Stand Supporters and Partners,

Reflecting on 2021, I see reasons for hope. The widespread availability of vaccines. A return to in-person learning. An economy that rebounded with record speed due to bold government action.

At the same time, there is cause for grave concern. Tens of millions of children and young people are struggling to recover academically, socially, and emotionally from the pandemic. Tragically, instead of using their power to help children and young people get on track, politicians are passing bans on conversations about race and discrimination that deny children the honest and unbiased understanding of the past they need to create a better future. At the same time, extremists are targeting and harassing school board members, principals, teachers, parents, and even students who want an accurate portrayal of U.S. history with diverse viewpoints.

Public education is the pathway to economic opportunity and the backbone of a healthy democracy.

That is why we must stand together against the politicians, media moguls, and ultra-wealthy political donors who are stirring up fear and hate and conspiring to make public education a political battleground at the expense of our children’s learning and well-being.

And it is why, together, we must continue to use our collective voice and votes to ensure that politicians at all levels do everything possible to protect and strengthen public education, support children and families’ well-being, and reduce the prevalence of racism and the harm it does to us all.

We are deeply grateful for your partnership and support.

Standing together with you,

Jonah Edelman
CENTER FOR HIGH SCHOOL SUCCESS

This year’s 9th grade students have not experienced a normal school year since they were in 6th grade. As a result, high schools have had to shift practices to meet the different needs of entering 9th grade students this year, and Stand’s Center for High School Success (CHSS) is actively supporting our 140 partner high schools in this critical work.

CHSS published a guide *Reopening After COVID: Social and Emotional Learning Support for High Schools* to give specific tools to our partner schools, and assessed practices we believe should continue post-pandemic in *Stand Stronger: Stand-Out Practices from the Pandemic*. We have re-established in-person coaching and training for our school partners where possible.

Additionally, we have expanded our partner school network to include all high schools in East Baton Rouge and Indianapolis, as well as adding schools in Arizona, Colorado, and Washington, hiring nine new coaches and appointed three new directors to meet the growing demand. Finally, we have developed a CHSS Roadmap for 9th Grade Success, which lays out a clear path for implementing a 9th Grade Success Program across our growing network. It will also enable our efforts to scale this work consistently with high impact.

STAND FOR CHILDREN ARIZONA

For decades, the Arizona legislature has failed to sufficiently invest in education. The state ranks 50th in funding per student, while teacher-student ratios are some of the highest in the country and public teacher salaries among the lowest.

Together with a statewide coalition that included Arizona Education Association, National Education Association, Arizona Center for Economic Progress, Children’s Action Alliance, Arizona Interfaith Network, among others, Stand for Children Arizona accomplished a historic win for students, teachers, and the statewide economy. Funding from Proposition 208 – Invest in Ed is dedicated to addressing teacher shortages, hiring more counselors, nurses, social workers, and aides, as well as double funding for Career and Technical Education programs.

The Stand Arizona team had 35 active volunteers who helped gather signatures all while utilizing creative tactics to ensure safe and healthy signature collection during the pandemic. After successfully gathering enough signatures to qualify for the ballot and overcoming complicated legal challenges by the opposition, Stand AZ led a persuasion program focused on conservative voters who, based on polling conducted to Arizona voters, modeled as likely supporters of a progressive tax. Starting in October,
voter contact focused on getting out the vote early as over 80% of Arizona voters automatically receive their ballot in the mail and return those ballots within the following two weeks.

In addition to the direct voter contact program, the coalition ran a robust paid TV advertisement program – including ads in Spanish, digital ad buys in both English and Spanish, and mail program to ensure our message was in front of voters to frame the issue on our terms and push back against opposition messaging. We also used investined.com as a hub of information where people could get the facts on Prop 208, sign up to volunteer with the campaign, and share infographics with their social networks.

The Stand for Children Marketing and Communications team provided earned media training to Prop 208 principals, placed numerous op-eds from economic experts and small business owners, managed social media channels on behalf of the coalition and created Spanish language materials.

The Stand team hired 14 full and part-time Outreach Coordinators and recruited an additional 362 volunteers shifts along with Stand staff who completed 866 more shifts on top of that. Together, they made 354,338 phone calls and sent 1,930,115 text messages in both English and Spanish.

While most educators want to address race and racism and seek curriculum and instructional practices to support that goal, they lack the tools and skills needed. CARE’s mission is to advance antiracist curriculum and equip antiracist educators so that every student has access to high-quality antiracist learning materials and educators are able to teach and lead the way to an antiracist future. CARE has developed criteria for both antiracist curriculum and professional learning and is using them to develop tools to assess curriculum and to design online learning for educators.

Much of the first year has been devoted to planning CARE’s professional learning program and curriculum work. The program produced a 4-part web series, accompanied by discussion guides, featuring conversations among 16 educators discussing how the Principles intersected with their work. CARE has also pioneered a digital curriculum review tool to help educators learn to critically examine their teaching resources.

**LEARN FROM HISTORY**

While schools continue to navigate the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, teachers are facing challenges from groups that are spreading a false narrative claiming that critical race theory is being taught in K-12 environments.

