15,200+ SCHOLARS
36 SCHOOLS
Bay Area · Central Valley · Los Angeles
Dear Aspire Partner,

Looking ahead toward Aspire’s 25th anniversary in the fall, we spent this school year revisiting our Vision and Mission to ensure they reflect the fullness of who we are, what we believe, and the impact we seek. I am deeply proud of Aspire’s roots, and incredibly humbled to lead an organization that is committed to learning and evolving in partnership with those we serve—our scholars, families, and communities.

Our refreshed Vision and Mission statements are a result of many months of shared conversation and work among Aspire scholars, families, teammates, and partners. Through community conversations, surveys, and focus groups, we strived to ensure the foundation we set this year encompasses the hopes and dreams of our broader community. Together with our Core Values and Equity Commitments, I see our refreshed Vision and Mission as bold reflections of our organization’s growth mindset and steady progress to create the world we want to see, in service of our communities. As we continue this collective work to bring our Vision and Mission to life, we are deeply grateful for the philanthropic partners who help encourage us to aim higher and allow us to bring many essential programs and supports to our scholars and teammates.

This was a year of building our renewed foundation, and we are excited to celebrate this milestone with you in this year’s Gratitude Report.

In partnership,

Mala Batra, CEO
Aspire Public Schools
Aspire scholars are prepared and empowered to build a fulfilling and liberated future for themselves and their communities.

**Our Mission**

Provide a rigorous, joyful academic experience that cultivates our scholars’ skills, talents, and gifts, such that they may pursue and persist in college or any post-secondary pathway that is authentic to their identities.

Promote inclusivity and disrupt systems that have historically oppressed marginalized communities, including Black, Latino/a/x, Indigenous, and People of Color.

Nurture our scholars’ pride in their abilities, identities, and communities.
Our Graduation Results

95% for Aspire Scholars

vs 87% in California

Our Scholars

- 73% Latinx
- 11% Black or African American
- 7% Multi-racial + Other
- 6% Asian
- 3% White

2022 Aspire vs. CA Graduation Rates

- 100% for Black or African American students
- 93% for Latinx students
- 96% for Socioeconomically disadvantaged students
- 94% for Students with disabilities

- 79% qualify for a free or reduced-cost lunch
- 54% speak a language other than English at home
- 11% receive Special Education services
The number one advice that I give to younger students is to make an effort to build relationships with your teachers and the adults on campus. My greatest accomplishments in high school wouldn’t have been made possible without the support of the adults around me. I genuinely love seeing my teachers, counselors, and staff at school everyday.

Lindsey Nguyen
Aspire Benjamin Holt College Preparatory Academy senior
In our schools, our mental health providers work to build meaningful and trusting relationships with students, and through these connections they are able to support scholars on prosocial skills and tools to care for their own well-being. We address the mental health needs of our scholars by providing immediate resources alongside longer-term investments in future systems of support.

Cora Palma, Ph.D.
Aspire Director of Mental Health Services
I love having my child attend Aspire because the teachers genuinely care for him. They are very attentive to his needs, not just academically but emotionally as well. I feel confident that my child is getting a well-rounded education and that we are working as a team towards his success.

Rocio Carrillo
Aspire Firestone Academy parent
According to a December 2022 School Pulse Panel Survey, Nationwide, nearly half of all students perform below grade level in at least one subject, most often reading or math.* To address this, Aspire has adopted a multi-pronged approach to ensure our scholars are receiving a rigorous and joyful academic experience that cultivates their unique skills, talents, and gifts.

*According to a December 2022 School Pulse Panel Survey
TARGETED LITERACY INTERVENTION
When scholars returned to campuses last fall, we committed to providing robust reading instruction and ample supplemental interventions to support scholars who missed instruction during Distance Learning. Teachers and schools utilize “The Science of Reading” to ground instruction in research-based, structured foundational skill development that includes both language comprehension and word recognition.

INVESTING IN OUR TEACHERS
Joyful schools are led by joyful educators. We know that burnout is driving teachers out of the classroom in unprecedented numbers, so we are investing in wellness coaching for our educators. Through both individual and group coaching, educators strengthen their social-emotional competencies and improve their holistic well-being.

This partnership is through a grant-funded opportunity provided by edwell.

BUILDING OUT POST-SECONDARY PATHWAYS
Reflecting our commitment to our mission, our secondary schools provide multiple post-secondary pathways to scholars, including the opportunity to earn an associate’s degree by the time they graduate high school. For example, Aspire Lionel Wilson College Preparatory Academy is partnering with Laney College to build out a multi-course Engineering Design program for high school scholars that will allow them to obtain college credit and real-world experience.

This partnership is made possible through a K12 Strong Workforce Program Grant from the California Department of Education.
Aspire is committed to providing equitable opportunities for our students, families, and teammates. We use an equity lens to examine our policies, practices, and systems at Aspire to strive for all groups to increase access and benefit from our work. This belief is woven throughout our core values.
**Creating Educator Pathways**

Through a partnership with Rivet School, Aspire teammates can enroll in an accelerated, affordable bachelor's degree program to help aspiring educators expedite their pathway toward becoming teachers. Additionally, Aspire offers a teacher residency program in partnership with Alder Graduate School of Education. Over the course of one year, teacher residents apprentice in an experienced teacher’s classroom while earning a master’s degree and California Teaching Credential.

**Serving Scholars with Disabilities**

Aspire brings students of all abilities into shared classrooms in a co-teaching model that pairs special and general education teachers. This research-backed approach has demonstrated that all students benefit socially and academically when students with disabilities are included in general education classrooms.

This opportunity is made possible through a partnership with the CHIME Institute, funded by the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation.

