



# Meeting the Magnitude of the Moment

# A Message from Our CEO



This past year, as we've faced an unimaginable crisis, our responsibilities to public school students and their families have become more clear and urgent than ever before.

First and foremost, we have worked hard to bridge the digital divide, addressing technology and connectivity gaps so that all children - regardless of home circumstance - have an equal opportunity to access a high-quality education. Secondly, we have built on our progress to tackle head-on the interconnectedness of learning and socioemotional well-being, knowing that one cannot effectively take place without the other. And finally, we have helped ensure that families have the essentials to support themselves and their children: food, safe and enriching child care, and materials that support different learning needs. These responsibilities are massive when one takes into account that there are more than 1,800 school communities and more than a million NYC public school students.

I am so proud that with the leadership of our outgoing Chancellor, Richard A. Carranza, and his Cabinet, the NYC Department of Education (DOE) has transformed every aspect of what it does and now leads the country in safely reopening schools. Our tireless educators and families have had to dig down deep to overcome huge obstacles and ensure all students can learn and thrive. At every turn, the Fund for Public Schools has worked alongside the DOE, facilitating partnerships and mobilizing resources to meet the magnitude of this moment. It's no secret that our City's recovery runs through our public schools. And, in having the privilege to lead The Fund through this crisis, I witnessed first-hand the groundswell of support for public education, with many partners making deep investments to safeguard students' stability and future success.

**In fiscal year 2020 alone, we were able to raise nearly \$46 million from more than 750 donors to support innovative solutions and priority initiatives of the DOE.**

We are so grateful for the generous support and partnership of our donors who made this a year of progress, despite the setbacks brought by the pandemic. Together, we were able to support the DOE in tackling extraordinary levels of need. At the same time, we forged ahead with our Equity and Excellence agenda, setting in motion improvements to last well beyond the pandemic, such as supporting high quality arts, STEM, early literacy, and college and career readiness.

This 2020 Annual Report presents key highlights from the last fiscal year. But the story of how the philanthropic community has so readily stepped forward to support our students during the worst public education crisis of our lifetimes continues to be written.

We are excited Meisha Ross Porter will take the reins as our next Chancellor in March 2021 to lead our schools in finishing the school year strong and coming back even stronger in the fall. With Chancellor Porter as the Fund for Public Schools' Board Chair, we are ready to build on our accomplishments and to work closely with our private partners to accelerate student learning and equitably serve our schools.

We welcome the partnership of those who want to leave a lasting legacy by investing in NYC public school students today and for generations to come.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Julie L. Shapiro". The signature is fluid and cursive.

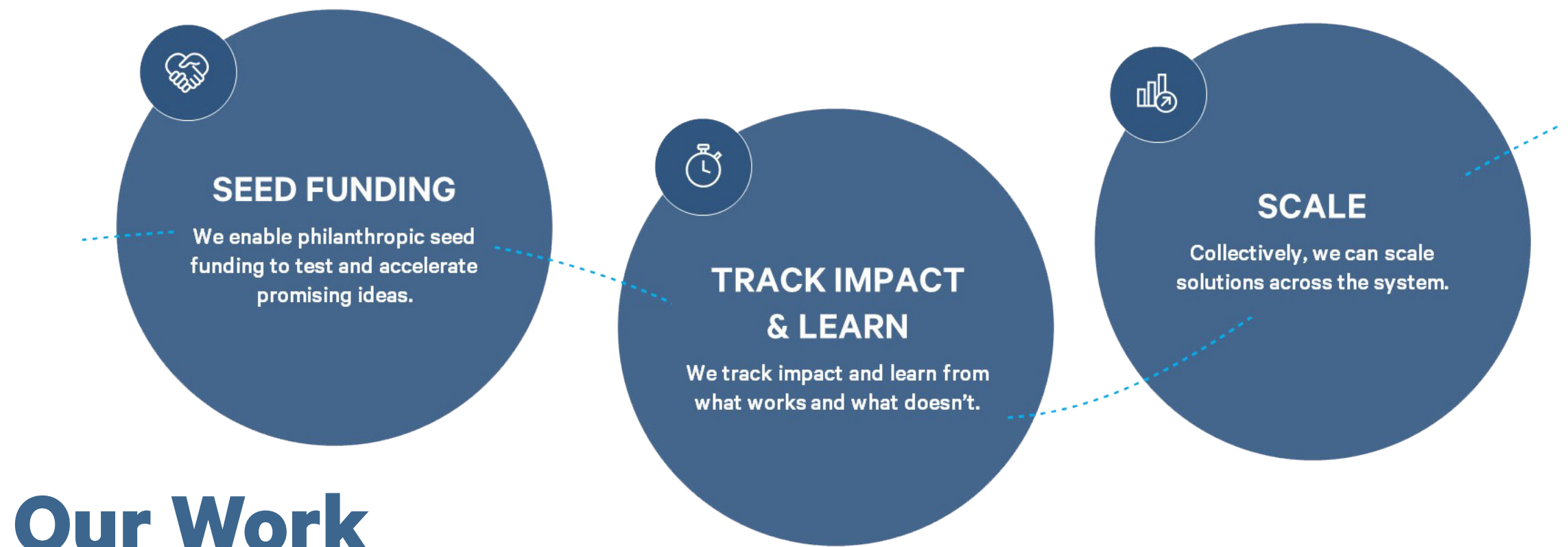
Julie L. Shapiro  
Chief Executive Officer

