



MAKING HISTORY

ANNUAL REPORT 2023



ROCKY MOUNTAIN PREP



Tricia Noyola, CEO

ROCKY MOUNTAIN PREP SUPPORTERS, FAMILIES, AND COMMUNITY MEMBERS:

In August 2022, our board(s) decided to unite Rocky Mountain Prep and STRIVE Prep under the Rocky Mountain Prep banner. We are halfway through the first year of operating as one organization. At the outset of this merger, the first of its kind in Denver, we intended to do three things:

- 1 Create a fully aligned early childhood through 12th-grade pathway, serving students as young as 12 weeks old through 12th grade**
- 2 Allocate resources to support student success**
- 3 Change the face of leadership in Denver**

This year, we made history. It's been a year filled with opportunities: we brought two teams together, learned new systems and processes, and ensured students experience the rigor and love that has become synonymous with Rocky Mountain Prep. And we are already seeing

wins. Enrollment goals and family return rates have surpassed expectations. Two of our schools, RMP Creekside and RMP SMART, had the highest attendance rates across the Denver Public Schools district for elementary and high schools, respectively. Educators from our network were recognized for statewide achievements and excellence in their craft. These bright spots, and the stories that follow, are just the beginning of all that we can, and will, accomplish as a united team.

Thank you for being a part of this historic work. Thank you for supporting this team. And most of all, thank you for your belief in our outstanding students.

Con ganas,

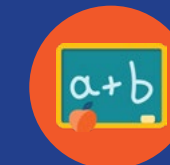
Tricia Noyola



THE BIG FIVE



Going **Green** on the Colorado School Performance Framework



90% Student Persistence



95% Average Daily Attendance



Fully Enrolled by October Count



Academic Goals

Elementary School:
Pre-K Students **1 Year** of Growth

Kinder through 2nd Grade Students
Grow **1.25** Years in ELA and Math

40% of 3rd Through 5th Grade Students
Meet Their Millionaire Goal

Middle School:
40% of 6th Through 8th Grade Students
Meet Their Millionaire Goal

High School:
100% College Acceptance

WHEN MARIA CANO FIRST HEARD THAT ROCKY MOUNTAIN PREP AND STRIVE PREP WERE MERGING, ***SHE WAS THRILLED.***



The Cano family from left to right: Uriel, Yahvee, Miah, Maria, Fatima, Alicia, Azeneth



Interested in enrolling your child at RMP?

She's had children enrolled in both school networks for many years, and the unification meant consistency in their education and more focus on the things she cared about most. Plus, all three schools in Maria's neighborhood are within walking distance of each other.

"I just love how RMP works, I love the curriculum, and love the way they run school," she said.

Maria's children all attend an RMP school: Miah and Uriel are high schoolers at RMP SMART, Alicia and Yahvee are middle schoolers at RMP Westwood, Azeneth is a Pre-K student at RMP Southwest, and Fatima, who is almost 2, will hopefully be in Pre-K next year at RMP Southwest.

"I enrolled my students at RMP as soon as they were able to go," she said. "Southwest is close to home, and I loved that RMP has uniforms because I didn't want my children to experience bullying." School uniforms help ensure no student is singled out for what they wear.

"Families should choose RMP for their children because of the great curriculum, and because the teachers really pay attention to our kids and help them succeed."

Maria, like so many families, is relieved that her children are all within one school system now. "I love that my kids are all at RMP and in one place. That's what I wanted all along – the chance to have one school for their entire education."

Maria's oldest daughter, Miah who began 7th grade at STRIVE Prep - Kepner in 2018, will graduate in May 2024 as a founding senior of RMP SMART. "She wants to go to college, and she has my support 100%." We are so excited for all of Maria's students to follow in their sister's footsteps as RMP graduates!



