



Your support enables REC to continue enriching the lives of students in the Grand Valley.







Mission:

Riverside Educational Center provides Mesa County students with high-quality academic and extracurricular experiences during out-of-school time to foster individual growth and to create community within a safe, diverse, equitable, inclusive environment.

Vision:

Riverside Educational Center envisions a community where all students realize their goals and fulfill their dreams.

What We Do:

- After-school tutoring
- On-site educational enrichment
- Off-site educational enrichment
- Career and college readiness
- Support with transitions between grades and after graduation
- Summer programming
- Family engagement and support
- Social and emotional learning and mental health strategies
- Community connection
- Outdoor education

Core Values:

Quality: intentional, thoughtful, structured, student-centered

Safety: prioritize student safety, provide a safe place during the risky after-school hours, promote community and belonging within a safe environment

Equity: adaptable, authentic, flexible, accepting, empowering, inclusive

Sustainability: practical and grounded in what we do, exhibiting responsible financial stewardship, committed

Collaboration: driven by care, connection, advocacy, and strong relationships

Leadership: instigating change; operating in service to others; supporting and promoting leadership in students, staff, and community partners

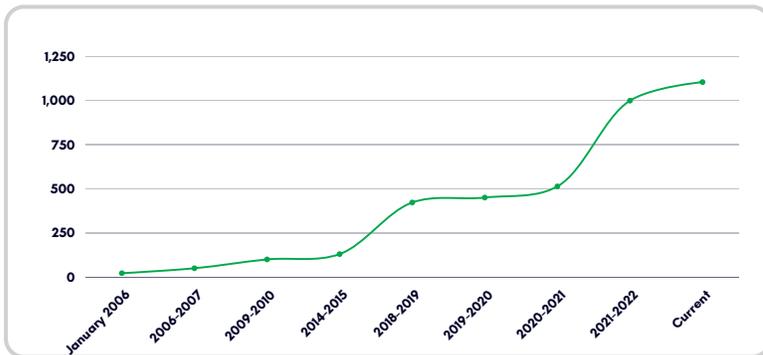
Personal Development: for students, staff, families, community partners, and volunteers





REC
NOW
&
THEN

REC ENROLLMENT



REC started in January 2006 with 22 students enrolled. Today, it serves over 1100 students and their families.

REC TODAY

- **Over 1100 students enrolled** in 2022-2023, with more than 700 participating regularly.
- REC serves **16 school sites**: 9 elementary, 4 middle school, and 3 high school.
- 95% of parents, 89% of teachers, and 99% of staff believe students showed growth and benefited academically from being involved in REC.
- REC serves **students from K to 12th grade**, as well as providing support services for REC graduates who attend Colorado Mesa University.
- REC employs over **200 admin and program staff**.

a brief history of RIVERSIDE EDUCATIONAL CENTER

January 2006

REC is founded in January 2006, offering homework help and enrichment activities to **22 students** in elementary and middle school from Grand Junction's Riverside neighborhood. REC operates from modular units while the Riverside School building is renovated.



2006-2007

In the 2006-2007 school year, REC moves into the completed Riverside School. With a budget of **\$14,000**, it serves **50 students**.



2009-2010

Enrollment reaches **100 students**, filling REC's available space.

Grant writer Joy Hudak joins founder Mary Spirio in sharing REC's executive director position. REC's budget grows to **\$211,000**.

2010-2011

The first **Taste of Riverside** features a delicious tamale dinner prepared with the help of REC moms. This fundraiser, which will become REC's signature annual event, **raises \$15,000**.



2014-2105

REC **expands programming** to Grand Junction High School. Joy Hudak assumes the full role of executive director. The REC community now includes **130 students**, 3 full-time staff, 10 part-time staff, 6 CMU work study participants, and 90 volunteer tutors. Its budget is **\$442,000**.

2018-2019

Having received a 21st Century Community Learning Centers grant, REC expands to **9 sites in total** (4 elementary, 4 middle school, 1 high school), serving **422 students**. Its budget is **\$1,332,600**.

