



2011 Family Giving Campaign Questions and Answers

Why do families have to donate money to public schools? Doesn't the state fund public education?

School funding has changed since we were children. Unfortunately, here in the State of California, state funds do not adequately cover the real cost of public education, so we look to parent and community support to fund programs that are considered integral to a basic, well-rounded education. The state does mandate specific curriculum and instruction, yet it does not provide the necessary resources. We are very fortunate to live in a community where our parents' generosity enables us to close the gap and meet the children's educational needs.

Meeting the Need – Facts You Should Know

- California remains well below the national average in expenditures per student. Local funding (such as property tax and parcel taxes) along with **Can Do!** efforts enables the Dixie School District to rank academically among the top school districts in California.
- Education Week's most recent "Quality Counts 2008" survey of states ranked California 46th in the nation in K-12 education funding, down from 43rd in just two years and nearly \$2,000 below the national average. These rankings reflect the per-pupil funding amounts published by the U.S. Department of Education's National Center for Education Statistics, adjusted for variations in local costs using the NCES Geographic Cost of Education Index.
- Current State funding for public education has cut almost \$2.5 million from the Dixie School District budget since 2009/2010. The necessity for continued strong partnerships between the District and the parent organizations is most crucial, now more than ever.

What is Can Do!?

Can Do! is the education foundation led by Dixie School District parents whose mission is to enrich the education of all students in the district. **Can Do!**, formerly known as the Dixie Children's Fund (DCF), sponsors many events and programs to raise money for our schools including the **Can Do! Family Giving Campaign**, the Annual Auction Fundraiser in November, the Annual Scotty's Golf Tournament in May, eScrip, and Business Partner program. The Family Giving Campaign is the largest fundraising campaign for all of our schools and our goal is to have 100% participation of all Dixie School District families.

How does the Family Giving Campaign work?

The money raised through **Can Do!** goes directly to programs for all students of the Dixie School District. The administrators, principals, and teachers work together to determine which programs and experiences will best benefit our children's education. Our District Superintendent, Dr. Thomas Lohwasser, meets with his Administration team (principals, Director of Education Services, Special Education Coordinator) weekly to work together on a district-wide education plan which includes consistent programs at our schools. In addition, Dr. Lohwasser meets with the presidents of each school H&S/PTA and **Can Do!** on a monthly basis to discuss and incorporate parent input. It is our belief that this collaboration ensures that our students have a shared educational experience and a smooth transition into Miller Creek Middle School.

Working together for our children's future.

Can Do! • Dixie Home & School • Mary Silveira Home & School • Vallecito PTA/H&SC • Miller Creek Home & School

Can Do!

Can I give an amount other than the \$450.00 per child?

Yes. We appreciate any and all levels of giving. Although we request \$450/student, every contribution is important to the continuation of current programs. If everyone participates, at the giving level appropriate for their family, we will continue to provide the programs that so greatly benefit our children. 100% participation is the goal.

How can I make my donation?

We want to make it as easy as possible for you to donate to **Can Do!** You can pay with cash, check, or a credit card. Like doing your business on-line? Go to www.cando4schools.org and submit your payment online. You may pay in a lump sum or you can spread out your donation in up to nine payments in the course of the school year.

Can I get my employer to make a match of my donation to Can Do! ?

Yes, provided your employer has a company match program. Typically, you initiate the company match process and complete a form supplied by your employer. **Can Do!** will complete the organization information and confirm we received your donation. Many companies now provide the option to submit donation information on-line which expedites the matching gift. If you have set up your donation through an automatic payroll deduction, please complete a **Can Do!** Family Giving Campaign remit envelope and return to us so we can acknowledge and track your donation. Last year, over **\$40,000 was donated to Can Do!** through company matching gift programs so we appreciate your time in taking the extra step to match your donation.

Am I counted as "participated" in the Family Giving Campaign if I am a Business Partner?

First and foremost a HUGE thank you for becoming a **Can Do!** Business Partner. By showing your support for our schools, you are positioning your business for great exposure to families throughout the district! The Business Partner program and the Family Giving Campaign exist as two separate "arms" of our fundraising organization. Both are vital in ensuring that all of our enrichment programs continue in each school. While we welcome and request your participation in the Family Giving Campaign separate of your partnership through your business, should you choose not to participate in both, your Business Partnership will constitute participation for all grade-level and school-wide incentive programs for the children related to the Family Giving Campaign.

If I pledge now to pay later am I counted as participated?

Yes, If you fill out a remit envelope and provide a credit card # or post-dated checks for future commitment you are counted as participated. **Can Do!** will send you a receipt of your donation once the date has cleared that you directed the payment to occur.

Is this donation confidential? Who knows what?

All donations are confidential in that only the 3 individuals who work in the **Can Do!** office know how much each family donates to the campaign as they oversee the campaign and process the incoming funds. Each school has a site team who track participation and send thank you notes to the families who contribute. **Can Do!** does not send out a public list of donors nor is this information published on their website. Confidentiality and integrity are essential in this campaign.

Working together for our children's future.

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Can Do!

Measure A passed last Spring. Why are we still raising money for our schools?

Measure A annually provides \$1.4 million dollars to the Dixie School District budget. This money pays for the following:

- 3 – 8 grade music program (orchestra, band, chorus)
- French & Drama classes at Miller Creek
- Class Size reduction in grades 4 – 8
- Library services at all four schools (Librarians and supplies)
- District Nurse
- Counselors (1.5 people at Miller Creek and part-time people at each of the Elementary Schools)

Funding is still necessary to pay for the programs the State is not paying for:

- Technology (State provides \$0.37/child for technology in entire district)
- Elementary PE
- K-2 Music
- Art and Drama
- Counseling at Miller Creek (**Can Do!** pays for .5 so there are 2 full time counselors)
- Sports at Miller Creek (Intramural and afterschool county programs)
- Lunchtime Clubs – reaching all students and exploring different interests

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