

SAN FRANCISCO  
**EDUCATION** FUND  
IT TAKES A COMMUNITY.

# Annual Report 2023-24



Winner of the 2023 SF Chamber of Commerce  
**Nonprofit of the Year Award**



## Dear Ed Fund Community,

This year has been uniquely challenging for San Francisco’s public schools, and it has never been more crucial to be *all in* for supporting our city’s students and educators. With a staggering nine-figure budget deficit, the district is undergoing a difficult and necessary resource realignment process. This work has already resulted in significant cuts to teaching and critical support staff positions, to programs and other important resources on which our schools rely. While SFUSD adapts to the financial and structural challenges it faces, the district must remain focused on improving literacy and math rates—especially for our African American, Pacific Islander, English Language Learner (ELL), and Latinx students.

The theme of this year’s annual report, *All In for Educational Excellence*, underscores our deep commitment to supporting San Francisco public schools, especially today at a time of significant challenges and as resources become scarcer. In the face of adversity, the San Francisco Education Fund provided nearly \$3.7 million in essential resources to SFUSD in 2023-24, including high-impact tutoring, volunteers, corporate partnerships, and direct financial aid. Our high-impact literacy tutoring program alone has benefitted over 6,300 students since 2021, with many showing remarkable growth—some advancing by two grade levels. Additionally, we awarded nearly \$200,000 in educator and student grants to create joyful, enriching educational experiences for more than 9,000 students in this school year alone.

While we celebrate the successes and strengths of our students and educators, we are also gearing up for the road ahead. As schools face growing financial constraints and limited resources, our role becomes even more vital. Our holistic, community-based support will remain the cornerstone of our work as we rally behind our students and teachers to fill the gaps created by these challenges. Together, with the steadfast support of our staff, Board of Directors, Leadership Council, Young Leaders Council, and countless San Francisco partners, we will continue to bring these critical resources to the school communities that need it most.

Thank you so much for being part of this community and being *all in* for educational excellence, ensuring that every student in San Francisco has the opportunity to thrive.

### In Community,

Ann Levy Walden  
Chief Executive Officer

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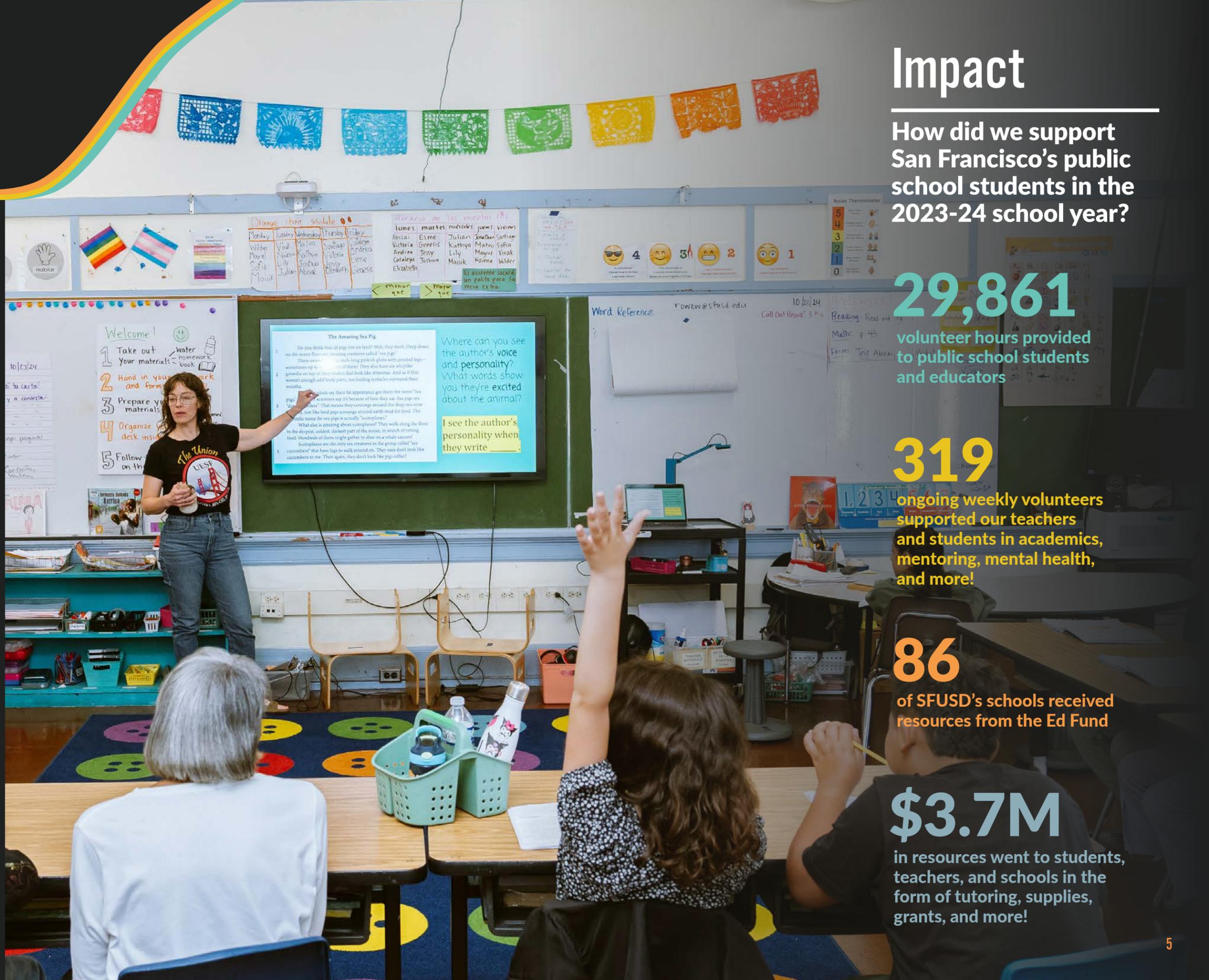
# About the Ed Fund

