



## **Frequently Asked Questions**

### **About TEP**

1. **What is TEP?** Topanga Enrichment Programs (TEP) is a Non-Profit 501(c)3 Corporation specifically created to provide enriched educational opportunities to students of Topanga Elementary Charter School.
2. **Is TEP the same as a PTA?** NO, TEP is not the same as the PTA. TEP is in essence a booster fund, with the goal to provide resources that LAUSD cannot.
3. **What is TEP's budget?** TEP operates an annual budget of around \$300,000. The TEP Board reviews the budget annually comparing the annual contributions to the annual expenses to assess if any adjustments in expenditures are required.
4. **When is it important to contribute?** TEP asks that each family contribute to the TEP "Giving Fund" at the beginning of the school year. This ensures that TEP has sufficient funds to cover expenses that need to be paid in the beginning of the school year. There are other opportunities to contribute both time and monetary donations at various fundraisers throughout the year.
5. **Are my contributions to TEP tax deductible?** Your donation to the "Giving Fund" is completely tax deductible. Contributions at TEP fundraisers are generally not tax deductible because you are receiving something for which you are paying.
6. **Does TEP make a difference?** TEP funds enable the school to have instructional aids in the classrooms, a class size reduction teacher, a science teacher/program, a physical education program, an art teacher/program, new library resources, and classroom computers.
7. **Who runs TEP?** There is a Board of up to 13 Directors running TEP. All Directors are parents at the school. Any parent with a child enrolled in Topanga Elementary who has donated at least \$1 to TEP may run to be on the Board. Elections are held annually in June.
8. **Can parents go to TEP meetings?** YES, we meet once a month, usually on the second Tuesday of each month at 7pm in Room 14 at the school.
9. **Can parents suggest ideas to TEP?** YES, please contact TEP's President at [president@topangaelementary.org](mailto:president@topangaelementary.org)
10. **Does anyone on TEP's board get paid?** NO, all Board Members are unpaid volunteers.
11. **Where can I learn more about TEP?** TEP's Bylaws and financial information are available on the school's website [www.topangaelementary.org](http://www.topangaelementary.org)