Elevate Students

2021 ANNUAL REPORT
In 2021, EL Education launched our national Student Advisory Council. This annual report is dedicated to our students and their impact on our work. Throughout this report are reflections from some of our Student Advisors, sharing their achievements and inspiration points from the past year.
Dear Friends of EL Education,

My name is Hannah Smith, and I am a first year student at Clemson University and a proud 2021 graduate of River Bluff High School, an EL Education Credentialed School in Lexington, South Carolina. I have the honor of introducing EL Education’s 2021 Annual Report, Elevate Students, on behalf of the EL Education Student Advisory Council.

My love for EL Education was kickstarted in my junior year of high school when I served as a Student Ambassador for the 2019 National Conference in Atlanta. That conference inspired me to pursue a dual degree in secondary education and English, with hopes of becoming an attorney and generating policies to improve our public education system. At River Bluff, I learned that character is a defining concept. I learned that living with an ethical mindset and sticking to your core beliefs is the best way to contribute to the world. I decided to pursue the EL Education Student Advisory Council to continue growing in my character and appreciation for learning. Launched in 2021, the Student Advisory Council has connected a group of 12 students, ranging in grade level, geography, socioeconomic status, and experience. We meet monthly and help plan signature EL Education events, like Better World Day and the National Conference (side note: I can’t wait to see everyone in Chicago in December 2022!), and we contribute to curriculum development. You will hear from us throughout this report. Being a part of the Student Advisory Council means that I can continue to work with both teachers and students to elevate the importance of students’ voices, which is one of my greatest passions. The Council fosters an environment to grow my passion for educational equality while also challenging me on past beliefs.

In discussing it with other members, it is clear that 2021 was a year of challenges, yet all of our schools continued to persevere. Our teachers adapted and continued to support students’ growth and learning. Our school systems were more flexible than ever, and we learned that education can happen anywhere despite the isolation. Schools still managed to connect students and staff, and continued to support them as best as possible, especially by fostering personal relationships.

Looking ahead, I am hopeful that our education system will inspire students to become contributing citizens, and that socioeconomic status will no longer be a limitation, but a contribution to educational environments. Our classrooms are made stronger with diverse perspectives and socioeconomic backgrounds, and I believe that students and teachers can learn from authentic conversations rooted in personal backgrounds. Forming genuine relationships with students is the gateway to honest conversations. This is the work of the EL Education Student Advisory Council. We are our teachers’ biggest cheerleaders, and we hope that our work to communicate and elevate our experiences will lead to greater support for all students.

I cannot wait to see what this year holds and am confident that EL Education will be a large part of my personal and academic growth.

Yours in Crew,

Hannah Smith
Clemson University Honors College, Class of 2025
2021 Graduate of River Bluff High School in Lexington, South Carolina
Student Advisory Council

Marissa Barnwell
8th Grade Student, Meadow Glen Middle School
Lexington, SC

Chelsea Dargba
8th Grade Student, Two Rivers Public Charter School
Washington, DC

Moses Jackson
7th Grade Student, Capital City Public Charter School
Washington, DC

Lauren Loy
12th Grade Student, Big Pine High School
Big Pine, CA

Kayla Mitchell
11th Grade Student, Harborside Academy
Kenosha, WI

Hannah Smith
Alumni, River Bluff High School
Lexington, SC

Jasper Cox
7th Grade Student, The Springfield Renaissance School
Springfield, MA

Amelie Ghirardo
12th Grade Student, Metropolitan Expeditionary Learning School (MELS), Queens, NY

Stephanie Kacou
Alumni, Metropolitan Expeditionary Learning School (MELS), Queens, NY

Jordyn Miller
12th Grade Student, Brooklyn Collaborative Studies
Brooklyn, NY

Dylan Paris
8th Grade Student, Brooklyn Collaborative Studies
Brooklyn, NY

Sydney Smith
11th Grade Student, River Bluff High School
Lexington, SC
Opening Letter
from Scott Hartl, President & CEO
and Bruce Rich, Board Chair

Dear Friends,

Elevate students. It is more than the title of this EL Education 2021 Annual Report. It has been the heart of EL Education’s work for thirty years. In 2021, EL Education proudly launched a national Student Advisory Council, made up of EL Education students and graduates from communities across the country. As Student Advisor and current college student Hannah Smith writes in her opening letter, the voices of these remarkable young people and their reflections on a challenging year are featured throughout this report.

It is EL Education’s mission to ensure these young people—all young people—experience an exceptional education that prepares them to lead lives of opportunity and contribution.

We know that EL Education has a unique and vital role to play in the national movement for excellence and equity in K-12 education, which is why we adopted a new and ambitious strategic plan to make our model and resources accessible to underserved communities at scale. This past year, EL Education received an extraordinary outpouring of philanthropic investment for this work, and we are deeply grateful and motivated by this support.

Thank you for being a part of our vibrant and growing community. Together, we will ensure that our public education system remains a powerful force for opportunity in our country.

Scott Hartl
President & CEO

R. Bruce Rich
Board Chair
EL Education embarked in 2021 on ELEVATE: our strategic plan to develop and scale our model so that it’s accessible to every public school in America. Elevate is focused on advancing equity in K-12 education.

That’s why preparing students to contribute to a better world is at the center of everything EL Education does. Our model cultivates the inner conviction, academic rigor, and expressive creativity that are the wellspring of our country’s exceptional entrepreneurial spirit. And that spirit thrives best when every American can partake in it. Our work is ultimately about social change.

A Better America

“I think everyone understands that there’s a big divide in America,” says RON BERGER, EL Education’s Senior Advisor for Teaching and Learning. “What we don’t often discuss is our shared belief in the untapped potential of students to make a difference, and how powerful it would be for our national success and economy if we could ignite that potential and cultivate entrepreneurship, craftsmanship, character, and citizenship in our youth.”

