



# Pegasus Springs Education Collective

## ANNUAL REPORT 2019

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## Message from the Executive Director

Dear Friends,

What inspires me most about Pegasus Springs is the opportunity to connect with so many dedicated people and organizations who share our commitment to education and to all students. And as you can see from this report, our first year has provided us a wonderful foundation to build upon as we look ahead. To better communicate our mission, we have begun revising our website and are already planning for additional content to enhance our collective impact and to better support educators, parents, and kids everywhere.

The mission of the Pegasus Springs Education Collective focuses on the importance of connecting all educators and stakeholders, and it rests on a belief that it is only through ongoing collaboration that we are able to successfully harness the collective passion and expertise necessary to positively impact education in all communities. Our mission is also based on the research about *collective efficacy* and *school culture*—and the tremendous impact these concepts have on achieving the educational goals and student outcomes toward which we all strive. These high expectations, however, can only be consistently achieved through teamwork and collaboration. Quite simply, our collective strength tends to be greater than the sum of our efforts, and so we must facilitate the conditions for a collaborative culture to thrive. In short, PSEC believes that *together* we can navigate any challenge and succeed at giving wings to the dreams of all children. For this reason, we are building a supportive community of teachers, parents, caregivers, youth providers, and organizations who share a passion for students, their future, and their well-being.

We welcome you to join our community and add your commitment to our collective efforts.

Thanks for your support!

Best,



Craig Martin, PSEC Executive Director



**Craig Martin, Executive Director**  
**Pegasus Springs Education Collective**



## Mission

The mission of Pegasus Springs Education Collective is to transform education to more equitably engage all students in their learning and to better align with expectations for the 21<sup>st</sup> century. By connecting educators, students, and parents—and by supporting opportunities for collaboration and learning, our goal is to support change that positively impacts our schools, our communities, and our nation.

## Supporting All Stakeholders



### Educator Programs

Our goal is to develop leaders at all levels and among all positions of the education profession. We aim to help all educators and schools develop collective efficacy and collaborative capacity. We do this by providing educators with informational content, institutes, and other collaborative learning opportunities. We nurture broad partnerships with individuals, schools, communities, and organizations.



### Student Programs

Our goal is to inspire and empower children to make transformational changes in their lives, their schools, and their communities. We seek to help create safe and supportive learning communities that empower student voice and agency. We do this by providing interactive learning opportunities to explore the building blocks of leadership.



### Parent Programs

We believe that parents are integral to a student's education. Our goal is to harness the collective expertise, passion, and experience of all members, including parents. To provide support for parents, we provide a platform for networking and for accessing information, research, and best practices. We also offer parenting workshops and webinars through our partners.



# Program Impact

## Educator Programs

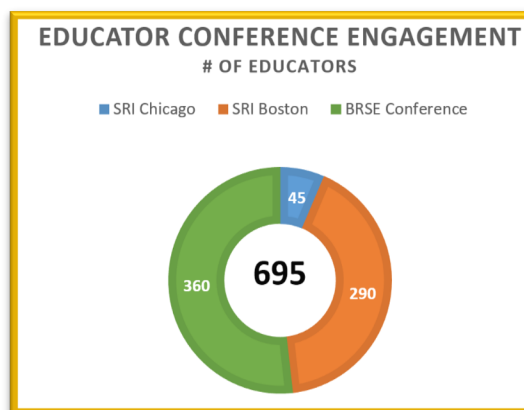
In 2019 PSEC pursued two strategies for educator engagement: 1) Providing speakers and sponsorships for partner events, and 2) hosting educator retreats.

### Partner Events

#### SRI Conferences

A key partner, School Reform Initiative (SRI), played a significant role in PSEC impact during 2019. PSEC sponsored and participated in two SRI events in Chicago and Boston focused on equity, social/emotional learning, and implicit biases in the education community. PSEC staff experienced the use of SRI's proven protocols to dig deeper into these difficult topics using real life problems and school/classroom challenges.

PSEC staff were able to share information about the mission and work of PSEC with over 400 educators through these partner events. Several educators who participated in SRI conferences went on to participate in PSEC educator programs thus growing and strengthening the PSEC network.



