PHILADELPHIA ACADEMY [□] SCHOOL LEADERS ACCELERATING GROWTH IN STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT

Dear Friends and Supporters,

Nearly 10 years ago, we set out to improve outcomes for students by providing high-quality, student results-driven professional development for school leaders.

Grounded in the principles that every child is capable of extraordinary things and that there are no first-rate schools without first-rate leaders, the Neubauer Fellowship in Educational Leadership, the organization's flagship program, was designed to cultivate collaborative leadership skills and entrepreneurial agency of Philadelphia principals.

Today, Philadelphia Academy of School Leaders serves educational leaders from all sectors and at all stages of their careers.

We are proud to say that our leaders are effecting positive change, every day. Our program participants immediately apply what they learn in their schools, deepening teacher effectiveness, elevating student accomplishment and school spirit. Amidst a teacher shortage, our leaders are nurturing relationships and approaching talent management in innovative ways, filling gaps and retaining quality personnel. They're designing career-connected learning opportunities that put their students on new pathways to success—whether in college or directly into the workforce. They're fostering business partnerships and community connections. These leaders are creating educational environments that families trust, where students feel welcomed and cherished, driving growth in attendance and academic achievement.

Data indicate these leaders are succeeding in improving the educational experience for students. Schools led by Neubauer Fellows report better attendance (5.5% points more students attending school 95% or more of the time), higher academic growth (higher growth scores in both English Language Arts and Math on the Pennsylvania System of School Assessment (PSSA) standardized tests), and higher four-year graduation rates than schools never led by a PASL program participant.

Although there is lots more work to be done, I am confident our community will continue to rise to the challenges.

We are deeply thankful for your interest and support. None of this achievement (shared in greater detail in this report) would have been possible without you. We remain grateful to you, the PASL community, for your continued commitment to our young people and your investment with us to make the community better.

With gratitude,

Joseph Neubauer

Chair, Board of Directors

Joseph Menlover

Philadelphia Academy of School Leaders

These leaders are creating educational environments that families trust, where students feel welcomed and cherished, driving growth in attendance and academic achievement.



Brother Malcolm X stated, "You can't legislate good will—that comes through the education." This is why education and specifically educational leadership matters. We must continue to ensure the most fragile and marginalized among us have a seat at the table; it's up to educational leaders to find and elevate those voices.

The visionaries serving as educational leaders must keep hope and advocacy right where it needs to be: with our children, because they are the inhabitants of this world who will truly make it a better place!"

> -ALIYA CATANCH-BRADLEY, PRINCIPAL OF MARY MCLEOD BETHUNE **ELEMENTARY SCHOOL AND 2019 NEUBAUER FELLOW**

LEADERSHIP MATTERS

At Philadelphia Academy of School Leaders, we believe that educational leaders are critical in the creation of excellent educational experiences through which children learn. Research confirms

what we've always known: that educational leaders, particularly principals, have a tremendous impact on the lives of the young people they serve



"It is difficult to envision an investment in K-12 education with a higher ceiling on its potential return than a successful effort to improve principal leadership."

"The impact of replacing a below-average elementary school principal with an above-average principal would result in an additional 2.9 months of math learning and 2.7 months of reading learning each year for students in that school."

-GRISSOM, EGALITE, AND LINDSAY. 2021. "HOW PRINCIPALS AFFECT STUDENTS AND SCHOOLS: A SYSTEMATIC SYNTHESIS OF TWO DECADES OF RESEARCH." NEW YORK: THE WALLACE FOUNDATION.

ANNUAL REPORT 2023

RECIPE for LEADER SUCCESS

PASL's approach to leadership development is results-driven and evidence-based.

Our programming focuses on four leadership competencies proven to drive success, and is delivered utilizing proven best practices for effective professional development. This uniquely effective professional development experience provides leaders with the opportunity to build deeply collaborative relationships with their peers and prepares them to maximize their impact on student achievement.

