WEST CONTRA COSTA
PUBLIC EDUCATION FUND

edFUND
WEST CONTRA COSTA PUBLIC EDUCATION FUND

ANNUAL REPORT

STRENGTHENING THE WEST CONTRA COSTA ECOSYSTEM

2025-2026

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LETTER FROM **LEADERSHIP**

Dear Friends,

This year, we returned to one simple but powerful question: How do we, together, support our students and schools?

Since 1983, the Ed Fund has brought people and resources together to expand opportunities for students. This commitment took shape through investments in classrooms, community-led initiatives, and partnerships that support students both in and beyond school. It also inspired our inaugural Strengthening the Ecosystem Convening, which gathered educators, nonprofit leaders, community partners, and funders to reflect on what West Contra Costa can accomplish through collective action.

In a recent report released by Richmond's RYSE Center, youth reported they want a stronger system where adults communicate, services are aligned, and every young person has people invested in their success. Their voices, alongside those of our partners, continue to shape the Ed Fund's evolution: our role is not to replace the important work happening across West Contra Costa, but to strengthen the connections that make it possible.

Today, we serve in three interconnected roles:

RESOURCE MOBILIZER — Directing philanthropic and public investments where they are needed most.

TRUSTED PARTNER — Working alongside schools, nonprofits, public agencies, and funders to respond to student needs.

ANCHOR CONVENER — Bringing partners together to build trust, align efforts, and strengthen collective action.

Through these roles, we support community-led initiatives, strengthen partnerships, and expand opportunities in education, enrichment, and career pathways. The pages ahead tell that story.

Student success is not the responsibility of any one institution. It is the shared work of our entire community.

With gratitude,

Robert & Kathleen

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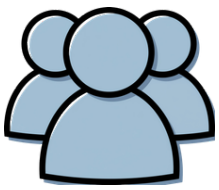
Robert Bunce
Executive Director

Kathleen Harris
Board President

OUR STUDENTS & COMMUNITY

A DIVERSE COMMUNITY OF LEARNERS

The West Contra Costa Unified School District (WCCUSD) serves 24,673 students across 54 non-charter schools in five cities and surrounding communities. With more than 70% of schools designated Title I and 66.2% of students socioeconomically disadvantaged, this context shapes our work and centers our focus on students furthest from opportunity.



