



announcement

Dear Friends,

We are excited to share two new developments in our longstanding work to improve America's public schools.

We are deeply committed to the belief that every student deserves the chance to live a fulfilling, productive life, and to give them that chance, we must dramatically improve our country's chronically struggling public schools.

Earlier this summer, we announced that Paul Pastorek had joined our education team as co-executive director. In just a few months, he has outlined a plan to have an even greater impact in public education by making larger, deeper and more focused investments. We are in agreement with his vision, and we are delighted to share the news that we've asked Paul to serve as president of The Eli and Edythe Broad Foundation's education initiatives. In addition, we have named Gregory McGinity executive director of our education initiatives, and he will continue to lead our policy and advocacy work.

In addition to our current grant-making in the key areas of state-run recovery school districts, public charter schools, policy and leadership, we are committed to improving public schools in our hometown of Los Angeles. One of the initiatives we believe has tremendous potential is an effort to increase the number of high-quality public schools accessible to families in our most under-resourced communities. For the past several years, we have heard from parents, teachers and community members that there are not enough high-quality public school options, especially in low-income communities of color.

For over a decade, our foundation has invested in public charter schools, bringing high-quality options to Los Angeles and cities across the country. The charter management organizations we support offer students more learning time, a rigorous and joyful academic experience, and opportunities for creative pursuits and the development of critical thinking skills. They focus more resources on the classroom and give teachers greater support so that they can instill a lifelong love of learning in their students.

Perhaps, more importantly, the charter management organizations we support have a demonstrated track record of increasing student academic achievement, particularly for low-income students and students of color, which we believe is a civil rights imperative for our country.

We think all public schools should be dynamic centers of learning, where students and teachers are supported to reach and exceed the highest expectations. We are fortunate that here in Los Angeles, a number of public charter schools, magnet schools and district schools fulfill this goal. But the reality is that too many students still don't have the opportunity to attend public schools like these, and too many teachers don't receive the support they need.

The Eli and Edythe Broad Foundation is joining with other local and national foundations and organizations to help provide the financial support to create more high-quality public school options in Los Angeles. We look forward to the announcement of a community-based approach that will work to create new public schools so that families in low-income communities have high-quality education options for their children. We have asked Paul to lead our foundation's involvement in this particular initiative for the next several months, working closely with other funders and community organizations, until we ensure any plan reflects community and family needs for quality public schools.

At the same time, we will continue our foundation's efforts to ensure that public charter schools live up to their promise. We believe that every public school, whether charter or traditional, must deliver a high-quality education to its students. Any chronically low-performing public charter school must be closed. We also believe that public charter school authorization must be designed so that it will lead to the creation of high-quality charter schools. Finally, we believe that all public charter schools and their traditional public school counterparts, must educate all students and endeavor to keep students in school.

Our work is designed to advance only one goal: giving every student in Los Angeles, and across this country, the great public education they deserve. We look forward to continuing to work with parents, teachers, school district representatives and school board members to develop collective solutions that are focused solely on ensuring that every student has access to high-quality public schools.

Please join us in congratulating Paul in his new role, and we look forward to working together on behalf of this nation's students.

Regards,

Eli and Edythe Broad