



# SAY YES TO EDUCATION

*What if an entire community came together to ensure that each of its children had the opportunity – and the support – to go to college? That is the promise of Say Yes.*

## THE EVOLUTION OF SAY YES

Say Yes was **founded** in 1987 by money manager George Weiss, who boldly promised more than 100 sixth graders at a Philadelphia public school that he would pay to send them to college if they graduated high school.

In the years since, Say Yes has **evolved** into a national nonprofit that organizes and galvanizes entire communities around the goals of every public school student not only graduating high school – but doing so with the preparation and support to attain, afford and complete a postsecondary education.

Say Yes **believes** that if given the opportunity to maximize their gifts and talents, all children can progress along the pathway to a successful postsecondary education and go on to be actively contributing members of their communities.

## THE SCHOLARSHIPS

At the heart of Say Yes is a **powerful incentive** for families and communities alike: the prospect of a college scholarship, whether to an in-state public institution or one of the more than 100 private colleges and universities in the Say Yes Higher Education Compact. More than 6,000 students have gone off to college with Say Yes' support.

## THE COLLABORATION

Say Yes **brings together every stakeholder in a community** – city and county government; the school district; parents; teachers; businesses; unions; philanthropic and faith-based organizations; colleges and universities – and arms that coalition with the tools to boost postsecondary participation and success.

## THE SUPPORTS

Say Yes and its partners ensure that students and their families have the **resources outside the classroom** – tutoring; after-school and summer programs; medical care; counseling and legal help – to clear the path to academic achievement.

## THE ECONOMIC IMPACT

Armed by Say Yes with a postsecondary degree or certificate, the program's students will enter the local (and national) workforce with **the qualifications to excel in a range of occupations**, including those crucial to the growth of a 21<sup>st</sup> Century economy.

## SUSTAINABILITY

After six years of close collaboration with the national Say Yes organization, each Say Yes community must take **ownership of that effort** – assuming local responsibility for sustaining the scholarship endowment, and for continuing to provide essential, comprehensive supports to students and their families. A community's long-term affiliation with Say Yes, including its Higher Education Compact, is contingent upon its commitment to maintain those services, which are intended to remove predictable barriers to success.