24,673
STUDENTS

54
NON-CHARTER SCHOOLS

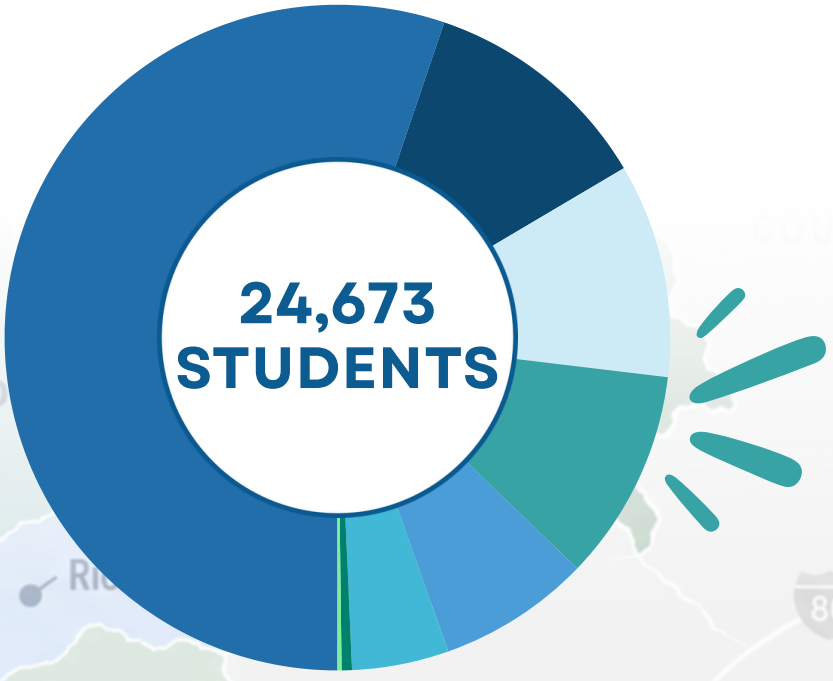
70%+
TITLE I SCHOOLS

66.2%
LOW-INCOME STUDENTS

27.5%
ENGLISH LEARNERS

STUDENT DEMOGRAPHICS

- **55.2%** Hispanic or Latino
- **11.3%** Asian
- **10.4%** Black or African American
- **10.3%** White
- **7.4%** Two or More Races
- **4.7%** Filipino
- **0.5%** Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander
- **0.2%** American Indian or Alaska Native



Source: California Department of Education, DataQuest

MANY LAYERS.
ONE CONNECTED ECOSYSTEM

West Contra Costa's education ecosystem is made up of schools, public agencies, community organizations, funders, and other partners working to support young people. Each plays a vital role, but their collective impact is greatest when they are connected. The Ed Fund serves as a bridge across sectors, helping create a more coordinated and resilient system of support for students and families.

STRENGTHENING THE ECOSYSTEM CONVENING

We responded to our partners' call to strengthen not only individual parts of our education system, but the relationships between them. The Ed Fund launched the inaugural Strengthening the Ecosystem Convening, bringing together more than 60 educators, community organizations, local government leaders, funders, families, and advocates to explore how we can better hold our students and schools.

The convening reinforced the power of collective action and identified opportunities to deepen trust, improve communication, direct resources, and keep students and families at the center of our work.

EMPOWERING THE **COMMUNITY LAYER**

Community-led organizations are a vital part of West Contra Costa's education ecosystem, bringing expertise and opportunities directly to students and families.

The Ed Fund serves as the fiscal sponsor for 59 community-led initiatives that provided $5.7 million in programming, reaching over 80% of WCCUSD schools through arts, STEM, literacy, sports, youth leadership, college access, family engagement, violence prevention, health services, and more.

Beyond financial management, we facilitate fiscal oversight, nonprofit infrastructure, grant administration, and organizational support. As the employer of record for project staff, we manage payroll responsibilities and employment, allowing community leaders to focus on building relationships, addressing local needs, and delivering meaningful programs.

Below are just two examples of the impactful work of our projects.

$5.7M
IN PROGRAMMING TO OUR SCHOOLS

44 SCHOOLS SERVED ACROSS WCCUSD

- 32 Elementary & K-8 Schools
- 4 Middle Schools
- 8 High & Alternative Schools

Richmond Public Library

Outside of our schools, Richmond Public Library brings learning to life for children and families. Its 2025 Summer Reading Program, *Color Our World*, allowed young people to explore STEM, nature, literacy, and creativity through free, hands-on experiences.

Children's program participation increased 14%, alongside increased participation in the Summer Reading Program.

Over the full fiscal year, the Library worked with 43 performers to provide 81 programs reaching 2,433 participants.

Rhythm of the Heart

Rhythm of the Heart offers students in grades K–12 an engaging, embodied learning experience rooted in multicultural multidisciplinary arts that builds confidence, emotional regulation, and collaboration skills.

This summer, music and movement filled Bayview and Downer Elementary Schools as 480 WCCUSD students danced to African-Brazilian, Bhangra, West African, Creative Dance, Latin Dance & Hip Hop.

BRINGING THE LAYERS TOGETHER

$1.2M+
IN COLLABORATIVE GRANTS SUPPORTING RICHMOND YOUTH

City of Richmond

The City of Richmond is one of the Ed Fund's key partners. Through the Richmond Fund for Children and Youth (RFCY), we secured and managed more than $1.2 million for school-based mental health, restorative practices, school climate, and summer learning.

In addition, we helped develop and facilitate the City's first participatory grant-making process through the Service Provider Working Group. Over 10 local organizations engaged in the planning process over six months and half a million dollars in grants were awarded.

With the City and WCCUSD, we operate Camp Achieve and Richmond Freedom School, expanding access to free summer learning and enrichment for Richmond youth.