I am so appreciative of this learning opportunity. I have been re-centered in my work and where I can strengthen my practice as a leader. Your professional development has helped me be the best."

-KATIEDRA ARGRO, PRINCIPAL
OF COMMODORE JOHN BARRY
ELEMENTARY SCHOOL AND 2022
NEUBAUER FELLOW



PASL programming reminds me that leadership is challenging across the sectors, but there are core elements of leadership that are boundless."

-SUSAN THOMPSON, PRINCIPAL OF GEORGE WASHINGTON HIGH SCHOOL
AND 2019 NEUBAUER FELLOW

Pillars of Our Programs

Immediately applicable learnings impact daily work

Intentional, personalized coaching meets individualized needs

Intentional, personalized coaching meets individualized needs

Intentional, personalized coaching meets individualized needs

Leaders collaborate and leverage others' expertise

Real world-applicable work considers the unique contexts of each school community

Real world-applicable work considers the unique contexts of each school community

PASL's unparalleled programming serves educational leaders from Philadelphia's district, charter, and faith-based schools, supporting them across roles and throughout their careers. Across all school leaders programs, we serve nearly 200 principals and system

leaders; in the 2022–2023 school year, our Neubauer Fellows impacted more than 92,000 students. Thirty-six Neubauer Fellows have moved beyond the principalship into educational nonprofit, system leadership, or principal coaching roles.

Thank you for this opportunity and for providing the tools and creating the space for us to learn and grow."

-DAVID COHEN, PRINCIPAL OF DR. TANNER G. DUCKREY SCHOOL AND 2022 NEUBAUER FELLOW



Unparalleled Programming

PASL's programs support principals and system leaders in creating educational spaces and experiences that drive student success.

The Neubauer Fellowship provided me with a wealth of ideas and desires to push myself to be the best leader and human for my community. It is a first-class, high-end experience that made me feel truly respected as an educator."

-LEIGH VITVITSKY, PRINCIPAL OF GEORGE W. SHARSWOOD ELEMENTARY SCHOOL AND 2022 NEUBAUER FELLOW

PASL PROGRAMMING

THE NEUBAUER FELLOWSHIP IN

EDUCATIONAL LEADERSHIP

2022-2023 -----

Because of the Neubauer Fellowship, I have grown as a leader. The experience pushes us toward excellence and service to our students and the community."

-ERICA GREEN, PRINCIPAL OF RUSSELL H. CONWELL MIDDLE MAGNET SCHOOL AND 2022 NEUBAUER FELLOW

The organization's flagship program, the Neubauer Fellowship in Educational Leadership, is a cohort-based program for dedicated principals that develops the critical leadership skills needed to elevate school performance.

Throughout the two-year program, we honor the complex roles of principals, focusing on empowering leaders to identify and integrate innovative solutions to the challenges they face.

The Neubauer Fellowship supports principals to transform their practice through:

- The identification of a "Story of Self," which supports leading authentically and self-awareness;
- Quarterly institutes with sessions that expound on pragmatic learning and applicable best practices, including interpreting and leveraging data to drive outcomes;
- Focused training on equitable leadership, which includes visits to the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum and the National Museum of African American History and Culture;
- Intimate Dinners with Decision Makers, where leaders from various industries share leadership lessons; and
- Individualized coaching, nurturing a culture of continuous improvement and accountability.

Principals apply their learnings to an identified Problem of Practice, troubleshooting and sharing ideas and resources to support other Fellows to provide real-time solutions, with individualized coaching allowing Fellows to go deeper in the work. Each member of this community of collaborative leadership works within their own school communities to bring their vision to life and realize their goals.

