STRIVE Prep

BRIGHTER together

2018 IMPACT REPORT
2018-2019 Board of Trustees

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The STRIVE Prep Board of Trustees is a group of committed community leaders who support the vision of clearing a path for all families to have access to a high-quality public education in their neighborhood. Made up of parents, community, business, and foundation leaders, the board helps us maintain accountability to students, families and the community by holding public meetings every month to review school progress.

STRIVE Prep thanks the dedicated individuals on our Board of Directors.

TURNPOST This report was produced in part through a generous in-kind contribution by Turnpost Creative Group. turnpost.com
Dear Friends and Supporters,

For the first two decades of the charter school movement, many organizations worked to build a proof point on the following promise:

If low-income families choose a school with greater structure and a strong culture and engage deeply in that school community, their children will compete with middle-class families on traditional outcomes and attend and graduate from college.

This has been a noble and successful effort, and STRIVE Prep opened 13 years ago as part of this movement.

Today, as charters in Colorado enter their third decade, it’s clear that this first promise risks leaving behind many families: those without agency to make an affirmative choice, those whose circumstances require regular mobility, and those with children with more severe special needs.

In this era, STRIVE Prep seeks to be a new proof point –

That a charter school can be the school for an entire community, serving all students, with a program centered on justice, achievement, and perseverance that meets students where they are and puts their achievement first.

STRIVE Prep is a place where seven of our schools exceed Denver’s high-poverty index, a measure of significant need, by more than 15 percentage points. Fifteen percent of STRIVE Prep students are students with disabilities, and 95 students across eight schools are served in centers for students with severe disabilities, 2.5 percent of total enrollment. A young man named Pablito at STRIVE Prep – SMART, who has Down Syndrome, will often wait outside in the morning cold to walk in with another classmate close behind him in order to build a stronger community.

STRIVE Prep is a place where last year 88% of our graduates were accepted to a four-year college, 100% were accepted to a two-year or four-year college. Over 70% of our graduates enter college after graduation. A young man named Bryant Jimenez at STRIVE Prep – EXCEL has earned early acceptance to Stanford University this year with a full scholarship.

We’re going to keep serving each of these students, keep serving our community, and lead the country in doing so – working with every student, including exactly those students that charter critics have accused us of ignoring in the past.

In the next three years, we plan to grow to 4,500 students while ensuring that each school in our network earns blue or green status on the School Performance Framework.

To achieve these results while serving every student, we’re focusing on student-centered learning, restorative practices in school culture, and diverse, top talent in every role through strengths-based people management with an equity and inclusion lens. These strategies make up the backbone of our strategic plan, and they are here to stay.

We’re going to do what is hard – because Pablito, Bryant, and every single of our 3,800 students deserve nothing less.

And, here’s the thing about doing what’s hard – it’s not as hard if we don’t do it alone. Locking arms with another colleague makes it a bit easier. Locking arms with the 500 staff members in our network makes it several steps easier. And, locking arms with our exceptional families and advocates across our community makes it possible to change the world – which is why we’re here.

I’m grateful for each of you locking arms together to support STRIVE Prep.

With gratitude,

Chris Gibbons
Founder and Chief Executive Officer
CORE beliefs

JUSTICE
Our students deserve a just world that they help create. STRIVE Prep’s role in creating this world is to run great schools. Our schools are places of dignity for all – students, families, and staff.

ACHIEVEMENT
Our students deserve a standards-based education intended to develop leadership, problem-solving skills, and creativity. Students are empowered to use their voices and hard work to lead now and in the future.

PERSEVERANCE
Our students are self-motivated and they persevere in the face of challenges. They understand that taking risks and making mistakes are essential to learning. A growth mindset is vital to every part of our work.

“When educators can recognize the circumstances of each of their scholars, they are able to provide the necessary support to accommodate them. Recognizing that a student has a wider identity than the level at which they read is helpful so that their education is achievable and meaningful to them.”

– Haley Valdez,
11th grade student at STRIVE Prep – RISe
2018–2019 network overview

11 schools
502 staff
3,759 students

STRIVE Prep – Ruby Hill is one of the highest rated elementary schools in Southwest Denver.

STRIVE Prep – RISE ranks seventh among high schools in all of Denver.

All three STRIVE Prep high schools have higher percentages of students reaching the college-ready benchmark in the highest tested grades than similar schools.