#### Blue Ribbon Schools of Excellence National Conference

PSEC sponsored and provided nationally recognized speakers for the Blue Ribbon Schools of Excellence National Conference. This conference with over 360 school leaders focused on 9 areas of school improvement. PSEC provided the following speakers



- Marcia Tate (Keynote), Author of *Worksheets Don't Grow Dendrites* and other publications
- Dr. David Walsh (Breakout), *Spark and Stitch Institute*
- Craig Martin, (Breakout), PSEC Executive Director
- National Teachers Hall of Fame (Breakout Session)



PSEC also sponsored a booth highlighting the work of our partners and featuring publications and materials from Dr. Dave Walsh, Dr. Marcia Tate, Dr. Akil Ross (2018 National Principal of the Year), and National Teachers Hall of Fame inductees Warren Phillips and Joe Underwood.

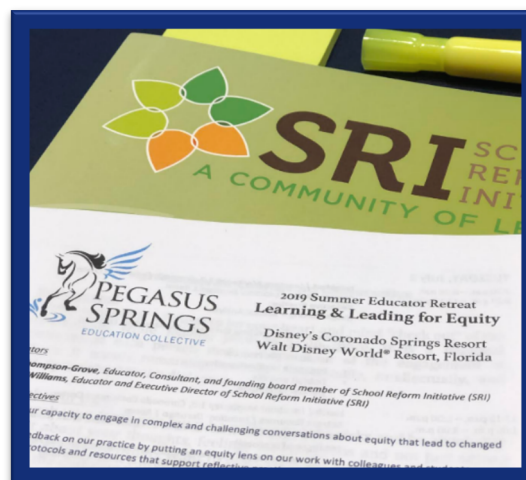


### Educator Retreats

In 2019 PSEC hosted two Educator Retreats. These small, focused events enabled educators to immerse themselves into the topical areas and allowed participants to engage at a deeper level with their colleagues from across the nation.

**Learning and Leading for Equity** was held in June 2019. This retreat was for educators wanting to reflect on their teaching practice, engage in in-depth conversations with colleagues about teaching, learning and leading for equity, and improve learning for every student. With the collaboration of our partners, the events provided valuable learning opportunities for networking and learning, and they provided a strong foundation upon which we hope to build in the year ahead.

In December 2019, PSEC was also proud to announce the launch of our **Education Ambassador Award Program** to honor educators who inspire students, make a transformational difference in the field of education, and have the creativity and perseverance to reimagine the future of education. Applications are now being accepted.



**Teaching with the Brain in Mind: The Art and Science of Igniting Learning** was held in December 2019. This professional learning seminar engaged K-12 educators in exploring the science of learning within a neurodevelopmental framework. Case studies and activities were used to practice observing and describing students' learning. The team explored how to adapt instruction and design targeted interventions based on the neurodevelopmental demands of an academic task as well as students' profiles.



## Parent Programs

In 2019, PSEC partnered with Spark and Stitch Institute to develop an online course for parents based on the bestselling book by Dr. Dave Walsh, *Why Do They Act That Way* and to provide blogs, speaking engagements, and/or podcasts to support parents in the education of their children. This partnership is continuing throughout 2021 and beyond.

