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**ROCKY MOUNTAIN PREP AND STRIVE PREP UNITE TO CREATE A STRONGER ECE-12
PATHWAY FOR FAMILIES**

RMP CEO Tricia Noyola will lead STRIVE Prep beginning July 2023

Denver, Colo. - The board of directors of Rocky Mountain Prep (RMP) and STRIVE Prep announced today that they will join together into a single, unified public school system beginning July 1, 2023. Tricia Noyola, Rocky Mountain Prep's current CEO, will serve as the CEO of the unified early childhood education (ECE) to 12th grade school network, which will retain the STRIVE Prep name.

The uniting of the networks will provide a continuous and cohesive ECE-12 education experience for families with some of the best performing schools in Metro Denver. Among other reasons, by unifying as one school system, STRIVE Prep will be able to direct additional resources to the classroom, strengthen academics, amplify its focus on social-emotional learning, and continue successful college and career outcomes for all students, including exceptional results for special education and multilingual students.

"For many years, families at Rocky Mountain Prep have been wanting us to expand into middle school and high school and this new ECE-12th grade network allows us to help meet that need for our families and the community," said Pat Donovan, Rocky Mountain Prep's board chair. "The two organizations share many of the same values and approaches to academic success, joining together feels like a natural fit that will address the gap and provide a pathway for our students for their entire education through high school."

Both school networks were founded on a belief that all children deserve access to a high-quality education. Rocky Mountain Prep currently operates four high-performing ECE to 5th-grade elementary schools with more than 1,800 students. STRIVE Prep operates one elementary school, seven middle schools and two high schools in the Denver metro area, serving about 3,300 students.

"It's important for families to have access to quality, safe, academically rigorous schools for their children; this is what they have told us," said Amber Valdez, STRIVE Prep board chair. "Schools that are geographically connected, with a clear path from childhood all the way through high school graduation, are essential to supporting this need and providing a stable educational experience that supports the whole child from our youngest learners to young adults."



Noyola was selected as CEO of the unified school network through a rigorous review process which included input from a diverse review committee consisting of parents and staff from STRIVE Prep. Prior to becoming CEO of Rocky Mountain Prep, Noyola had a distinguished career as a teacher, principal, and executive director with nationally recognized IDEA Public Schools in Texas.

Earlier this summer, STRIVE Prep's founder and CEO, Chris Gibbons, announced his departure after 16 years leading the organization. He expressed strong support for the board's hiring decision.

"Tricia's extraordinary leadership has already impacted thousands of students and families across Texas and Colorado," said Gibbons. "Her experience and commitment, especially her commitment to students of color, will help build an even stronger coalition of families, staff and communities who can advocate for a stronger, more equitable Denver."

Over the next year, the two organizations will work closely together to create a smooth unification process and become a single entity beginning July 1, 2023. Students, families, staff and other stakeholders will be engaged and updated throughout the process.

Visit striveprep.org/rmp and rockymountainprep.org/strive webpages for more information about the networks joining together.

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About Rocky Mountain Prep

Rocky Mountain Prep is a public elementary charter school network with four Denver-Metro area schools serving more than 1,800 students. Rocky Mountain Prep's mission is for every child to realize their full potential through a rigorous and loving elementary education. Rigorous academics in an environment of love, inclusivity, and respect create the transformational learning experience that sets RMP apart as a top option for students and families. Scholars and staff approach each day through PEAK values: Perseverance, Excellence, Adventure, and Kindness.

Fast Facts:

- More than 1,800 students
- 4 elementary schools in four regions, three in Denver and one in Aurora
- 81% of students qualify for free or reduced lunch
- 52% of students are multilingual learners
- 13% of students receive special education services

About STRIVE Prep

STRIVE Prep is a community of charter public schools that challenges each of our students to learn to change their world. Founded on the belief that every child deserves a high-quality education right where they live, STRIVE Prep serves about 3,300 students in 10 schools across Denver. Whether students join us in elementary, middle or high school, we welcome every child to achieve a bright future, regardless of their background or previous academic achievement.



Fast Facts:

- About 3,300 students
- 10 schools in three Denver regions, 1 elementary school, 7 middle schools, 2 high schools
- 83% of students qualify for free or reduced lunch
- 46% students are multilingual learners
- 15% students are students with disabilities