*Maria Cano,
RMP parent*

THERE'S NO BIGGER COMPLIMENT THAN WHEN AN ALUM COMES BACK AND JOINS THE RMP NETWORK ***AS AN EDUCATOR.***

RMP prepares students to make a difference in the world and become leaders. They are encouraged to have agency and choice and to seek out opportunities to be in positions to make the change they wish to see. In Jaquelin Hernandez-Ortega's experience, those lessons came full circle when she started working at the school she graduated from, sharing that same encouragement she experienced just five years ago.

"For students to feel empowered and supported, they need people who have been in their shoes and lived similar experiences," said Jackie, Rocky Mountain Prep SMART's college access coordinator and 2018 SMART graduate.

Because of Jackie's familiarity with the school and community, she's able to build authentic relationships with students, recognizing the challenges they face and helping them achieve their goals. Seeing someone who is just like them succeed and come back to teach them has inspired them to go beyond what they thought possible.

"You're one of us, Miss. If you can do it, I can too," they tell her.

For Jackie, it's more than just about her students graduating, it's about creating equity in opportunities. She expresses that it's challenging to see her students realize they may not have access to the same financial support and other resources other students may have. But part of helping students gain access to college is showing them there are resources and opportunities available.

"I think about the moments in the classroom where I felt empowered," she said. "Moments like when my teacher was proud of me. I work hard to recreate those special moments and recognize their success, no matter how big or small."

She has become the stepping stone for change that RMP has set out to create in education and beyond. Jackie is changing what educational leadership looks like in Denver and we are so proud.



*Jackie Hernandez-Ortega,
RMP SMART's
college access coordinator*

"For me, it's all about helping them be the change they want to see in our community."



READING ONE TO TWO MILLION WORDS IN A SCHOOL YEAR IS A LOFTY GOAL

Reading that many words is once or twice through the entire Harry Potter series. And RMP students across every elementary and middle school have risen to the challenge, motivated by their teachers, peers, and most importantly, themselves.

As CEO Tricia Noyola likes to say, “It’s not about the goal. It’s about what the goal makes us do.”

This year, the millionaire goal inspired in students and staff alike a newfound enthusiasm toward reading. Hallway conversations are electrified with book titles, authors, word counts and reviews. RMP’s first millionaire, fifth-grader Kiruvel from RMP Creekside, received a personal shoutout from Governor Jared Polis for this great accomplishment after just four weeks of school. The enthusiasm has even escalated to school-wide competition. RMP Ruby Hill hosted a battle-of-the-books competition between grades, stoking the fire with weekly data updates.

One key to creating this energy? Get everyone involved.

Each RMP student has their own reading tracker to monitor progress toward their individual word goal for the day, week, and year, so students know just as much about their own reading data as their teachers. Families know what their children’s goals are, so they’re able to keep the motivation up at home.

That’s not only intentional, it’s integral to student success. For Sarah Beth Bliss, assistant principal of instruction at RMP Westwood, the focus on reading has recentered literacy as “a mission of, and for, equity.” Because being able to read and write opens up a world of possibilities in both school and life.

A school’s priorities are most clear when everyone – students, teachers, staff, and families – agrees to invest in the same goals. And when priorities are clear, the allocation of funds and other resources can be directed toward what matters most, which is empowering students to reach their full potential.



Before the millionaire goal was conceived, independent reading time at school was a “nice-to-have,” says Liz Stewart, RMP Fletcher’s assistant principal of instruction.

“Now,” she says, “reading for fun is a must-have.”

**“Literacy is access.
Literacy is knowledge.
Literacy is power.”**

~ Alyssa Montaña
assistant principal of instruction,
RMP Sunnyside



Read more on RMP’s blog

1.04
billion words
banked

81
double
millionaires

224
students on track
to reaching double
millionaire goal



294
millionaires
(includes elementary
and middle school)



110,694
Accelerated Reader
quizzes passed



413
students on track
to reach
millionaire goal



**“I got better, which made me
read faster, which made me read
more...like a cycle.”**
~ Kiruvel Girmachew,
fifth-grader, RMP Creekside

Check out the CBS Colorado
story featuring Kiruvel!



date range: 8/10/2023 (first day of school) – 12/31/2023

MESSAGE FROM THE BOARD



Eighteen years ago, my parents were promised a safe, high-quality college prep education that would empower me to achieve my full potential. Graduating from STRIVE Prep-Federal, then known as West Denver Prep, set me on a trajectory to complete college at Wesleyan University, begin my professional career at IBM, complete a Fulbright Grant in Mexico City, and attend Harvard Business School. I am also a proud member of the Rocky Mountain Prep (RMP) Board of Directors.