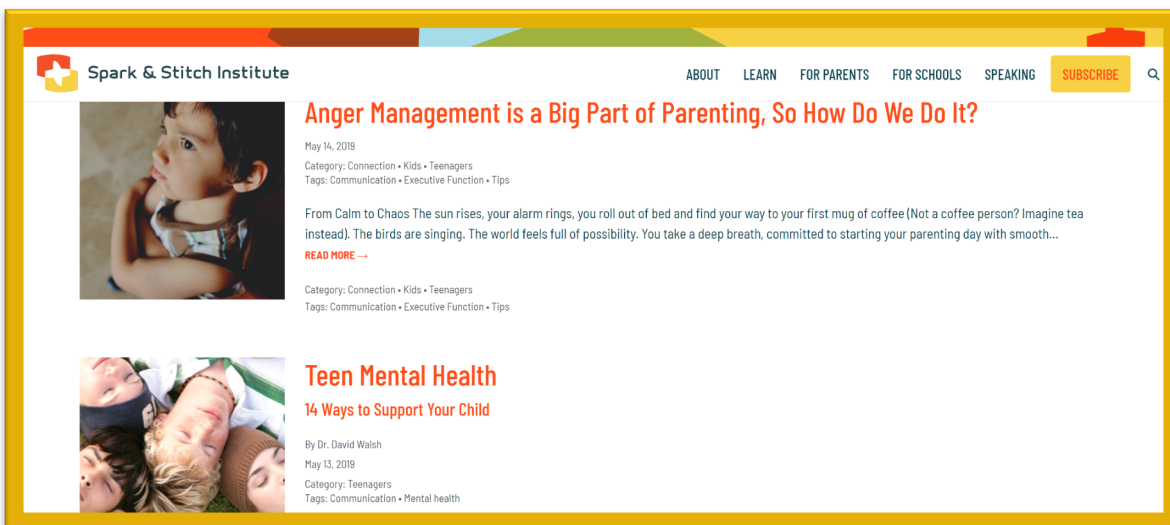
### Webinar Series

This 6-module course was delivered for the first time in the Fall of 2019 and was designed for parents and caring adults who want to better understand and stay connected to kids and teens. The course included 32 video lessons, 15 supporting downloads with exercises, 8 weeks of online support, 4 live Q&A sessions, and an invitation to a private Facebook group for ongoing support. Almost 100 parents participated in the initial course launch.



## Blog Posts

Spark and Stitch Institute provided much support for parents during 2019. Topics, such as the ones below, were delivered on a regular basis.



## Reading Recommendations

In 2019 PSEC used both Twitter and Facebook to connect parents with high quality literature for their children. Recommendations for all grade and reading levels were provided on a regular basis.



## Student Programs

As students must be key stakeholders and collaborators in all of education's efforts, PSEC also supports communities to engage students, empower their voices, and develop their capacity as leaders. Students have the opportunity to participate in the Pegasus Springs Education Collective as members of the *Building Our Leaders of Tomorrow (BOLT)* program. Only by empowering student voice and engaging students as integral partners in education, are we able to provide students the agency and opportunity to develop the confidence and skills necessary for their future in the 21<sup>st</sup> century. Most importantly, we also are demonstrating that we value their individual experience and perspective, that we are committed to a diverse learning environment where all voices are heard, that they can feel safe and supported in being their full authentic selves, and that we recognize our collective goals cannot be achieved without their full participation. In this way, we ensure that *all* students are truly seen. If we do this, we are not only modeling the values to which we aspire, but also engaging students and inspiring them to become lifelong learners and productive citizens.

## Building Our Leaders of Tomorrow

Committed to empowering student voice and providing students the experiences and skills necessary to make a positive difference in their communities and beyond.