## Mission

The San Francisco Education Fund advances equitable education by providing quality learning programs, community support, and transformative financial resources to students, educators, and schools.

## Vision

We envision a future where San Francisco public school students have equitable access to quality education so that they can engage and enrich the community.



## Impact

How did we support San Francisco's public school students in the 2023-24 school year?

**29,861**

volunteer hours provided to public school students and educators

**319**

ongoing weekly volunteers supported our teachers and students in academics, mentoring, mental health, and more!

**86**

of SFUSD's schools received resources from the Ed Fund

**\$3.7M**

in resources went to students, teachers, and schools in the form of tutoring, supplies, grants, and more!



# Quality Learning

## Hundreds of Students Make Literacy Gains With High-Impact Tutoring

The California Reading Coalition's CA Reading Report Card revealed that SFUSD ranks in the bottom 7% of districts for third-grade reading proficiency. This fact underscores the critical need for targeted interventions like the Ed Fund's high-impact tutoring program delivered in partnership with BookNook. This program delivers small-group literacy tutoring for K-5 students using a research-backed, standards-aligned curriculum designed to accelerate learning. Since 2021, the Ed Fund has supported over 6,300 students in

high-benefit schools, playing a vital role in helping SFUSD achieve its goal of increasing third-grade literacy proficiency from 52% to 70% by 2027.

In 2023-24 alone, over 300 students participated in the high-impact tutoring program. Average attendance was 71% across all participating students, resulting in tremendous growth: all first through fifth graders power users (students who attended 20+ sessions) grew 1-2 grade levels in reading. Altogether, students completed 5,235

*"In school, with a big class, my son Mikael gets frustrated. But in tutoring, he has a whole 30 minutes with the tutor. I cannot thank [the Ed Fund] enough for this program."*

