LETTER TO OUR COMMUNITY

In 2018 TVEP leadership took a giant leap of faith. We embarked upon a plan to create an independent nonprofit organization and build capacity to achieve our unified vision of improving education outcomes for all children, cradle to career. RISE, Treasure Valley’s Education Partnership is an updated name for this complex, challenging and important community work.

We remain committed to aligning efforts and finding solutions to our complex challenges together. Through collaboration, we know we can achieve more. Our region is fortunate to have countless local partners already invested in this vision. RISE is also an active partner within StriveTogether Cradle to Career Network, a national network of nearly 70 cradle-to-career partnerships using collective impact — an intentional way of working together and sharing information for the purpose of solving a complex problem — to get better results for kids. Collective impact holds great promise in regions where countless funders and initiatives are committed to helping children succeed and through our work can become better connected and aligned.

With improved student outcomes at our center, RISE is one of 10 partnerships selected to receive a grant award of up to $550,000 to advance equity and systems change in our communities over the next three years. This award is from StriveTogether, a national movement to help every child succeed in school and in life from cradle to career, regardless of race, zip code or circumstance.

The grant intensifies our work to use data, target resources and monitor progress. National funders are challenging local communities to invest collectively in this approach. We invite you to be part of this work together — we all share the responsibility for making sure every child succeeds, and we hope you’ll join us as we RISE to this challenge!

JESSICA RUEHRWEIN
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
RISE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

BOARD OF DIRECTORS
Working for every student from cradle to career.

RISE LEADERSHIP

Mike Satz
University of Idaho
Executive Officer for Southwestern Idaho

Wendy Johnson
Kuna School District
Superintendent

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Sonya Lovejoy
Cindy Lunte
Kathy Purin
Cindy Roberts
Matt Vaarstra
Ada Community Library
GEM Innovation Schools
Idaho public Television
Kuna School District
Emmet School District
University of Idaho
MISSION & VALUES

RISE leads community collaboration to support the shared vision of ensuring the success of every child, every step of the way, from cradle to career.

RISE engages and coordinates community partners around common goals, uses data to identify need and progress, and aligns existing resources in order to collectively impact education outcomes for students. By uniting and focusing the strengths of multiple partners, RISE aims to improve our education system and student outcomes in a measurable and lasting way.

The foundation of our work includes:

- Engaging local education stakeholders
- Advancing equity
- Aligning resources for collective impact
- Data driven improvement

In 2011 a group of community leaders from the Treasure Valley gathered to meet about making changes in education to ensure students enter school prepared, succeed academically, and go on to the career of their choice. RISE was established as the coordinating body for this shared vision.

Today, a diverse network of over 200 community partners from organizations, businesses, and schools work together toward improving student outcomes. RISE uses a collective impact approach with partners to pilot and monitor strategies aimed at key academic benchmarks such as 3rd grade reading. Together we are building a more connected and vibrant community where every child can thrive.
COMMUNITY SNAPSHOT

RISE spans four Southwest Idaho counties and serves over 200,000 students and youth across 9 school districts and 6 colleges and universities. Our region is a diverse urban and rural mix and in 2018, Idaho was the fastest growing state in the nation and Boise was the fastest growing city. By 2025 65% percent of jobs in Idaho will require some form of education beyond high school. While partners are working to increase the number of students with certificates and degrees, they have not kept pace with the demands of our economy and local employers.

In addition, our Treasure Valley student population continues to see growth in diversity and child poverty. Differences in ethnic makeup, income, and student achievement are changing the way we must approach education. RISE seeks to close equity gaps by using local data, community expertise and national research, and to better serve all students and their families.

HOW WE WORK

process and approach

RISE uses a collective impact approach to identify and tackle local education needs. RISE partners convene in monthly ‘working groups’ formed around key academic benchmarks - kindergarten readiness, 3rd grade reading, and postsecondary enrollment. Using data, the community develops and pilots strategies aimed at improving student outcomes in communities of need. Staff utilize a continuous improvement process that utilizes data in identifying the best practices for impacting our education system.
PREPARED FOR SCHOOL
Working for every student to be prepared for kindergarten

A WORD FROM OUR CHAIRS

Cindy Roberts
Emmett School District
Director of Curriculum

We are what we repeatedly do. Excellence, then, is not an act, but a habit. – Will Durant

Mary DeWalt
Ada Community Libraries
Director

Preparing children for kindergarten readies them for future success; society benefits when children succeed.

2018 PROJECT
PRE-K AWARENESS CAMPAIGN

Idaho is 1 of only 4 states that provide no support for preschool education. The Prepared for School group is focused on ensuring children are prepared for school when they begin kindergarten. Partners are working to increase awareness about what it means to ‘be ready’ for school. In 2018, partners developed and launched a survey for Treasure Valley families and caregivers with pre-k children. The goal was to learn more about what parents’ value and need in order to help them better prepare their children for school. Boise State University’s early learning expert, Dr. Roger Stewart, analyzed 1,149 survey responses and the results are being used to inform the group’s project to develop strategies for a new community outreach campaign piloted in Canyon County.