PASL PROGRAMMING

SENIOR FELLOW PROGRAMMING

BLACK EDUCATOR PIPELINE

2022-2023 =

The Black Educator Pipeline, facilitated by Sharif El-Mekki (2015 Neubauer Fellow), Founder and Chief Executive Officer of the Center for Black Educator Development, and Raymond Fields (2018 Neubauer Fellow), now the Chief Talent Officer at the Pennsylvania Department of Education, served as an affinity space and think tank for Black Senior Fellows to focus on the recruitment, selection,

development, and support of Black educators in Philadelphia schools.

Sessions built upon an initial foundation highlighting the importance of dismantling historically inequitable systems when creating truly inclusive school communities and the critical role Black educators have in that work.

[Black Educator Pipeline] is a safe space that allows me to unpack more of my thinking and my own biases that I don't readily consider."

-LEAH COLEMAN, PRINCIPAL OF STEPHEN GIRARD ELEMENTARY
SCHOOL AND 2019 NEUBAUER FELLOW

Participants:

- Identified barriers to the recruitment and retention of Black educators and created strategic action
 plans to attract and keep more Black educators in their schools and systems, complete with resources
 and ways to obtain support;
- Gained a clear understanding of the need for anti-racism, anti-bias, and equity leadership, as well
 as how best to create the educational environments that engage future educators and enhance the
 experience and growth of those already in the workforce;
- Attended the Black Male Educators Convening, hearing distinguished speakers and attending panel discussions and workshops that validated their experiences and inspired them to continue on their path to change the trajectory for future generations; and
- Attended the #ThankaBlackTeacher: Celebrating the Impact of Black Educators on Student Success
 conference in Washington, DC, featuring a panel of systems level leaders discussing educational policy,
 fiscal resources, and talent strategy for Black educator retention and recruitment.



The role of an educational leader is complex and constantly evolving to address new and anticipated challenges. At PASL, we're committed to helping our leaders address these challenges, adapting our programming to reflect the issues our educators are facing in real time.

As part of our commitment to lifelong learning, PASL offers ongoing professional development experiences for Neubauer Fellowship alumni, or Senior Fellows.

Taking intentional action to define equity and anti-racist and anti-bias for myself, not just receiving a definition, was beneficial. It's the first time I've been asked."

-JEANNINE PAYNE, PRINCIPAL OF JULIA R. MASTERMAN LABORATORY AND DEMONSTRATION SCHOOL AND 2019 NEUBAUER FELLOW



PASL PROGRAMMING

SENIOR FELLOW PROGRAMMING

RESTORATIVE PRACTICES IN ACTION

2022-2023

Facilitated in partnership with an organization of the same name, Restorative Practices in Action invites Senior Fellows to join a community focused on utilizing the restorative practice model—a whole-school approach that centers students in classroom management and encourages supportive, respective behavior and accountability—to support the academic and social-emotional needs of all students.

With a multitiered approach—principals and a mid-level administrator from their team participated in quarterly sessions, teachers participated in monthly sessions, and full school teams were brought together for additional working sessions—RPiA provides the skill set and complementary supports and resources to support restorative practices initiatives being implemented schoolwide in ways that work for each individual school community.

By implementing a school culture that encourages and cultivates student voice, ownership, and empowerment in classrooms, RPiA participants develop students who lead authentically as they invest in their own educational experience.

Restorative Practices in Action is a program that allows teachers, teacher leaders, and administrators to work together to create systems that are more restorative to what students need. It goes beyond the restoration of the relationship of students and teachers, but also students with the systems. In RPiA, we're working toward creating systems that feel more just and fair for students. Students are gaining leadership skills, they say they feel more agency and feel more empowered in their classrooms and within their schools."

-PHENG LIM, PRINCIPAL OF FOLK ARTS-CULTURAL
TREASURES CHARTER SCHOOL AND 2016 NEUBAUER FELLOW



PASL PROGRAMMING

LEADERS OF LEADERS

2022-2023 -

A yearlong learning arc, Leaders of Leaders brought together principal supervisors and system leaders from the Independence Mission Schools (IMS) and New Foundations Charter Schools networks to focus on actionable ways to develop and support principals.