# Our Mission

The Fund for Public Schools has dedicated itself to supporting New York City's public schools since 1982. The Fund has secured major investments from foundations, businesses, and individuals, raising more than \$532 million for the city's public schools.

As a partner to the NYC Department of Education (DOE), the Fund sits in a unique position. We facilitate partnerships between the philanthropic community and the DOE to pilot innovative projects; accelerate promising, outcome-driven initiatives; and respond strategically to emerging needs across the NYC public school system.

We support some of the most innovative programs at the largest school district in the country. With our partners, we have the potential to make significant impact on the lives of millions of New Yorkers.



## Our Work

### Academic Excellence



Academic excellence means striving to ensure every student is college- and career-ready by high school graduation. The Fund supports the DOE in meeting students' diverse needs with a variety of programs and by providing educators and leadership with resources to support high-quality teaching. Priority work includes Arts, STEM, post-secondary readiness, teaching and leadership, and early childhood literacy and math.

### Innovation



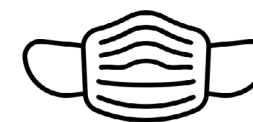
The Fund secures resources that allow for experimentation with new programming and initiatives. These give schools the flexibility and resources they need to ensure all students graduate with the tools and skills they need to succeed in the 21st century. This area includes major priorities such as: new school design and development; tools that bolster blended learning; and customized strategies for populations such as multilingual learners and students with disabilities.

### Student and Community Support



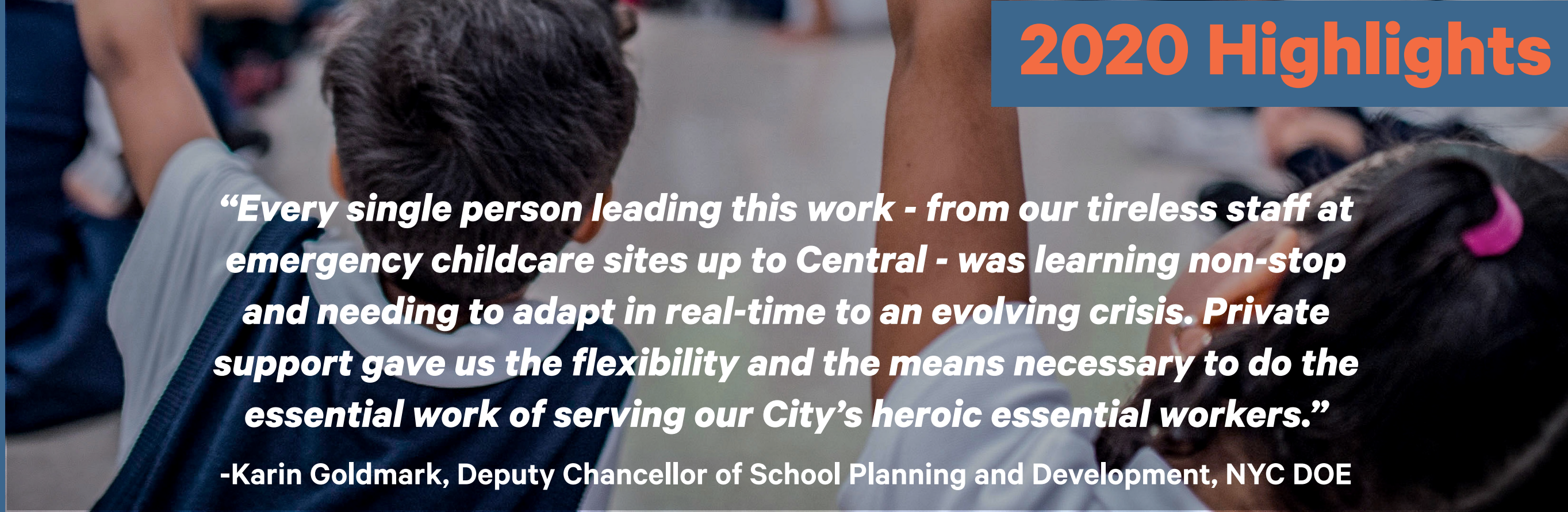
Student and community support celebrates supporting the whole child, as well as their family, inside and outside of the classroom, whether they are learning in-person or remotely. This includes initiatives and practices such as: Community Schools; social-emotional learning and trauma-informed educational practices; health and wellness; and additional supports and resources for students in temporary housing.

