



**To learn more about
The Wolf School,
please contact:**

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What would you do if your child couldn't learn?

This was the dilemma faced by The Wolf School founders—when despite best efforts at an outstanding private school and significant tutorial and therapeutic interventions—their son was failing.

Turning to experts in education, occupational therapy, and speech pathology, this visionary group became convinced that other children with similar learning profiles could benefit from an alternative educational setting. This founding board designed an educational model to meet the academic, social, and therapeutic needs of complex learners, and in 1999, the Wolf School opened its doors to three students in a single classroom.

Now located in its permanent home in East Providence, Wolf educates up to 50 children a year in grades 1-8 from Rhode Island, Massachusetts, and Connecticut. This extraordinary growth confirmed that the school filled a previously unmet need in the educational community.

“Placing our son at the Wolf School was an excruciating decision, presenting enormous financial ramifications for our family and our future. And it has changed our lives. It provided him with what he so desperately needs and it provided us with the miracle of hope.” — A Wolf School parent

- ▶ *Imagine people talking to you but not being able to understand what they are saying.*
- ▶ *Imagine not having a sense of your body in space, and constantly bumping into things.*
- ▶ *Imagine being 8 years old and never invited to a birthday party.*

Understanding our students

Wolf school students possess strong creative skills and exhibit humor, passion, and persistence. Although bright and inquisitive, they have a different way of learning.

Wolf students have difficulty communicating, following directions, participating in a group, problem solving, and making friends.

Most Wolf students have experienced years of school failure causing feelings of frustration, anxiety, disappointment, and confusion. If not addressed, over time, this can lead to negative feelings about school, low self-esteem, and isolation.



Small school... big results

Picture yourself waking up each morning knowing that almost everything you are expected to do that day will bring frustration or failure. Prior to coming to Wolf, this is exactly how our students experienced school. After Wolf, it is a different story.

"I hear him talking about his future in a different way—the world is opening up to him, he now believes there are possibilities." — A Wolf School parent

"My son hated school since 1st grade and he had no friends. Since he's been at Wolf, he is less moody at home—he's calmer and he actually likes school." — A parent of a new Wolf student

Why Wolf works

The Wolf School is succeeding with complex learners.

While Wolf students are of average or above average cognitive potential, they experience enormous difficulty progressing in a traditional classroom due to a trilogy of learning difficulties that includes language processing and production challenges, significant sensory integration problems, and ineffective social communication.

To address these multiple barriers to learning, the Wolf School created an "immersion model" whereby therapeutic support is incorporated into the entire curriculum throughout the day.

The immersion model utilizes a team of teachers, occupational therapists, and speech pathologists in each classroom to ensure lessons integrate language, sensory, and social skills. Working in small classrooms (5-8 children, with a faculty/student ratio of 1:4 or smaller) staff continually respond to each child's instructional needs. Using the collective expertise of our professional team, therapeutic supports are seamlessly woven into learning. This unique educational approach allows Wolf students to be ready to listen, attend to task, and be ready to learn.



The Annual Fund at The Wolf School

The Wolf School has experienced significant growth in enrollment since its inception. This in turn has generated greater school-wide needs. As an independent school, tuition covers the majority of what it costs to educate a child at Wolf, yet gaps remain in areas that are critical to providing an optimal educational environment for complex learners. **The Annual Fund** at the Wolf School was created to bridge those gaps.

Unlike many independent schools, however, our community of supporters must extend beyond families and alumni. As a relatively new and small institution focused on a population of students with significant learning challenges, our objective is to develop a giving circle that encompasses individuals, corporations, and foundations who find that our mission and achievements resonate with their philanthropic goals and interests.

The Annual Fund at Wolf is an opportunity to support several key needs:

Faculty professional development and compensation

Our greatest asset at The Wolf School is beyond a doubt our faculty. These accomplished teachers and therapists invest enormous time, energy, and talent in our students, creating an extraordinary learning environment that produces results. Our goal is to attract and retain this dedicated group of experts through competitive salaries and benefits, and outstanding professional development opportunities.

