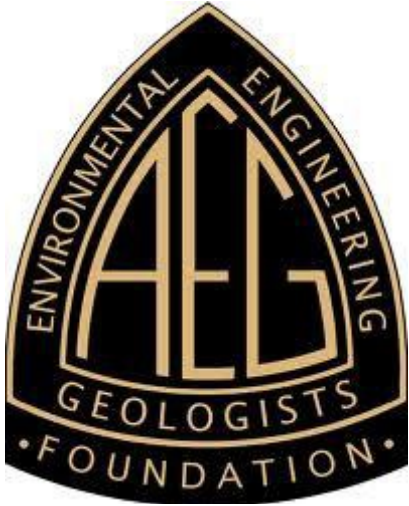


# AEG FOUNDATION



## CHARTER

## K-14 EDUCATION FUND

SUPPORTING GEOLOGICAL EDUCATION IN EARTH SCIENCE FOR ELEMENTARY,  
MIDDLE, AND HIGH SCHOOLS; AND TECHNICAL AND COMMUNITY COLLEGES

**AEG FOUNDATION  
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## THE PURPOSE OF AEG FOUNDATION FUND CHARTERS

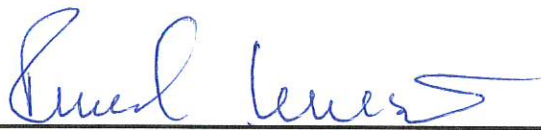
An AEG Foundation Fund Charter is a document adopted by the Board of Directors. It describes (as applicable)

- the history of a fund,
- donor intent,
- the purpose for which the fund may and may not be used,
- the Board's goals for the fund,
- administrative operating criteria, and
- financial operating criteria.

A Fund Charter demonstrates the Board's commitment to prudent management of the Foundation's resources and compliance with applicable laws and regulations. Within the framework of AEG Foundation governance, a Fund Charter is a policy document that may be amended or interpreted by the Board through a simple majority vote. A Fund Charter may refer to other documents that further describe the operations and nature of a fund. Formal Resolutions of the Board that apply to a particular fund will be attached to the Fund Charter as appendices.

This Charter for the K-14 Education Fund was duly adopted by the Board of Directors of the AEG Foundation on January 13, 2020.

By:



Rosalind Munro, Secretary



# **FUND CHARTER**

## **K-14 EDUCATION FUND**

### **PURPOSE AND SCOPE**

The K-14 Education Fund was established by the AEG Foundation to advocate the learning and teaching of the science of geology in K-14 education. Initially called the K-12 Education Fund, the charter was amended in 2019 to include technical and community colleges and renamed the K-14 Education Fund. Initial funding was provided by the AEG Foundation Greatest Need Fund.

K-14 education provides an important developmental stage in a student's education. The coursework to which students are exposed during this stage can spark interest in geology and influence the choices they continue to make in their academic career paths.

The Fund was inspired by members of the Association of Environmental & Engineering Geologists (AEG) K-12 Education Committee and the Committee's preparation of the AEG Policy Statement on Promoting Geology in K-12 Education adopted by the AEG Board of Directors on April 16, 2011.

The purpose of the K-14 Education Fund is to encourage K-14 students, K-14 teachers, and elementary schools, middle schools, high schools, and technical and community colleges to explore methods and technologies to teach geology including, but not limited to, hands-on demonstrations of classroom activities and materials, attendance at earth science meetings focusing on methods and technologies to learn and teach geology, geologic field trips, invited professional demonstrations, and related activities.

Recipients of grants must be accredited K-14 teachers, an elementary, middle or high school, or an accredited school district within the United States, or an accredited technical school or community college. Membership in AEG is not a requirement, but is encouraged.

### **FUND ADMINISTRATION AND OPERATION**

#### General Conditions

Grants from the K-14 Education Fund are intended to recognize and support deserving K-14 teachers, and elementary schools, middle schools, high schools, and technical and community colleges with the development of geological curriculum. The Fund does not support general and administrative (overhead) costs, technical or scientific consulting fees, or equipment purchase or maintenance costs of an educational institution employing or teaching individuals who receive grants from it. In applying for a grant from the AEG Foundation, the grant applicant agrees to

- use the funds received from the AEG Foundation for the proposed use,
- use the funds in accordance with applicable law and regulation,
- avoid activities in the use of the funds that would jeopardize the AEG Foundation's tax-exempt status,
- provide the Foundation with a brief written report on the activities sponsored by the grant (suitable for publication in the AEG News) within one year of grant approval or the grant in full must be returned, and
- provide verification of applicable accreditations and enrollment records during the life of the grant as allowable by law.

The AEG Foundation shall issue IRS Forms 1099 to fund recipients in accordance with IRS regulations. Recipients will be asked to provide the necessary information to complete the form.

Recipients should consult their tax advisors regarding taxability of the grant.

In keeping with the Internal Revenue Code classification of the AEG Foundation as a 501(c)(3) charitable organization, the Foundation will not make grants supporting activities or publications that are designed to be used to influence political decisions or processes. The AEG Foundation Board of Directors will make all decisions regarding disbursement of grants from the K-14 Education Fund in its sole discretion.