### COVID-19 Response and Recovery



As soon as the crisis began to unfold in March of 2020, The Fund quickly pivoted to launch the NYC Schools COVID-19 Response Effort in partnership with the DOE and donors to address the greatest emerging needs. Since then, The Fund has raised more than \$22 million for emergency needs and innovative solutions that have made a big impact. Foundations, businesses, and individuals continue to play a pivotal role in helping to advance the well-being and continuity of learning of our City's more than a million students.

The Fund also manages school-based gifts and grants for the DOE, allowing donors to support a wide range of needs at individual schools. In addition, The Fund secures and manages scholarships that provide high school students with a financial boost toward higher education.



**“Every single person leading this work - from our tireless staff at emergency childcare sites up to Central - was learning non-stop and needing to adapt in real-time to an evolving crisis. Private support gave us the flexibility and the means necessary to do the essential work of serving our City’s heroic essential workers.”**

**-Karin Goldmark, Deputy Chancellor of School Planning and Development, NYC DOE**

## By the Numbers:

**\$46M**

in grants and contributions received

**750+**

total donors

**48+**

Centrally Managed Programs and initiatives

**44+**

Student Scholarship Programs

**600**

Managed Gifts & Grants to Schools

### Supporting Children of Essential Workers During the Pandemic

It was the middle of March 2020 and the NYC Department of Education (DOE) had just begun its transition to remote learning due to the pandemic. First responders, healthcare staff, transit employees, and other essential workers urgently needed childcare to continue working. A generous \$15 million donation from the Open Society Foundations (OSF) supported the DOE in creating a large-scale and agile support system with emergency childcare sites in every corner of the city. An average of 14,000 children were provided daily care and learning over six months across 170 childcare sites. OSF’s donation ensured each of the sites could be well-staffed, filled with supplies, and able to provide high quality programming. Much of the enhanced childcare provision took place through partnerships with Community Based Organizations. The support by OSF, along with that of so many caring donors across the business and philanthropic sectors, enabled the DOE to go above and beyond in meeting the needs of students and families in this challenging moment.