**- Melody Casuga, SFUSD parent**

**307**  
students received high-impact tutoring

**9**  
schools partnered with the Ed Fund to receive tutoring

**5,235**  
tutoring sessions completed

**2,241**  
hours of practice

**78**  
literacy standards completed

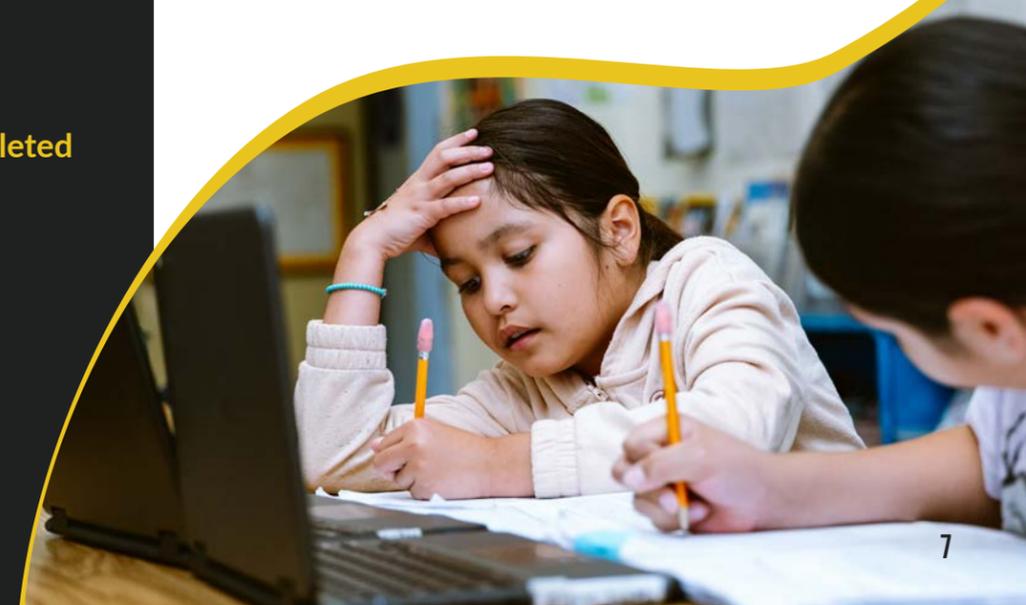
**1-2**  
levels of reading progress achieved by students who participated in 20+ tutoring sessions

sessions, accumulating 2,241 hours of practice and addressing 78 critical literacy standards.

Reflecting on the power of tutoring, Susanna Loeb, Founding Director of the National Student Support Accelerator and Professor at Stanford's Graduate School of Education, explains, "If you want to take a student and really accelerate their learning, it turns out that the only thing that we know does this is having an adult who knows the student and works with them intensively and can target the instruction towards that. I think there are two aspects of high-impact tutoring. One is a really strong relationship, and that tends to come from a consistent tutor with good supports, and then targeting from data and good materials."

The Ed Fund's program - the city's largest literacy tutoring initiative - prioritizes culturally responsive teaching methods, including the integration of home languages, relevant texts, and explicit vocabulary instruction. Through close partnership with SFUSD and community partners, as well as guidance from national experts like Susanna Loeb, the Ed Fund continues to close the opportunity gap and advance literacy outcomes for students across San Francisco.

To support the High-Impact Tutoring Program, visit [sfedfund.org/donate](https://sfedfund.org/donate)





# Quality Learning



## The San Francisco Literacy Coalition: Today a Reader, Tomorrow a Leader

The San Francisco Literacy Coalition (SFLC) is a collective of local organizations providing strategically coordinated, highly effective reading and writing supports to students from Pre-K through 5th grade. Established in 2022, SFLC leverages the deep expertise and relationships of participating organizations to create strategic, citywide alignment on how to increase grade-level reading and writing scores for SFUSD students. SFLC collaborates, exchanges insights, and coordinates strategies with SFUSD, the city, and

local literacy experts to enhance literacy outcomes in San Francisco's highest-benefit public schools.

"The SF Literacy Coalition has been instrumental in our efforts this year to focus on aligning the community, staff and students with Drew's literacy goals," said Dr. Vidrale Franklin, Principal at Drew Elementary. "We look forward to continuing to work in partnership with the Coalition to improve literacy outcomes for our students."

**18**  
Coalition partners

**2**  
Focal Schools

**293**  
students receiving essential reading and writing interventions from Coalition partners at focal schools

### Steering Committee:



In spring 2024, the Ed Fund secured a transformative \$3 million grant from Crankstart to support the San Francisco Literacy Coalition in its mission to improve literacy outcomes across the city. The grant will be used to expand literacy services to more high-benefit schools, enhance coordination across partners, hire critical support staff, and implement a three-year strategic plan to ensure measurable progress toward a 20% increase in grade level reading and writing proficiency for participating schools by 2027.

Under the leadership of the Ed Fund and 826 Valencia, the Coalition is focused on addressing San Francisco's literacy challenges. This year, the Coalition piloted programs at Tenderloin Community School and Drew Elementary, two Title I schools that are committed to enhancing literacy outcomes for their students. The grant will allow the Coalition to expand to four additional schools in the 2024-25 school year, further coordinating efforts to support students, particularly from African American, Latinx, Pacific Islander, and English Language Learner communities. The Coalition's work, supported by philanthropic and city-based partners, aims to create more equitable opportunities for San Francisco students, enabling them to realize their dreams and build bright futures.

