

Rieke Elementary Funding FAQs

February 2011

Q: Rieke is a Public School, why do we need to raise funds?

A: *By constitutional amendment, the vast majority of funding for public schools in Oregon has the come from the State. The State of Oregon has been under a lot of financial pressure and has been unable to provide sufficient funding to keep up with inflation, rapidly rising healthcare costs, etc. As a result, we have seen steady cuts in teaching positions, arts, physical education, etc. The Rieke community has decided we will step up and provide funding and volunteers to fill some of the gaps. For the latest information about PPS, budget and funding please visit the website: <http://www.pps.k12.or.us>*

Q: How can I have a say in how the funds are spent for next year?

A: *Decisions about how to spend funds raised will be made through a collaborative process involving the Parents, Principal and Staff, and the Site Council. Parents can have a voice one of two ways:*

- 1. Come to a PTA meeting!!! School Funding for 2011-12 will be a key topic of discussion at the next several PTA meetings. (Second Tuesday of the Month, 7:00 pm in the School Library)*
- 2. Participate in a survey: The PTA will be surveying parents to get input on funding priorities. The survey can be taken here: <http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/H595GLR>*

Q: How do we raise funds for Rieke?

A: *There are three primary ways, The Rieke Foundation, the Rieke PTA and the Race for Arts and Technology A.K.A. "The RAT Race"*

Q: How much money do we, the parents and community, usually raise?

A: *Over the last few years, the amount raised between PTA, Foundation and RAT race has been over \$100,000 per year*

Q: How has the money been spent last year?

A: *For the 2010-2011 School Year, the approximate breakdown is as follows*

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| <i>1. \$65k for one FTE (Required fund raising of about \$92.5k , see below)</i> | <i>Foundation</i> |
| <i>2. \$12k for a part-time Reading Specialist</i> | <i>PTA</i> |
| <i>3. \$8.5k for a part-time Technology Specialist</i> | <i>PTA</i> |
| <i>4. \$14k for Art and Music programs</i> | <i>RAT Race</i> |
| <i>5. \$2k for Computers</i> | <i>RAT Race</i> |
| <i>6. \$6.5k for a wide variety of other programs and activities</i> | <i>PTA</i> |

Q: How Many Teachers and Staff does Rieke have, and who pays for them?

A: Educational Staff for the 2010-11 school year are listed below along with where they are funded. Positions preceded by a number less than one are part-time. (0.5 = half time, etc.)

<u>Position(s)</u>	<u>Funding Source</u>
• 12 Classroom Teachers for Grades 1-5	PPS
• 1 Classroom Teacher for Grades 1-5	Rieke Foundation
• 3 Kindergarten Classroom Teachers	PPS + Parent Fees
• 0.5 Physical Education Teacher	PPS
• 0.25 Library Assistant	PPS
• 1 Principal	PPS
• 1 Principal's Secretary	PPS
• 0.25 School Secretary	PPS
• Special Education Teacher + Para-Educator, ESL Teacher (Varying % of Full-time)	PPS

Q: What does it cost to fund a Teacher?

A: The answer to this question has two parts. Part one is the actual amount it costs PPS to pay a teacher, which includes salary, healthcare benefits, retirement, etc. PPS often refers to "FTE" or Full-Time Equivalent when talking about funding for teachers and staff. 1 FTE is equal to the total cost for a full-time teacher. 0.5 FTE is equal to the total cost for a half-time Teacher. The actual amounts vary depending on the seniority of the teacher. In 2009/2010, Rieke had a fairly senior teaching staff and the average cost per teacher (FTE Rate) was about \$74,000. In 2010/2011 the average seniority had dropped and the cost per teacher was about \$65,000.

Part two comes into play when parents or others want to pay for an additional teacher at a particular school. In order to provide equity between PPS schools, Board policy states that additional teachers can only be funded through the PPS Foundation and that a portion of the funds have to be shared with other schools. Specifically: The first \$10,000 stays with the school where the money was raised; After this, 1/3 of the funds raised must be given to the PPS Foundation for distribution via a grant process. Therefore in order to have \$65,000 to fund a teacher at the current Rieke FTE rate, we need to raise about \$92,500. $\$10,000 + (\$82,500 \times 2/3) = \$65,000$ See the following link for a detailed explanation and the history behind this: <http://www.thinkschools.org/local-school-foundations/faq/>

Q: When are funds raised for a given school year?

A: Funds are typically raised one year and spent the next. PPS Foundation requires a commitment for FTE funding around April 1 for teachers that will be hired in the school year starting that Fall. The Rieke PTA typically commits funding for non-licensed positions to the school in May, for positions that will start in the fall. The RAT Race (Race for Arts and Technology) takes place in the spring and pays for technology hardware and arts programs the following school year.

Q: How can I Learn More?

A: Participate: Join the PTA, Foundation, RAT Race Team or Site Council and attend meetings. There are also many resources on line to read. See the following websites for more information:

Rieke PTA <http://www.pps.k12.or.us/schools/rieke/213.htm>

Rieke School <http://www.pps.k12.or.us/schools/rieke/>

PPS: <http://www.pps.k12.or.us>

PPS Foundation: <http://www.thinkschools.org/local-school-foundations/>

Oregon PTA <http://www.oregonpta.org/>