"Leadership development is about helping people see a path forward," said faculty Steve Gering. "How can you unleash the leader that they are so that they can do the work that they want to do?"

Gering led participants in utilizing individually developed Theories of Action—which articulate the rational and impact behind implemented strategies—as a throughline of the learning, guiding each participant's

approach to developing the principals in their networks. Theories of Action, according to Gering, work backward from the end result. "What's the end product we want for our students?" said Gering. "From there, what do we want our teachers to do to get there? What do we want the principals to do? And if that's all true, what do we want principal managers to do?"

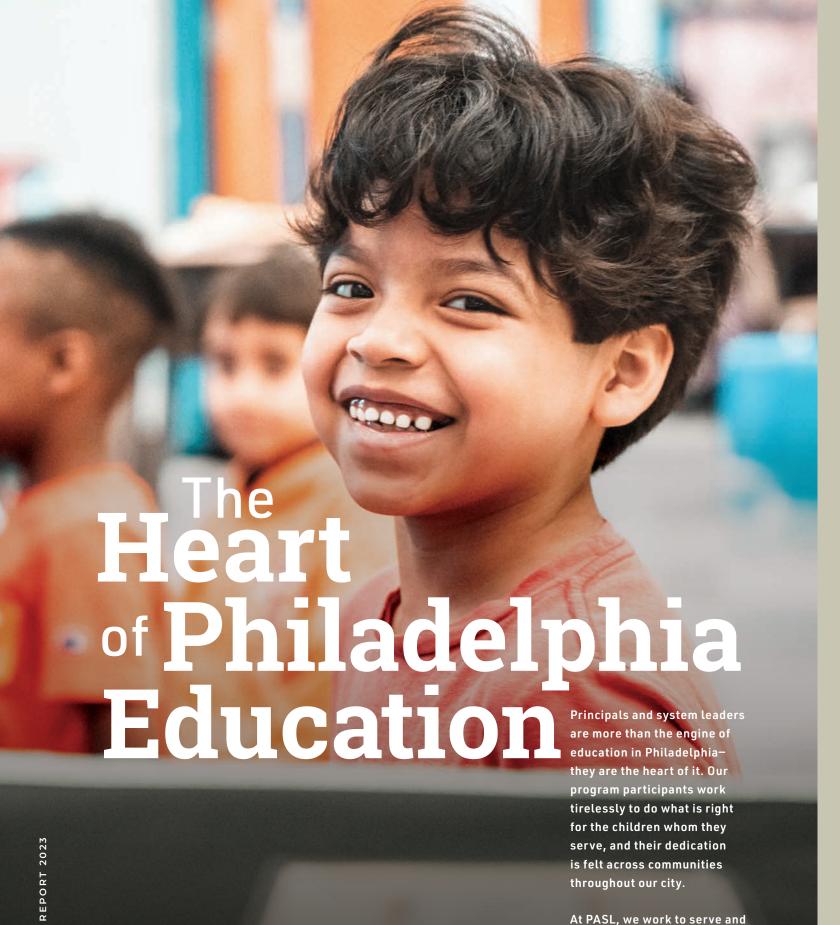
The program sessions functioned as building blocks, developing participants' skill sets. In the inaugural session, participants utilized the Model Principal Supervisor Professional Standards as a foundation for clarifying their roles as principal managers/supervisors and identifying where they could apply themselves to be most impactful in their systems.

Other sessions focused on:

- Establishing effective methods of bolstering principal capacity;
- Exploring impactful coaching models and ways to implement them;
- Designing models of school visits that incorporate levers for successful leadership development; and
- Identifying effective approaches to managing leadership to achieve shared vision, including forming actionable plans for leading effective meetings.

My sessions with my principals shifted from check-ins to actual coaching that changed their practice. Leaders of Leaders has given me tools to maximize the time I have with principals."