#### Application Review and Awards

Grant applications will be made using the application form on the AEG Foundation website and submitted electronically to the Foundation Executive Director. The Executive Director will forward the application to the Board and to the Chair of the Programs Committee. The Programs Committee will review the application and make a recommendation to the Board. Applications should be submitted at least 90 days before funds are required. Each calendar year, the Foundation plans to award grants depending upon funds available. One or more grants may be made available each year, as funds allow. All decisions of the Board of Directors are final.

#### Management Protocols for the K-14 Education Fund

The fund management protocols represent a desire by the Board to achieve long-term stability in the administration of the Foundation's assets and uniformity in the administration of its scholarship funds and programs. The objective of protecting certain funds from invasion is supported by implementing Board-Designated Set-Asides as the fund balance grows.

##### *K-14 Education Fund Management Protocols*

1. Unless otherwise specified by the donor, contributions to the K-14 Education Fund are classified as Temporarily Restricted Net Assets in accordance with Accounting Standard Classification (ASC) until such contributions are expended for purposes consistent with this Charter. Earnings from contributions are classified as Unrestricted Net Assets, unless otherwise specified by the donor. The Fund may accept contributions with time or purpose limits consistent with this Charter. The Foundation's gift acceptance policy will apply. The Board may from time to time reclassify assets of the Fund in accordance with ASC, consistent with donor intent.
2. Identifiable costs directly related to the operation of the Fund may be expensed to the Fund.
3. The Board may assess an administrative support fee to assist in funding the Foundation's general administrative and fundraising functions.

### **GOALS ADOPTED BY THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

#### **Long-Term Use of the Fund**

The Board believes that the K-14 Education Fund Purpose and Scope made a part of the Fund Charter are consistent with the Foundation's mission and authority. The Board believes that the Fund should grow to make more or larger awards.

#### **Fund Balance Goals**

The Board sets the long-term funding goal for the K-14 Education Fund at \$200,000. For fund development purposes, this goal is divided into \$25,000 increments.

## **SCHEDULE FOR REVIEW OF CHARTER, FUND OPERATIONS, AND GOALS**

The Board may maintain this charter unchanged or make revisions at any time. This fund charter shall be reviewed by the Board of Directors at least every five years on a schedule to be determined by the Board. The Programs Committee shall prepare a review report with recommendations for consideration by the Board at that time.

**APPENDIX ONE**  
**AEG POLICY ON K-12 EDUCATION**

**Association of Environmental & Engineering Geologists**  
**POLICY ON PROMOTING GEOLOGY IN K-12 EDUCATION**

*Approved by the Board of Directors on April 16, 2011*

It is the position of the Association of Environmental & Engineering Geologists (AEG) that the primary and secondary education of youth in the basic elements of geology along with other earth and space sciences will improve the health, safety and welfare of our society. Governments must make complex and critical decisions about natural resources, processes and conditions that may have long-range financial and societal consequences. Therefore, AEG has established this policy to guide its membership in promoting the inclusion of geology instruction in K-12 education.

AEG recognizes that knowledge gained through education in geologic and other earth and space science principles is the key to future development and management of groundwater, surface water, mineral and energy resources, formulation of land-use policies, proper management of hazardous waste, and design and maintenance of engineered structures. As populations grow, urban centers will expand into marginal lands where greater impacts will occur from geologic processes such as earthquakes, floods, coastal erosion, sea level changes and landslides. These important societal decisions will require an understanding of geologic and other earth and space science principles and also the highest possible quality of K-12 education.

K-12 classroom instruction should cover geology and related mathematics, chemistry, biology, physics, meteorology, and environmental science. Students will then gain an understanding of critical thinking skills and the scientific method and its principles of data collection, hypothesis formulation, experimentation, and analysis. Strong K-12 instruction in geologic and other earth and space sciences will instill in our future scientists and leaders the ability to conceptualize physical data and a greater understanding and appreciation of the world around us. Societies will always need well-educated scientists and leaders to sustain and improve our standards of living. The decision to follow a specific career path is often made by youth early in their educational experience. Inclusion of geology instruction early in the K-12 educational process will increase the numbers of youth who decide on a geology career path.

AEG advocates school boards, administrators and teachers to provide K-12 geology instruction through their earth science curriculum. AEG encourages earth science teachers to support their geology instruction through participation in workshops, seminars, and conferences. AEG and its membership, through the AEG Foundation and other non-profit organizations, will seek opportunities to support K-12 geology instruction through cooperation with other professional earth science-based societies, and by implementing a K-12 geology instruction support program.

**APPENDIX TWO**

**K-12 EDUCATION FUND RECIPIENTS, INCOME, AND EXPENSES**

To be written annually.

**APPENDIX THREE**

**BOARD RESOLUTIONS AND MOTIONS**

- 12/02/2015 Original charter approved by the AEG Foundation Board of Directors.
- 12/02/2015 Initial K-12 funding of \$2,500 by transfer from Greatest Need Fund.
- 12/09/2019 Revised charter amended to include technical and community colleges and change fund name to K-14 Education Fund.