We know that what we do works. And we know why: our model attends to the needs of the whole child. Whole-child learning, which includes social-emotional learning, is a path toward Character, one of our central dimensions of student achievement. The goal of our work is for children to take responsibility for their own learning, build confidence and agency, and treat others with respect and compassion. That’s what makes them great students.

And we can measure the results by EL Education’s two other dimensions of achievement: Mastery of Knowledge and Skills, and High-Quality Student Work. Along with Character, these dimensions are interdependent and they carry equally powerful weight. The whole-child approach to learning doesn’t trade academic integrity for social and emotional development. They’re inseparable and mutually reinforcing elements.
Now More Than Ever

The effects of the pandemic on public education exposed deep, urgent, societal inequities. American school systems struggled to serve children from non-privileged backgrounds, and we saw how deep the divide really is. Closing the gap is critical.

When we talk about educational equity at EL Education, we mean two kinds:

**EQUITY OF OPPORTUNITY** a stronger educational experience for more students in more places;

**EQUITY OF OUTCOME** no single element of a child’s identity (including race, ethnicity, and economic background) should ever predict or determine their educational outcome.

The pandemic gave us a window to build new solutions that drive both of these equities for all students, regardless of where they come from or what they look like.

Our Solutions

We’re already on our way there. When we partnered with Detroit Public Schools Community District, students’ test scores outpaced the state of Michigan. In Tennessee, our students’ scores were the top in the state. Alabama’s best selling educational resource book is one we created. Elevate takes everything we’ve been doing and making since our founding 30 years ago, and perfects, casts, and scales our model.

**Elevate consists of three foundational pillars:**

- **SYSTEMS CHANGE** establishes new learning partnerships with a cohort of school districts and charter networks around the nation. These partnerships will teach us the best way to measure what’s really meaningful to us—the effects of the educational environment on student outcomes—and generate proof points for how our model increases equity in schools.

- **REACH** will double our market share by building new distribution channels and investing in new product development to scale our curriculum nationally.

- **RESEARCH** expands our learning capacity by doubling our Credentialed Schools, allowing us to anchor the development of our educational materials in the study of our highest-performing schools.

In order to build these pillars and the structure they support, we’ve launched a fundraising campaign to secure $50 million in philanthropic support by 2025. Elevate seeds our country’s future through the growth of EL Education’s work—the growth of our students.
In my English class I wrote a piece and made a video about the Harlem Renaissance, and I got 100 on the project. I focused mainly on the art that the Harlem Renaissance made. One of the poems that really influenced me was “Calling Dreams” by Georgia Douglas Johnson. I worked really hard to get everything in my video and writing grammatically correct. I’m a big perfectionist, and every time I’d record the video if I messed up I had to restart. I did it at least 20 times until I finally got it right.

Last year, school was all virtual, so it wasn’t the standard year. My English teacher kept telling us how strong we were, because no one has ever done this before. Not a lot of people can say they’ve done their first year of middle school all virtual. It actually made it exciting. And we’re still going strong.
Measuring Success in 2021

Last year EL Education continued to lead the field and expand our reach. We see the measure of our impact mirrored back to us by external validation, by the steady increase in the adoption of our curricula, and—perhaps most importantly—by our own rubric for success: the continued demonstration of the three dimensions of student achievement.

External Validation

1. **SELect Designation**
   In 2021, the Collaborative for Academic, Social, and Emotional Learning (CASEL), the nonprofit that founded the field of SEL, gave EL Education its highest rating, SELect, reserved for programs that meet or exceed all of CASEL’s rigorous criteria for SEL-based education.

2. **EdReports “All Green” Review**
   EdReports.org, a national nonprofit that independently reviews instructional materials for quality and rigor, rated EL Education Grades 6-8 Language Arts Curriculum (Second Edition) with a nearly perfect “all green” score in every category. The review joins prior reviews of K-2 and 3-5 editions, to make the EL Education K-8 Language Arts Curriculum one of the only “all green” curricula nationwide.

3. **Teacher of the Year**
   EL Educator Autumn Rivera was named Colorado Teacher of the Year. Rivera, 6th grade science teacher at Glenwood Springs Middle School in the Roaring Fork district, was also one of four finalists for the National Teacher of the Year Award. Rivera joins six other EL Education teachers who have been named State Teacher of the Year in the last decade. “EL Education is such an amazing opportunity for teachers and students,” Rivera said. “No longer is school a test, test, test atmosphere, but instead is a place where all types of learning are celebrated.”
Expanding Our Reach

The evidence of EL Education’s impact is clear from the growth of our presence in schools nationwide. In 2021, we reached an estimated 1 million students through our curriculum and education resources, including our books, videos, and collection of high-quality student work.

EL Education Dimensions of Student Achievement

Ultimately, we measure impact by our own definition of student success, and this is what sets EL Education apart. Our whole-child approach is unique because it doesn’t sacrifice rigor and academic excellence.

1. MASTERY OF KNOWLEDGE AND SKILLS
   - Demonstrate proficiency and deeper understanding
   - Apply their learning
   - Think critically
   - Communicate clearly

2. CHARACTER
   - Work to become effective learners
   - Work to become ethical people
   - Contribute to a better world

3. HIGH-QUALITY STUDENT WORK
   - Create complex work
   - Demonstrate craftsmanship
   - Create authentic work
I come from a small community, and a proud tribe. I have worked with my tribe since I was born, growing into a member of the community. I have woven baskets out of cattails by the river. I have picked pine nuts and gathered tea in the mountains just as my ancestors have done for thousands of years. I have had so many unique experiences because of my home, school, and culture. That’s why I have adored my school I have attended since preschool. EL Education teaches kids about Warrior Code (our habits of scholarship) and it challenges us to be our best.