To support the San Francisco Literacy Coalition, visit [sfliteracycoalition.org](http://sfliteracycoalition.org)





## Circle the Schools Corporate Volunteers

**2,138**  
corporate volunteer  
hours donated

**685**  
Circle the Schools  
volunteers

**2,270**  
students served

**28**  
schools circled

**\$125,000**  
in resources donated

**15**  
Circle the Schools partners

To learn how your  
company can become a  
Circle the Schools partner,  
visit [sfedfund.org/cts](https://sfedfund.org/cts)

## Circle the Schools Back-to-School Setup 2023

The Ed Fund's Circle the Schools (CTS) program connects corporate partners with public schools to provide volunteers and resources that support school priorities and expose students to career opportunities. Through activities like read-alouds, college application support, and campus beautification, CTS has impacted over 109,871 students, logged 48,460 volunteer hours, and contributed nearly \$2.4 million in resources over 11 years. At the 2023 Back-to-School Setup, 166 volunteers spent nearly 800 hours helping teachers at 24 SFUSD schools prepare their classrooms for the year.

## Celebrating Computer Science Education Week

In December 2023, the Ed Fund partnered with CTS companies Rakuten and Salesforce, with additional support from Google, to host events celebrating Computer Science Education Week (CSEdWeek). These events inspired over 250 students from five SFUSD schools to explore computer science and artificial intelligence (AI). Using engaging Google applications like Quick Draw! and Verse by Verse, students gained hands-on experience with AI, developing drawings, poems, and an understanding of how AI tools function and their real-world applications. These sessions not only sparked curiosity but also highlighted potential career paths in AI, leaving students like one 7th grader at BVHM remarking, "Today I learned that AI is always learning."



# Community Support

## Dedicated Volunteers Transform Learning for 5,000 San Francisco Students

The Ed Fund's volunteer program engages over 300 committed volunteers annually to support students and teachers across the district. These volunteers, who come from various walks of life, assist in classrooms from PK through 12th grade, providing essential support in areas such as 1:1 tutoring, general classroom help, and specialized subjects like robotics, art, and music. Their commitment helped over 5,000 students in 2023-24 alone, fostering academic and personal growth and thereby a brighter future for public school students in the city.

**319** volunteers supported  
SFUSD schools

**80** schools served

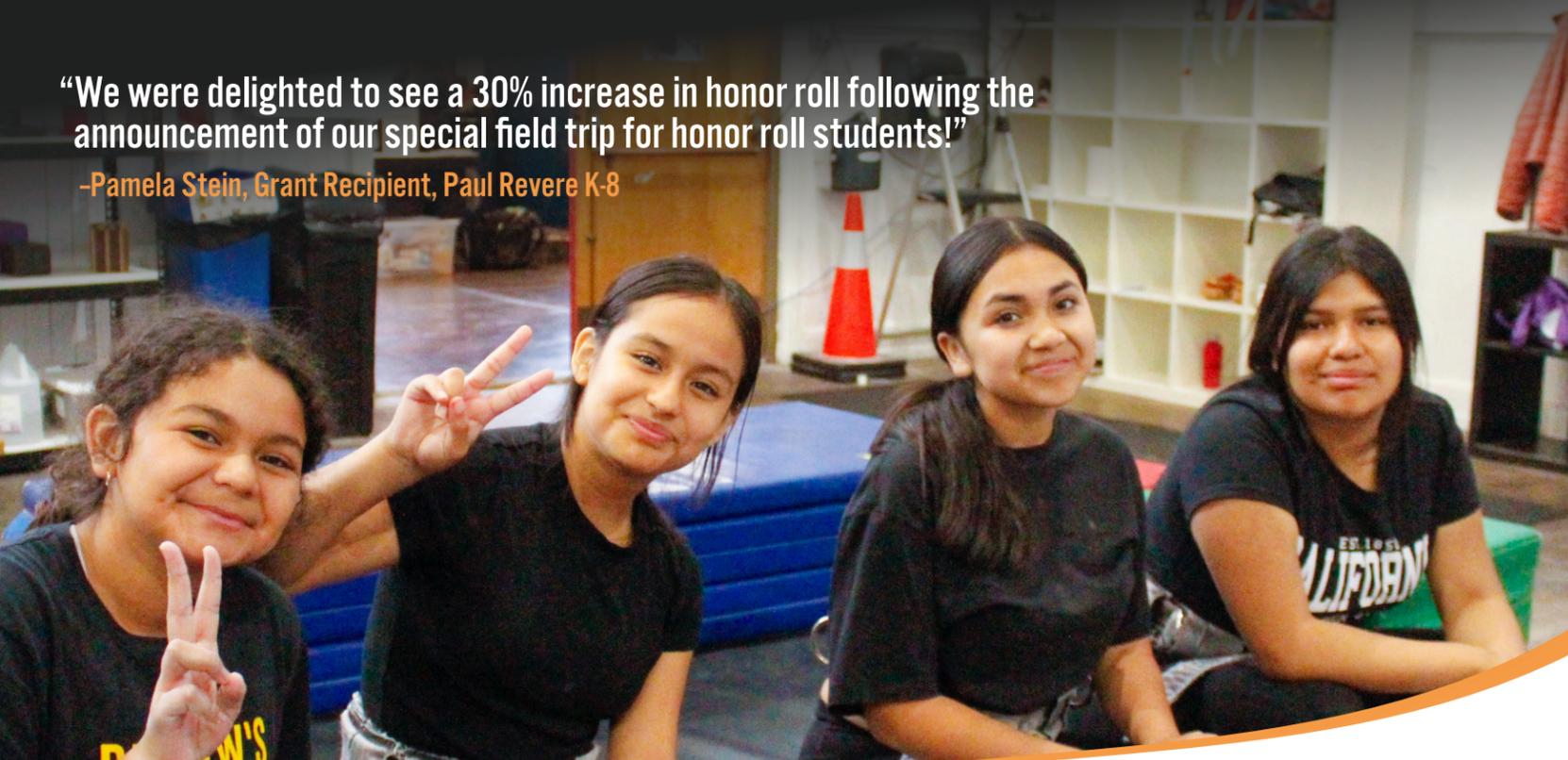
**5,006** students impacted by  
Ed Fund volunteers

