



Aspire Public Schools | 2024 Gratitude Report

# 25 YEARS OF TRANSFORMING FUTURES



# Ready for a pop quiz?

## Which of these events happened 25 years ago?

- A. The Euro currency was introduced
- B. *The Blair Witch Project* premiered at Sundance
- C. "Livin' la Vida Loca" by Ricky Martin was released
- D. Aspire Public Schools opened its first school in a former Stockton grocery store
- E. All of the above

See last page for the answer!

## 25 Years of Transforming Futures

### Letter from our CEO



Dear Aspire Partner,

As we celebrate Aspire Public Schools' landmark anniversary, we're reflecting on 25 years of learning and growth. This year's Gratitude Report is a beautiful reflection of what we have collectively achieved in service of our scholars. Inside you will find a timeline of our first quarter century as well as the breadth of our impact today. Whether you've been with us since the beginning, or have joined us along the way, we hope you share in the sense of pride we have for how far we've come and find inspiration in our continued evolution.

For the past 25 years, we have been committed to preparing and empowering scholars to create fulfilling futures for themselves, their families, and their communities. From a single school site in a refurbished grocery store in Stockton to 36 schools across three regions, I am proud of the ways we remain grounded in our shared sense of purpose. A resounding piece of Aspire co-founder Don Shalvey's legacy is emphasis on listening to the voices of our families and teammates. In that listening, we have heard a call to continue adapting to meet the evolving needs of our schools, scholars, teammates, and communities. What does this look like in action? It has meant expanding opportunities and scholarship initiatives for scholars, investing in our Teacher Residency Programs to provide professional growth opportunities for our teammates, and implementing co-teaching practices to be more inclusive of all scholars' learning differences.

We are deeply grateful for our philanthropic partners past and present who have played a vital role in our work. Thank you for being part of our journey these past 25 years as we empower future generations of scholars to build a more equitable future for themselves and their communities.

In partnership,  
Mala Batra  
Aspire Public Schools CEO

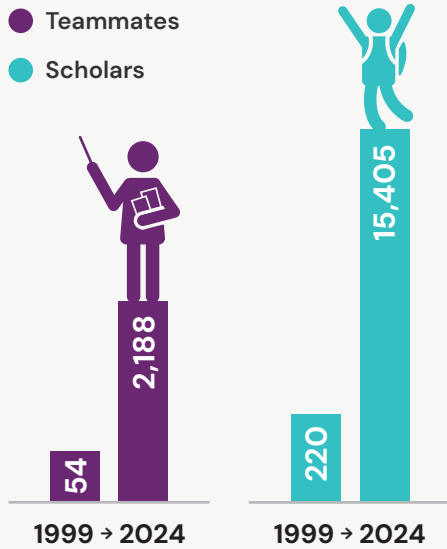


This year's Gratitude Report is dedicated in memory of our founder and friend Don Shalvey, for his vision and unwavering dedication to advancing quality public education in California and the broad impact he has had on making public school choice a reality for all.

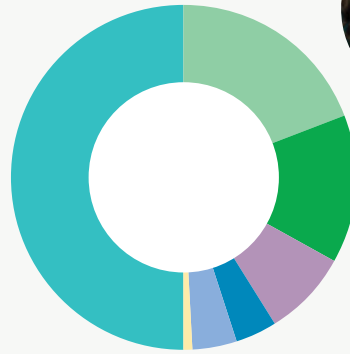
# Our Teammates & Scholars

## Our Growth

- Teammates
- Scholars



## Our Teammates



- 50% Latinx
- 19% White
- 14% Black or African American
- 8% Asian
- 4% Multi-racial
- 4% Other
- 1% Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander

## Our Regions

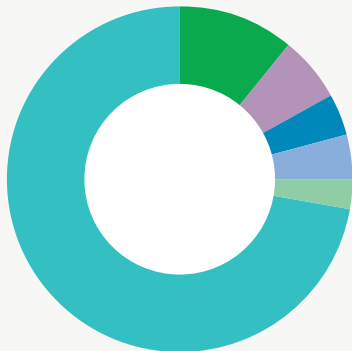


**CENTRAL VALLEY**  
Sacramento  
Stockton  
Modesto  
**16 Schools**

**BAY AREA**  
East Palo Alto  
Oakland  
Richmond  
**9 Schools**

**LOS ANGELES**  
Huntington Park  
Los Angeles  
South Gate  
**11 Schools**

## Our Scholars



- 72% Latinx
- 11% Black or African American
- 6% Asian
- 4% Multi-racial
- 4% Other
- 3% White

**83%** qualify for free or reduced cost lunch

**53%** speak a language other than English at home

**13%** receive Special Education services




## Our Families

**94%** believe our schools communicate well with families of different cultures

**93%** find Aspire schools to be welcoming

**91%** feel a sense of belonging at our schools

# Our Impact Today

 Aspire's class of 2023:  
**710 Graduates and 1,630 College Acceptances**

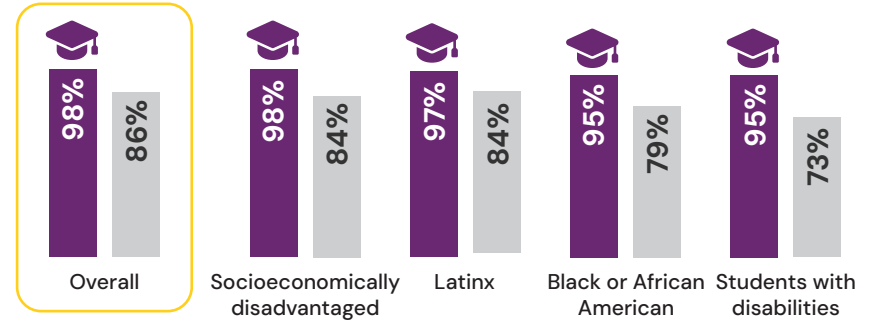
## Philanthropic Funding this Year

In 2023–2024, the Aspire Public Schools Foundation secured over **\$10 million** in competitive government grants and philanthropic support to fund **nine initiatives** supporting scholars and schools



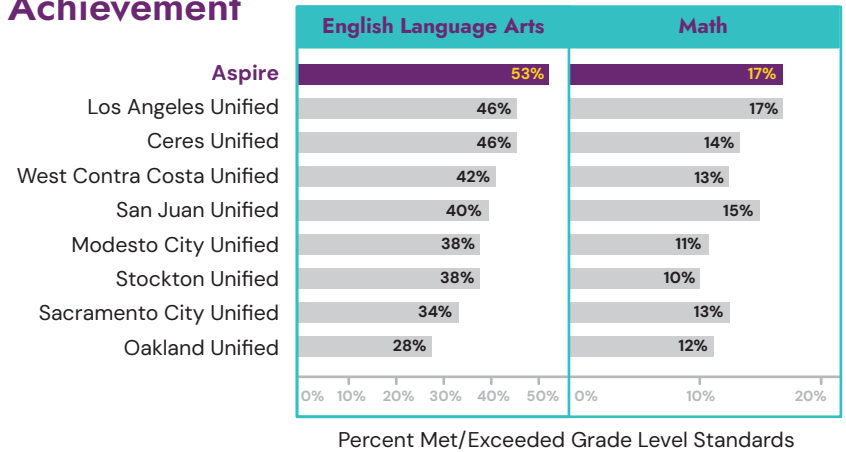
## Our Graduation Rates

2023 Aspire vs. CA Graduation Rates



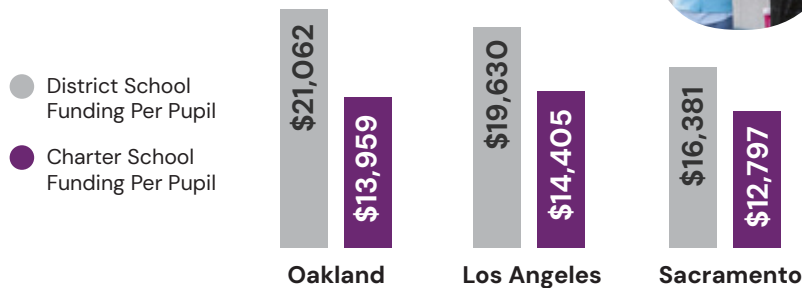
 **Aspire scholars outperform** nearly all authorizing school districts with similar demographics.