Alice Piper’s story and our school honoring it are very important to me. Alice Piper was a young Native American woman who wanted to attend Big Pine High School in 1924. She was denied because state law prohibited Native Americans attending the public school. Alice Piper sued the school district saying the state law making separate schools for Indian children was unconstitutional. The State Supreme Court ruled in her favor.
Our Top 5 Lessons

As an organization of educators, we have always focused on continuous improvement. We’re always committed to deepening our knowledge, because that deepens our practice. Research is built into the foundation of our work with our partner schools. The continuous improvement we’re able to achieve is built on the constant generation of research-driven proof points. Here are five of the strongest:

1. **Our curriculum plus coaching has an impact on student achievement.**

   A rigorous evaluation of the Teacher Potential Project by Mathematica Policy Research found that higher student literacy achievement results from combining EL Education’s top-rated English Language Arts curriculum with actionable professional learning for teachers. After just one year of participating in the new initiative, teachers show marked improvement in classroom practices and engagement. After two years of participation, student outcomes on state ELA assessments are significantly higher.

2. **EL Education students report a more positive learning experience than their peers...**

   The Excellence in Character Education (ExCEL) study, launched in 2019, showed that EL Education students reported a greater sense of purpose compared to their peers. EL Education students were also more likely to say that their teachers cared about them.

3. **...and EL Education teachers report a positive learning climate, too.**

   When teachers thrive, so do students—whose experience is most strongly influenced by their teachers. The ExCEL study found that EL Education teachers reported more positive relationships and a greater sense of shared leadership than teachers in comparison schools.
Rigorous instruction matters for student achievement.

When we ask more of students, they achieve more. As one of our partner school’s principals put it, 
“[EL Education’s] curriculum was harder, but after the first semester when interim assessment scores came back, [our teachers] were convinced of its value.”

Instruction informed by the science of reading is the only proven way to ensure students become proficient readers and confident learners.

The Reading League Journal confirmed years of research showing that “when the science of reading is applied, 80-85% of children will learn to read well if provided with evidence-based classroom reading instruction from a highly knowledgeable teacher.” EL Education’s K–2 Reading Foundations Skills Block and Content-Based Literacy curriculum are steeped in the science of reading comprehension. They are the key to our students’ success.
School should not just be

a place to learn, but a place where students want to keep coming back because it is a place that makes them feel understood, safe, supported, and respected. When I have a sense of belonging, I feel comfortable and safe enough to share my voice.

I want to help be a voice for those

in the disability and LGBTQ+ community. This year, I was elected by students to become Class Ambassador to work with other members of my school to make it a more welcoming environment. I also worked with staff at the school to start an after-school art program so that students could connect and be together during remote learning.
Who We Serve

The pandemic has revealed what we at EL Education have always believed—social, emotional, and academic development are deeply intertwined. We are bringing this proven educational approach to public schools at scale, and we are helping to change outcomes for more students than ever before.

Demographics of Students We Serve

- 37% White
- 27% Black/African American
- 28% Latinx/Hispanic
- 1% Native American
- 4% Multiracial
- 63% Students of Color
- 14% English Learners
- 57% Economically Disadvantaged
- 16% Special Education

- 400,000+ STUDENTS
- 27,000+ TEACHERS
- 1,000+ SCHOOLS ACROSS 32 STATES

- 3% Asian/Pacific Islander
Growing Partnerships in 2021

2021 saw EL Education growing and expanding our partnerships with school systems in exciting ways. We’re working in new places with new partners that have adopted our curriculum and coaching, forging new relationships with schools and districts across the country. In 2021, we launched new partnerships with Boston Public Schools, Charleston County School District, and the NYC Department of Education, and expanded our partnerships with Michigan City Area Schools and Oakland Unified School District, just to name a few.

“EL Education is about ensuring students are thinking critically and engaging with culturally relevant materials. Students will have rich, authentic reading and writing experiences, and everything they do will have a lens on equity.”

Dr. Kyla Johnson-Trammell
Superintendent, Oakland Unified School District

Spotlight: New York City

EL Education has been committed to serving students in our nation’s largest school district for over 20 years. Through our decades-long partnership with NYC Outward Bound Schools, New York City has been home to exceptional EL Education Schools. More recently, our literacy curriculum has taken off, broadly adopted by hundreds of schools across the district, and with support from Robin Hood Learning + Technology Fund, we have been supporting high-need schools in piloting innovative instructional resources that boost literacy of low-income students.

In 2021, we launched a new engagement with the NYC Department of Education focused on developing teachers. We began a series of high-level professional development sessions open to all educators across the entire New York City school system. Over the course of six months, we facilitated 47 sessions with more than 1,100 participants. The sessions were cumulative, building on knowledge and skills throughout the course of the program.

This is the first time we’ve ever implemented something this ambitious at scale in partnership with the district. The program was a huge success and there’s even more to come as we further deepen this partnership.
Humans were not made to be the same, we were all made to stand out. We spend so much time at school! From classes to extracurricular and after-school activities, we really need that inclusive support at school. It shows students that no matter their race, religion, sexual orientation, gender—there should be space for everyone.

My teachers bring my identity into my learning through our curriculum. In 10th grade English we read Street Love, which is a remix of Romeo and Juliet centered around the Harlem Renaissance.
Magic in Michigan City

Nestled on the shores of Lake Michigan between Chicago and South Bend sits Michigan City, Indiana. It’s an industrial town with a school district that serves over 5,000 students across 12 schools. At Michigan City Area Schools (MCAS) something magical is happening.