**27,723** hours volunteered

To learn about making a difference as a volunteer or mentor, visit [sfedfund.org/volunteer](https://sfedfund.org/volunteer)

“We were delighted to see a 30% increase in honor roll following the announcement of our special field trip for honor roll students!”

-Pamela Stein, Grant Recipient, Paul Revere K-8



# Financial Support

## Nearly \$200K Awarded in Create Joy Educator Grants

In the 2023-24 school year, the Ed Fund awarded a record-breaking \$197,511 in Create Joy grants to educators, marking the largest amount the Ed Fund has given to teachers in over a decade. This total more than doubles last year's record of \$95,000. The Ed Fund distributed these funds across 37 projects at 17 priority schools. These grants benefited dozens of educators and hundreds of students citywide, and created joyful and enriching learning experiences.

Notable projects funded by the Create Joy grants

include trips for Paul Revere's middle schoolers to the SF Circus Center, camping gear for Visitacion Valley's 5th graders which will be used for years to come, and a special trip for Everett's music students to Disneyland's Imagination Campus. These initiatives highlight educators' dedication to fostering joy and creativity in learning, extending opportunities beyond the traditional classroom. The Ed Fund extends its heartfelt gratitude to New Relic, AECOM, Division 36 of the California Retired Teachers Association, and the Maxwell/Hanrahan Foundation for their generous support, which makes these joyful educational experiences possible for so many students.

## Create Joy Educator Grants

**8,698**  
students served

**17**  
schools supported

**\$197,511**  
in Create Joy grants

**37**  
projects funded

## Awesome Fund Student Club Grants

**10**  
student clubs served

**231**  
students impacted

**\$9,325**  
in grants funded

## Awesome Fund Grants Boost Student Clubs

The Ed Fund awarded \$9,325 in Awesome Fund student club grants in 2023-24 to ten student clubs across five SFUSD high schools—Balboa, Burton, Mission, John O'Connell, and Thurgood Marshall. After reviewing nearly 50 applications with support from community members, the Ed Fund selected projects that enhance the school community, foster student engagement, and provide meaningful educational experiences. Grants ranging from \$100 to \$1,000 were awarded to student-led projects at eligible priority high schools.

Notable funded projects include the Ethnic Studies Advisory Club at Burton High, which hosted a cultural potluck for all 9th graders, the OC Soccer Club at John O'Connell High to strengthen the school's soccer community, and the Gender Sexuality Alliance (GSA) at Mission High to create a safe space for LGBTQ+ students.