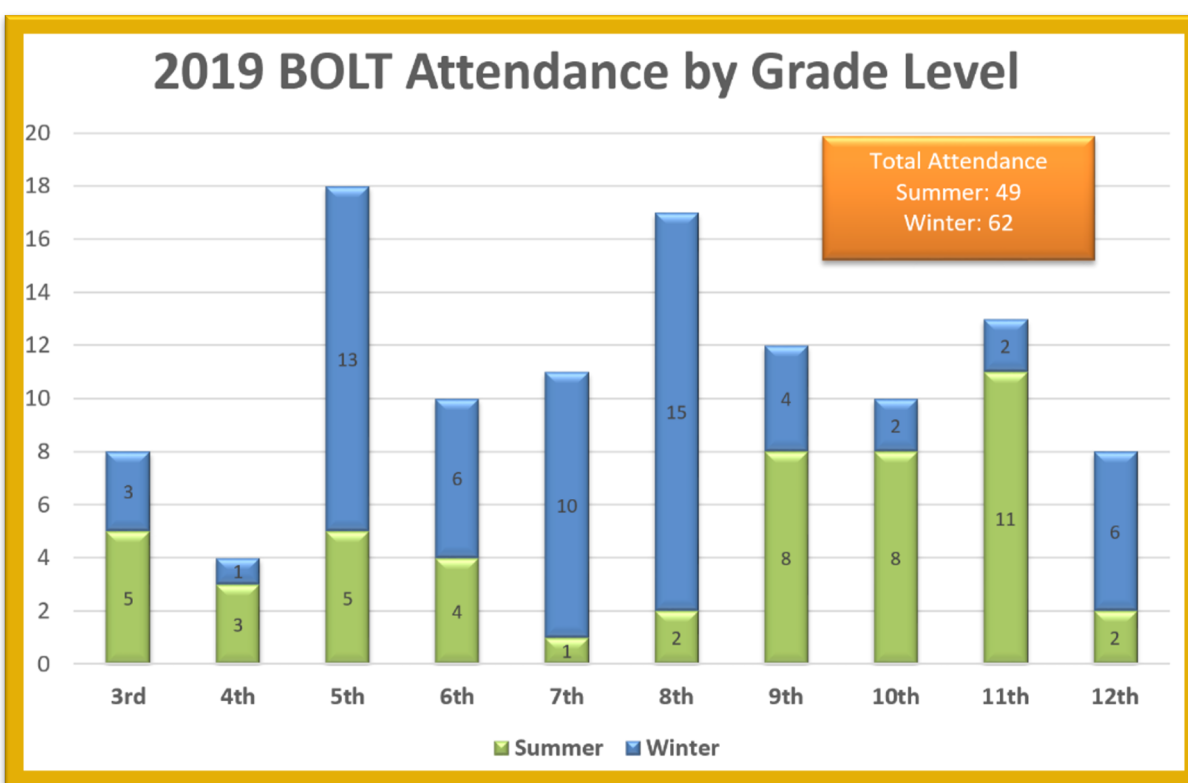


- *Empowering student voice and engaging students as integral partners*
- *Providing opportunity and experiences to develop the confidence, communication, collaboration, and leadership skills necessary for the future*
- *Inspiring students to become lifelong learners and productive citizens*

One of the featured programs of BOLT is a three-day learning experience for 3<sup>rd</sup> through 12<sup>th</sup> graders. Hosted at Walt Disney World in Orlando, Florida, BOLT's Student Leadership Institute uses the Disney theme parks as an experimental classroom and focuses on the building blocks of leadership. BOLT leverages Disney's "Youth Educational Series" (YES) program to dive deep into learning experiences behind the scenes at Disney.

During 2019, PSEC and its BOLT Leadership Team worked together to design an engaging and inspiring curriculum. BOLT Student Leadership Institutes were held in July and December 2019, and they were attended by 111 student leaders.







## Impact Stories from Parents and Educators



*"My children participated in the BOLT Leadership program at Walt Disney World in June of 2019 for a 3-day event. They were both hesitant to try something new but after they came back to the hotel from their first day they both said it was awesome!! They loved meeting new kids from all over the country and the Pegasus Spring staff was so engaging and professional. The program did a great job of combining leadership, technology, and collaboration with their peers. The leadership skills that my children acquired during the program will stay with them for life... Thank you, Pegasus Springs!!" - Parent of BOLT student*



*"As a parent I was able to watch my boys grow and learn so much over the course of just a few days. The facilitators were outstanding and skilled educators who excelled at guiding the youngsters through a series of challenges and real-world learning experiences that made an impact that will last a lifetime."*

—Parent of BOLT Student, Dec 2019



*"The BOLT program is a dream three-day experiential field trip. How else can you provide your children with the opportunity to build robots one day, learn how horticulturalists are developing sustainable fruits and vegetables the next, and explore the innovations of the future on the third day all while bonding with other children and leaders from across the United States? The BOLT program's expert leaders were experienced educators who met all of the diverse needs of the children in the program and guided each child to a world of unforgettable learning experiences."*

—School Superintendent

# Thought Leadership


## Setting the Tone for the Organization—and the Profession

Pegasus Springs Education Collective seeks to build a community of teachers, parents, youth providers and others who share a passion for students, their futures and their well-being. Knowledge is power – and together we have the power to ensure that students, no matter where they live, have the tools and opportunity to achieve their potential.

In our inaugural year, the PSEC leadership team undertook a study of thought leaders in the education space, including books, articles, and videos—many of which we of course also featured on our social media platforms so that everyone could benefit. And in addition to our 2019 events, we were also thrilled to provide, with our partners, important information to our community through blog posts, interviews, and webinars.

For instance, we were thrilled to speak with Kevin Fahey, author of “An Uncommon Theory of School Change” about leadership, reinventing schools, and the most important ways to make positive and lasting impact. We interviewed educators and social workers about the importance of such issues as social emotional learning, trauma-informed practices, and issues of equity. And we were honored to feature several guest bloggers, such as author and educator Aaron Polansky.

As we look ahead to 2020 and beyond, we are eager to provide even more opportunities for educators, students, and parents to access the latest ideas and best practices—and also to provide a platform for educators to share their experience and expertise with others.



**Leading the “Reinventing” of Schools with Kevin Fahey**

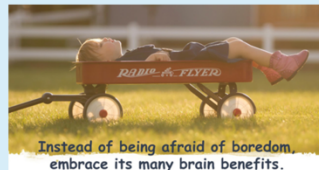
*An Uncommon Theory of School Change: Leadership for Reinventing Schools* is a book “for educators who believe that schools need to be improved and are hopeful that real change can be achieved. The authors argue that if educators want to create more equitable, socially just, and learner-focused schools, then they need a more robust, transformational theory of school change—an UnCommon Theory.” This important book discusses why the “common” approach to school improvement often fails to yield the impact we desire for all students, and it includes case studies from school leaders about how they went about changing the existing school culture, re-examining assumptions, and leading the entire school community on the type of “deep dive” necessary for transformational learning. Pegasus Springs Education Collective (PSEC) had the opportunity recently to ask co-author of the book Kevin Fahey (KF) some questions about some of the book’s important ideas.