What started out as a pilot rollout of the EL Education K-8 Language Arts curriculum in 2019, has grown into a unique partnership grounded in strong relationships. It’s been a collaborative journey to develop a multi-year plan tailored to the goals and vision of MCAS to increase student engagement and center student voices, while reaching toward rigorous academic achievement and community impact through learning.

Initially, the EL Education curriculum was piloted across approximately 20% of the district. Over the course of that year, teachers in classrooms where the curriculum was introduced saw students taking leadership in their learning. For Cathy Bildhauser, Curriculum Director at MCAS, it was exciting.

“I sat down on the floor next to a group of four students,” she recalls. “One of the students was struggling with the material. Instead of business as usual, the other students did everything they could to make sure that student was able to find success in the lesson.”

“It was in that moment that it struck me that something magical was happening in our classrooms.”

Cathy Bildhauser
Curriculum Director, Michigan City Area Schools (MCAS)

The next year, the EL Education curriculum was adopted in elementary and middle schools district-wide at MCAS. During that unprecedented virtual year, EL Education provided training and support for educators faced with the daunting task of engaging students with a new curriculum in the midst of a pandemic.
“It was a little difficult,” said Lucas Snyder, Principal at Barker Middle School. “But we still saw some growth. We still saw students more invested in learning.”

Going into the next school year, MCAS wanted to strengthen support for educators and students. Working together with the district, EL Education mapped out a partnership plan that would introduce and infuse EL Education Core Practices throughout the schools. And it centered on Crew.

In 2021, Crew was introduced in schools district-wide at MCAS—something EL Education has never done before at this scale with a district partner. Crew gives students at MCAS a safe, supportive space to be heard and grow relationships with each other and their teachers.

“[The purpose of] Crew is to build better relationships with your peers and to get through a problem.”

5th grade student from Lake Hills Elementary School

Crew isn’t just limited to the classroom. Teachers, staff, principals, and administrators have their own Crews. For Crew culture to really take root, it needs to be embraced and modeled by adults. And that’s exactly what’s been happening in Michigan City. Principals set the vision for Staff Crew, and then delegate leadership to different teachers at staff meetings.

It builds on the strong sense of camaraderie already present in the district to ensure real purpose, agency, and belonging for all adults and children at school.

“It’s part of the DNA of our school now,” said Josh Malone, principal at Krueger Middle School. “Kids are excited to get to class.”

“We have students back in the classrooms full time now and our engagement levels are through the roof. Our students have more of a voice.”

Lucas Snyder
Principal, Barker Middle School

The ongoing collaboration between EL Education and Michigan City Area Schools continues to grow. In the 2022-2023 school year, to elevate student voice and drive family engagement, the district will roll out Student Led Conferences, which put students in the driver’s seat presenting and evaluating their own work alongside families. The district and EL Education will further measure and analyze systemwide impact on learning environments, instructional practices, and student outcomes. These are important steps on a shared journey to unleash the full potential of all students to thrive as learners and citizens. And on this journey, there are no passengers.

We are all Crew.
Credentialed Schools

EL Education Credentialed Schools Expand the Definition of Student Success

EL Education’s approach to reinventing schools focuses on an expanded definition of student achievement that combines student character and high-quality work with mastery of knowledge and skills. Schools that have earned the EL Education Credential have demonstrated remarkable impact with all students in each of these areas. These schools serve as collaborators with EL Education to develop innovative education resources and curriculum, and often pilot these new materials in order for EL Education to hone our instructional practices.

Our strategic plan sets a goal to grow our diverse portfolio of Credentialed Schools to 100 schools that achieve excellent, equitable outcomes across our expanded view of student achievement. As an initial step toward accomplishing this goal, in 2021 EL Education engaged students, educators, and families in a design process to make Credentialing more equitable, authentic, and accessible to more schools.

To date, 43 schools across the country have attained the EL Education Credential. These schools provide a unique and transformative educational experience for their students.

Atwater Elementary School in Shorewood, Wisconsin earned the EL Education Credential in 2021.

“At our partnership with EL Education has truly enhanced and highlighted many aspects of what has made Atwater special for many years.”

Nate Schultz, Principal
Atwater Elementary School

Atwater Elementary School, an EL Education Credentialed School in Shorewood, WI
Elevate Students

EL Education Credentialed Schools are some of the most successful schools in the nation.

- Students outperform their district and state peers in math and reading
- Students have a greater sense of purpose in their learning
- 94% of students graduate high school, a higher rate than the national average

EL Education Credentialed Schools are diverse in their governance structure and in the communities they serve.

**Locale**

- Urban
- Suburban
- Rural

**Governance**

- District
- Charter

*Amana Academy*, an EL Education Credentialed School in Alpharetta, GA
I thought a lot about my identity as a white Latina over the pandemic. This year for my speech team, I wrote a speech about gentrification and how it impacts our city. It was a way for me to think about my identity. I’m Hispanic, but I’m white. This speech was a way to talk about privilege—and that’s a good conversation to have with yourself.

Why don’t we ask our dear barista what this so-called “gentrification coffee” contains so that we can understand what gentrification means?