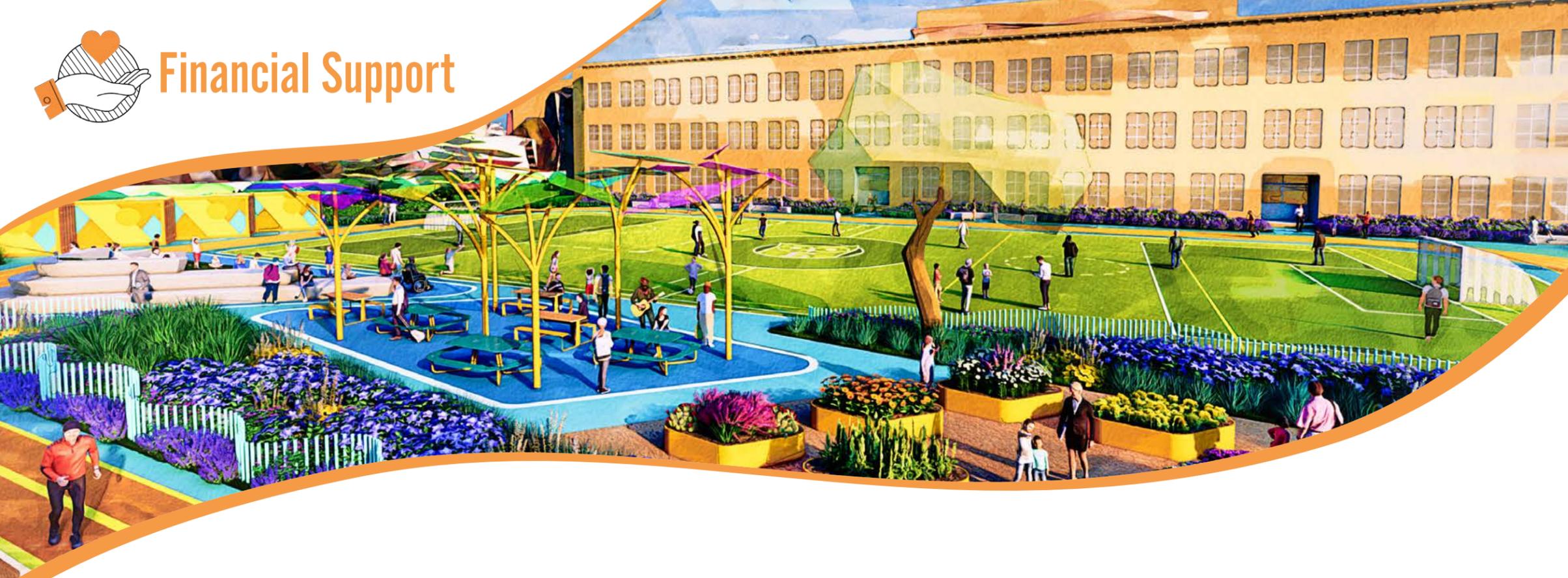
“Some kids might not feel comfortable exploring or talking about exploring their identity with their family or friends, so having that space where you can just talk to someone can really make a difference. We exist to help, inspire, educate, and encourage kids to feel proud of who they are.”

-- Gender Sexuality Alliance (GSA), Mission High School





# Financial Support



## Everett Middle School Playground Renovation

In 2023, a collaborative effort between public, private, and district entities began the transformation of Everett Middle School's two-acre asphalt schoolyard in the Mission District. The project aims to create a safe, inspiring, and beautiful space for the school's 745 students to play, learn, and engage in activities that support their social, creative, and problem-solving skills. The new schoolyard will offer dynamic play areas, safer sports grounds, and spaces for relaxation, while also enhancing classroom learning in areas such as water management, food systems, and nutrition. The Ed Fund is playing a key role as a fiscal sponsor, working closely with the school and district to make this vision a reality.

The project evolved after an anonymous donor approached the Ed Fund with a desire to renovate the Everett schoolyard, coinciding with an Everett parent securing a Green Infrastructure grant from the San Francisco Public Utilities Commission. Together with additional public and private funding, the renovation will include a turf multi-purpose playing field, new play courts, a school garden, an exercise track, outdoor learning environments, shade structures, and areas for stormwater management. This transformation is on track to be completed in January, 2025 when it will offer Everett Middle School students a beautiful, functional, well-rounded environment for both recreation and learning.

**To follow along & learn about more updates on this project, visit [sfedfund.org/everett](https://sfedfund.org/everett)**

**“Our city is known for its incredible public spaces – Golden Gate Park, Presidio Tunnel Tops, Dolores Park, etc. To also be the city of asphalt at our public schools doesn't make sense.” – Donor of the Everett Middle School Renovation Project**

## Room to Breathe Project

Emotionally intelligent, mindful teachers are key to creating connected, mindful classrooms. For the third year in a row, in 2023-24, the Ed Fund partnered with the Room to Breathe Project (R2B) to provide “Educator Well-Being Stipends” of \$400 per recipient at SFUSD schools. These funds are designed to empower educators to “attend to their own personal well-being so that they are best positioned to model well-being for young people and positively contribute to a culture of well-being within their school”.