2019-2020

During the Covid-19 shutdown, REC is displaced from its Riverside location and moves to virtual programming. REC staff support families through connection to local services, as well as deliveries of food and enrichment projects to homes. Enrollment grows to **450 students**. REC's budget is **\$1,626,800**.

2020-2021

Fall 2020 brings a spacious new location for REC (thanks to a generous benefactor), **two new sites**, and a return to in-person programming. REC's budget grows to **\$2,315,000** and enrollment expands to **513 students**.



2021-2022

Programming expands to a total of **15 sites and 998 students**. Taste of Riverside, held in REC's new warehouse, **raises \$140,000**. REC's budget is **\$3,616,000**.



2022 - 2023

Programming expands to a total of **16 sites**, including Palisade High School. Taste of Riverside continues to grow, resulting in REC's most successful fundraiser ever, **raising \$205,000**.



In 2020, when the world changed for so many people and organizations, Riverside Educational Center (REC) was no exception. Due to COVID-19 restrictions, we were forced to move out of our space at the Riverside School and find a new place for REC to call home.

While we loved our home at Riverside, our new location on Winters Avenue has increased our office, storage, meeting, food prep, and work areas. It has quickly become an indispensable part of REC operations and has allowed us to grow and expand, helping REC reach even more of the students that call the Grand Valley home.



Now, REC hopes to make this space our long-term home by purchasing the property and securing the use for years to come, but we need the community's help to make this dream a reality.

Capital Campaign Goals:

REC's aim is to continue to achieve sustainable growth that meets the needs of our community. Our capital campaign goals include acquiring our existing space, as well as an adjacent unit, allowing for capital improvements and long-term programming sustainability.



Phase One: Complete a strategic plan and determine the feasibility of a capital campaign to secure a permanent home for REC.

Phase Two: Acquire two adjoining units to serve as the operational base for REC:

- Purchase REC's existing office space with capital funds by Dec 31, 2023.
- Receive adjacent property as a donation from the property owner.

Phase Three: Raise funds necessary for capital improvements to meet the current and future needs of the organization.

Phase Four: Raise funds to secure programming sustainability that supports the future growth of the organization.



The 20,000+ square foot space, in addition to providing office space for our staff, has a large warehouse that has proven instrumental in the day-to-day operations of REC.

Here are some highlights of REC's current location.

Office Space for Administrative and Program Staff - The office currently houses REC administrative and program professionals.

Community Events - The space is available for community members to utilize for their meetings and conference needs. For instance, REC hosted a regional conference for the Colorado Department of Education in January 2023 in the warehouse/meeting space.

Training Rooms - REC works hard to ensure its 200+ staff members are highly trained and prepared to better serve the youth in our community. This space allows for ongoing and annual training events to ensure staff have the tools to help those students who need it most.

Fundraising Space - In addition to community events, the space has also been utilized for fundraising efforts. REC's signature event, Taste of Riverside, is held in the warehouse, with our last event being the largest and most successful to date.

Programming Materials Storage - The warehouse provides ample storage for academic, tutoring, and enrichment supplies. It also houses outdoor recreation supplies including skiing and camping gear, as well as our bike fleet, used for outdoor and summer activities.





Programming Space - The space allows for off-site enrichment opportunities for REC students. Larger programming, such as REC's Freshman Forum, have taken place in the space, with more enrichment opportunities planned for the future.

Snack Preparation Area - REC provides daily healthy, meal-sized snacks to the students in our program.

The warehouse acts as REC's hub for storing, preparing, and delivering these snacks to our 16 program sites.

Bus Storage - REC has a bus fleet to help us get students home after the program and to facilitate our off-site enrichment activities. The property provides a secure space to store vehicles when needed.

Centrally Located - The current space is located in a centralized location. With easy access to Riverside Parkway, it is an ideal spot for our staff working across the valley to convene and prepare for their programs.