- Excerpt from Amelie Ghirardo’s speech, The New Coffee Shop.
Partnerships with Schools and Districts

EL Education partners with K-12 public schools, both district and charter, as well as whole districts and school networks to transform teaching and learning and improve student outcomes across an expanded view of student success. Active partnerships in 2021 include:

Districts, Charter Management Organizations, and School Networks

**Arizona**
Sunnyside Unified School District

**California**
Aspire Public Schools
Bright Star Schools
Escondido Union School District
Mount Pleasant Elementary School District
Oakland Unified School District

**Colorado**
Jeffco Public Schools
Roaring Fork Schools

**Florida**
Hillsborough County Public Schools

**Georgia**
City Schools of Decatur

**Illinois**
Dolton Riverdale School District 148
Rock Island-Milan School District

**Indiana**
Evansville Vanderburgh School Corporation
Michigan City Area Schools

**Iowa**
Des Moines Public Schools

**Massachusetts**
Boston Public Schools
Fitchburg Public Schools
North Middlesex Regional School District
UP Network

**Michigan**
Detroit Public Schools Community District

**New York**
Kenmore-Town of Tonawanda Union Free School District
NYC Department of Education
NYC Outward Bound Schools
Pine Bush Central School District
Roosevelt Union Free School District
Silver Creek CSD
Ulster BOCES
Westhill Central Schools

**North Carolina**
Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools
Guilford County Schools
Wake County Public School System

**Ohio**
Cincinnati Public Schools
Cleveland Metropolitan School District
Lancaster Public Schools

**Pennsylvania**
Independence Mission Schools
Propel Charter School Network

**Rhode Island**
Lincoln Public Schools
Westerly Public Schools

**South Carolina**
Charleston County School District

**Tennessee**
Hamilton County Schools

**Vermont**
Hartford School District
Vermont Rural Education Collaborative

**Virginia**
Richmond City Public Schools

**Washington**
Anacortes School District

**Wisconsin**
Eleva-Strum School District
School Partners

**Arizona**
- Glen Canyon Outdoor Academy
- Arizona

**California**
- Big Pine Unified School District
- Big Pine
- Conway Elementary
- Escondido
- Grass Valley Charter School
- Grass Valley
- Lighthouse Community Public Schools
- Oakland
- Lodestar Community Charter
- Oakland
- Melrose Leadership Academy
- Oakland
- Orange County Educational Arts Academy
- Santa Ana
- Rosemary Elementary
- Campbell
- Sierra Academy of Expeditionary Learning
- Nevada City
- Sierra Expeditionary Learning School
- Truckee
- Vallejo Charter School
- Vallejo
- Ventura Charter School of Arts and Global Education
- Ventura

**Colorado**
- Achieve Academy
- Thornton
- Adventure Elementary
- Denver
- Annunciation Catholic School
- Denver
- Big Thompson Elementary School
- Loveland
- Centennial Elementary School
- Denver
- Columbine Elementary School
- Denver
- Downtown Denver Expeditionary Learning School
- Denver
- Dutch Creek Elementary School
- Littleton
- Empower High School
- Aurora
- Escalante Middle School
- Durango
- Explore Elementary
- Thornton
- Fox Creek Elementary School
- Highlands Ranch
- Glenwood Springs Elementary School
- Glenwood Springs
- Glenwood Springs Middle School
- Glenwood Springs
- Joe Shoemaker Elementary School
- Denver
- Kiva Montessori School
- Cortez
- Kiwiyagat Community Academy
- Towaoc
- Lumberg Elementary School
- Edgewater
- Mapleton Expeditionary School of the Arts
- Thornton
- North Routt Community Charter School
- Clark
- The Odyssey School of Denver
- Denver
- Park Elementary School
- Durango
- Pikes Peak School of Expeditionary Learning
- Falcon
- Pine Lane Elementary School
- Parker
- Riverview Elementary School
- Durango
- Silverton School of Expeditionary Learning
- Silverton
- St. Rose of Lima
- Denver
- Stevens Elementary School
- Wheat Ridge
- Summit View Elementary
- Highlands Ranch
- Tollgate Elementary
- Aurora
- Trailside Academy
- Denver
- Welby Community School
- Denver
- Wellspring Catholic Academy of St. Bernadette
- Denver
- William Smith High School
- Aurora

**Connecticut**
- Expeditionary Learning Academy at Moylan School (ELAMS)
- Hartford
- Illing Middle School
- Manchester
- Sanchez Elementary
- Hartford
- South Elementary School
- Windsor Locks
- West Woods Upper Elementary
- Farmington

**Delaware**
- Kuumba Academy Charter School
- Wilmington

**Georgia**
- Amana Academy
- Alpharetta
- Amana Academy West (opening 2022)
- Alpharetta
- Brighten Academy Charter School
- Douglasville
- Centennial Academy
- Atlanta
Elevate Students

