

# Mission and Vision

OSSF is dedicated to promoting excellence in Oakland's public schools so that *all* our students have the opportunity to achieve.

OSSF is the only organization focused on securing and managing resources and providing expert operational and fundraising services for those Oakland small schools that serve primarily low-income students in the impoverished flatland neighborhoods.

*"During the trip to Southern California colleges, an admissions counselor asked our students how many of them would be the first in their family to go to college. Almost all of them raised their hands. This made me realize just how important this trip was for our students. College is no longer a completely foreign, unfamiliar place, but an experience and a place they can actually picture themselves in, and it's now a goal that they can reach for."*

- UPA Principal  
Gia Truong



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## WHAT WE'VE ACCOMPLISHED THIS YEAR WITH YOUR HELP

This year - with your help - we've been able to support our network of small public schools as they build Family Resource Centers, After-School Programs, educational field trip opportunities, gardens, internships and mentoring programs, and many other programs that will impact students' lives. Urban Promise Academy, a small public middle school serving the San Antonio and Fruitvale neighborhoods of Oakland, worked with OSSF this year to expand its pioneering College For All campaign.

In 2006-07, Urban Promise Academy (UPA) teachers took 78 8th-graders on a three-day trip to visit colleges in Southern California. For most students, it was the first time they had ever set foot on a college campus. More than 90 percent of UPA students are from low-income families, and 60 percent are English learners. Most UPA students (more than 70 percent) will be the first in their family to graduate from high school, and a far greater majority - almost all - can be the first college graduates in their families and likely, their entire communities.

Since the highest school dropout rate occurs in the first year of high school, UPA is dedicated to preparing and motivating students to pursue higher education. With increased grant funds and donations from supporters, UPA was able to expand College For All to serve nearly all of its 300 students during the 2007-2008 school year. For the first time, teachers took 6th- and 7th-grade students to visit UC Berkeley, Mills College, and San Francisco State University. Eighth-grade students traveled to Southern California on a three-day tour of college campuses, including Cal Poly Pomona, UC Riverside, and CSU Bakersfield.

One student's father told Principal Gia Truong, "I'm so glad you are doing this. This will really get my daughter excited about college." According to Ms. Truong, that sums up the goal behind College for All. And, she says, "We believe that the best way to get students excited about college is to take them there."

To learn more about OSSF, check out our website:  
[www.smallschoolsfoundation.org](http://www.smallschoolsfoundation.org)

## OSSF-FUNDED PROGRAMS: Garden and Nutrition programs

Among all the great school programs we helped to build this year, another exciting initiative was the garden and nutrition programs. OSSF helped eight schools develop grants totaling \$90,000 to fund gardens, nutrition education and environmental justice programs, and school salad bars.

As children face unprecedented rates of diabetes and obesity in high-poverty communities, it's clear that schools must work harder to teach students about healthy choices. To that end, schools like Melrose Leadership Academy (6-8) offer gardening and cooking classes that are integrated with science curriculum. "The goal is to grow enough fruits and vegetables for the entire school," Principal Moyra Contreras says. "Through this process, we will educate students on healthy eating habits and the importance of taking care of our environment."

For many of our students there is little awareness of how produce gets to our stores. Working in gardens brings to life the relationship between vegetables in nature and the edibles in the salad bars and on our plates!

One teacher at Elmhurst Community Prep (6-8) told us: "I coaxed one of my students to try a cucumber. He had never seen or tasted a cucumber and was wary. He said he liked it and would come back for more."

Imagine how many fruits and vegetables are new to our students! We predict that good



# WATCH OUR GARDENS AND OUR KIDS GROW!

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experiences with healthy food at school will carry over to home for our students and become lifelong health habits.

We thank OUSD's Nutrition Services Department (whose goal it is to get a salad bar at every school), the Leslie Rudd Foundation, Rockman et al, East Bay Community Foundation, and the S.D. Bechtel Jr. Foundation for their partnership with OSSF and their great support for these projects.

**"Through this process, we will educate students on healthy eating habits and the importance of taking care of our environment."**

- Moyra Contreras, Principal,  
Melrose Leadership Academy

# UPCOMING EVENTS

## TEACHER FISHBOWL:

Oakland Small Schools Education Forum

SEPTEMBER 25

Jack London Aquatic Center

7:30-9:00 PM

Are you interested in what really happens in an inner-city classroom? Would you like to know more about the challenges — and the successes! — of a large public school district and the students and families it serves?

OSSF invites you to attend our first annual Education Forum sponsored in partnership with BayCES (Bay Area Coalition for Equitable Schools), the League of Women Voters, and Oakland Community Organizations. Small schools teachers will discuss the challenges of education in Oakland public schools. The “fishbowl” will feature a series of questions for teachers to consider together while visitors listen in on their conversation about daily experiences, the impact of their schools on students, and the future of education in Oakland as they see it, among other topics.



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Please save the date and watch for upcoming announcements about the location and contact us to RSVP.

### EVENT SPONSORS:

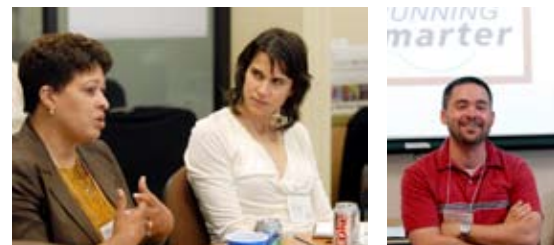


## Third Annual Summer Institute:

Small Schools Running Smarter



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On June 26th, OSSF invited all small schools' principals and staff to attend our Third Annual Summer Institute: Small Schools Running Smarter. The event was a great success, with attendance doubled from last year and positive feedback from the schools. Based on input from the Principals' Roundtable held during lunch, OSSF will be hosting several Principals' Roundtables throughout the coming year.

# Now More Than Ever

Invest in Oakland's Public Schools

We need your help! Our goal is to raise \$50,000 by September. We have raised \$30,000 since April and need your help raising the remaining \$20,000. With your donations we can deepen our services to schools while keeping our costs low.

In order for OSSF to successfully serve our small schools we need to raise funds to build our organization's capacity. We helped our network of 40 small schools raise more than \$1 million in private money and another \$4 million in government funds this year. These funds supported academic and socio-emotional intervention programs, comprehensive after-school programs, materials and supplies, family resource centers, professional development and coaching for teachers, out-of-classroom learning and field trips, facilities improvements, and small class sizes for all grades.

In addition to raising money, we worked with 30 of our network schools this year to measure their programs' results, broker valuable partnerships, and develop strategic fundraising, marketing, and finance plans. Our comprehensive services are strengthening schools.

*"As a parent I feel empowered by what I have learned from the Oakland Small Schools Foundation. I know that a principal who is working with OSSF is more likely to see great results with students, teachers, and parents."*

-Charlene Johnson  
Parent, Think College Now  
Administrative Assistant, Coliseum College Prep Academy

Our work helps schools to be exemplary organizations that have the greatest capacity for student success. With state budget cuts and increasing demands for school performance, our work is vital to the long-term success of Oakland's flatland public schools.

**With help from all of you, we will continue working to give all of our students an equitable opportunity to succeed.**

**Make a one-time or recurring tax-deductible donation: [www.smallschoolsfoundation.org](http://www.smallschoolsfoundation.org)  
PO Box 20238, Oakland 94620.**



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**We thank those of you who have supported OSSF this year!**

## About OSSF

- For each \$1 the community has invested in OSSF, we have raised \$5 for schools.
- In 2005, OSSF served five schools and 1,300 students; we serve 40 schools and 12,000 students in 2008.
- OSSF began with just one staff person in 2005-06; we have seven staff members in 2008.
- In 2007-08 alone, OSSF raised \$1 million in private funds and \$4 million in government grants for schools.
- 32 schools are enrolled with OSSF in Growth Service Plans in 2008, which includes comprehensive resources development, marketing, and operational coaching services.
- 21 UC Berkeley MBA/MPP student residents have been placed in small schools since 2005 to deliver sustainability, fundraising, and marketing plans.

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 **OAKLAND**  
SMALL SCHOOLS FOUNDATION  
Resources > Opportunity > Excellence