Camp Achieve

Camp Achieve combines academic support with enrichment in arts, STEM, chess, dance, skateboarding, mental health and wellness, and more.

328 STUDENTS | **4** SITES | **7** COMMUNITY PARTNERS | **12th** YEAR

Summer highlights included a camp-wide talent show at Nicholl Park, weekly field trips and swim outings, and a closing trip to San Francisco's Exploratorium.

Richmond Freedom School

This year marked the sixth year of Richmond Freedom School (RFS). A total of 118 scholars from 27 WCCUSD schools spent the summer building literacy, confidence, and cultural pride through enrichment, field trips, and peer connections.

Ten community partners provided activities ranging from mural painting, DJing, dance, and skateboarding to robotics, gardening, chess, communication, and mindfulness.

Youth mental health and well-being were prioritized through programming with Inner City Bliss. RFS scholars also joined more than 1,000 Freedom School students from across Northern California for a regional gathering centered on youth voice.

District & Countywide Collaboratives

West Contra Costa is a Full Service Community Schools district, integrating education, health, and family services into schools through community partnerships.

The Ed Fund supports this model by facilitating the districtwide Support Collaborative and securing funding for and partipating in the countywide Systems Change Collaborative. Through these initiatives, WCCUSD, local government, philanthropy, community organizations, address shared challenges.

The Support Collaborative conducted school site walkthroughs to identify needs and opportunities, while the Systems Change Collaborative focused on reducing chronic absenteeism.

Connecting Schools, Families & Communities

Philanthropic Partners

The Ed Fund serves as a bridge between philanthropy and our community. We worked with 31 foundations, five corporations, and more than 150 individuals to mobilize over $2 million towards WCCUSD students and schools. Being in close partnership ensures that the priorities of educators, families, and community organizations inform where funds are allocated.

By aligning resources to shared goals, we make greater impact in college access and success, mental health, the arts, literacy, summer learning, anti-racism, and beyond.

Thank you to all those who have continued to invest in WCCUSD students with us year after year.

The Ed Fund brought many of our philanthropic partners to sit at tables with our community and district partners at our Strengthening the Ecosystem Convening.

INVESTING IN STUDENT SUCCESS

Our work has helped students belong, learn, and build their future.

STUDENTS BELONG

School Climate & Mental Health

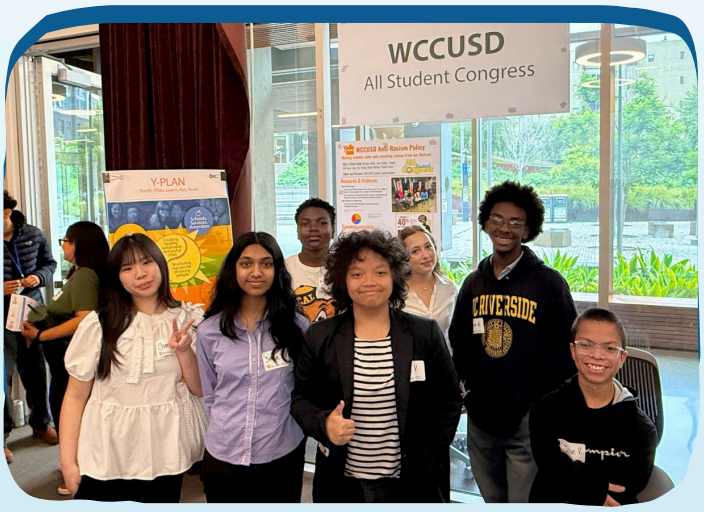
With funding from our philanthropic partners and the leadership of WCCUSD's Positive Climate Department, we employed and assisted four Climate Coaches, seven Mental Health Clinicians, a Restorative Justice Coordinator, four Deans of Students, three Family Support Specialists, and a Physical Education Teacher across WCCUSD schools. These roles foster student well-being, belonging, and academic success.

These efforts have reached more than 12,000 students and contributed to a nearly 5% reduction in suspensions district-wide.