Renovated for Our Needs - During the course of our tenancy at Winters Avenue, the building owner has renovated the property to suit REC's specific needs. As a result, this space requires less renovation after purchase than would other potential sites.



"The capital campaign will help REC secure its financial future so that it can continue to provide necessary academic and social supports to students and their families."

Steve Bennett, REC Board Member

A New Space

The building owner intends to donate an adjacent unit, 1199 Winters Avenue, to REC. This office/warehouse space provides additional opportunities for REC expansion. With over 10,000 square feet, this unit ensures that REC can grow sustainably, both in size and in programming, as the organization continues to be a leader in youth services for Mesa County.



State of Colorado Child Care Contribution Tax Credit Information and Guidance



Riverside Educational Center
After School Tutoring and Enrichment

The following information clarifies the Child Care Contribution Tax Credit rules and regulations as put forth by the Colorado Department of Revenue.

You will find the official state guidelines at this link:

https://tax.colorado.gov/sites/tax/files/DR1317_2013.pdf or QR code:



Please note, this information is not a substitute for consulting with your tax professional.

1. **TIME PERIOD:** From October 7, 2022 - December 31, 2024, all monetary donations to REC are eligible for a **29% Colorado state tax credit**. This is a nonrefundable credit which can be carried forward for up to five years and applied to any tax liability you may have during this time period.
2. **AMOUNT OF CREDIT:** The maximum tax credit you can claim is \$100,000 during a single tax year. For REC, a contribution equalling \$344,827.59 would result in a \$100,000 tax credit.
3. **ANNUAL LIMIT:** The annual limit of \$100,000 applies jointly to taxpayers filing together. Credits cannot exceed tax liability in any given year. Tax credits can be carried forward for up to five tax years, but are not refundable.
4. **ELIGIBLE TAXPAYERS:** Any taxpayer making a qualifying contribution can claim the child care contribution credit. Resident and nonresident individuals, estates, trusts, and C corporations can claim the credit for qualifying contributions they make, either directly or as a partner or a shareholder in a partnership or S corporation that makes a qualifying contribution.
5. **IRA CONTRIBUTIONS:** Qualifying charitable distributions made directly from IRA accounts are eligible for the tax credit.
6. **REC ELIGIBILITY:** For purposes of this tax credit, REC is a registered, unlicensed child care facility, as approved by the Colorado Department of Revenue on October 7, 2022.
7. **PERCENTAGE OF QUALIFYING STUDENTS SERVED:** The tax credit is allowed only for the part of the contribution used for qualified purposes (serving children ages 12 and younger). In REC's case, the 50% credit applies to 58% of the donation (the percentage of REC programming serving children ages 12 and younger).
8. **END OF TAX CREDIT PERIOD:** Contributions made after December 31, 2024 are not eligible for this tax credit.



Riverside Educational Center
After School Tutoring and Enrichment

Additional Giving Options

REC is incredibly fortunate to have a strong level of community support and donor involvement. Another way to support REC and our capital campaign is through donations of stock or IRA Charitable Rollovers.

Stocks

REC can accept gifts of appreciated stock. A gift of appreciated stock made directly to REC can have significant tax benefits for donors, as it allows the donor to avoid paying the capital gains tax on the sale of the stock.

REC has created a brokerage account through Timberline Bank and WealthSource Partners for the purpose of accepting gifts of appreciated stock. If you are interested in learning more, please contact Kristen Lummis (kristen@rec4kids.com). She can connect you to our brokerage account representative.

IRA Charitable Rollovers

Additionally, REC can also accept IRA Charitable Rollovers, also known as Qualified Charitable Distributions. These donations also have a tax benefit for donors age 70 ½ or older. IRA rules allow donors to make a contribution directly from an IRA account to REC without paying taxes on the distribution.

If you are interested in making a gift of appreciated stock or an IRA Qualified Charitable Distribution, please contact your financial advisor.