Treasure Valley Families Say:

Teachers & Doctors are the most trusted sources of child care information are

1 in 5 Families need more Pre-K resources at home

Cost is the #1 barrier to children attending preschool:
SUCC ED ACADEMICALLY
Working for every 3rd grade student to read at grade level

A WORD FROM OUR CHAIRS

Cindy Lunte
Idaho Public Television
Education Specialist

I love to work on Book and a Bite because it nurtures children’s curiosity, helping them explore and learn about the world around them.

Sonya Lovejoy
Gem Innovation Schools
Director of Curriculum

The climate of education is complex & constantly changing, we must collaborate across sectors and coordinate our efforts in support of education & Idaho youth —- this is collective impact.

2018 PROJECT
A BOOK & A BITE

The Succeeds Academically group completed it’s second year of the Book and a Bite pilot. The goal of the project is to reduce summer learning loss in communities of need by partnering with school districts and summer free lunch sites. Once a week, for eight weeks in Kuna, Emmett and Caldwell children and families had the chance to engage in STEM enrichment activities, read with a volunteer, receive a book of their choice, and have a free lunch. In the first two years of the pilot, over 5,400 books were given away, over 6,800 meals were served and over 6,000 hands-on STEM activities were completed. The success of this project is a testament to collective impact.

3,200 Books given away
4,000 Meals Served
5,000 STEM Activities Provided
RISE WORKING GROUPS

BEYOND HIGH SCHOOL
Working to ensure every student enrolls in and completes some form of education beyond high school.

A WORD FROM OUR CHAIRS

Kathy Purin
Kuna School District
Career Counselor

I want to help ALL students become future ready by providing a well-rounded career focused curriculum.

Matt Vaarstra
University of Idaho
AD of Employer Relations

I partner with RISE because I believe it is critical to help all students find a meaningful career path & a way to successfully traverse that path.

2018 PROJECTS

SENIOR EXIT SURVEY

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RISE works with schools to survey seniors about their plans after high school. The annual survey provides vital information for schools, districts, policy makers and community about where systems can be improved and where to celebrate successes as best practices. After four years of continuous improvement over 16,000 responses have been collected and an 84% response rate was achieved in 2018. RISE is currently developing plans to provide customized data coaching and workshops for districts to improve systems.

Over 21% of surveyed graduates reported they hope to enter a career in Healthcare.

1 in 3 students surveyed want more Life Skills & Financial Literacy
COLLABORATION 4 CAREERS SUMMIT

As part of on-going project development around career readiness resources, RISE hosted a summit convening over 60 cross-sector partners. The summit goals were to create awareness and partnerships around work-based learning and career readiness. Our partners at Education Northwest / REL Northwest aided in planning, facilitation and execution. The work done at the summit set the ground work for a state wide landscape map of career readiness resources.

IDAHO CAREER DEVELOPMENT MONTH

RISE partnered with the Idaho Career Development Association (ICDA) to create awareness and advocacy for career readiness education and resources. Governor Butch Otter and all of the Mayors and Commissioners of the Treasure Valley Partnership, signed a Proclamation declaring November: Idaho Career Development Month.

Proclamation partners include:

- Idaho Department of Labor
- Idaho Vocational Rehabilitation
- Workforce Development Council
- State Board of Education
- State Department of Education
- Career-Technical Education
- Idaho Counseling Association
- Idaho School Counselors Association
- Idaho Business for Education
RISE POLICY FORUM
Advocating for policy change to improve education systems

FORUM LEADERSHIP

Don Coberly
Boise School District
Superintendent

Rod Gramer
Idaho Business for Education
President

We know the road of improving student outcomes is a long one, but every mile we travel forward is worth the effort of setting students up for success in school, work and life.

2018 PROGRESS
BUILDING TRUST BETWEEN BUSINESS, EDUCATORS, AND GOVERNMENT

Three years ago, RISE, the Treasure Valley Education Partnership, launched the Policy Forum to enhance the communication between the nine Southwest Idaho superintendents and Idaho Business for Education, a non-profit group of 200 business leaders working to improve education in Idaho. Since then, the monthly Policy Forum meetings have provided an effective way for school and business leaders to discuss the pressing issues facing education and ways that can be used to enhance student academic outcomes. As a result of this work, the educators and business leaders have been able to discuss these issues in a trusting, open and frank environment. This has resulted in better understanding, communication and collaboration among these leaders who are all working for the same goal – to strengthen Idaho’s public education system and to set students up for success in school, work and life.