



# Frequently Asked Questions

**Q. What are the financial goals of this campaign? How much are you trying to raise and for what?**

A. LEAF has an opportunity to partner with the school district during an upcoming bond issue project. The goal of the LEAF “Change the Game” capital campaign is to raise a minimum of \$1 million in private donations from supporters and key stakeholders such as alumni, business people, parents, and community members. The funds will help us enhance the existing field house as well as build a turf field for sports, in-school athletics, and the marching band.

**Q. Doesn't the school district already receive state aid for building projects? Why does LEAF need to raise money from individuals?**

A. New York State has and will continue to provide funding for school building construction, repair, and improvement projects, but in the future, private gifts will play a larger role in the Lancaster School District's efforts to maintain a standard of excellence beyond what traditional funding will allow. LEAF is a vehicle to leverage private donations and grants to provide exceptional opportunities that make the Lancaster community and its schools a place where students can reach their highest potential in the classroom, in the arts, in athletics, and other extracurricular activities. Our inaugural capital campaign will support two of these superlative venues for student and community use: an enhanced field house and turf field for athletic and marching band use.

**Q. Is my contribution tax deductible?**

A. Your contribution is tax deductible as LEAF is an IRS-approved 501(c)(3) New York State not-for-profit corporation. Please check with your tax advisor on any applicable tax laws.

**Q. What if I'd like to give stock instead of cash?**

A. All gifts to the capital campaign, including gifts of securities, are eligible for tax deductions, depending on your personal tax situation. For more information on the deductibility of your gift, please consult your professional tax advisor.

**Q. How much of my donation would go directly to the capital project?**

A. LEAF is a volunteer organization with little to no administrative costs other than marketing materials and postage, therefore 100 percent of your capital gift will be used toward the turf field and expanding the field house during this phase of the capital campaign.

**Q. Can I give to LEAF through the United Way?**

A. Yes. Please email us at [LEAFoundation@aol.com](mailto:LEAFoundation@aol.com) to find out how to list LEAF as your donor-designated choice if you would like to contribute through your local United Way campaign.

**Q. Whom do I contact if I want to learn more about making a gift to LEAF?**

A. Please email your contact information to [LEAFoundation@aol.com](mailto:LEAFoundation@aol.com) and a member of our board of directors will get in touch with you to discuss the organization, the campaign, and any questions you might have.

**Q. How do I make a gift?**

A. Gifts can be made online at: [nyleaf.org](http://nyleaf.org) or mailed to: LEAF, PO Box 196, Lancaster, NY 14086. Checks should be made payable to Lancaster Educational and Alumni Foundation.

**Q. Is there a minimum gift amount? How much does it take to make an impact?**

A. Our inaugural campaign goal is \$1 million. There is no minimum gift amount. Together, all gifts make a difference and have an impact in reaching our goal.

**Q. I already support LEAF through membership. Does this mean I am being asked to continue that AND make an additional gift to the capital campaign?**

A. Yes. It happens that occasionally during the lifespan of most nonprofit organizations, an infusion of capital dollars is required in order to grow and to offer enhanced services. This is the first time LEAF has embarked upon a capital campaign of this magnitude in support of Lancaster schools. The campaign is about bringing new, private dollars dedicated to enhancing school facilities. LEAF has a simultaneous need for both capital and operating funds.

**Q. Can I make a pledge to the capital campaign and pay it over time?**

A. Yes. Our ability to raise additional funds, including the debt financing required for construction, is dependent on the early commitments of our supporters. Many contributors to the campaign will pay their pledges over a three-year period to accommodate a more substantial pledge.

**Q. When will the construction start and when will the facilities be ready for use?**

A. Ideally, construction will begin in 2017 and be complete by the beginning of the 2019-20 school year.

**Q. Are there any naming or sponsorship opportunities?**

A. Yes. There are a number of naming and sponsorship opportunities available. LEAF will work in collaboration with the district regarding recognition of donors.

**Q. What happens if I donate to the “Change the Game” campaign and LEAF doesn’t raise the amount needed to complete the projects?**

A. Based on early commitments from several large donors, we have every expectation of meeting our campaign goal. However, in the event we fall short, we will contact our large private donors to determine their wishes regarding their contributions. For gifts of \$1,000 or less, the donation will go toward LEAF’s general operating budget to help other projects throughout the school district, for example classroom mini-grants, scholarships, and other special programming that could not be funded in the school district’s budget.

**Q. What if I’d like to contribute, but can’t afford to make a large gift at this time?**

A. There are many ways to contribute to LEAF. Your annual membership support of \$5 helps us to provide resources such as classroom mini-grants and scholarships. We are always in need of volunteers and visionaries to help take LEAF to the next level. Finally, LEAF is a conduit that can provide connections for schools and teachers. For example, you may have a unique talent or skill that would augment classroom instruction as a guest speaker. In addition, there are opportunities for mentors, classroom volunteers, internship providers, etc. LEAF is an inclusive organization that welcomes the membership of all supporters of Lancaster schools. Together, we can build a strong network for the betterment of Lancaster schools and the community.