Educators used these funds towards a well-being practice of their choice including mind-body exercises, creative pursuits that achieve stress relief and other practices related to social emotional health. The funds were so well-received in recent years that the Ed Fund was thrilled to support R2B's expansion from serving teachers from seven schools in 2022-23 to reaching teachers at eleven schools in 2023-24 year.

## Fiscal Sponsorship: Transformation from the Inside Out

Fiscal sponsorship allows local education-based projects to operate under the Ed Fund's 501(c)(3) status. The Ed Fund holds all fiduciary and legal responsibility for a project while project leads remain the experts on programming. As an independent and small nonprofit, the Ed Fund can remain agile and use fiscal sponsorship to support important ideas that increase educational equity. Two such projects in 2023-24 were the Everett Middle School Renovation Project and the Room to Breathe Project.

**\$1.6M** distributed to SFUSD in Fiscal Sponsorships in 2023-24

**To learn more about the Ed Fund's role as a fiscal sponsor, visit [sfedfund.org/fiscalsponsorship](https://sfedfund.org/fiscalsponsorship)**



# Our Team

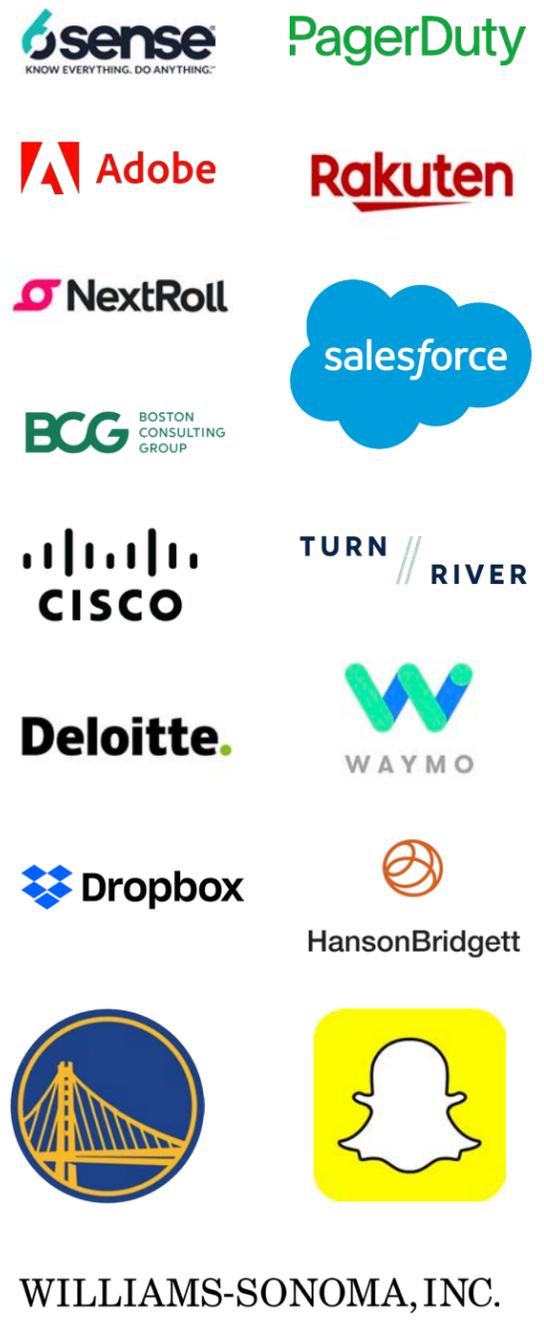
We believe providing equitable education takes a community.  
We are proud to partner with these organizations in our city and beyond.