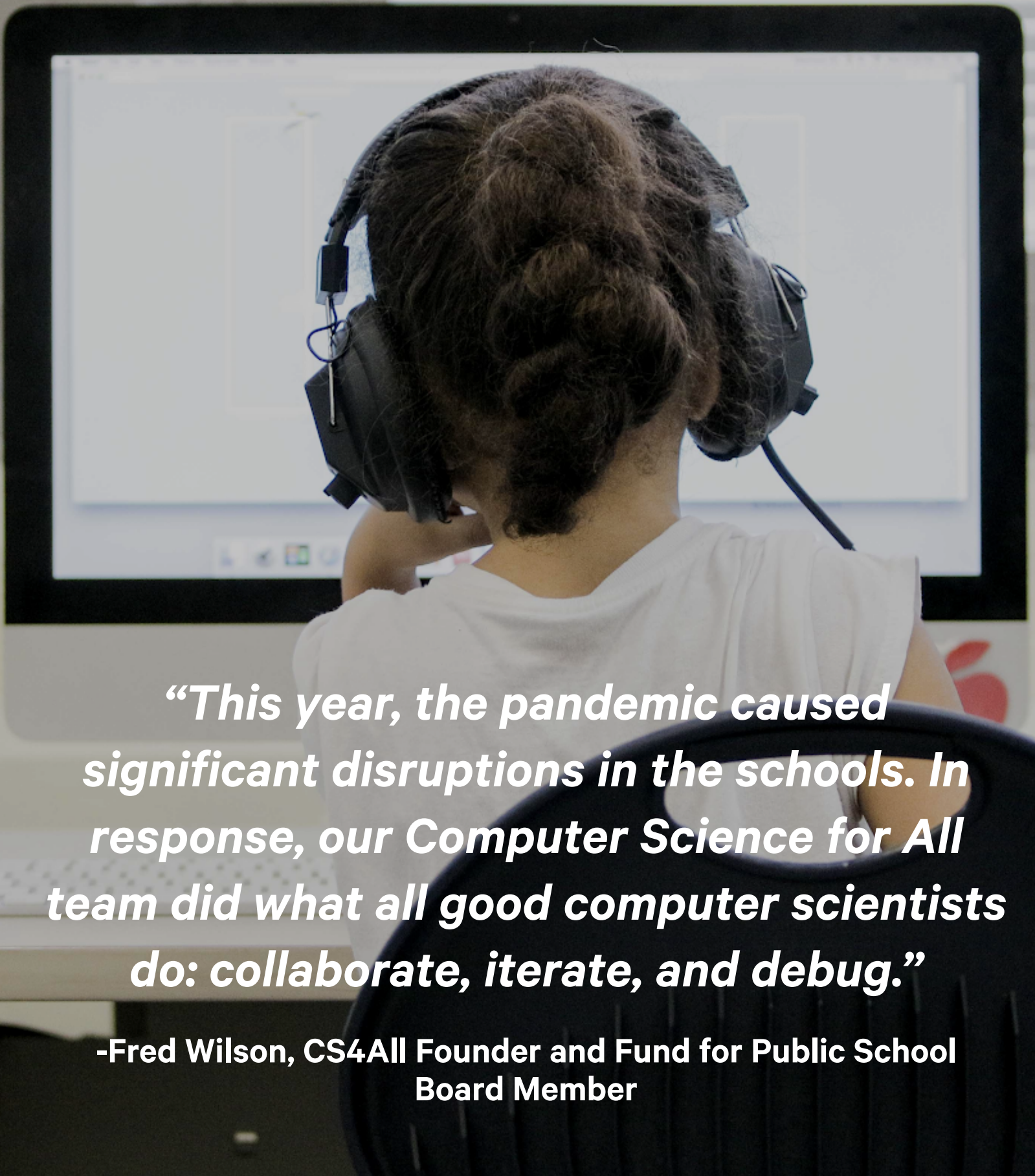
### Strengthening literacy skills for our youngest learners

The Fund provided the start-up funding and raised additional philanthropic support to launch “Let’s Learn NYC!”, an educational public television program produced jointly by the WNET Group and the DOE available on Channel 13 and digitally. Since it began in May, for an hour each weekday, young children ages three to eight (grades 3-K to 2) are tuning in with their families for high-quality and original programming that reinforces foundational literacy skills and important content area knowledge. In addition to getting this initiative off the ground, our funding helped to expand viewership and ensure accessibility for families of multilingual learners.



**“It was very important to us that no digital devices, internet access, or cable access for that matter, were required. This way we could better reach low-tech or harder-to-reach family audiences where devices or connectivity might present a barrier.”**

**- Andrew Fletcher, Senior Executive Director of Early Literacy, NYC DOE**



***“This year, the pandemic caused significant disruptions in the schools. In response, our Computer Science for All team did what all good computer scientists do: collaborate, iterate, and debug.”***

**-Fred Wilson, CS4All Founder and Fund for Public School Board Member**



## **Computer Science for All’s Continuing Progress**

Computer Science for All (CS4All) is a 10-year, \$81 million public-private partnership that will ensure all NYC public school students—with an emphasis on female, Black, and Latinx students— are learning computer science (CS) by 2025. Despite extraordinary challenges caused by the pandemic, CS4All has trained more than 2,025 teachers across more than 825 schools. In the 2019-20 school year alone, more than 177,000 New York City students received computer science instruction. The CS team at the DOE reimaged its program design and curriculum for the blended and remote learning environment to ensure high-quality learning experiences for both teachers and students. The skills and competencies that computer science education builds are critical to setting young people up for success in a rapidly changing world - and we won’t stop until we reach all our students by 2025.

