

For Immediate Release

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LA's Promise and the LA Fund Join Forces to Create LA Promise Fund

The new combined organization will build and oversee a network of schools and programs dedicated to preparing students in LA County for success in college, career, and life.

LOS ANGELES – DATE - LA's Promise and the Los Angeles Fund for Public Education (LA Fund) today announced they are combining to create a new organization to be called the LA Promise Fund. The new nonprofit will harness both agencies' strengths to inspire and help prepare middle- and high-school students in Los Angeles County to achieve success in college, career, and life.

"LA's Promise and the LA Fund have strong track records of success both inside and outside the classroom, and by joining forces, we will be able to reach more students, educators, and parents than ever before," said LA Fund CEO and Board Chair Megan Chernin. "Our goal is simple but vitally important: to improve students' experience and success rates through our network of schools, as well as through our portfolio of programs."

"We know what kinds of academic programs work to transform struggling schools into powerful centers of education," said Veronica Melvin, CEO of LA's Promise. "We are excited at the prospect of expanding our efforts to provide support programming to teachers, students, and parents throughout LA County."

LA Promise Fund will build on both organizations' work to date. LA's Promise, which began by launching the Center for Innovative Education at Manual Arts High School in 2003, currently manages three Los Angeles Unified District Schools (Manual Arts, John Muir, and West Adams Prep), providing educational and counseling support programs for the vast majority of enrolled students. Its accomplishments are considerable: Over the past four years at Manual Arts, it achieved a cohort graduation rate of 79%, which represents a 14% increase since 2009, while college acceptances jumped from 18% to 48% and the overall attendance rate hit 95%, among the highest in the Los Angeles Unified School District. Moreover, instructional days lost to suspension at Manual Arts have fallen by 98% over the last six years. LA Promise's other schools have registered similar improvements.

The LA Fund, founded by Chernin in 2011, currently manages several in-school programs, including Girls Build LA, a girls empowerment program that over the past year has reached more than 7,000 girls, motivating hundreds of them to identify and address challenges in their own communities; The Intern Project, a paid internship program for high schoolers that has placed hundreds of students at prestigious LA companies; #ArtsMatter, a multi-million-dollar arts advocacy program that has integrated arts education and creativity into core curriculum; School Fuel, which to date has helped to provide breakfast to more than 350,000 students; and GrantsHQ, a tool that has offered personalized training and support to thousands of educators.

“I’ve worked closely with LA’s Promise and the LA Fund and been impressed by what each has managed to do,” said Supervisor Mark Ridley-Thomas. “Bringing the leadership, vision, and networks of these two organizations together will activate opportunity and change in the County in a way that I think is unprecedented.”

“My son has attended Manual Arts for three years, and we are so pleased that LA’s Promise has such a strong presence on our campus,” said PARENT. “They provide so many opportunities for my son to be educated and well prepared for life. I love that we are encouraged as parents to come on campus, support the kids and get involved.”

The combination of the organizations takes effect immediately. All members of the Board of Directors of both organizations have been invited to continue their participation on the new LA Promise Fund Board.

About LA Promise Fund:

LA Promise Fund is a nonprofit organization dedicated to preparing Los Angeles students for success in college, career, and life. Working through a network of high-performing, community-based schools and a portfolio of programs that reach students throughout the County, the Fund creates vibrant community hubs and partnerships that foster motivated, engaged, and directed students poised for academic, professional, and personal success.