Technology

While technology has become increasingly important as a learning tool in educational settings, it is even more critical at The Wolf School. The computer is ideal for many of our students, providing focus, step-by-step instruction with feedback, and a multisensory experience. In addition, we rely on specialized educational software for children with reading and writing difficulties, incorporate new technologies such as Smart Boards into the classroom, and teach students research and writing techniques with the computer that provide significant assistance with their work.

Capital and building needs

While general building maintenance and upkeep is funded through tuition dollars, larger capital needs and projects are not. We have already incurred unexpected capital expenses, needing to replace our roof this summer. In addition we will need to update our fire alarm system and install a new master clock system.

Financial aid

As a new independent school, we do not have an endowment to make tuition assistance possible. The Board committed to providing 5% of the tuition revenue base as aid; however, this amount does not allow us to meet families' tuition needs at the rate they qualify for. In addition, we have seen an increase in the number of students referred to Wolf who fit our criteria, but don't pursue admissions because the tuition is beyond their means. By generating more revenue for financial aid, we will be able to widen the net of students who would greatly benefit from our model.

Our goal this year is to raise \$160,000 through major donors, direct mail gifts, and our annual Discover the Difference event. This effort will take place between July 1, 2006 and June 30, 2007, and requires the support and commitment of the entire Wolf community.



Visit www.thewolfschool.org for more information

For more information about The Wolf School Annual Fund, please contact:

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How you can help

There are many ways to support the Annual Fund at Wolf. Call or email Marie Esposito, Director of Development, to discuss your interests, questions, or ideas.

- Do you have **expertise** or interest in marketing, public relations, or fundraising? Join our Development Committee and help us strategize new ways to sustain and expand our resources.
- Our **Discover the Difference Cocktail Reception & Auction** has become a yearly event that raises important awareness and financial support for Wolf, and is a lot of fun! Join the Discover the Difference Committee and help make this fantastic event our best ever.
- Consider making a **tax deductible donation** to the Wolf School at a level that is meaningful to you. As a member of our Giving Circle your philanthropic support will be recognized annually. You can mail your gift directly to:
 The Wolf School
 215 Ferris Avenue
 East Providence, RI 02916
- Do you have a **United Way giving program** at your place of employment? Consider designating The Wolf School as the recipient of your contribution. Simply write The Wolf School on your pledge form under designated agency, and your donation will be sent to Wolf.
- Spread the word—**tell someone you know** about Wolf. Invite a friend or colleague to an event or for a visit to the school. Add names to our mailing list. Host a “Friend Raiser” at your home. We want to share our success and widen our community of supporters and you can help!

- **Corporate involvement** is an important resource for assisting our efforts. We receive company support in the form of event sponsorships, matching gifts, and charitable contributions. If you or someone you know works for a company that could help in any of these ways, let us know. We'll help you take the next steps.

Annual Fund Giving Circles

Giving Circles at The Wolf School are groups of donors recognized for making leadership gifts that provide an important and substantial foundation to our annual fund. These donors embody a philanthropic spirit that deeply values our mission and helps to create an extraordinary educational environment where complex learners can thrive. Leadership gifts are cash, stocks, or in-kind contributions valued at \$1,000 or more that are made within one year. Donors in these Giving Circles will be acknowledged in our Annual Report and celebrated and honored in various ways throughout the year.

Investors Circle	\$10,000 +
Partners Circle	\$5,000 to \$9,999
Champions Circle	\$2,500 to \$4,999
Advocates Circle	\$1,000 to \$2,499

In addition to these leadership gifts, Wolf recognizes the significance and generosity of all annual gifts. Donors who contribute under \$1,000 are listed as part of our **Friends Circle** in our Annual Report.

Patrons	\$500 to \$999
Associates	\$250 to \$499
Members	\$100 to \$249
Supporters	\$50 to \$99

“My son needed a 1:1 aide in his prior school. Now for the first time he is part of a group. He tells me he can understand his teachers, and his only complaint is that the day isn't longer!” — A parent of a new Wolf student