***“From writing a resume and developing my ‘elevator pitch,’ to learning concrete financial skills for my future -- CTE Summer Scholars has helped me feel ready to take my next steps. Now, the world after high school graduation is no longer stressful and mysterious, instead it feels doable and exciting.”***

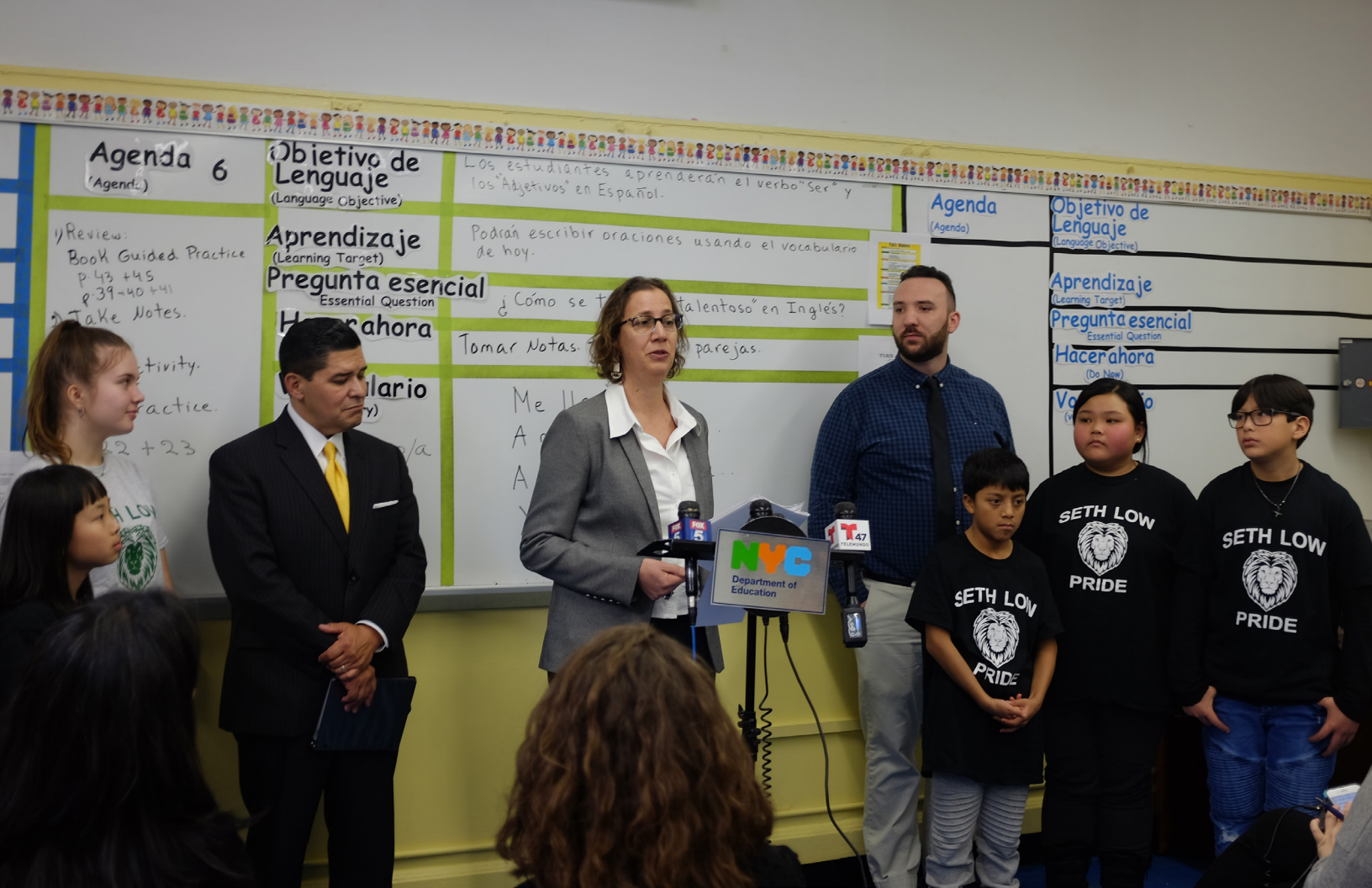
**- Nathan, senior at the High School of Computers and Technology**