STRIVE Prep – Kepner achieved high rankings for the second consecutive year after the successful turnaround of what had been one of the city’s lowest-performing middle schools.
Through the STRIVE Together program, families are encouraged to participate in school community decisions and are given the skills and tools to advocate for their children.

Whether it’s their participation in the 2018 Denver Public Schools superintendent search or addressing student lunches, STRIVE Prep families use their voices and take action for positive change. STRIVE Together also works directly with families to improve student performance, student attendance, and to create open lines of communication.

“STRIVE Together helps us be on top of our own kids,” said Violete Prieto, mother of two STRIVE Prep students. “I’m engaged, it’s not just the teachers and staff jobs, it’s our jobs as parents to be involved in our kids’ education. They are there to support us and then we support them. Everyone is working together.”

One of STRIVE Together’s goals is to create authentic advocacy through trainings and personal storytelling. “Instead of us telling parents what to say, we want to know what the real concerns are and then provide them the training and resources to speak up for themselves and their community,” said Senior Director of Strategic Partnerships Dani Morello.

STRIVE Together has more than 1,400 families from grades K-10 involved with their child’s success. They set goals around attendance and academics, receive weekly updates through text message, and are offered learning sessions around college, health and wellness, and more.
TEACHERS SUPPORTING TEACHERS

The STRIVE Prep Teacher Residency Program pairs new teachers with an experienced teacher over the span of two years, creating a gradual on-ramp to the classroom with increasing responsibilities and expectations.

For teacher residents like Joey Fuller, now an 8th grade World Studies teacher at STRIVE Prep – Lake, the program changed his own life and also gave him the tools and skills he needs to be a great teacher and help his students learn to change the world.

“I didn’t plan to be a teacher, but my senior year of college I learned about the program,” said Joey. “The idea of getting a lot of support as a first-year teacher made me interested. It was daunting to think about being in the classroom all alone, but knowing I’d have an experienced teacher with me was comforting and made me excited to learn.”

Joey and his mentor teacher, Meghan MacNeil, taught together each day during his first year in the program – and Joey wasn’t the only one to benefit.

“Having two voices in the classroom and the extra support during instruction made my day easier,” said Meghan. “I was able to stay in the classroom but still grow professionally as I became a better mentor and coach. I’m grateful I was able to teach students and a future teacher.”

– Meghan McNeil,
6th Grade World Studies Teacher, STRIVE Prep – Lake
SERVING EVERY SCHOLAR

Thirteen years ago, STRIVE Prep opened the doors to our first campus with the idea to provide a public, high-quality, college preparatory education to all students – no matter their zip code. As we’ve grown to 11 schools serving nearly 3,800 students across Denver, we have had to redefine what an education that serves every student means.

Part of that has been opening nine special education center programs across the network. Our center programs are where some of the most revolutionary learning and growth is happening every day because of the hard work of our special education teachers. STRIVE Prep staffs a higher ratio of teachers to students in our programs, so teachers are able to give one-on-one support, individualized learning plans, and foster deep relationships with students and their families. Today, 15 percent of our students receive special education services, which is significantly above the district average.

One of these amazing students is Keishawn, an 8th grader at STRIVE Prep – Federal. He loves football, math, and typing… but he loves football the most.

Two years ago when Keishawn started school at STRIVE Prep – Federal, he needed a great deal of special support from his teachers in the Multi-Intensive Center program at the campus.

“We started off having to plan out every part of his day and making sure he had appropriate support,” said Ms. Penk, one of Keishawn’s teachers. “He needed one-on-one attention every second of the day as a 6th grader because his limited verbal abilities meant he had a hard time expressing his wants and needs.”

For the past three years, the Mi Center teachers worked with Keishawn’s mom and developed a unique behavior and learning plan for him where growth in the classroom meant he could earn extra time to play football.

“Now, he has grown so much. He stays in his seat and reminds other students to stay on task and cheers them on,” said Ms. Penk. “It’s amazing to see the responsibility he’s taken.” The support STRIVE Prep has been able to give Keishawn helped him grow into a leader in the classroom and on the football field.
From kindergarten to high school, STRIVE Prep welcomes every child to define a future full of possibilities, regardless of their background or previous academic achievements. The amount of public funding STRIVE Prep receives is not enough to provide the additional support and quality services which set us apart from other schools. We rely on our supporters to ensure we meet the needs of every STRIVE Prep student.

