



Our mission: To provide children with special needs the opportunity for an inclusive Catholic education in their home parish schools.

Who benefits from FIRE?

In a word – EVERYONE! Some disabilities are visible. Others are not. Some students require additional support daily. Others need assistance only occasionally. What matters most is that students have access to assistance when they need it. FIRE helps schools provide support so students can succeed and make progress toward goals. Inclusive learning environments promote social, academic and spiritual growth as well as understanding among all students.

FIRE opens doors. And hearts.

Many Catholic schools don't have the resources needed to welcome students with special needs. That's where FIRE comes into play. When you support FIRE, you open the doors of Catholic schools in the Diocese of Kansas City-St. Joseph to children with disabilities. Your generosity makes it possible for schools to hire professional staff and acquire resources that help students of all abilities learn, grow

and thrive. With support from dedicated educators, 237 students with significant special needs will learn alongside their peers at 14 schools during the 2018-19 school year. Another 513 students will benefit from the extra educational support they receive.

Through fundraising and advocacy, FIRE lights the way for children with a range of disabilities to share in the opportunities that Catholic schools provide. Without funding from FIRE, most students with special learning needs would not be able to attend Catholic schools. Inclusive education fosters a culture of acceptance and compassion where ALL students grow together in faith, knowledge and friendship.

It all adds up.

FIRE began with six passionate families and one big dream. Fueled by faith and determination, they united on a mission to open the doors of Catholic schools to children with special needs.

During the past two decades, FIRE has provided over \$5 million to support inclusive Catholic education at partner schools. Our donors' gifts make it possible for schools to hire special educators and para-educators and purchase learning materials and technology. The FIRE Foundation is an independent 501(c)3 organization.

237

STUDENTS WITH SIGNIFICANT
DISABILITIES LEARN ALONGSIDE
THEIR PEERS WITH CONSISTENT
SUPPORT FROM TRAINED STAFF.

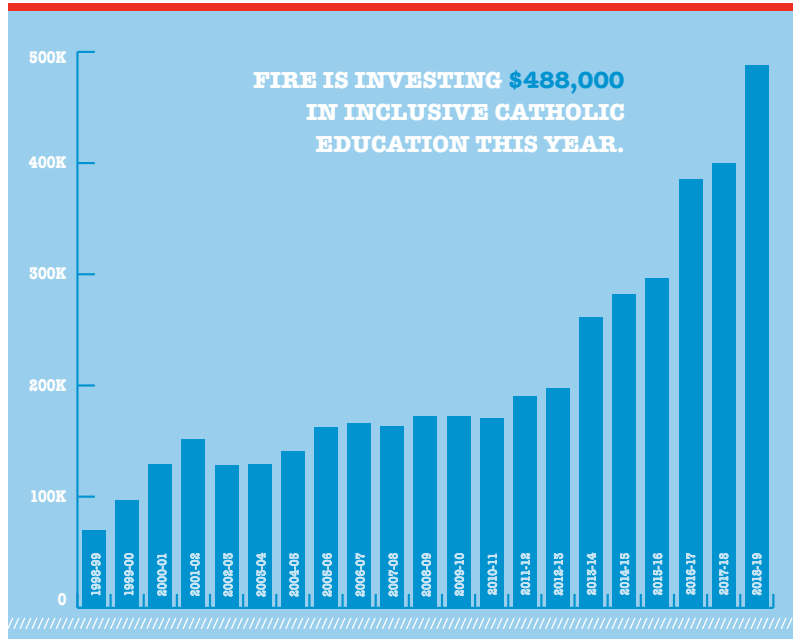
513

STUDENTS BENEFIT FROM
THE AVAILABILITY
OF SPECIAL EDUCATION
SUPPORT.

5,256

STUDENTS' LIVES
ARE ENRICHED BY
INCLUSIVE EDUCATION.

Our support totals \$5.3 million



Your gifts keep FIRE's flame burning brightly.

Our friends are the fuel that keep FIRE's blaze aglow. Without your support, our schools simply wouldn't be able to include kids with significant special needs. Staffing costs for paraprofessionals and special educators range from \$15,000 to \$50,000.

Through your generosity, we've ignited inclusive Catholic education in schools throughout the area. But there are more schools, more families and more children who await the spark of FIRE. Our Foundation currently supports inclusive education in 50% of Diocesan schools.

With your support, we can ensure that more schools are able to welcome students with disabilities.

Your gifts make it possible for schools to provide resources that empower learning and help students succeed. FIRE helps partner schools:

- Hire para-educators
- Hire special education teachers
- Acquire learning technology like iPads and Chromebooks
- Provide professional development for educators

RESPONSIBLE STEWARDSHIP/// By employing best practices in governance and fiscal management, FIRE has earned a reputation for responsible, effective stewardship. FIRE is the recipient of a 2018 Excellence in Nonprofit Management Award.



Lighting the way for our kids.

In partnership with FIRE, 14 area Catholic schools will welcome students with special needs into classrooms this year. We are blessed to be able to support these schools' inclusive learning initiatives and look forward to welcoming additional schools into the FIRE family in the future.

HOLY CROSS	ST. PATRICK
NATIVITY OF MARY	ST. PETER
OUR LADY OF HOPE	ST. PIUS X HIGH SCHOOL
OUR LADY OF THE PRESENTATION	ST. REGIS ACADEMY
ST. CHARLES BORROMEO ACADEMY	ST. THERESE
ST. ELIZABETH	ST. THOMAS MORE
ST. MICHAEL THE ARCHANGEL HIGH SCHOOL	VISITATION

Support FIRE's special mission.

Do you believe Catholic education is for children of ALL abilities? We need your support.

Volunteer. Assist with a special event or program.

Donate. Send a check or give online. It's tax deductible.

Sponsor or Underwrite. Support a FUNdraising event: Play with FIRE Golf Tournament, Purses with Purpose or FIRE Ball gala.

Attend. Join us at one of the above events.

Tell someone. Share your enthusiasm for FIRE's mission and invite friends and family to join us.

Designate. Earmark your United Way donation for the Foundation for Inclusive Religious Education.

Include. Remember FIRE in your estate planning.



FIRE IS SPREADING

We are proud to share our model for supporting inclusive Catholic education with these affiliates:

FIRE Foundation of Northeast Iowa
(Archdiocese of Dubuque)

FIRE Foundation of Central Illinois
(Diocese of Springfield)