

“SFUSD and City Partnership for Achievement”
The Mayor and Superintendent’s Plan for City-School District Partnership to
Improve San Francisco’s Public Schools

THE NEED FOR PARTNERSHIP

Quality public schools are essential to San Francisco.

A world-class city must have an excellent public school system to educate its children and ensure its future. Quality public schools keep families in the city. They attract a workforce and contribute to the economic vitality of the city. Most importantly, they prepare the next generation to be productive members of the community and become future leaders of San Francisco. Public education is the bedrock of our democracy and the responsibility of building quality public schools belongs to every San Franciscan.

Mayor Newsom joins SFUSD in making school improvement a priority.

The work of creating a quality public school system is our collective responsibility. The Mayor recognizes this and is making this one of the top priorities of his administration. The Mayor is focusing on concrete steps the city can take to support educational excellence. At every point, we are working in partnership with the schools and district to create a new model of collaboration across governmental agencies.

SFUSD and City Partnership for Achievement share common goals for our children and youth.

Both the school district and the city government share the goals that children are safe, healthy, well educated, contribute positively to the community, and enter adulthood prepared for further education or the workforce. We also share the goals that families can thrive in San Francisco, that the future of the city is secure and that the city is a vibrant, economically and intellectually vital place. We are collectively committed to strengthening the safety net for all children and families particularly the most vulnerable such as our foster care and homeless students.

Current partnerships are strong and are poised to grow, but can achieve better outcomes with continued work.

Many of San Francisco’s city-school partnerships are exemplary and demonstrate our shared commitment. The Public Education Enrichment Fund, created by Proposition H, is one of the most extensive efforts in the state to build a financial partnership between a city and its public schools. Unfortunately, many of our students continue to face obstacles to success. The complex challenges that continue to face the city and the district include closing the achievement gap, reducing truancy and drop out rates, and attracting and retaining the highest quality educators.

THE WORK OF PARTNERSHIP

The SFUSD and City Partnership for Achievement focus on improving outcomes for our public school students through active collaboration between the city and the SFUSD. The city currently has many successful collaborations with the schools. However, this is the first time that the many threads of our efforts as a city have been organized to build a coherent, comprehensive plan for collaboration.

The SFUSD and City Partnership for Achievement highlight six strategic areas for the city and the district:

- 1. Building Community Support and Civic Engagement:** Building a world-class public school system requires the work and involvement of the entire city. We will launch a marketing campaign for the public schools, encouraging families of all types to stay in the city for the schools and increasing involvement by businesses and citizens.
- 2. Supporting Teachers and Principals:** Excellent teaching and school-level administration is central to a quality education for San Francisco's children and youth. We will identify resources to increase compensation, support professional development and provide "extra" benefits to our teachers and principals in order to meet the challenge of recruiting and retaining educators of the highest quality.
- 3. Promoting Adequate School Funding:** School funding remains inadequate for the populations we serve but San Francisco steps up to the plate and provides considerable financial support to its schools in both actual dollars and with in-kind services. . We will develop a platform for increasing State and Federal level funding, make local funds available for programs and services that directly impact our students, and expand support and enrichment services to students by the city, so that students come to school healthy and ready to learn.
- 4. Increasing Opportunities:** Education is a gateway to opportunity for all of San Francisco's children. City partnerships can prepare children for school; enrich school day learning opportunities; remove obstacles to achievement for those students who may have them; and enable learning and development of school age children in and out of school hours. We will increase investment in early education, Preschool for All, to better prepare our children for kindergarten; collaborate to implement Afterschool for All to provide universal access to quality education programs in a safe, nurturing learning environment; increase the city's investment in school security and safe transportation to and from school; and expand collaborative wraparound services and violence prevention programs.
- 5. Preparing for the 21st Century:** San Francisco benefits when students can graduate from high school prepared for both the world of work and for higher education. We will pursue strategies to ensure that youth are prepared for higher education or trained to enter today's job market; support implementation of programs, such as Mandarin Immersion, that prepare students for the modern competitive workforce; support the development of career pathways to meet the demands of the city's growing economy; and work to ensure that all students have access to technology.
- 6. Strengthening Schools as Community Institutions:** Schools are community institutions and are often shared facilities for community gatherings and celebrations. We will partner to ensure the alignment of long-term facilities planning efforts of the city and the district and to develop "hubs" to share in creating safe neighborhoods and community centers.

NEW STRATEGIES FOR PARTNERSHIP

We recognize the line of governance drawn between the school district and the city, but we are all responsible for the success of our students and our schools. The Mayor and the Superintendent will embrace and implement new communication and planning strategies in order to maximize the potential of school-city partnerships and accomplish the goals outlined above. Specifically, we will:

- Formalize agreements between the SFUSD and the City government regarding coordination of services, communication, use of facilities and resources, and joint planning; and
- Co-convene an SF Education Roundtable – with representatives from community organizations, business groups, parent groups, the School Board, the Board of Supervisors, education labor partners, and the Student Advisory Council – to promote ongoing dialogue on educational issues affecting the district and the city.