Anti-Racism

The Ed Fund joined forces with WCCUSD on school climate and anti-racism efforts. Building on the district's historic adoption of California's first Anti-Racism Administrative Regulation and Anti-Slur Policy, we continued to fund and support professional learning, school-based implementation, and initiatives addressing the root causes of inequitable outcomes.

Student voice remained central to this work. Through student summits and WCCUSD's All Student Congress, young people shared their experiences, elevated their perspectives, and helped shape more inclusive school communities.



WCCUSD students participating in the All Student Congress, elevating student voice and leadership.

STUDENTS LEARN

Multilingual Tutoring

In partnership with WCCUSD's English Learner Multilingual Achievement Department and with funding from the City of Richmond's ECIA Community Fund, the Ed Fund expanded targeted tutoring for 68 Richmond students who were newcomers or at risk of becoming long-term English learners. Thirty-five trained tutors provided individualized language support aligned with students' ELPAC results and reclassification goals, fostering confidence, belonging, and pride in multilingualism.

All 68 students improved their reading performance by at least half a level on grade-level English language assessments, and 100% of surveyed tutors expressed interest in returning next year.

Fab Lab Richmond and Kennedy High Welding

The Ed Fund is fiscal sponsor for Fab Lab Richmond and the Kennedy High School Welding Program, expanding hands-on STEM education and career-based learning.

Based at Kennedy High School, Fab Lab Richmond expanded to Peres and Coronado Elementary Schools and Betty Reid Soskin Middle School, reaching 965 students across four schools. New equipment, including 3D printers that doubled printing capacity, created more opportunities for students to explore engineering, electronics, prototyping, and design.

The Kennedy Welding Program also launched its first after-school class for students across WCCUSD, with interest in the pathway increasing by 60%.

Twelve STEM events engaged more than 2,300 students and community members

27 teachers participated in professional development and curriculum design

60% growth in Welding Pathway interest

> *My industry partners, working through the Ed Fund, have given me the ability and autonomy to focus on the mission of preparing young people for entry into the welding and related trades.*

– Benjamin Carpenter
WELDING PROGRAM LEAD

STUDENTS BUILD THEIR FUTURE

COLLEGE ACCESS & SUCCESS

Scholarships

This year, the Ed Fund awarded 25 scholarships totaling $36,500 to graduating seniors and alumni from seven WCCUSD high schools. In response to growing interest in scholarship opportunities, the Ed Fund launched the Building the Future Scholarship, expanding support for students pursuing careers in the skilled trades.

The Ed Fund continues to help students pursue their educational and career goals, whether through college, vocational training, or other pathways to success.

"Being awarded this scholarship eases the financial burden of my college expenses and empowers me to dedicate more energy toward my academic and personal growth."

– Jaylon McCuiston
SAN DIEGO STATE UNIVERSITY

Financial Aid Initiative

Building on the success of our 2024 ECMC initiative, which increased financial aid completions by 8% and supported 150+ students, the Ed Fund secured a $500,000 grant from the California Community Colleges Chancellor's Office to expand this work.

Financial aid completion is one of the strongest predictors of college enrollment. Coordinated by the Ed Fund, this initiative brings together WCCUSD, Richmond Promise, Contra Costa College, Students Rising Above, and community partners to do financial aid outreach, offer one-on-one advising, and college transition support, helping thousands of students access funding for college.

Internships

We collaborate with WCCUSD's College and Career Department to run the district's paid internship program, gistudents essential workplace experiences.

During 2025–26, the program had 10 interns in the fall, 20 in the spring, and 38 in the summer, representing seven WCCUSD high schools. Students gained hands-on experience across career pathways, including Sports Medicine, Health, Welding, Dental Assisting, Construction & Maritime Trades, and more.

As the employer of record, the Ed Fund manages student employment logistics so that interns build professionalism, responsibility, and confidence for future education and careers.

"With the invaluable support of the Ed Fund, these internships have opened doors for many of my students. It has been a privilege to watch them grow in their technical skills and leadership abilities."