This misinformation campaign has led to oppressive legislation and bans that threaten educators with repercussions for simply doing their jobs. To correct this festering injustice, Stand for Children Leadership Center launched the Learn from History coalition in September 2021.

Learn from History is a non-partisan, apolitical, broad-based coalition of organizations of parents, students, teachers,
school system leaders, community leaders, and other concerned organizations who are committed to protecting and promoting fact-based, accurate history being taught in American public K-12 schools.

The coalition seeks to push back on efforts to censor teachers and silence conversations about racism and hard history in classrooms. More than 30 organizations have joined the coalition so far, representing diverse cross sections of teachers, historians, school board members, youth activists, superintendents, school administrators, parents, and more.

STAND FOR CHILDREN OREGON

In 2021, Stand Oregon continued to address racial disparities within Oregon’s education system while advocating for important racial justice priorities beyond education. In the past year, we have been steadfast in our focus on building a more equitable future for our students and families.

We are proud to report that we accomplished FY 21 goals thanks to the support of advocates across Oregon.

Stand Oregon secured funding for equity-driven initiatives like the Student Success Act (funded at $950 million) and Measure 98 (funded at $318 million.) We also made the teacher layoff process more equitable to maintain teacher diversity, and eliminated the excessive juvenile legal system fines and fees that keep young people and their families from rising.

Our work was made possible by the advocacy of community members who sent lawmakers more than 30,000 emails about bills like House Bill 2001 and Senate Bill 817, which both passed with support from more than 80% of the legislature.

In addition to our legislative work, we endorsed nearly 50 school board candidates across Oregon and are proud to now have the majority of these education champions sitting on our school boards.
work inside the Capitol and activating parents and educators to contact policymakers and elevating the importance of the science of reading.

Perhaps our biggest early literacy win from last year was that the State Board of Education voted to add a literacy specific component to state licensure exams to help ensure teachers are better prepared to support students in learning to read. This was a multi-year effort and involved both lobbying and communications strategy.

**BUILD BACK BETTER ACT**

Stand for Children strongly supports President Biden’s Build Back Better plan for American jobs and families. It is a once-in-a-generation investment in our children, our families, and our economic future.

During 2021, as we connected with families via phone banks and email and social media, arming them with information and updates, we have heard from thousands of hard-working parents whose lives have been changed by receiving monthly Child Tax Credit payments. This incredible program cut child poverty by 45 percent. The payments have provided more than 35 million Americans with food security, the ability to afford rent, child care, or transportation, and the funds needed to take care of the basic needs of their children. The credit supports work and provides an important boost to the economy, considering that for every dollar provided in CTC payments, $1.50 is generated in economic activity for the nation.

The one-year extension Congressional Democrats are on the cusp of passing provides valuable continued relief, but we firmly believe the Child Tax Credit should be made permanent, and will do everything possible in the coming year to make that happen.

Additionally, the Build Back Better initiative will offer access to free, high quality preschool education for all three-and four-year-olds. Through support for universal preschool education, children who are often the least prepared at the beginning of kindergarten will receive key educational and social building blocks and be better positioned to thrive in school.

Research demonstrates the profound impact that high-quality early education can have on children including reducing early achievement gaps, contributing to improved learning in the first five years of school, and then higher graduation rates. To have preschool extended to families who have not been able to afford it until now is groundbreaking.
Stand for Children Leadership Center is a 501(c)(3) public charity focused on ensuring all students receive a high quality, relevant education. In FY21, continuing to adapt to the on-going pandemic environment, the organization was a conservative steward of resources ensuring each dollar spent had the greatest impact on the communities served.

The complete FY2021 audited financial statements will be available in late January 2022.

Stand for Children Leadership Center maintains a four-star rating for sound fiscal management from Charity Navigator, the nation’s premier independent evaluator of charitable organizations.
Stand for Children, Inc. is a 501(c)(4) social welfare organization advocating for effective policies and investments for education equity and racial justice. In FY21, the organization received and invested significant resources in strategic lobbying activities.

The complete FY2021 audited financial statements will be available in late January 2022.
FUNDERS AND PARTNERS

We are grateful to have an extraordinary group of supporters who believe in our work. As we share our impact in this report, we would like to thank the following donors who contributed $100,000 or more during our 2020 fiscal year and our national partners. We would also like to thank the many donors and organizational partners who are too numerous to list but whose contributions support all aspects of our work and success. Without their support, none of our achievements for students would be possible!

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STAND FOR CHILDREN LEADERSHIP CENTER

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Juvenile Law Center
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Leading Educators
Lee & Low Books
Mikva Challenge
Mom’s Rising
Multiculturalism, Race & Ethnicity in Classics Consortium
National Association for Media Literacy Education
National Association of Elementary School Principals
National Association of Secondary School Principals
National Center for Youth Law
National Coalition for History
National Council for History Education
National Council for the Social Studies
National Council of Teachers of English
National Education Association
National History Day
National Humanities Center
National School Board Association
National Writing Project
Network for College Success
New American History
New Leaders
News Literacy Project
Newsela
Not in Our Town
Organization of American Historians
Our Turn
Policy Innovators in Education
PowerTools
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Teach For America
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The Education Trust
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