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**Lifting Up Black Excellence**

We lift up Black Excellence—programs that teach about, celebrate, and honor Black culture—throughout our schools. Throughout the year and especially during Black History Month, our schools celebrate Black excellence and bring together scholars and families to experience projects and performances dedicated to Black creatives in our country’s history. Black Student Unions (BSUs) are at most Aspire secondary schools and many of our elementary schools.

This enrichment program is made possible in part by Charlie & Karen Couric.
We strive to create safe, inclusive, and welcoming learning environments where students feel pride and connection to their schools.
POST-SECONDARY SCHOLARSHIPS
Through the generosity of our donors, the Aspire Public Schools Foundation offers 29 scholarships totaling almost $50,000 to Aspire graduating seniors as they embark on their post-secondary pathways. Recipients are selected through a robust application process, and they exemplify tenacity, the ability to be agents of change, and a commitment to creating a culture of belonging in their communities.

This scholarship program is made possible by a multitude of donors, including recurring gifts from Richard & Theresa Crocker and Charlie & Karen Couric.

INCREASED MENTAL HEALTH SUPPORTS
Coming out of the pandemic, we are focused on the mental health and well-being of our scholars. Our goal is to support every scholar's needs in a timely, caring, and equitable manner. Our schools have increased their use of individual and small group sessions to address issues including self-regulation, grief and loss, social skills, and healthy relationships.

This work is made possible through support from the Ballmer Group and the Rogers Family Foundation.

FOCUSHING ON TEAMMATE WELLNESS
We aim to take care of the people who care for our scholars, so that we all flourish in our school communities. For example, we partnered with Generation Thrive (created by The Warriors Community Foundation and Kaiser Permanente) to provide our Bay Area schools education and wellness programming including yoga, dance classes, and healthy cooking demonstrations.

This partnership is made possible by Aspire Board Member and Aspire Lionel Wilson College Preparatory Academy alumna, Ay'Anna Moody.
OUR APPRECIATION

INVESTORS ($250,000+)
- Ballmer Group
- Hastings Education Fund
- Kenneth Rainin Foundation
- Silicon Schools Fund
- Steven Merrill and Katie Budge

DIRECTORS ($50,000-$99,999)
- Anupam and Kavita Mishra
- Joyce and Robert Wisner
- Leslie and George Hume
- Rogers Family Foundation
- William Zimmerman Foundation

DIRECTORS (Cont.)

ACHIEVERS ($10,000-$49,999)
- Billy Harris
- Beth and Brian Grossman
- Charles and Karen Couric
- Cori and Tony Bates

ACHIEVERS (Cont.)
- Franklin and Catherine Johnson Foundation
- Great Public Schools Now
- Irene S. Scully Family Foundation
- Javier Cabra Walteros
- Jonathan and Kimberly Garfinkel
- Kay Hong and Jamie MacQuarrie
- Lene and Steve Joy
- Lorea Martinez and John Rethans
- Quest Foundation
- The Ralph M. Parsons Foundation
- Richard and Theresa Crocker
- Warriors Community Foundation

PRINCIPALS ($100,000-$249,999)
- Beth and Michael Hunkapiller
- Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation
- The Green Foundation
- Hastings Growth Fund
SUPPORTERS ($1,000-$9,999)

Amy Frost
Anna Brady
Anthony Barkett
Apple
Ben Archibald and Steph Albert
Brian and Molly Auld
Burnham Benefits Insurance Services
Capital Group Companies
Carmen Jiron
Christie Westover
David Kator
David Kennedy
Don and Sue Shalvey
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Elise and Sayed Darwish
Gregory Schultz
Hiten and Sangita Patel
Julian Tamayo
Kathleen and Richard Hoertkorn
Law Office of Young, Minney & Corr, LLP
Lilah and Alex Wolf
Los Angeles Clippers
Louise Bryson
Mala Batra
Marc Allen
Margaret Perrone
Marsh & McLennan Insurance Agency LLC
Martin Kaufman
Michele Fernandes
Molly Wood and Dagny Maidman
Nathan Crum
New York Life
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Shishir and Anjuli Mehrotra
Steve Dauber
Stifel, Nicolaus, and Company
Tom Keiser
UKG
Umpqua Bank
Uvas Foundation
Vishal Patel
W. Clement & Jessie V. Stone Foundation
Walmart
Warren Felson and Lucy Sun
Wendy Marquez
FRIENDS ($500-$999)

Al Bennett and Rudi Berkelhamer
Andrew Trott
Brooke Kuhn
Carol Ornelas
Esperanza T. Rivera
Google
Jane Bryson and Jeremy Milo
Jennifer Natta

Jocelyn Tseng
John Maddox
Liangliang Sengco
Liat Bishko
Lissa Nakamura
Lynzi Ziegenhagen
Mandeep Gurm
Michele Freed

Paul Tietz
Peter Mueller
Robert Lister and Ana Chang
Sydney and Scott Tanner
Veeral and Ami Desai
Vision Service Plan
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Anthony Barkett
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Ay’Anna Moody
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ASPIRE PUBLIC SCHOOLS FOUNDATION
BOARD MEMBERS

Liat Bishko, Board Chair
Raphael Akinsipe
Beth Grossman
Billy Harris
Beth Hunkapiller
Sai Selvaganesan
Our Core Values

Our communities (predominantly Black and Latinx) persist in a system that does not adequately educate everyone. Aspire Public Schools aims to transform the disproportionate outcomes that are a product of that system. We believe that this set of core values can guide how we think and work together toward greater racial, social, and gender equity across our schools and communities.

**Our Core Values**

- **Bienestar (Well-Being)**
- **Culture of Belonging**
- **Community Partnership**
- **Agency + Self-Determination**
- **Joy**

Please scan the QR code to learn more about Aspire Public Schools: