



PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

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Closing Marin's Education Gap Requires 5 Key Actions

Despite its reputation when it comes to education, Marin has one of the greatest achievement gaps in California, where students from low income families, English learners, African American and Hispanic/Latino students are performing significantly below their peers on important educational milestone indicators.

Four years ago, a new collective impact partnership with a focus on equity called the Marin Promise Partnership (MPP) committed to change this, with a promise: to create educational equity in Marin County by 2028. The goal will be achieved when every single child in the county has access to the same educational opportunities that will put them on the path toward a successful career and life.

A rigorous process of data collection, research and expert collaboration identified 5 key actions that the Marin Promise Partnership believes must be taken in order to achieve Educational Equity in Marin:

1. Increase the level of cultural competency among those in our community who work with and influence youth (educators and community members)
2. Assure that all students graduate with the UC/CSU requirements
3. Increase the percentage of teachers and administrators of color
4. Advocate for equitable alignment of education funding
5. Assure that all students have access to quality pre-school

“Identification of these initiatives was a collaborative, data-driven undertaking,” said Jim Hogeboom, Superintendent of Novato Unified School District & Marin Promise Executive Committee Member. “But it’s only the beginning. The real work starts now, as all the Partners take action to make the changes necessary to assure educational equity in Marin County.”

The Partnership Council, investment partners, community partners and the Marin Promise backbone team represent a broad-reaching and highly influential group within the education field in Marin. Each has committed to individually and organizationally further each of the initiatives, through direct action within schools, parent and

community education, influencing policy and legislation, joining local, state and national campaigns and by changing practices within their own organizations.

“There is no singular action that can magically close the educational opportunity gap,” said Kim Mazzuca, President of 10,000 Degrees and Marin Promise Executive Committee Member. “This Partnership of dedicated education champions has identified some key inflection points, which, if we can address collectively and successfully, can deliver profound, sustained opportunity within our community for all our students.”

Mary Jane Burke, Marin County Superintendent of Schools, added “I am very proud of the amazing work our schools are doing to educate all children, but we know that some kids need more to get the same outcomes. Through the Marin Promise Partnership, we have identified five important initiatives that will bolster the support for children in our system who need more, so that every child in Marin has the opportunity to thrive. If not in Marin, then where?”

For more information about the MPP agenda, or to receive updates on the progress being made on the 5 equity initiatives, please contact Ann Mathieson, Executive Director of Marin Promise Partnership, at 415-309-4640 or annm@marinpromise.org or visit www.marinpromise.org.

About Marin Promise Partnership

Marin Promise Partnership includes school districts, county government, College of Marin, and many educational non-profits, all collaborating to make educational excellence a reality by 2028 for all students in Marin, regardless of race or family income. They are working to change the educational eco-system so that it works for all students, not just those from privileged backgrounds. The partnership has adopted a **policy advocacy agenda** to guide their efforts to accelerate progress in closing equity gaps in each of the cradle to career milestones.

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