## **Pathways to Post-Secondary Success**

The Fund has prioritized partnerships that promote college and career readiness for high school students who are preparing for their next steps during a pandemic and facing new challenges. Many of the students who benefit are the first in their families to attend college, and many are immigrants who have overcome significant barriers to build a bright future for themselves and their families.

In partnership with the DOE, The Fund moved quickly to find innovative ways for high school students to have access to paid internships and other career preparation activities remotely. By collaborating with our funders, impactful programs like Bank of America CTE Summer Scholars and Industry Scholars Program have been reimaged as virtual experiences. Additionally, in the 2019-20 school year alone, The Fund managed more than 44 named scholarship programs for students across the five boroughs.

Through a close partnership with CUNY, The Fund also supported the expansion of College Bridge for All, an innovative program that helps high school students make a successful transition to college through a near-peer mentoring model. With this investment, College Bridge expanded to support more than 50,000 high school seniors during this critical transition.



## Accelerating Progress for Multilingual Learners

In late 2019, The Fund was awarded a five-year, \$13 million grant from the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation to strengthen instruction and improve academic outcomes for multilingual learners in grades 6-8. Part of Gates's nationwide Networks for School Improvement work, this builds on the prior success of a smaller pilot in South Brooklyn to address challenges faced by multilingual learners. Led by the Continuous Learning team within the DOE's Chief Academic Office, in partnership with District 9 Superintendent and Executive Superintendent, this new grant from Gates will expand to reach 18 additional schools in the South Bronx this year. Promising instructional practices - rooted in improvement science - will be shared citywide and ultimately implemented in 45 schools.

*“Private support is key to empowering our educators and driving innovation, giving us flexibility to test promising new approaches before scaling them citywide.”*

**- Dr. Linda Chen,  
Chief Academic Officer, NYC DOE**

## Cultivating the Next Generation of Artists

New York City is home to a vibrant artistic and creative community that forges enriching partnerships with our City's public schools. Private philanthropic support sets in motion a diversity of arts programs, ranging from theater and dance to music and visual arts. This funding enables teachers to provide more of our City's students with transformative arts experiences, ultimately cultivating the talents of the next generation of artists and leaders.

In the 2019-20 school year, long-standing partners of The Fund stepped up to ensure high-quality arts education continued seamlessly in a virtual environment; this includes supporting arts-focused teacher training and lesson planning in Dance and Theater, as well as resources and opportunities to keep fostering students' creative talents across disciplines.

One highlight of last year was collaborating with Paul Simon to establish the Paul Simon Music Fellows with a \$1 million donation to invest in music programs and promote comprehensive musicianship for our students. This fellowship program centers on advanced teacher training and collaboration with professional musicians.

*“As a graduate of the NYC public school system myself, I look forward to seeing the flowering of musical talent, and hearing what our city's kids give us, as they take advantage of this new program.”*