## Academic Achievement



*Aspire 11th grade performance compared to similar students in neighboring districts*

## Charter Schools Consistently Do More with Less



Source: Charter School Funding: Little Progress Towards Equity in the City, National Center for Education Statistics

**“** Since the day we were founded, we’ve been forced to get creative with limited resources: Aspire students — like all public charter school students in California — receive less funding than their peers in traditional public schools. **”**

—Mala Batra, Aspire Public Schools CEO



7 Aspire schools received recognition as a **“Best High School”** by the 2024 U.S. News and World Report rankings and are **performing above average** in their districts.



# Our Appreciation

Philanthropy has supported strategic priorities, addressed pressing facilities needs, and allowed us to pilot innovative partnerships in our scholars' best interests, all of which we would not be able to afford on public dollars alone. Our generous donors help us go the extra mile to ensure we are empowering minds and transforming futures for every Aspire scholar.

## Transforming Futures Circle

The **Transforming Futures Circle** honors those whose lifetime giving has surpassed \$50,000 over the past 25 years. We are grateful for their support!

### Catalyst \$1,000,000+

Ann and L. John Doerr  
Ballmer Group  
Beth and Michael Hunkapiller  
Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation  
California Commission on Teacher Credentialing  
California Department of Education  
Chamberlin Education Foundation  
Charles & Helen Schwab Foundation  
Charter School Growth Fund  
The Eli and Edythe Broad Foundation  
Great Public Schools Now  
Hastings Growth Fund  
Hyde Family Foundation  
James Irvine Foundation  
Kenneth Rainin Foundation  
Merrill Family Foundation  
Michael & Susan Dell Foundation  
Patty Quillin and Reed Hastings  
Peery Foundation  
Pyramid Peak Foundation  
Silicon Schools Fund  
Silicon Valley Community Foundation  
Stuart Foundation  
Tipping Point Community  
U.S. Department of Education

### Champion \$500,000+

George and Leslie Hume  
The Green Foundation  
Joseph Drown Foundation  
Richard and Theresa Crocker  
Rogers Family Foundation

### Changemaker \$250,000+

Anupam and Kavita K. Mishra  
Bernard Lee Schwartz Foundation  
California Community College Chancellor's Office  
Cox Vadakan Foundation  
Freedman Foundation  
Grousbeck Family Foundation  
Helen and Richard Spalding  
Hugh and Nancy Ditzler  
Irene S. Scully Family Foundation  
Jaquelin Hume Foundation  
Jonathan and Kimberly Garfinkel  
Joyce and Robert Wisner  
K & F Baxter Family Foundation  
Koshland Foundation  
Marc Benioff  
Next Generation Learning Challenges  
San Joaquin A+  
Sidney E. Frank Foundation  
Warren Felson and Lucy Sun  
Warriors Community Foundation  
William Zimmerman Foundation

### Aspire Public Schools Board of Directors

Beth Hunkapiller, Board Chair  
Anthony Barkett  
Carol J. Ornelas  
Ay'Anna Moody  
Lorea Martínez  
Christina Christopher  
Veleta Savannah

### Aspire Public Schools Foundation Board of Directors

Liat Bishko, Board Chair  
Beth Grossman  
Billy Harris  
Beth Hunkapiller

### Patron \$100,000+

Ahmanson Foundation  
Annenberg Institute at Brown University  
Bruce and Elizabeth Dunlevie  
Draper Family Foundation  
HEDCO Foundation  
Jim and Bonnie Quigley  
Kay Hong and Jamie MacQuarrie  
Ken and Kathy Hao  
Kent and Lilah Kendall  
Louise Muhlfeld Patterson and Arthur Patterson  
NewSchools VentureFund  
The Ralph M. Parsons Foundation  
TPG Capital  
Walton Family Foundation  
Wells Fargo Foundation  
Wend Collective

