

## Rise Up Academy

# Impact Report 2026

### Empowering Futures Through Education

This report captures our ongoing commitment to nurturing every child with equity, excellence, and compassion. From advancing academic achievement to strengthening community partnerships, Rise Up Academy is transforming lives and building brighter futures—one student at a time.



Explore more



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# Words from the CEO

At Rise Up Academy, we believe every child deserves the chance to thrive. Since 1999, our mission has been to close the achievement gap by providing high-quality, culturally responsive education that inspires a love for learning.

Rooted in the belief that “I Can Learn Anything!” is more than a motto—it’s a mindset we nurture daily. We partner with families to help each child reach their fullest potential, both academically and socially.

Thank you for being part of this journey. Together, we’re shaping bright futures.

**Dr. Paul A. Stoot Sr.**

Founder - Rise Up Academy



# About Us

## Mission

To **eliminate the achievement gap** by providing a high-quality, innovative academic experience that nurtures a child's enthusiasm for learning through education, the arts, and social impact initiatives—empowering them to thrive throughout their educational journey and beyond.

## Vision

To be a recognized **leader** in early childhood education.

## Core Values

At Rise Up Academy, every achievement is grounded in our core values—**Excellence, Education, Protection, Positivity, Outreach, Preparation, and Compliance.**



# Rise Up Academy: Executive Staff



**DR. PAUL A. STOOT, SR**  
Founder/CEO



**JAYNE JOYNER**  
Operations Advisor



**KRYSTAL FICK**  
Executive Assistant



**CISSICA MARTINEZ**  
Finance Manager

# Rise Up Academy: Campus Staff



**DR. PAUL A. STOOT, SR**  
Founder/CEO



**JOAN LITZOW**  
School Ambassador



**NUPUR SINGH**  
Site Director



**SLYVIA HENDRIX**  
Assistant Director



**MAREDDY LOPEZ**  
Preschool Teacher



**DR. TERRY METCALF**  
Dean of Instruction



**CLAIRE UWABABEYI**  
Program Supervisor



**TANIA SILVA**  
Preschool Teacher



**ITAIS CORTEZ**  
Preschool Teacher Assistant



**TANYA PARKER**  
Teacher Assistant



**MEJINTA THOMAS**  
Teacher Assistant



**LINDA ALVARADO**  
Nutrition Coordinator



**KINSEY LEE**  
Transportation

# Our Impact

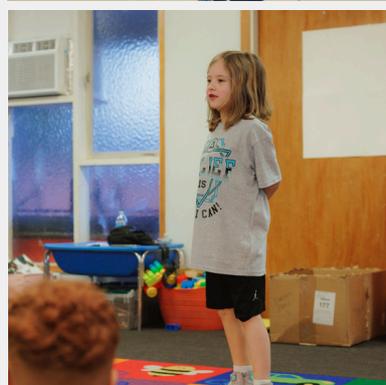
## Student Impact

At Rise Up Academy, we believe every child can learn. Starting from age two, our students build strong foundations in literacy, numeracy, and social-emotional skills. Our rigorous program ensures they not only meet but exceed public school benchmarks, preparing them for success in school and life..

## Community Impact

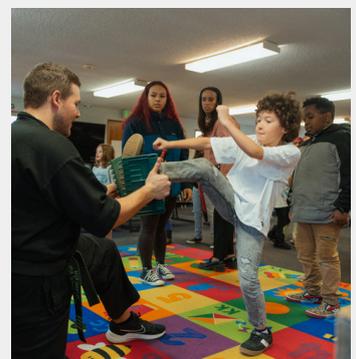
At Rise Up Academy, we serve as a community hub for families in Everett and Mukilteo. Our after-school program provides a safe, supportive space for elementary students to learn, complete homework, and unwind in a structured environment.