– Michele Jawad
RICHMOND HIGH SCHOOL
HEALTH ACADEMY LEAD

INVESTING IN OUR EDUCATORS

Educators are at the heart of our education ecosystem. Through classroom grants and recognition programs, the Ed Fund acknowledgees the teachers who create enriching learning experiences for WCCUSD students.

EDUCATOR GRANTS

$74,300
IN GRANTS TOWARDS
179 SCHOOL PROJECTS

128
BACK-TO-SCHOOL GRANTS
$32,000

38
BRADLEY ARTS GRANTS
$28,100

13
BLACK HISTORY MONTH GRANTS
$14,200

These grants brought innovative projects, arts education, and culturally responsive programming to schools across WCCUSD.

TEACHING EXCELLENCE AWARDS

The Ed Fund received 89 Teaching Excellence Award nominations, reflecting our community's appreciation for its educators. Four outstanding educators were honored as the Ed Fund's 2026 Teaching Excellence Award recipients, each receiving a $500 award in recognition of their contributions to student success.

Benjamin Carpenter
KENNEDY HIGH SCHOOL

Debra Kemmer
COLLINS ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Brandon Adrian
LOVONYA DEJEAN MIDDLE SCHOOL

Carolyn Landau
KENSINGTON ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

CONTRA COSTA COUNTY TEACHERS OF THE YEAR REPRESENTATIVES

2025-2026
FINANCIAL OVERVIEW

Total Revenue
$10.32M

Total Expenditures
$9.69M

REVENUE

Revenue Source	Ed Fund	Fiscal Projects	WCCUSD Partnerships	Total
Foundation Support	$424,006	$440,162	$668,828	$1,532,996
Government	$693,449	$68,800	$237,953	$1,000,202
Individuals, Local Businesses	$76,754	$48,332	$9,284	$134,370
Earned Revenue	$1,502,376	$3,661,524	$2,097,941	$7,261,841
Net Restricted Releases	$30,951	$330,646	$25,000	$386,597
Total Revenue	**$2,727,536**	**$4,549,464**	**$3,039,006**	**$10,316,006**

EXPENDITURES

Expense Category	Ed Fund	Fiscal Projects	WCCUSD Partnerships	Total
Programs	$1,056,228	$4,057,361	$2,819,179	$7,932,768
General Operations	$839,232	$428,320	$338,784	$1,606,336
Fundraising	$146,886	$366	-	$147,252
Investment Management Fees	-	$1,489	-	$1,489
Total Expenditures	**$2,042,346**	**$4,487,536**	**$3,157,963**	**$9,687,845**

Total expenditures increased by nearly $1.9 million compared to the previous fiscal year, reflecting the Ed Fund's growing investment in programs, partnerships, and community initiatives.

THANK YOU TO
OUR SUPPORTERS

Our work is made possible by a community of partners who believe in the power of public education and the potential of West Contra Costa's young people. We are grateful to the businesses, foundations, government entities, and individual donors who invest in students, educators, and communities across our district.

Businesses, Foundations, & Government Entities

$100,000 +

- City of Richmond
- Hellman Foundation
- Irene S. Scully Family Foundation
- Kaiser Permanente
- S.H. Cowell Foundation

$99,999 - $50,000

- Ahlsten Foundation
- Chevron Products Company
- County of Contra Costa
- East Bay Community Foundation
- Flora Family Foundation
- Lesher Foundation
- Quest Foundation
- Skyline Foundation

$49,999 - $25,000

- Maxwell Hanrahan Foundation
- Morris Stulsaft Foundation
- Pacific Gas and Electric
- PayPal Giving Fund

$24,999 - $10,000

- Bernard E. & Alba Witkin Charitable Foundation
- Capital Group
- Chamberlin Education Foundation
- City of Richmond Library Program
- Contra Costa County Office of Education
- FLC Office Of Philanthropy
- Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory
- San Francisco Foundation