All students deserve a rigorous and loving education experience that empowers students to achieve their full potential. I joined the STRIVE Board to deliver on our promise—a promise made to families like mine. When I served on STRIVE Prep’s CEO Selection Committee in 2022, fulfilling our promise was top of mind for the community members I engaged with. Our students, families, and our team also echoed two resounding needs: having a clear, consistent academic strategy and ensuring representation in leadership across our organization. We are delivering on our promise.

Since the school year began, we have significantly improved our academic program. As an organization, we have implemented a rigorous middle school and high school curriculum for the first time in our history.

For the first time in STRIVE Prep history, all of our schools were rated green or yellow on the School Performance Framework.

Our students, families, and team stressed the importance of having a leader who reflects, builds, and loves our community. I’m inspired by Tricia, the only Latina CEO of a school system in the Denver Metro area—where most public school students identify as Latinx. As I’ve gotten to know Tricia, as our leader and as a friend, I am also impressed by her rigor, thoughtfulness, and love for our community. I’m equally proud of the diversity in background and perspectives on our board and representation across legacy STRIVE and RMP.

Together, we’re heading in the right direction, but we have more to accomplish as we become a unified organization. Thank you to our team for their hard work and dedication to our students. Thank you for being a part of this historic year for our organization.

With Gratitude,

Ulysses Estrada

RMP BY THE NUMBERS



12
Campuses



4,697
Pre-K through 12th-grade students



85.6%
of students are economically disadvantaged



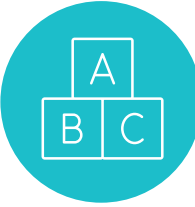
48.6%
of students are multilingual learners



16.7%
of students receive special education services

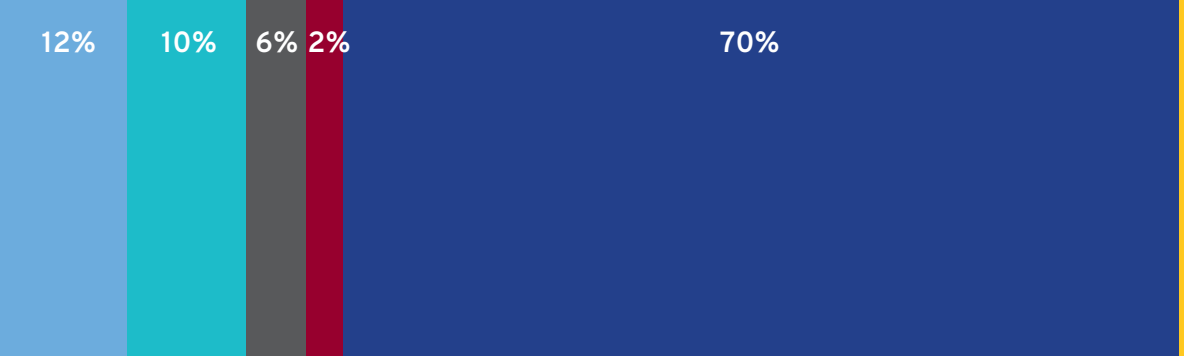


268
Pre-K students



20
Baby Bees

FY22-23 EXPENSE SPLIT



	2022-23
STUDENTS	4,770
PUBLIC REVENUES	\$84,357,967
PRIVATE GRANTS AND REVENUES	\$9,588,475
TOTAL REVENUES	\$93,946,442
PROGRAM EXPENSES	\$21,176,873
SUPPORT EXPENSES	\$44,540,724
DEBT SERVICE	\$5,727,447
TOTAL EXPENSES*	\$101,246,711
TOTAL ASSETS†	\$25,051,706
TOTAL LIABILITIES‡	\$2,280,476
TOTAL NET ASSETS	\$22,771,230

* Expenses do not include pension and OPEB liability accruals.
† Assets do not include facilities, fixtures and other capital assets.
‡ Liabilities do not include state pension plan an OPEB liabilities.

