

Hello, my name is Zachary Kean. I'm 9 years old and I am a 4th Grade Student at Tucker Maxon School in Portland.

I'm here to ask for your support for my school to improve its infrastructure. I'd like to share how Tucker Maxon School supports me and its students every day.

I was born with **normal hearing**. I got really sick as a baby which left me with a bilateral hearing loss. I missed a lot of the sounds around me. Because of this my speech didn't develop correctly and it was hard to understand me. I was four when I got my first hearing aids.

~~At first, I started in public school. School was not easy for me. My hearing aids were not adjusted to my hearing loss correctly and it made me feel upset. No one understood what it was like to wear hearing aids at my first school. Then my parents brought me to Tucker Maxon School.~~

Tucker Maxon School has helped me a lot and changed my life in three ways:

- First, they adjusted my hearing aids so they didn't upset me so much. My audiologist is right across the hall from my class.
- Second, the special teachers helped me speak clearly so everyone could understand me better. ~~All of the teachers are awesome and understand kids like me.~~
- Third, they gave me smaller class size which makes a big difference in attention as well as noise.

~~Tucker Maxon is the only school in Oregon that helps children with hearing loss learn to listen and talk. It's special, and I feel lucky to have our school here in Portland. It has been doing this for over 70 years. Many parts of it are old and need repair.~~

You may wonder why the State should provide public money for our small private school.

The reason is Tucker Maxon saves tax dollars now and in the future. By the time I am in high school, I won't need added services because I will have learned the skills I need to succeed in any school. One day, thanks to Tucker Maxon, I will have a career and pay taxes. And I know what taxes are because my mom is an accountant.

Please support our school and ~~invest in our~~ invest in our infrastructure and future for the next 70 years. Thank You.