PSEC: More than just “improvement” of schools, the book talks about school *reinvention*. For people who have not yet read the book, can you explain what the typical or “common theory” of school improvement seems to be—and why it does not always yield the results we need?

**Your Kids are Bored? Good.**

Promote the brain benefits of boredom

By Erin Walsh with Dr. David Walsh



My mother had a consistent and clear response to me and my two siblings when we complained of being bored: “If you’re bored, I’ll give you something better to do.” We quickly figured out we were better off finding something to do ourselves than ending up with chores.

I didn’t necessarily repeat this strategy verbatim when I became a parent many years later. I came to understand that sometimes the wail of “I’m bored!” was code for another need including loneliness or sadness – feelings that beg a different response than the job jar.

But the lesson that my mother modeled for me – don’t rush to entertain your children in the face of boredom – was a powerful one.

It turns out that in our haste to find boredom busters for our children, we actually rob the brain of essential downtime and opportunities for creative thinking associated with the wandering mind. While we connect boredom with inactivity, the brain is often far from quiet.

**Instead of being afraid of boredom, embrace its many brain benefits, such as...**

- **Recharging.** Being constantly barraged with external stimulation is exhausting for the brain. Downtime allows our children to recover from this “cognitive overload” and to **recharge** executive functioning skills. This isn’t to say that our children should sit on the couch and stare at the wall all day, but 10 minutes of daydreaming and doing nothing is sometimes just what they need to be ready for what comes next. Heck, *your* brain could benefit from a little boredom too. Next time you are tempted to scroll through your social media feed in line at the grocery store, give yourself permission to just stare at the wall and let your mind wander.

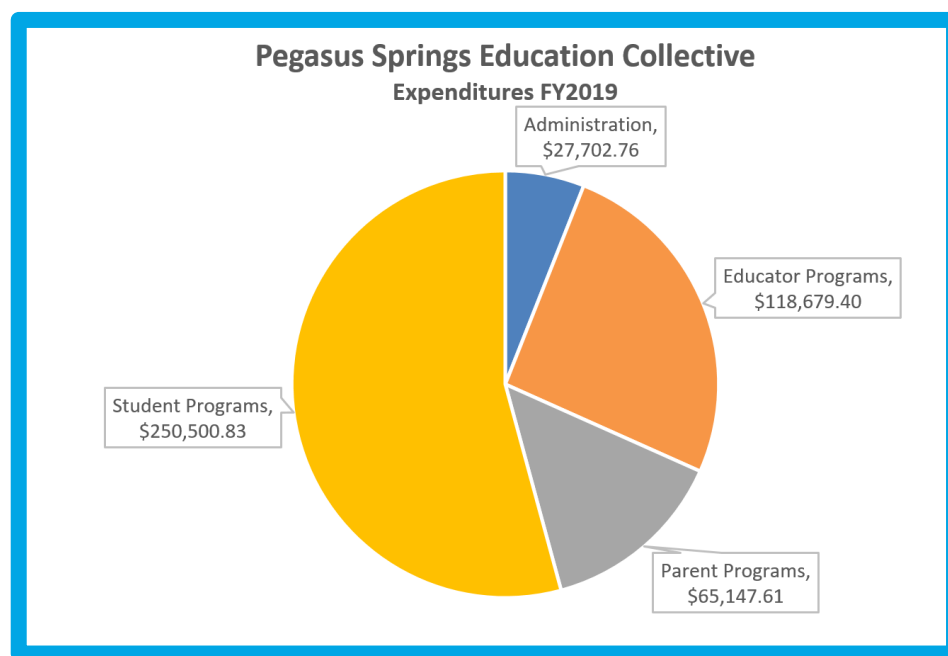
## Resources & Financial Management

Pegasus Springs Education Collective was established as a non-profit organization on June 7, 2019. During this start-up year revenue was realized from two primary sources - the Pegasus Springs Foundation and registration fees for conferences and programs. Revenue from the Spark and Stitch online course, resale of books, and individual contributions accounted for the remaining revenue.