-CHRISTOPHER ZAGACKI, CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER OF NEW FOUNDATIONS CHARTER SCHOOL AND 2019 NEUBAUER FELLOW

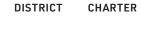


NEUBAUER FELLOWSHIP COMMUNITY











FAITH-BASED



PRINCIPALS) BY SCHOOL GRADE LEVELS

95 TOTAL









THE CITY (2022-2023)

NEUBAUER FELLOWS BEYOND THE PRINCIPALSHIP (IN PHILADELPHIA) **36 TOTAL**



support these leaders who are, every day, changing the

lives of Philadelphia students.



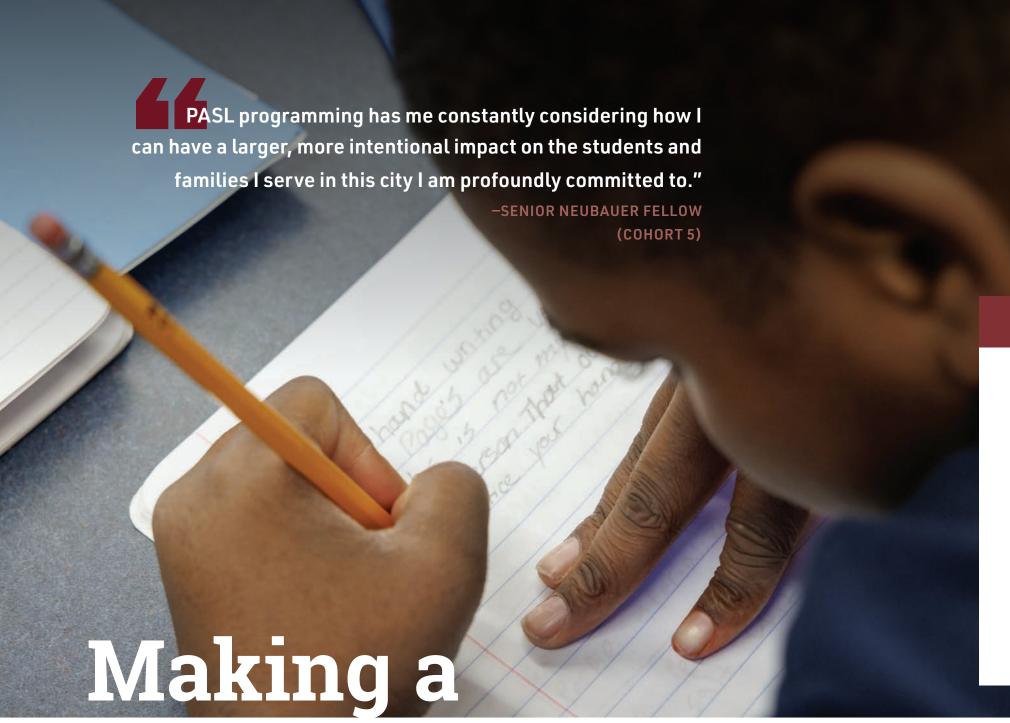
NEUBAUER FELLOW-LED SCHOOLS THROUGHOUT

> Chief Executive Officers: 2 **Assistant Superintendents: 8** Regional Schools Officers: 2 Head of Schools: 1



Chief/Deputy Chief Roles: 3 Deputy Superintendent: 1 Director/Executive Director Roles: 3 Educational Consultants: 2

PRINCIPAL **SUPERVISORS** OTHER



REACH

Neubauer Fellows (current and Senior) served more than

92,000

Philadelphia students in 2022-2023 (directly and indirectly).

RECOGNITION



Neubauer Fellows have led

9 of 14

National Blue Ribbon Schools in Philadelphia over the past seven years.

Neubauer Fellows have received

40 Lindback Awards for Distinguished Principal.

Difference

Our programming supports educational leaders to effect change and drive outcomes for their students and communities.