	\$ in 000's
People	\$71,302
Books, Supplies, Licenses and Equipment	\$10,346
Facilities, Furniture & Maintenance	\$1,854
Services, Fees & Other Op. Expenses	\$12,016
Debt Service	\$5,727
TOTAL	\$101,247

CHAMPIONS OF RMP

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Charlotte M. Brantley
Board Secretary

Reed Dixon
Rye Ridge Resources

Patrick Donovan
Board Chair
RootED

Ulysses Estrada
Harvard Business School

Marlon Marshall
City Fund

Jemal Takele
United States Postal Service

Kayla Tibbals
Co-Vice Chair
Nexus Policy Group

Amber Valdez
Co-Vice Chair
Valdez Public Affairs

\$100,000+

- Charter School Growth Fund
- Colorado Department of Education
- Colorado Department of Early Childhood
- Daniels Fund
- The Dean and Helen Witter Family Fund
- The Rentschler Family Fund

\$25,000 TO \$99,999

- Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation
- Colorado Office of the Governor
- Denver Families for Public Schools
- Denver Public Schools Foundation

\$10,000 TO \$24,999

- Colorado Department of Human Services
- Kathryn and Tim Ryan
- Valdez International Corporation

\$1,000 TO \$9,999

- Amber Valdez
- Anthony and Christine Valdez
- Charlotte Brantley
- Chris Gibbons and Audra Philippon
- Christian and Jill Anschutz
- Denver Preschool Program
- Erin Homburger
- Gail O. Donovan
- Gary Philanthropy
- Healthy Food for Denver Kids
- James Cryan and Elizabeth Coogan
- Jason Hart
- Kayla and Geoff Tibbals
- Marlon Marshall and Stacy Berger
- Patrick and Marcy Donovan
- Rebecca Zofnass Family Fund

\$250 TO \$999

- Adam Lenzmeier
- Anonymous
- Brian Lenzmeier
- Indrina Kanth and Eric Chan
- Tina Watson
- Yana Smith

UP TO \$249

- Adriana Jimenez
- Anneke Miers
- April Brugenhemke
- Ashley Schmidt
- Carla Andrews
- Caryl Buckstein
- Cas Robison
- Christy Sadri
- David Xiao
- Debra Lachico
- Edward Krankowski
- Grace Howard
- Greg and Taryn Rawson

- Gregory and Rebecca Hatcher
- Hannah Marck
- Heather Dibb
- Jennifer Lammers
- Jill Henderson
- Karen Bernstein
- Karla Lindgren
- Laura Haller and Jesska Daugherty
- Madeline Dibb
- Mallory Yedinak
- Mari Peterson
- Nicolas Domke
- Paula Ziegler
- Rose M. Mercer
- Sami Hartman
- Shannon Good
- Suellen Kadis
- Tessa Frederick
- Theresa & Zachary Henning
- Tricia Noyola
- Vachon and Gina Brackett
- Wendell Fallin

IN-KIND GIFTS

- Centus Counseling, Consulting & Education
- Colorado Mountain Club
- Denver Fencing Center
- Denver Museum of Nature & Science
- Denver Parks & Recreation
- Justin Ullom
- Leading Edge
- Lifespan Local
- Possip
- Regis University Women’s Soccer Team
- Skyline Soccer Association
- SMJ Communications
- Tuchman Family Foundation
- USA Lacrosse

Includes all donations made between January 1, 2023- December 31, 2023





Read more of
RMP's Community Stories
rockymountainprep.org