**- Paul Simon**



# Financials

## Revenue and Support

Private Grants and Contributions: \$45,148,288

Donated Services: \$880,670

Investment Income: \$659,608

## Expenses

Program Services: \$12,189,162

Management and General: \$1,663,994

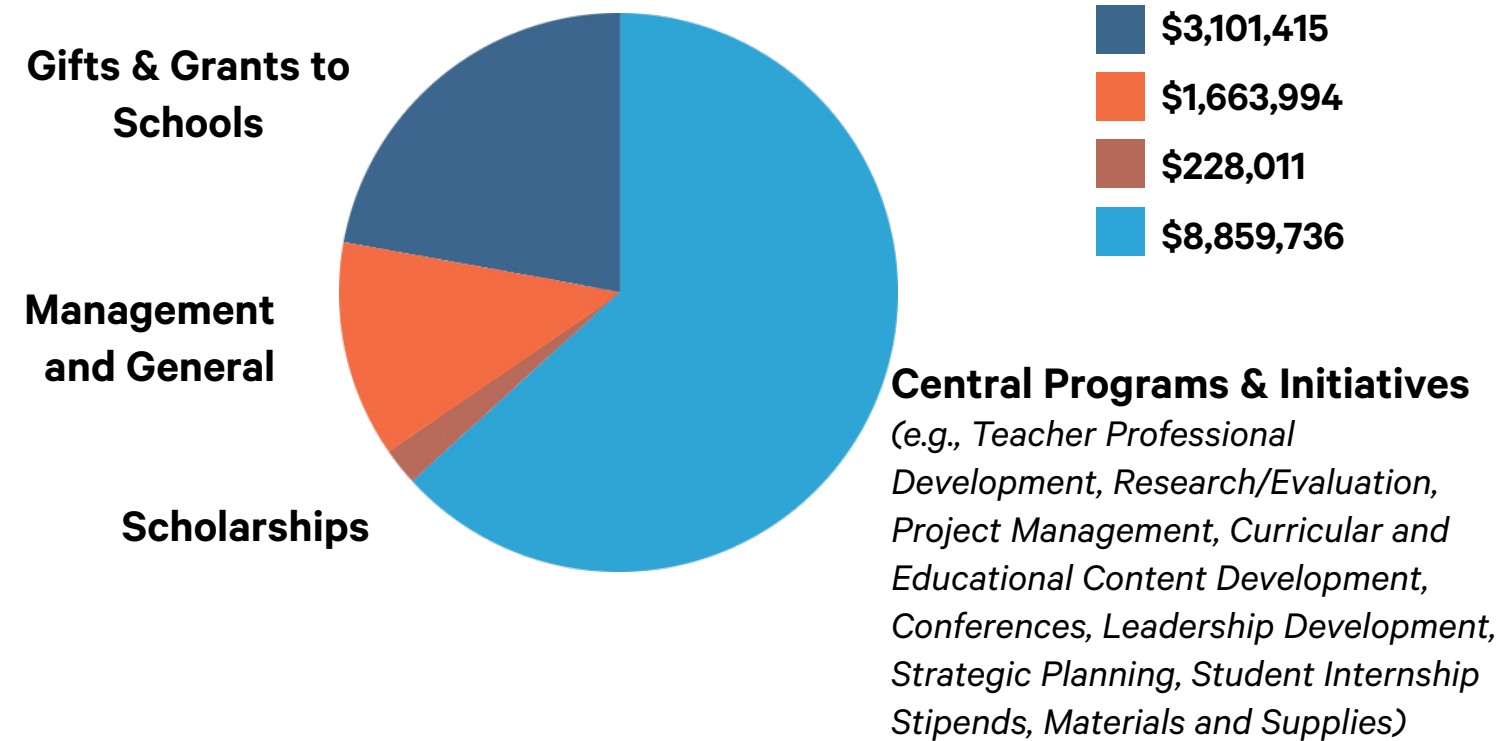
## Net Assets

Unrestricted Net Assets: \$4,670,034

Temporarily Restricted Net Assets: \$52,060,108

Permanently Restricted Net Assets: \$2,623,459

## Annual Expenditures



# Our Leadership

## Board of Directors

### Richard A. Carranza, Chair

Chancellor, NYCDOE

### Dennis Williams, Vice Chair

SVP of Corporate Social Responsibility, WarnerMedia

### Andy Kaplan, Treasurer

CFO (retired), DonorsChoose.org

### Kathryn S. Wylde, Secretary

President and CEO, The Partnership for NYC

### Ayah Bdeir

Entrepreneur, social activist, inventor, former CEO of littleBits

### Jonathan D. Harber

CEO, Harber Advisors, LLC

### Jerrold Ross

Dean Emeritus, The School of Education at St. John's University

### Fred Wilson

Partner, Union Square Ventures

## Leadership Team

### Julie L. Shapiro

Chief Executive Officer

### Kurt Sung

Chief Financial Officer

### Julianne Rana

Deputy Executive Director

### Stephen Cockrell

Chief Strategy Officer

### Simon Chiew

Chief of Staff

### Kate Alcorn

Senior Portfolio Director

### Maggie Dollard

Senior Portfolio Director

### Irena Sobko

Controller

### Julian Vinocur

Senior Director of Communications

*“We have the opportunity - and the responsibility - to take promising ideas and bring them to scale for our more than a million students in the largest school system in the country. This is what The Fund makes possible and I’m thrilled to be a part of this critical mission.”*

- Ayah Bdeir, Fund for Public Schools Board member

# Thank you

To our new and long-time funders, thank you for your commitment to expanding opportunity and providing a high-quality education to our City's more than a million public school students.