Since becoming a Neubauer Fellow, I have made considerable growth as a leader, with a greater skill set and level of confidence.

I appreciate the quality of content and its delivery, and the collaboration with colleagues, and I look forward to continued learning opportunities as a part of this community."

-CHRISTIE PARFITT, PRINCIPAL OF JAY COOKE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
AND 2022 NEUBAUER FELLOW



PHILLY CONNECTION

At PASL, retaining successful leaders—within Philadelphia and within education—is critical to our work. We're committed to maximizing impact for students by retaining and advancing the quality leaders achieving results across Philadelphia.

By recognizing accomplishments and challenges, providing a community of peers and colleagues ready to share effective tools and best practices, and sharpening critical leadership competencies, we nurture a community of principals and leaders, engaging them in their passion and ensuring consistent, quality leadership in Philadelphia education for years to come.



The Neubauer
Fellowship broadened
my network, and through
wider and broader
collaboration I've been
able to thought partner and
be more creative in
my planning and strategy
than I have in the past."

-NEUBAUER FELLOW (COHORT 7)

The Neubauer Fellowship
puts us in a room with other
smart people who you're
constantly learning from.
Being able to visit other
schools and see how other
great leaders did what they
did, asking them questions
and picking their brains and
seeing their work in action,
building those relationships
and allies I didn't have
before—it's impactful."

-SENIOR NEUBAUER FELLOW (COHORT 4)

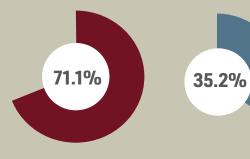
RETENTION

Neubauer Fellows are more likely to be retained as education leaders in Philadelphia and in the principalship compared to those who never participated in a PASL program.

RETENTION IN THE PRINCIPALSHIP

(after 6 years)

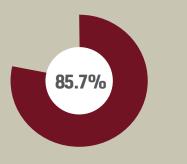
71.1% of Neubauer Fellows (Cohorts 1-6) remained in the principalship in Philadelphia vs. 35.2% of those who never participated in a PASL program (35.9% pts difference)

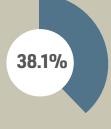


RETENTION IN EDUCATION

(after 6 years)

85.7% of Neubauer Fellows (Cohorts 1-6) remained in educational leadership roles vs. 38.1% of those who never participated in a PASL program (47.6% pts difference)





[I was able to identify] the teachers who were irreplaceable, who I knew I had to work hard to keep, and to let them know that they were valued and respected and that their work mattered."

-SENIOR NEUBAUER FELLOW (COHORT 3)



To effectively serve students and impact learning, principals must be the chief talent officers of their schools, responsible for the recruitment, selection, retention, and development of educators and teams who align in championing academic success—all the more critical now, when teachers are leaving the profession at a record pace.

Our programming develops leaders who articulate a clear and engaging vision and establish the relationships and collaborative culture needed to manage a school environment that supports achievement.

LEADING INDICATOR:

TALENT MANAGEMENT

and

TEACHER PERCEPTION

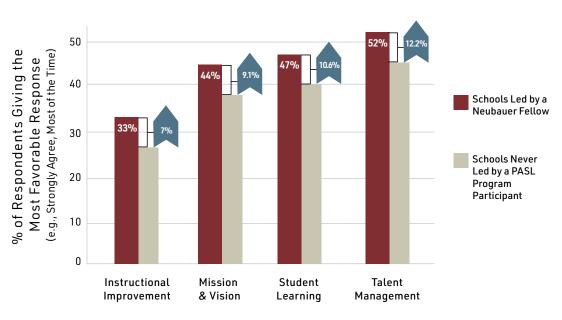
Compared to teachers in schools never led by a PASL program participant, teachers in schools led by a Neubauer Fellow expressed more positive perceptions across multiple aspects of school management:

- Strategic focus on instructional improvement (What actions are implemented to improve how students are learning?);
- Communication of mission and vision (Does the entire school community understand the ultimate goal and the steps needed to achieve that?);
- Expectations for student learning (Does every member of the school community expect the best from students? Is every member willing to provide the appropriate supports so students can reach their potentials?); and
- Talent management (Are the right people in the right jobs, doing what is best for students? Are they being developed effectively?).

