENDENT'S CIRCLE

\$100,000+ to \$1,000,000

Funds purchase of iPad Cart and Chromebook Cart for all Students at one school

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### SUMMA CUM LAUDE

\$50,000+ to \$99,999

Funds purchase of 70" Interactive Touch Screens for 10+ Classrooms

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### MAGNA CUM LAUDE

10,000+ to \$49,999

Funds purchase of iPad Carts for Grades K-3

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### CUM LAUDE

\$2,500+ to \$9,999

Funds purchase of iPad Cart and Chromebook Cart for all Students at one school

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## Other Levels of Giving

### HONOR SOCIETY

\$1,000+ to \$2,499

Funds purchase of a Laptop, Protective Case, and One Year of Service

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### PRINCIPAL'S LIST

\$500+ to \$999

Funds purchase of an iPad for Grades K-3

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### HONOR ROLL

\$1+ to \$499

Funds purchase of a Chromebook for Grades 4-8

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# How You Can Participate

## Students... The Heart & Future of our Community

Excellence in education is the greatest responsibility of our society, fostering prosperity for future generations. We ask that you consider making a financial donation, joining the Foundation's effort to expedite the Digital Conversion of our Worcester County Public schools, allowing every student K-12, equal access to vital digital devices for a proper education.

### Quick Reference: Ways you can support the Worcester County Education Foundation:



#### 1. Outright Gifts:

Include cash, stocks, or personal property and are tax deductible. Outright gifts provide immediate support.

#### 2. Matching Gifts:

Allow you to double your gift at no expense to you. Many employers match charitable gifts of employees and retirees.



#### 3. Charitable Gift Annuities:

Allow you to give during your lifetime, but can provide lifetime income for you or a loved one.

#### 4. Bequest through wills and trusts:

Create a lasting legacy in your name. By making a bequest to WCEF in your will, you can help to ensure our students get the technological support they need, or you may consider leaving your assets in Trust, assigning the income to one or two beneficiaries and the Trust principle to WCEF.



#### 5. Major Gifts:

Gifts can be pledged today and paid later via installment arrangements.

#### 6. Other forms of Giving:

These include life income plans and trusts, family business gifts, commemorative or memorial gifts, stocks and bonds, real estate and life insurance. There are a variety of plans that can bring immediate benefits to you.



*We urge you to consult your own legal or financial counsel to determine which plan is best for you. You'll be able to receive the maximum benefits for your objectives while supporting WCEF.*

For more information visit:  
[www.WCED.foundation](http://www.WCED.foundation) or call 410-632-5076

“The future is here...  
it’s just not evenly  
distributed yet.”

– William Gibson,  
Canadian-American Author



## Pledge Levels:

**SUPERINTENDENT’S CIRCLE**  
\$100,000+ to \$1,000,000

**SUMMA CUM LAUDE**  
\$50,000+ to \$99,999

**MAGNA CUM LAUDE**  
10,000+ to \$49,999

**CUM LAUDE**  
\$2,500+ to \$9,999

## Other Levels of Giving

**HONOR SOCIETY**  
\$1,000+ to \$2,499

**PRINCIPAL’S LIST**  
\$500+ to \$999

**HONOR ROLL**  
\$1+ to \$499

At whatever level you choose to pledge,  
we’re most appreciative of your support for  
the future of our students and the Worcester  
County Education Foundation mission.

*We thank you*

Please make checks payable to: Worcester County Education Foundation, P.O. Box 3654, Ocean City, MD 21843

[www.WCED.foundation](http://www.WCED.foundation) • 410-632-5076

## Worcester County Students the Heart & Future of our Community

Amount Pledged: \_\_\_\_\_

Amount Paid Herein: \_\_\_\_\_

Balance: \_\_\_\_\_

To be paid over a period of: 1 2 3 4 5 years  
(circle one)

Beginning: \_\_\_\_\_

To be given: Monthly Quarterly Semi-Annually Annually  
(circle one)

I would like to consider giving appreciated assets  
(e.g., stocks) to support the WCEF gifts campaign

Please indicate the name/company you would prefer we use to recognize your generosity

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

STREET \_\_\_\_\_

CITY \_\_\_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE \_\_\_\_\_

eMAIL \_\_\_\_\_

SIGNATURE/DATE \_\_\_\_\_