## \$1,000,000 +

The Caroline Doll Memorial Fund  
Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation  
IBM Corporation  
The Open Society Foundations  
Robin Hood Foundation  
Simon Family Foundation  
The Solomon Wilson Family Foundation

## \$500,000 +

Anonymous\*  
Goldman Sachs Gives  
The Heckscher Foundation for Children  
The Clara Lionel Foundation  
The Pierre and Tana Matisse Foundation  
The Salesforce Foundation  
The Shubert Foundation, Inc.  
Tides Foundation on behalf of Google.org  
XQ Institute

## \$250,000 +

Jody and John Arnhold  
Bank of America  
The Bank of New York Mellon  
The Burch Family Foundation  
Deutsche Bank Americas on behalf of the  
Hugh L. Adams Charitable Trust  
New Visions for Public Schools  
The New York Community Trust  
Teachers College, Columbia University  
Siegel Family Endowment  
Verizon  
Wells Fargo

## \$100,000 +

Achilles Memorial Fund  
Burt Adelman and Lydia Rogers  
Alexandria Real Estate Equities, Inc.\*  
Amazon  
The Carmel Hill Fund Education Program  
Carson Family Charitable Trust\*  
Chanel, Inc.  
Gray Foundation  
Charles Hayden Foundation  
Hospital for Special Surgery  
Hutchins Family Foundation  
IAC\*

David Karp\*  
Howard and Wendy Lerman\*  
Levi Strauss & Company  
Math for America  
Craig Newmark Philanthropies\*  
Norwegian Cruise Line, Corp.  
Brian O'Kelley and Elizabeth Rovere\*  
Palladium Equity Partners  
Paulson Family Foundation  
Qatar Foundation International, LLC  
The Sassafras Foundation, Inc.  
T-Mobile USA, Inc.  
United Way of New York City  
Walentas Family Foundation  
The Wallace Foundation  
Leslie Ziff

## \$50,000 +

Arconic Foundation  
Bedford Foundation  
BNP Paribas  
Chan Zuckerberg Initiative DAF, an advised fund of  
Silicon Valley Community Foundation  
Curtis High School Foundation  
Deutsche Bank Americas Foundation  
Equal Opportunity Schools  
The Eucalyptus Foundation  
For Inspiration and Recognition of Science  
and Technology  
Agnes Gund  
Kardashian Jenner Family Foundation, Inc.  
Mayor's Fund to Advance New York City  
Arthur Miller Foundation  
The SAP Charitable Fund  
TNT, Inc.  
West Village Residences LLC



## \$25,000 +

Accenture LLP  
Asia Society  
Brooklyn Japanese Dual Language Association, Inc.  
Capital One Foundation  
Colgate-Palmolive  
Cornell University  
Crown Castle  
Delancey Street Associates (DSA)  
Amanda and Jonathan Eilian\*  
Fishes Eddy, LLC  
Friends of Community Action School  
Great Clips, Inc.  
The Hite Foundation  
Home Box Office, Inc.  
Joy of Giving Something, Inc.  
Liz Lange and David Shapiro\*  
The Gilder Lehrman Institute of American History  
Eric P. and Evelyn E. Newman Foundation  
The New York Hall of Science  
New York Harbor Foundation, Inc.  
Theresa and Edward O'Toole Foundation  
Raymond James Financial on behalf of The Lincoln Fund  
May & Samuel Rudin Family Foundation  
The School of American Ballet  
Jo-Vaughn Virginie Scott (aka Joey Bada\$\$)  
David and Zara Tisch\*  
Turner Construction  
Twentieth Century Fox

\*Support provided through the New York City Foundation for Computer Science

*“One major takeaway from my time at the helm of NYC public schools is that our students can count on the most generous, visionary, and caring community of private funders to have their backs – both before and throughout this pandemic.”*

**- Richard A. Carranza,  
Outgoing Chancellor and Fund  
for Public Schools Board Chair**





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**52 Chambers St. Room 305.  
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**[www.fundforpublicschools.org](http://www.fundforpublicschools.org)**