Clairemont Elementary School
Decatur

Drew Elementary Academy
Atlanta

Glennwood Elementary School
Decatur

Mary McLeod Bethune Elementary School
Atlanta

Michael R. Hollis Innovation Academy
Atlanta

Miles Ahead Charter School (opening 2022)
Buford

Oakhurst Elementary
Decatur

Talley Street Upper Elementary
Decatur

Westchester Elementary School
Decatur

Winnona Park Elementary School
Decatur

Indiana

Edgewood Elementary School
Michigan City

Global Preparatory Academy
Indianapolis

Inspire Academy
Muncie

Knapp Elementary
Michigan City

The Path School
Indianapolis

Pine Elementary School
Michigan City

Springfield Elementary School
Michigan City

York Elementary
Bristol

Iowa

Monroe Elementary School
Des Moines

Illinois

Chávez Multicultural Academic Center
Chicago

Elgin Math and Science Academy
Elgin

Galapagos Rockford Charter School
Chicago

Kozminski Elementary Community Academy
Chicago

Lincoln Junior High School
Dolton

Polaris Charter Academy
Chicago

Thomasboro Grade School
Thomasboro

Indiana

Edgewood Elementary School
Michigan City

Global Preparatory Academy
Indianapolis

Inspire Academy
Muncie

Knapp Elementary
Michigan City

The Path School
Indianapolis

Pine Elementary School
Michigan City

Springfield Elementary School
Michigan City

York Elementary
Bristol

Iowa

Monroe Elementary School
Des Moines

Maryland

Lillie May Carroll Jackson Charter School
Baltimore

Monarch Academy Glen Burnie Campus
Glen Burnie

Massachusetts

Alma Del Mar Charter School - Frederick Douglas Campus
New Bedford

Alma Del Mar Charter School - Sarah D. Ottiwell
New Bedford

Baystate Academy Charter Public School
Springfield

Christa McAuliffe Charter School
Framingham

Codman Academy Charter Public School
Dorchester

Conservatory Lab Charter School
Dorchester

Four Rivers Charter Public School
Greenfield

Holmes Innovation School
Dorchester

Margarita Muniz Academy
Jamaica Plain

Mohawk Trail Regional School
Shelburne Falls

Old Sturbridge Academy Public Charter School
Sturbridge

The Springfield Renaissance School
Springfield

Michigan

Baldwin Elementary School
Baldwin

Detroit Academy of Arts and Sciences
Detroit

Eagle’s Nest Academy
Flint

Flint Cultural Center Academy
Flint

Northport Public School
Northport

Minnesota

New City Charter School
Minneapolis

Open World Learning School
Saint Paul

Schoolcraft Learning Community
Bemidji

New Jersey

Environment Community Opportunity (ECO) Charter School
Camden
New York
Brighton Academy
Syracuse
Brooklyn Collaborative Studies
Brooklyn
Channel View School for Research
Rockaway Beach
Community School for Social Justice
Bronx
Dr. Walter Cooper Academy
Rochester
East High School
Rochester
Eugenio Maria de Hostos Charter School
Rochester
Expeditionary Learning Middle School
Syracuse
Goynor McCown School
Staten Island
Genesee Community Charter School
Rochester
Genesee Community Charter School (Flour City)
Rochester
Hyde Leadership Charter School
Brooklyn
I.S. 206 Ann Cross Mersereau
Bronx
Institute for Health Professions at Cambia Heights
Queens
The James Baldwin School
New York City
Kurt Hahn School
Brooklyn
Launch Expeditionary Learning Charter School
Brooklyn
Leaders High School
Brooklyn
M.S. 370 - Leaders of Tomorrow
Bronx
M.S. 390
Bronx
M.S. 839
Brooklyn
Manhattan Charter I
New York City
Manhattan Charter II
New York City
Marsh Avenue Expeditionary Learning School (MAELS)
Staten Island
McCarthy at Beard School
Syracuse
Metropolitan Expeditionary Learning School (MELS)
Queens
Niagara Charter School
Niagara Falls
North Bronx School of Empowerment
Bronx
P.S. 24
Brooklyn
P.S. 63 - Authors’ Academy
Bronx
P.S. 112 - Bronxwood
Bronx
P.S. 204 - Vince Lombardi Elementary School
Brooklyn
P.S. 214
Bronx
P.S. 306 - New York City Academy for Discovery
Queens
P.S. 368 - The William Lynch School
New York City
P.S. / M.S. 280
Bronx
P.S. / I.S. 30 - Mary White Ovington
Brooklyn
Ripley Central School District
Ripley
Tapestry Charter School
Buffalo
Washington Heights Expeditionary Learning School (WHEELS)
New York City
West Buffalo Charter School
Buffalo
West End Secondary
New York City
World of Inquiry School No. 58
Rochester
North Carolina
Bruns Avenue Elementary
Charlotte
Evergreen Community Charter School
Asheville
Franklin School of Innovation
Asheville
Peck Elementary
Greensboro
Renaissance West STEAM Academy
Charlotte
Wilburn Elementary School
Raleigh
Ohio
The Charles School
Columbus
Citizens Leadership Academy
Cleveland
Citizens Leadership Academy East
Cleveland
Citizens Leadership Academy Southeast
Cleveland
Clifton Area Neighborhood School
Cincinnati
College Hill Fundamental Academy
Cincinnati
Graham Elementary and Middle School
Columbus
The Graham School
Columbus
Mt. Washington School
Cincinnati
Rees E. Price Academy
Cincinnati
Oregon
Beaverton Academy of Science and Engineering
Beaverton
City View Charter School
Hillsboro
Columbia City Elementary
Columbia City

Key: Credentialed Schools are highlighted in orange text.
Kairos PDX Learning Academy
Portland