In just a little over a month, one of our 1st graders went from struggling to read independently to soaring — jumping from a 741 to a 766 on his reading score! That's a 25-point growth, showing nearly a 3.4% improvement in a very short time — but even more importantly, he's now reading on his own with confidence and joy thanks to Accelerated Reader.



We're proud to share that **83%** of our students have improved their reading comprehension, thanks to the dedication of our staff and the power of Accelerated Reader.

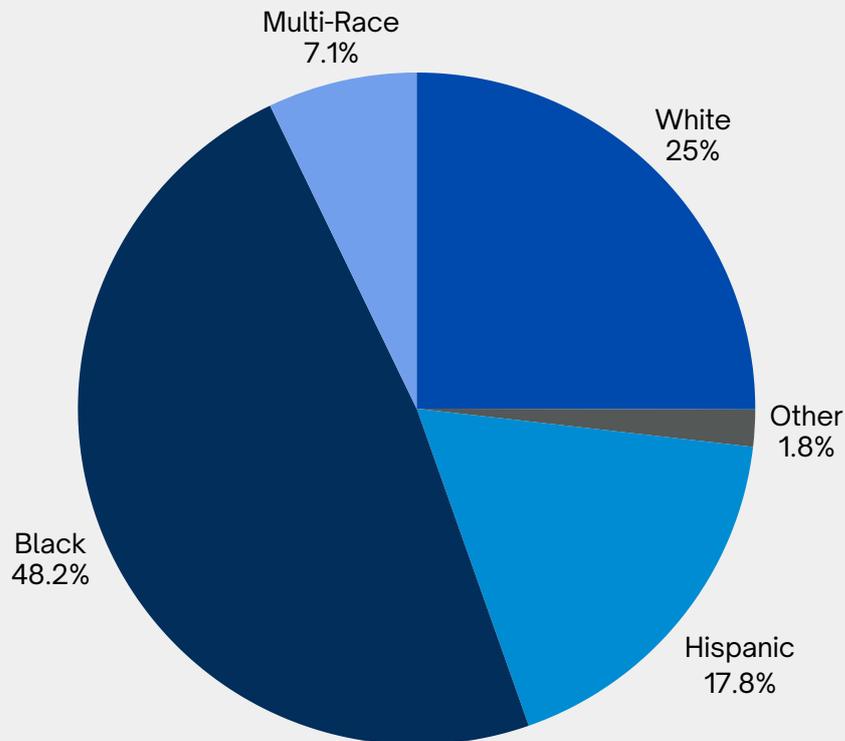
Thanks to our sports grant, we offered a free martial arts class to all students and the community — teaching self-defense, building confidence, and strengthening public speaking skills!



# Race and Demographic Analytics

## RUA Diversity Statement

**Rise Up Academy** is committed to fostering an inclusive and equitable environment that reflects our mission to nurture academic growth, community belonging, and holistic development. We welcome and respect all children and families, regardless of race, color, religion, sex, gender identity, sexual orientation, national origin, ancestry, age, disability, marital status, or veteran status. We ensure equal access to all programs and services and provide individualized accommodations to support the diverse needs of our community.