## Partners



## Circle the Schools



## The Ed Fund

**Founder**  
Gladly Thacher

**SF School Volunteers Founder**  
Gretchen de Baubigny

**Leadership Council**  
JaMel Perkins, *Chair*  
Jessica Bier  
Judy Grossman  
Leslie Hume  
Marie Lipman  
Greg Malin  
Edward McDermott  
Susan Oberndorf  
William Parish  
Gordon Rubenstein

**Board of Directors**  
Becky Karsh, *President*  
Rachel Patterson, *Vice President*  
Joseph Ghobrial, *Treasurer*  
Adam Anderson  
Prasanth Boda  
Daniel Danker  
Lori Birnbaum Galante  
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Eric Jones  
James Kim  
Katherine Mitchell Ladd  
Shalu Umapathy  
Anne Warren  
Darius White

**Young Leaders Council**  
Kamla Kumar, *Co-Chair*  
Rebecca Milian, *Co-Chair*  
Pedro Alvarez  
Alexandra Argo  
Mattie Stokes Carter  
Josh Chan  
Narissa Dalla  
Andrea Enfield  
Stacie Kinser  
Wanlin Lee  
Billy McRae  
Dominique Mihaljevic  
Tina Nibbi

**Staff**  
Stefanie Almendares, *School Site Coordinator*  
Celina Baldizon, *Volunteer Coordinator*  
Mylen Cruzado, *Development Analyst*  
Gyasi Curry, *Associate Manager of Corporate Partnerships*  
Sara Geliebter, *Associate Manager of Tutoring and Grants*  
Ginny Fang, *Head of Strategy and Philanthropy*  
Shelby Hilo, *Associate Manager of Operations and Tech*  
Laura King, *Senior Director of Development & Impact*  
Rebecca Kroll, *Chief Operating Officer*  
Tom Laursen, *Associate Manager of Volunteer Engagement*  
Eria Limos, *Corporate Partnerships Coordinator*  
Ronald Lyons, *Partnerships Manager*  
Rebecca Moreno, *Director of Development & Impact*  
Bara Mudita, *Development Intern*  
Alexa Ortiz, *Communications Intern*  
Meg Rahner, *Associate Manager of Development and Communications*  
Jenny Siegel, *Director of Programs*  
Ann Levy Walden, *Chief Executive Officer*

# Thank You to Our Donors!

## \$50,000+

AECOM  
 Anonymous  
 Hellman Foundation  
 JaMel and Thomas Perkins  
 San Francisco Department of Children, Youth and Their Families  
 Stocker Foundation  
 Susan and David Tunnell

## \$10,000-\$49,999

Adobe  
 Bella Vista Foundation  
 Lauren Blake and Joseph Ghobrial  
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 William Fries II Foundation

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 Jennifer and Shawn Carolan  
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 Jessica Silverman  
 Amber and AJ Tennant  
 Alex and Lisa Yakubovich

## \$1,000-4,999

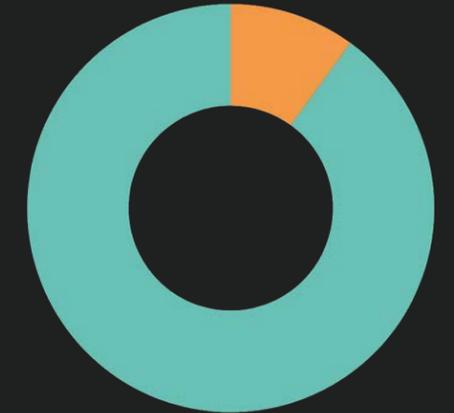
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 Lauren Weitzman  
 Alice Wiley and Peter Hall  
 Courtney Young-Law and Chris Law

# 2023-24 Financials

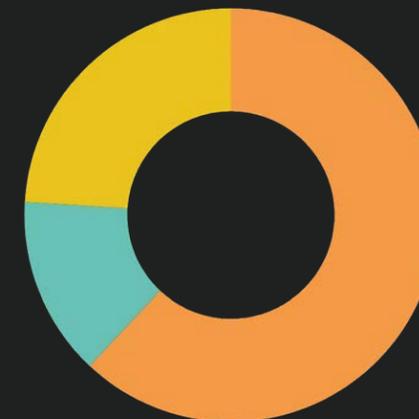
\*Unaudited, pending audit completion in January 2025

## Revenue \*no longer includes passthrough

Individual Donors	\$286,000	10%
Foundation & Corporate Donors	\$2,700,000	90%
Government Donors	\$4,000	
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$2,990,000</b>	



■ Individual Donors (10%)  
 ■ Foundation & Corporate Donors (90%)



■ Programming (62%)  
 ■ Administrative (14%)  
 ■ Development (24%)

## Expenses

Programming	\$1,700,000	62%
Administrative	\$384,000	14%
Development	\$655,000	24%
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$2,739,000</b>	

SAN FRANCISCO  
EDUCATION FUND  
IT TAKES A COMMUNITY.



415.695.5400



info@sfedfund.org



650 Mission Street, Third Floor  
San Francisco, CA 94105