Rimrock Expeditionary Alternative Learning High School
Bend

Rimrock Expeditionary Alternative Learning Middle School (REALMS)
Bend

Sitton Elementary
Portland

Pennsylvania
Collegium Charter School
Exton

Environmental Charter School
Pittsburgh

Independence Charter School West
Philadelphia

Lincoln PreK-5
Pittsburgh

Russell Byers Charter School
Philadelphia

Rhode Island
The Greene School
West Greenwich

South Carolina
Gilbert High School
Gilbert

Gilbert Middle School
Gilbert

Lead Academy
Greenville

Legacy Early College
Greenville

Lexington Middle School
Lexington

Meadow Glen Elementary School
Lexington

Meadow Glen Middle School
Lexington

River Bluff High School
Lexington

Westwood High
Blythewood

Tennessee
Clifton Hills Elementary
Chattanooga

East Brainerd Elementary School
Chattanooga

Hardy Elementary School
Chattanooga

Harrison Elementary School
Chattanooga

Woodmore Elementary School
Chattanooga

Utah
Entheos Academy
Kearns

GreenWood Charter School
Harrisville

Voyage Academy
Clinton

Virginia
Campbell Elementary School
Arlington

J.H. Blackwell Elementary School
Richmond

Lucille Murray Brown Middle School
Richmond

Swansboro Elementary School
Richmond

Washington
Kettle Falls Elementary School
Kettle Falls

Washington, DC
Capital City Public Charter School
Washington, DC

Capital Village Schools
Washington, DC

I Dream Public Charter School
Washington, DC

Meridian Public Charter School
Washington, DC

Mundo Verde Bilingual Public Charter School
Washington, DC

Mundo Verde Bilingual Public Charter School - Calle Ocho
Washington, DC

Mundo Verde Bilingual Public Charter School - Cook Campus
Washington, DC

The Social Justice School
Washington, DC

Two Rivers Public Charter School - 4th Street Campus
Washington, DC

Two Rivers Public Charter School - Young Campus
Washington, DC

West Virginia
Explorer Academy
Huntington

Grandview Elementary School
Charleston

Wisconsin
Arbor Vitae-Woodruff Elementary School
Arbor Vitae

Atwater Elementary School
Shorewood

Frank Elementary School
Kenosha

Harborside Academy
Kenosha

Jefferson Elementary
Kenosha

Lake Bluff Elementary School
Shorewood

Marathon Area Primary
Marathon

Marathon Venture Academy
Marathon

Milwaukee Environmental Sciences Academy
West Allis

One City Elementary School
Madison

St. Joseph Academy
Milwaukee

Vernon Elementary
Kenosha

Wilson Elementary School
Kenosha
It was great to play basketball again when we started going back to school in person. But I’ve also learned how to apply myself to other areas at school. I can bring those two things together.

EL Education’s Student Advisory Council last year really helped me grow and stay motivated. It gave me a lot of responsibility during quarantine, which was good because I had more control over things. Being on the Council helped me build my character and made me more comfortable speaking with adults and sharing my ideas and my skills.

MOSES JACKSON
Grade: 7
Capital City Public Charter School / Washington DC
EL Education Credentialed School recognized for 100% college acceptance and as a model for diversity and inclusivity

It was great to play basketball again when we started going back to school in person. But I’ve also learned how to apply myself to other areas at school. I can bring those two things together.
The annual EL Educator Awards celebrate teachers and school leaders who bring our expanded vision for student achievement to life. The 2021 recipients exemplify the exceptional educators for which EL Education is known.

2021 Klingenstein Teacher Award

Erick Espin, History Teacher, WHEELS, A NYC Outward Bound School (New York, NY)

“I create a culture of belonging by learning and honoring each person’s name. I see the name, its pronunciation, and its story, as a way of letting each student know they are respected and valued in this space. That first step helps establish the foundation for a community of belonging. I bring my personal identity to school because I want my students to feel they belong so they can be their authentic selves, and they deserve the same from me.”

2021 Silverberg Leadership Award

Minh-Trâm Nguyểmn, Principal, EnCompass Academy (Oakland, CA)

“The foundation of good teaching and learning starts with connections and community, with students being seen and people feeling like they have a voice and are able to take risks in their learning, and take feedback. When you make a mistake or fail, you get right back up, and you use that growth mindset to get better every day because that’s all we have.”

The Klingenstein Teacher Award is made possible with generous support from the Klingenstein Foundation in honor of LEE KLINGENSTEIN (1927-2020), Founding Chair of the EL Education Board of Directors.

The Silverberg Leadership Award is made possible with the generous support of IRWIN SILVERBERG, member of the EL Education Board of Directors.
We are deeply grateful for the support of many organizations and individuals who help EL Education transform students’ lives with our educational approach, resources, and curriculum. Thank you for your commitment to an expanded vision of achievement for all students. Our work would not be possible without your generosity.
A Year of Historic Support

In 2021, we launched a $50 million campaign to innovate, evaluate, and scale our solutions with partners across the country. Believing in the power and potential of EL Education, early supporters made commitments totaling more than $25 million in the first year of our campaign. This support includes an extraordinary $10 million gift from MacKenzie Scott, one of the largest gifts our organization has ever received, and significant investments from the Bezos Family Foundation, Bloomberg Philanthropies, Carnegie Corporation of New York, the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, the William and Flora Hewlett Foundation, Klingenstein Foundation, the Robin Hood Learning + Technology Fund, Charles and Lynn Schusterman Family Philanthropies, and Harriet L. Weissman. We will use this incredible momentum to deepen our impact for lasting change.

“My husband Paul Weissman shared my passion for helping young people realize their dreams, and it is a privilege to support EL Education. Serving on the Board of Directors has enriched my life, and I will continue to find great joy in this extraordinary organization as the years go by.”

Harriet L. Weissman
EL Education Board Member

“We are proud to support EL Education in their work to create high-quality English Language Arts curriculum and professional learning that supports teachers in providing engaging, affirming and standards-aligned teaching for all students. Our support of EL Education is rooted in our shared belief that all students, particularly Black and Latino students who have been historically underserved, deserve and will thrive with an education that challenges them to grow and prepares them to succeed.”

Judy Wurtzel
Charles and Lynn Schusterman Family Philanthropies

The following list recognizes philanthropic commitments made in 2021, including multi-year investments in our strategic plan.
Lead Supporters

$1,000,000 and up

Bezos Family Foundation
Carnegie Corporation of New York
Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation
William and Flora Hewlett Foundation
Klingenstein Foundation, in honor of Lee P. Klingenstein
Charles and Lynn Schusterman Family Philanthropies
MacKenzie Scott
Harriet L. Weissman

$500,000 to $999,999

Bloomberg Philanthropies
Robin Hood Learning + Technology Fund

$100,000 to $499,999

Booth Ferris Foundation
Buckley Foundation
Detroit Children’s Fund
James and Marsha McCormick
R. Bruce and Melissa Rich
Tracey and Phillip Riese
Irwin and Carol Silverberg
Virginia H. and Geoffrey F. Worden
Alfred and Patricia Zollar
## Stewards

### $25,000 to $99,999

- Jewelle and Nathaniel Bickford
- Ravenel B. Curry, III
- Estée Lauder Companies Charitable Foundation
- Fund for Teachers
- Todd Gomez and Janis Smith-Gomez
- Allen and Jane Grossman
- William E Hixson Foundation
- Johnson Family Foundation
- Patricia Klingenstein
- Straus Family Foundation
- Susan Wilen