My teachers began to stay, and they began to stay because feedback was done to build their capacity for the ultimate goal of improving their practice to improve student outcomes."

-SENIOR NEUBAUER FELLOW (COHORT 6)

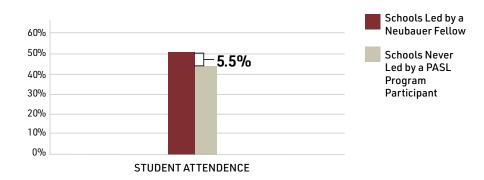
TEACHER PERCEPTIONS OF SCHOOL MANAGEMENT AND STUDENT LEARNING



STUDENT ATTENDANCE

The percentage of students attending 95% of the time or more was 5.5% pts greater in schools led by Neubauer Fellows vs. schools never led by a program participant.

PERCENTAGES
OF STUDENTS
ATTENDING 95% OF
THE TIME OR MORE



CASE STUDY:

WHAT'S WORKING

Attendance is a key initiative throughout Philadelphia schools, which makes it a critical component of the principalship. Thanks to the Neubauer Fellowship and the Fellows' extensive experience, innovative spirit, and commitment to sharing best practices to benefit Philadelphia students, our community has seen success in moving the needle on student attendance.

Successful leaders implemented proven strategies identified in and shared throughout the Fellowship:

- Identifying accessible, easily tracked attendance goals
- Communicating routinely to engage students and their families
- Gamifying attendance and incentivizing positive behavior
- Creating a welcoming, safe, culturally responsive learning environment so students want to attend school

John Moffet School Principal Rodney Johnson, 2022 Neubauer Fellow, employed these proven practices in his efforts to improve attendance. He and School-Based Teacher Leader and Attendance Designee Elizabeth Gomez implemented a driving-themed attendance tracker on the wall of a main hallway at the school. The wall incorporates local elements (the race occurs on the local interstate, I-95—also a nod to the goal attendance rate of 95% or more days) and serves as a visually appealing, instantly gratifying way to engage students in the effort.

Johnson and Gomez also initiated ongoing communications to engage families, including an initial outreach that states attendance goals and identifies why attendance is a critical component to student success, as well as regular updates and immediate outreach regarding absences. The school also incentivized attendance, offering fun experiences and events for students meeting attendance goals, and an attendance tracker designed by PASL further supported the efforts to streamline data and communications.

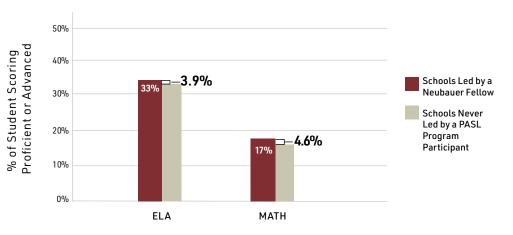
While Moffet continues to outperform district averages in attendance by as much as 23% pts, gains in student achievement have also been identified. In 2022–2023, more Moffet students scored Proficient or Advanced than expected in ELA (+14.2%), Math (+5.8%), and Science (+20.0%) Pennsylvania System of School Assessment (PSSA) scores.



ACADEMIC PROFICIENCY

The percentage of students (grades 3-8) scoring proficient or advanced on the Pennsylvania System of School Assessment (PSSA) was higher in Neubauer Fellow-led schools than comparison schools, in both English Language Arts (3.9%) and Math (4.6%)

PERCENTAGES OF STUDENTS SCORING PROFICIENT OR ADVANCED ON ANNUAL STATE ASSESSMENTS



CASE STUDY:

WHAT'S WORKING

Academic achievement is complex, with multiple factors—both internal and external to a school environment—influencing student performance. As a key indicator of student success, eliciting a strong academic performance is a priority for school leaders.