Expenditures were categorized in the following 4 main areas:

- Administration
- Educator Programs
- Parent Programs
- Student Programs

The relative expenditures in each category are noted in the chart below.



In several instances the 2019 expenditures include initial start-up costs such as logo design, website development, staff training, and initial background checks for all staff. Start-up activities for Administration included securing proper business registrations, establishing corporate insurance, writing and disseminating policies and procedures, establishing checking and accounting processes, and developing a team handbook.

A Balance Sheet\* and a Profit and Loss\* statement are included below.

\*Final audit is currently in process.



# Pegasus Springs Education Collective

## BALANCE SHEET As of December 31, 2019

	TOTAL
<b>ASSETS</b>	
Current Assets	
Bank Accounts	\$92,582.88
Other Current Assets	\$0.00
<b>Total Current Assets</b>	<b>\$92,582.88</b>
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>	<b>\$92,582.88</b>
<b>LIABILITIES AND EQUITY</b>	
Liabilities	
Current Liabilities	
Credit Cards	\$57,730.64
<b>Total Current Liabilities</b>	<b>\$57,730.64</b>
<b>Total Liabilities</b>	<b>\$57,730.64</b>
Equity	
Unrestricted Net Assets	
Net Income	34,852.24
<b>Total Equity</b>	<b>\$34,852.24</b>
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES AND EQUITY</b>	<b>\$92,582.88</b>

\*Final audit is currently in process.

## Pegasus Springs Education Collective

### PROFIT AND LOSS January - December 2019

	TOTAL
<b>Income</b>	
Direct Public Support	
Corporate Contributions	445,000.00
Individ, Business Contributions	5,000.00
<b>Total Direct Public Support</b>	<b>450,000.00</b>
Program Income	
Educator Programs	9,760.64
Parent Programs	5,145.00
Student Programs	31,977.20
<b>Total Program Income</b>	<b>46,882.84</b>
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$496,882.84</b>
<b>GROSS PROFIT</b>	<b>\$496,882.84</b>
<b>Expenses</b>	
Administration	
Business Expenses	1,307.55
Contract Services - Administration	15,635.21
Facilities and Equipment	4,000.00
Other Types of Expenses	6,760.00
<b>Total Administration</b>	<b>27,702.76</b>
Program	
Educator Programs	
Educator Institute 2019	63,027.67
Marketing	4,709.74
Program Development	200.00
Sponsorships and Conferences	6,524.23
Subcontractors Educators	38,592.93
Teacher Appreciation	49.90
Web Development - Educator	5,574.93
<b>Total Educator Programs</b>	<b>118,679.40</b>
Parent Programs	400.00
Marketing	566.62
Program Development	50.00
Subcontract Parent	4,950.00
Web Courses	55,042.10
Web Development - Parent	4,138.89
<b>Total Parent Programs</b>	<b>65,147.61</b>

\*Final audit is currently in process.

## Pegasus Springs Education Collective

PROFIT AND LOSS  
January - December 2019

	TOTAL
Youth Programs	
Background Checks	659.85
Marketing	4,349.72
Program Development	200.00
Student Leadership Institute 2019	179,236.44
Student Leadership Institute 2020	6,000.00
Subcontractors Youth	54,479.89
Web Development- Youth	5,574.93
Total Youth Programs	250,500.83
Total Program	434,327.84
Total Expenses	\$462,030.60
NET OPERATING INCOME	\$34,852.24
NET INCOME	\$34,852.24

\*Final audit is currently in process.



## Your Support

As we look back at the year, we want to express our gratitude for all your support and especially for your ongoing dedication to children—and to education. Pegasus Springs Education Collective believes by harnessing our collective capacity, we can have an even greater impact in the lives of all children.

Financial donations, of any size, allow us in the year ahead to continue to sponsor engaging programs and learning opportunities for both educators and students, expand our outreach, support and honor teachers, and provide a platform with informative content for a growing educational community. As a non-profit 501(c)3 organization, donations are tax-deductible, and we appreciate any support you are able to provide.

We are looking forward to the year ahead—and with your help, to transforming the future of education! Thank you for making a difference and adding your commitment to our collective efforts. We appreciate your support!

Donate at  
[www.pegasussprings.org](http://www.pegasussprings.org)

**Support educators, students, and school communities.**  
**Transform the future of education . . . *together***





Connect with Us!

(781) 486-4554 | [info@pegasussprings.org](mailto:info@pegasussprings.org)

Supporting educators, students,  
and parents . . . and transforming  
the future of education, *together*

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