### $10,000 to $24,999

- Anonymous
- David and Alexandra Drucker
- Gilles Gade
- Ann Kaplan
- Andrew and Julie Klingenstein
- Penske Foundation
- Lynn Weiner

### $1,000 to $9,999

- Anonymous
- Frances C. Ashley
- Priscilla H. Blum
- Kevin Bone
- Buckingham Browne & Nichols School
- Naomi and Teddy Drew
- Finlay Family
- Gamba Family Foundation
- Patsy and Ed Garno
- Stella and Charles Guttman Foundation
- Scott and Hannah Hartl
- Hugh J. Helfenstein
- Joseph Levine and Jane Cyphers
- Jean Meyer Martin
- Louis and Barbara Perlmutter
- The Muriel F. Siebert Foundation
- Albert Sisto
- Richard and Estelle Vernon
- Virginia Welch
- Anita and Byron Wien
- Winingder Family Fund
- David Youngworth
- Annie Ziesing
Stewards

AmazonSmile Foundation
Anonymous
Kenneth Bartels and Jane Condon
Jeffrey and Michele Bernstein
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J.P. and Kaki Smith
Bunny Torrance
John and Kitty Webster
Alan and Barbara Weinschel
Mr. and Mrs. William Wigton
Safiyyah Williams
Robert E. Zaret

In Memoriam: Roland S. Barth (1937-2021)

We are grateful to those who chose to honor our friend Roland Barth by making a gift to EL Education. An education pioneer, Roland S. Barth devoted his career to improving public education and fostering communities of life-long learning. He greatly influenced the work of EL Education, and served on our Board of Directors from 2003-2017.

Jan Beaven
Ana Conboy
Christian Genetski
The GIRE Team
Jack and Brownie Jelsema
Susannah Kerest

Kim Marshall
Dixie Mills
Jennifer Moniz
Margaret Newhouse
Fritz Okie
Galen and Susan Todd

“In Schools] can become cultures where youngsters are discovering the joy, the difficulty, and the excitement of learning and where adults are continually rediscovering the joy, the difficulty, and the excitement of learning. Places where we are all in it together—learning by heart.”

Roland Barth, Learning By Heart

Pro Bono

Hall Capital Partners LLC
Weil, Gotshal & Manges LLP
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Rosa Lee and Egbert Chang Professor of Psychology, University of Pennsylvania, Founder and CEO, Character Lab

Camille A. Farrington
Managing Director and Senior Research Associate, University of Chicago Consortium on School Research

Howard Gardner
John H. and Elisabeth A. Hobbs Research Professor of Cognition and Education, Harvard Graduate School of Education

Daren Graves
Associate Professor of Education and Social Work, Simmons University Adjunct Lecturer of Education, Harvard Graduate School of Education

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Vice President of Research, Collaborative for Academic, Social, and Emotional Learning (CASEL)

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Gregory Walton
Associate Professor of Psychology, The Michael Forman University Fellow in Undergraduate Education, Stanford University

David Yeager
Associate Professor of Psychology, University of Texas at Austin

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Irwin Silverberg
Alexandra Buckley Voris
Harriet L. Weissman
Susan J. Wilen
Virginia Hill Worden, Chair Emerita
Jo Ziesing
Alfred Zollar

Institutional affiliations listed for purposes of identification.
# Statement of Activities
For the Year Ended August 31, 2021

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Revenue, support and gains</th>
<th>Net Assets without Donor Restrictions</th>
<th>Net Assets with Donor Restrictions</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>School, consulting, and product revenue</td>
<td>$18,238,421</td>
<td>$18,068,021</td>
<td>$18,068,021</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Contributions and grants</td>
<td>$2,043,278</td>
<td>$817,240</td>
<td>$817,240</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PPP Loan Forgiveness</td>
<td>$2,445,446</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>$2,445,446</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Government grant</td>
<td>$3,568,437</td>
<td>$1,043,013</td>
<td>$1,043,013</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other income</td>
<td>$36,372</td>
<td>$84,987</td>
<td>$84,987</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Investment income</td>
<td>$744,806</td>
<td>$120,930</td>
<td>$120,930</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total revenue, support and gains</strong></td>
<td>$24,631,314</td>
<td>$4,388,539</td>
<td>$29,019,853</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Expenses</th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Program services</td>
<td>$14,924,986</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>$14,924,986</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>General management and administration</td>
<td>$5,443,882</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>$5,443,882</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fundraising</td>
<td>$896,630</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>$896,630</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total expenses</strong></td>
<td>$21,265,498</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>$21,265,498</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

| Change in net assets                             | $3,365,816                           | $4,388,539                        | $7,754,355 |
| Net assets, beginning of year                    | $11,478,769                          | $3,468,949                        | $14,947,718 |
| **Net assets, end of year**                      | $14,844,585                          | $7,857,488                        | $22,702,073 |
Financial Stability

EL Education’s strong financial position reflects our diversified, sustainable sources of revenue. Our financial sustainability is critically important to our ability to deliver high-quality programs and services to public schools and districts across the country.

### 2021 Sources of Revenue

- School, consulting, and product revenue: 67%
- Contributions, grants, and PPP loan forgiveness: 30%
- Other income: 3%

### 2021 Allocation of Expenses

- Program services: 70%
- General management and administration: 26%
- Fundraising: 4%

All information from EL Education’s independent audit report for the 2021 fiscal year ending August 31, 2021.
Our Vision

When students and teachers are engaged in work that is challenging, adventurous, and meaningful, learning and achievement flourish.
Contact Us

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New York, NY 10001
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development@ELeducation.org