### Friend \$50,000+

Annenberg Foundation  
Beth and Brian Grossman  
Betsy Ellis Chung and Peter Chung  
Charles and Karen Couric  
Charles and Lynn Schusterman Family Philanthropies  
Franklin and Catherine Johnson Foundation  
Joseph and Mercedes McMicking Foundation  
Leonetti/O'Connell Family Foundation  
Nancy and Jason Rosenthal  
Susan and Bill Oberndorf  
William Draper  
Zack Bogue and Marissa Mayer

Please scan the QR code to learn more about Aspire Public Schools and see a full donor list:



# 25 Years of Celebrations



**1998** Aspire is **co-founded** by Don Shalvey and Reed Hastings.

“To me, it’s kind of an elegantly simple equation: a good education creates more opportunity than not. It creates a more robust community than not.”

—Don Shalvey

**1999**

Aspire opened its first school, **Aspire Vincent Shalvey Academy**, in Stockton, CA.



**2000**

**Aspire Monarch Academy** opens as the first Aspire school in Oakland.

**Aspire Lionel Wilson College Preparatory Academy** is the first new high school to open in Oakland in 40 years. **2002**

## OUR VISION

Aspire scholars are prepared and empowered to build a fulfilling and liberated future for themselves and their communities.



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.

**2015**

Born from Aspire’s teacher residency program, **Alder Graduate School of Education** launches and now partners with nearly 60 K-12 partner organizations.



Aspire is invited to expand to its **fourth region**, Memphis, TN. **2014**

**2013**



Aspire spins off data platform, **Schoolzilla**, bringing innovative data analytics practices to the education community.

**2011**

Aspire reaches an enrollment of 12,000 scholars, making it the **largest charter management organization** in California.



Aspire launches an internal **teacher residency** program. **2010**



**2005**

Aspire expands to Los Angeles with **Aspire Antonio Maria Lugo Academy** in Huntington Park.



## SHINING STARS



### 2015

Aspire launches a scholarship program for seniors. The first scholarships, **Shining Stars**, are awarded to 9 top performing graduating seniors.



- ★ 6,446 Aspire graduates
- ★ 3,531 college graduates
- ★ 150 scholarships totaling \$300K

### 2024

Aspire's scholarship program expands to four opportunities (**Shining Stars, R.I.S.E. to Higher, Fulfilling Futures, and Para La Cultura**) providing scholarship awards to 32 graduating seniors.

### 2019

The **Aspire Public Schools Foundation** launches to fund key organizational initiatives, one-time projects, and scholarships.

### 2020

Aspire Memphis becomes **Journey Community Schools**, a separate and locally-operated charter management organization.



### 2020

**Aspire Arts & Sciences Academy** and **Aspire Stockton Secondary Academy** open in Stockton, totaling 36 Aspire schools across three California regions.

### 2020

In just six months, Aspire supporters donate **over \$1 million** to directly support Aspire families affected by the pandemic.



### 2023

Aspire's Motto, "**Empowering Minds. Transforming Futures.**" is born to reflect the updated Vision and Mission.

### 2022

Aspire's first Day of Action in Sacramento highlights the "**Cost of Quarantine**" campaign, resulting in the recuperation of **over \$20M** in funding for all California public school students that was lost to mandatory COVID quarantines.

### 2022

Aspire's **Vision and Mission** is refreshed with an updated focus on preparing students for multiple post-secondary pathways.



### 2021

Aspire **invests in advocacy** dedicated to raising visibility and awareness on issues impacting our school communities and public education.

# And the answer is...



**E. All of the above ✓**

**Did you get it right?  
We bet you did!**