$100,000 - $499,000
- The Anschutz Foundation
- Charter School Growth Fund
- Colorado Health Foundation
- Ensemble Learning
- Gates Family Foundation
- I.A. O'Shaughnessy Foundation
- Walton Family Foundation

$25,000 - $99,999
- BuildStrong Education
- CDE Government Grants
- The LARRK Foundation
- New Schools Venture Fund
- Sturm Family Foundation
- Ruben Valdez Achievement Fund
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- Ready Foods
- Amber Valdez
- Ruben Valdez
- Chris Watney & Rob Gary

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- Colorado Gives Day Incentive Fund
- Colorado Nonprofit Development Center
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- Denver Public Schools Foundation
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- Sheth Family
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- Thomason Family Foundation
- Keith & Margaux Trammell
- University of Colorado

$250 - $999
- Aetna Foundation
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- Reed Dixon
- Nathaniel & Rae
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- Ulysses Estrada
- Aaron Evans
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- Metropolitan State University
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- Marberry
- Nifty Ovuwo
- Elizabeth A. Peterson
- Kit Smith & Emily
- Richardson
- Francis Rooney
- Rose Community Foundation
- Frank & Anne Rowe
- Rhonda Snyder
- Team Tio Endowment Fund
- Jim White

In-Kind Gifts & Special Thanks
- Alamo Drafthouse
- Bonacquisti Wine Company
- BookBar
- The Bradley Group, LLC
- Cheese + Provisions
- Colorado I Have A Dream Foundation
- CorePower Yoga
- Denver Botanic Gardens
- Denver Date Nite
- Edible Beats
- Fitwall Denver
- Hops and Pie
- Howl at the Moon Denver
- Jefferson Park Pub
- Jimmy John’s #1840
- Knoke Sports Enterprises
- Leopold Bros. Distillery
- The Lodge at Breckenridge
- Long Building Technologies
- LOW Country Kitchen
- Mondo Vino
- Museum of Contemporary Art Denver
- Orangetheory
- The Regional (Avanti)
- Renegade Brewing Company
- Second Star to the Right
- Sexy Pizza
- Snooze
- Spruce
- Topgolf Centennial
- Turnpost Creative Group
- Two Parts
- Birgit Whitelaw

Thank you to all of our donors for locking arms with us as we continue to provide students with the skills and knowledge needed to be successful in school and life. Through these generous gifts, STRIVE Prep students are Learning to Change the World and create a better future for themselves, their families, and community.
The STRIVE Prep Central Office staff maintains accounting records for each school as separate funds within one accounting system. Monthly reports are produced and customized for the use of school leaders, Board of Trustees, Denver Public Schools, and funders.

### Balance Sheet
(Year Ended June 30, 2018)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assets</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cash and Cash Equivalents</td>
<td>$1,136,692</td>
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<tr>
<td>Investments</td>
<td>$4,631,296</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Accounts Receivables</td>
<td>$23,271</td>
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<tr>
<td>Grants Receivables</td>
<td>$395,474</td>
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<tr>
<td>Inventories</td>
<td>$75,818</td>
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<tr>
<td>Prepaid Expenses</td>
<td>$284,719</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other Assets</td>
<td>$288,606</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total Assets</strong></td>
<td><strong>$6,835,876</strong></td>
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</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Liabilities, Deferred Inflows of Resources and Fund Balance</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Accounts Payable</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Accrued Liabilities</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Liabilities</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Deferred Inflow of Resources</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Fund Balance</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Nonspendable Inventory</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nonspendable Prepaid Expenditures</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Restricted for Emergencies</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unassigned</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Fund Balance</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Liabilities, Deferred Inflows of Resources and Fund Balance</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Statement of Revenues, Expenditures, and Changes in Fund Balance
(Year Ended June 30, 2018)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Revenue</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Local Sources</td>
<td>$39,290,139</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>State Sources</td>
<td>$1,069,990</td>
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<tr>
<td>Federal Sources</td>
<td>$2,472,532</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total Revenue</strong></td>
<td><strong>$42,832,661</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Expenses</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Instruction</td>
<td>$20,787,101</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Support Services</td>
<td>$22,562,677</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Expenses</strong></td>
<td><strong>$43,349,778</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Excess of Revenue</td>
<td>($517,117)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Net Change in Revenue</td>
<td>($517,117)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fund Balance, Beginning</td>
<td>$6,208,375</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fund Balance, Ending</td>
<td>$5,691,258</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Revenue by Source
- Local Sources: 90%
- State Sources: 3%
- Federal Sources: 7%

### Expenses by Source
- Educational: 68%
- Educational Support: 20%
- Organizational: 12%