$9,999 - $1,000

- Angel Island Immigration Station Foundation
- Antioch Community Foundation
- Atkinson, Andelson, Loya, Ruud & Romo
- Bank of Marin
- Bay Crossings
- Contra Costa Chorale
- East Bay Municipal Utility District
- Excite Credit Union
- Fidelity Charitable
- Glen Price Group
- Jewish Community Foundation
- Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory
- National Philanthropic Trust
- Red Oak Opportunity Foundation
- Renaissance Charitable
- Rotary Club of Richmond

$999 - $1

- Anondo Fund
- El Cerrito Democratic Club
- HKIT Architects
- Pledgeling Foundation
- Vestia inc
- Youth Creating Change

Individual Donations

$12,000- $5,000

- Andrew Gi
- Carl & Lisa Brodsky
- Catherine Garza
- Corey Ashmead
- Judy Appel

$4,999 - $1,000

- Alan C. Miller
- Bradley Silicani
- Catherine and Christopher Jones
- Feldman Family Donor Fund
- Janet R Koupal
- Judith B Kridle
- Karen Harber
- Kates Living Trust; Henry E. Brady, Trustee; Patricia A. Kates, Trustee
- Mike Wilson
- Negar Souza
- Peter Weber; Christie Beeman
- Ralph Leighton
- Ravi Mohan
- Robert Besuner
- Sarah Hanson
- The Community Foundation for Greater New Haven: Palitz Family Fund

$999 - $500

- David Lloyd Harris
- Dolores Dalton
- Doug Straus
- Michael D. Chu; Makoto Ushihara
- Naomi Mayo
- Shirley Easton
- Wilma Rader

$499 - $250

- Cheryl J. Patterson
- Daffy Charitable Fund
- Lisa Ellis
- Marsha Sato
- TC Ball

$249 - $100

- Adam Gruen
- Andrew Bard Wallach
- Barry P. Goode
- Courtney Smith
- David M. Hampton; Lillian T. Fujimoto
- Elsa-Jennie Bliss
- Gail Bateson
- George Schmid
- Geraldine R. Ueda
- Isaac Menashe
- Jessie Weiser
- Joan Connolly
- John Ziesenhenne; Monique le Conge Ziesenhenne
- Kristian Whitten
- Lisa Scheffer
- Marco V. Gonzales
- Robert Bergman
- Stephen Van Den Eeden
- Sunil Arora
- Thomas Earley; Farhat Daud
- Thomas Morioka
- Vicente R. Smith
- Anonymous

$99 & Under

- Aaron Soffin
- Beatrice Rosemary Okeefe
- George S. Yamashita; Juile E. Yamashita
- Hale Kronenberg; Madeline Kronenberg
- Helen Kang
- I. Weydemeyer
- John M. Ferreira; Mary Nelson
- Joshua Milstein
- Lisa Turan-Walters
- Mara Guttman
- Maria Dizon
- Michael Aaronian Jr.
- Michael Isidore Peritz; Ruth E. Peritz
- Sana Peterson Webb

Buck-A-Month Donors

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- Linda Coleman
- Mary Ann Lafosse
- Nicole Giusti
- Pamela Suess
- Staci Thompson
- Stephen Hoffman
- Tiffany Chieudjui

Recurring Monthly/Quarterly Donors

- Catherine Jones
- Daniel Schact
- David Whitenack
- Joel Roseman
- Lisa Ellis
- Marcus Walton
- Michael May
- Thomas Morioka

Behind every student success story is a community that believes in their potential.

OUR TEAM

Meet the six people working behind the scenes to make it all happen.

Maddie Orenstein
Director of Community Development

Margot Aishiteru
Senior Director of Operations and Business Success

Shakira Reynolds
Senior Director of Strategic Partnerships

Kyrah Brown
Business Success Manager

Robert Bunce
Executive Director

Sarah Camacho
Manager of Community Partnerships

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Director

Bertha Romo
Director

Cheryl Cotton
Director, WCCUSD Superintendent

HELP US BUILD **WHAT'S POSSIBLE**

Every student deserves the opportunity to thrive. Your support helps us invest in educators, expand opportunities for students, and strengthen the communities we serve.

GET **IN TOUCH**

www.edfundwest.org

(510)233-1464

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Richmond, CA. 94804

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