



PREFACE TO THE STRATEGIC PLAN

This document presents the East Side Education Foundation’s strategic and visionary plan for ensuring broad-based success for East Side students as we move forward in improving, strengthening, and reconceptualizing the type of support and guidance that our students need to be successful in school, in their communities, and in the world. This plan also provides a roadmap for dramatically improving our efforts to this end and achieving our vision of *East Side Students Succeeding in School and Beyond: College, Career, Community*. In order to achieve this powerful vision, we are committed to our mission to promote and create bold and innovative programs, services, and partnerships that measurably elevate sustainable student success. We believe that this commitment launches us on a journey to sustainable and transformative organizational reform centered in a deep respect for our students, educators, partners, and communities. This sentiment is perfectly aligned with what the research tells us about creating powerful learning environments capable of producing powerful results.

With this in mind, our Board of Directors recently made a substantive change in our focus, acknowledging two important insights. First, it is not enough to limit our reach to high school students. In order to most effectively shape students’ trajectories, we must commit to extending our support to them as early as possible. Second, we cannot provide the most impactful support by limiting ourselves to the academic arena without regard for the systemic inequities that are pervasive in our society and therefore reflected in our educational institutions. We must embed strategies for dismantling these inequities into the heart of our outreach to students, educators, and parents. As a connected community, we intend to use an equity lens to most powerfully support what we know to be best for the sustainable and long-term success of all youth and for our community.

The plan that follows describes who we are, our commitment, and how we intend to proceed as a future-facing, equity-oriented organization to realize our vision and implement our strategic initiatives in a principled manner.