

# The Fund for Public Schools: a Call to Action

## Did you know that:

- Throughout the 20th Century, the United States led the world in high school completion rates. By 2005, we dropped in rank to 21st out of 27 advanced countries.
- An American student drops out of high school every 26 seconds. A high school dropout is 5-8 times more likely to be incarcerated than a college graduate.
- Before Mayor Bloomberg and Chancellor Klein took control of NYC's 1,600+ public schools, the graduation rate hovered close to only 50%.

## What we're doing about it:

The Fund plays a pivotal role in improving public education in New York City by:

- ✓ securing funding for critical education reform initiatives;
- ✓ helping businesses to create partnerships that support our city's schools; and
- ✓ raising public awareness about New York City public schools.

## What we've accomplished:

The Fund has raised over \$260 million since 2003 to support reform initiatives, including:

- ✓ Over \$80 million for the NYC Leadership Academy to train the next generation of school leaders.
- ✓ Nearly \$10 million to support arts education.
- ✓ Close to \$7 million to improve the human resources function of the Department of Education.
- ✓ Over \$6 million to launch new academically selective schools in underserved neighborhoods.
- ✓ \$1.4M for an innovative early literacy program to help close the achievement gap.

The Fund has broadened the educational experience of students across the city by:

- ✓ Building and upgrading over 70 performing arts spaces in schools.
- ✓ Revitalizing more than 200 school libraries.

The Fund has engaged the greater New York City community to help us along the way:

- ✓ During Shop for Public Schools week from 2004-2009, New Yorkers helped raise funds for school libraries by going shopping. In 2009, over 250 store locations across the city participated.
- ✓ Corporate partners, ranging from leading corporations to independent small businesses, work with The Fund to establish innovative partnerships to help support our city's schools. Among many projects in 2010, we partnered with the Madison Avenue Business Improvement District for the 3<sup>rd</sup> year on a Gallery Walk for arts education, and with Target on their new Harlem store opening.

And it's working:

- ✓ The four-year graduation rate is up to 62.7% in 2009 – a 12.5 point increase between 2005 and 2009.
- ✓ Students and families have more choices than ever before, with over 325 new small schools opened
- ✓ NYC students are outpacing their peers in other large cities on 'the nation's report card' (NAEP tests)