



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

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UNITED SCHOOLS OF INDIANAPOLIS RECEIVES HISTORIC \$12.5 MILLION FROM ANONYMOUS DONOR TO SUPPORT TEACHERS AND ADMINISTRATORS

Funding will support teacher retention and recruitment while highlighting performance

INDIANAPOLIS, Ind. - [United Schools of Indianapolis](https://unitedschoolsindy.org/) (USI) has received a contribution of \$12,500,000 from the VITAL 2023 Charitable Lead Annuity Trust. The contribution was announced on Friday, February 16, at the Avondale Meadows Middle School campus. The gift, which was provided by an anonymous donor, emphasized the importance of investing in teacher and administrator excellence, as highlighted by the VITAL acronym - Vigilance In Teaching And Learning. The donation will fund USI's performance-based bonuses and will be distributed annually in increments of \$500,000 per year over the next 25 years. The funds will be added to USI's existing annual bonus pool of \$150,000, bringing the total funding for performance-based bonuses to \$650,000 per year.

In making the announcement Kelly Herron, Executive Director of USI, stated, "Our staff and faculty have long been dedicated to excellence. This generous gift allows us to further demonstrate our appreciation and recognize their invaluable contributions. By investing in our teachers and staff, we are investing in the future of our schools and our students."

Eligibility for the funding will be extended to the top 30% of teachers and administrators. One award of \$40,000 will be presented annually. The average award will be approximately \$15,000.

"We are thrilled to see the VITAL Trust partnering with our schools to provide bonuses aimed at retaining and attracting top-tier educators," said Kandis Pearson, Principal of Avondale Meadows Academy. "High-performing teachers play a pivotal role in shaping dynamic learning environments and driving improved academic outcomes for our students."

To learn more about United Schools of Indianapolis visit <https://unitedschoolsindy.org/>.

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About United Schools of Indianapolis:

United Schools of Indianapolis (USI) is a network of K-8 public, charter schools authorized by the Indianapolis Mayor’s Office of Education Innovation. Our campuses are located in two of the most underserved communities of Indianapolis. Our schools cultivate a culture where each and every student can reach their full potential in a positive and structured environment. We are a supportive community of teachers, families, and administrators who do our very best to install a love of learning in our scholars that will lead to lifelong success. As charter schools, we have the autonomy to determine the best approach for each scholar and our model has proven successful for more than a decade.