By leveraging data and trends, adapting tools to fit their schools' unique needs and context, and prioritizing instructional leadership—explicit focuses of PASL programming—many of our Neubauer Fellows are seeing growth and improvement in academic performance.

For Fanny Jackson Coppin Elementary School Principal Kelly Espinosa, 2020 Neubauer Fellow, the ability to understand and leverage data plays a key role in improving student achievement.

Espinosa is extremely intentional about how she analyzes data, looking beyond percentages of students learning at grade level to pinpoint students at the margins of achievement—those close to moving up to the next level and those in danger of slipping down. She works with instructional teams to triangulate data, incorporating instructional assessments of teachers, attendance data, and qualitative assessments on school culture to identify the root cause of student performance.

By taking a granular look at the data, Espinosa is able to recognize trends and identify a focused subset of students and teachers who may benefit from specific supports and resources that directly address areas identified for growth.

For Espinosa, starting with the data has created buy-in with her faculty and staff, providing a starting point for the Coppin educators to work together to ensure all students are receiving the educational experience that helps them achieve—and as the positive results come in, buy-in from the internal stakeholders of the school grows in turn. Espinosa has also worked toward scaling the effect, creating tools and processes to ensure her teachers are also focusing on data in real time. In support of student achievement across the city, Espinosa is also sharing these notably effective practices with other Neubauer Fellows for implementation in their school communities.

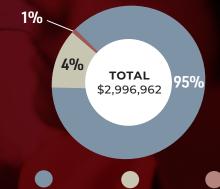
The results are evident. Over the last five years' worth of data points, Coppin students' Math scores increased 37.6% and English Language Arts scores increased 23.7%. Additionally, 16.1% fewer students scored as Below Basic Proficiency, a larger reduction in the percentage of students in that scoring level than in any other school in the district.



FINANCIALS

With an obligation to fiscal responsibility and employing a keen sense of stewardship, PASL is making the most of our financial resources to shape the future of Philadelphia education.

2022-2023 REVENUE

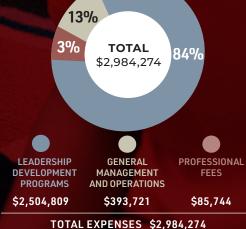


976 \$115,000 \$3 TOTAL REVENUE \$2,996,962

FEE FOR SERVICE OTHER INCOME

\$37,986

2022-2023 EXPENSES



PHILANTHROPIC PARTNERS

We gratefully acknowledge the following organizations whose support makes possible our work advancing educational equity and improving the educational experience for all Philadelphia students.

\$1 MILLION OR MORE

NEUBAUER FAMILY FOUNDATION

\$500,000 OR MORE

Anonymous

\$100,000 OR MORE











CONTRIBUTORS

Anderson Family Foundation





Stephanie and Michael Naidoff

ACADEMY SCHOOL LEADERS With renewed focus

PASL is fully committed to providing missionaligned programming that supports educational leaders to address the greatest needs and most critical challenges pressing Philadelphia education.

With renewed focus on developing the school and system leaders who are leading the way in education, we embrace new and amazing possibilities when we work across our community.

Together, we can build a brighter future for our educational leaders, for students, and for the educational landscape in Philadelphia.

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RENEWED

ENERGY



230 S. Broad Street, 17th Floor Philadelphia, PA 19102 215.965.7945

phillyschoolleaders.org

OUR VISION

We work to achieve educational equity in Philadelphia so every student in every neighborhood attends an excellent school that prepares all students to attain their dreams.



We develop, engage, and retain school and system leaders who transform schools, dramatically improve student outcomes, and drive systemic change to prepare all Philadelphia students for college, career, and life.