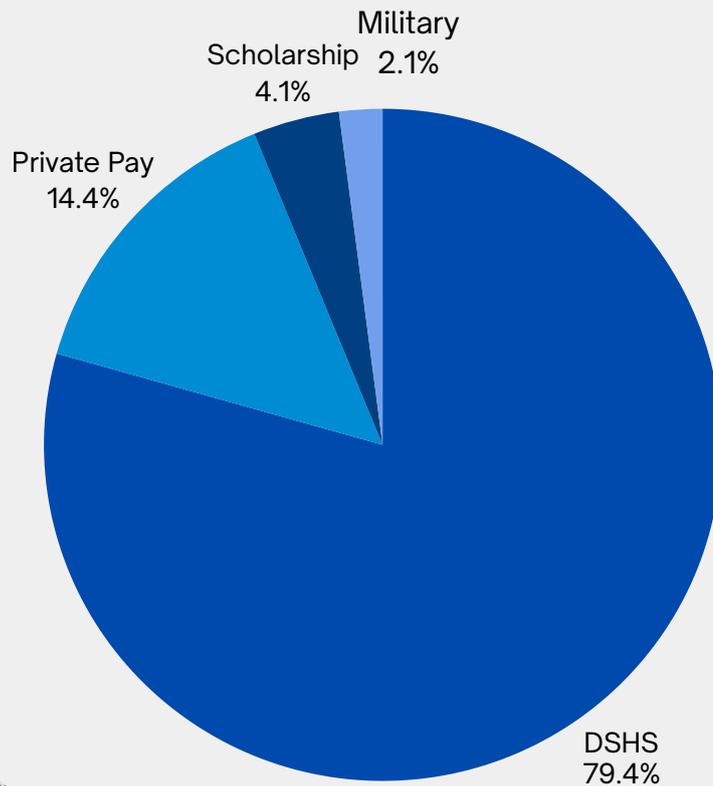


Washington State Department of  
**CHILDREN, YOUTH & FAMILIES**

# Family Support Breakdown

## Type of Tuition Support at RUA

Rise Up Academy proudly supports families through diverse funding streams. A large portion of our families are supported by the **Child Care Subsidy Program (CCSP)**, ensuring equitable access to high-quality early learning for all.



# Rise Up Academy School Statistics

## Enrollment Overview



61 Students

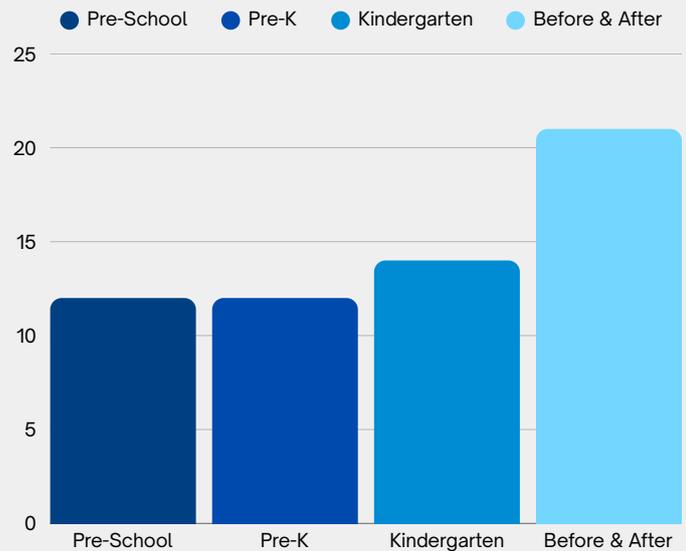


2.5 years - 12 years



### Programs Offered

- Pre-School
- Pre-k
- Kindergarten
- Before & After School



## Teacher to Child Ratio

Our classrooms maintain a **6:1 student-to-teacher ratio**, allowing for more individualized care, guidance, and support. This small group environment helps us better understand each child's unique needs and foster stronger relationships between students and teachers.

Average attendance - 73.4%  
Average retention rate - 83%

## Educational Excellence

At Rise Up Academy in Everett, Washington, we provide a strong academic foundation through the McGraw Hill Reading and Math Mastery curriculum. With focused instruction from 9:00 to 11:00 a.m., students consistently excel—many surpassing grade-level expectations. Some kindergarten graduates even advance directly into second or third grade. After academics, students enjoy enriching activities like art, STEAM, and play, supporting well-rounded growth. We promote students based on **achievement and development**, not just age, helping every child reach their full potential.



At Rise Up Academy, we are committed to building strong academic foundations. Our structured morning sessions ensure focused learning, allowing students to develop critical literacy and math skills that often exceed grade-level expectations. In addition to core academics, we introduce students to piano and music theory, enriching their cognitive development, memory, and problem-solving abilities. This well-rounded approach not only prepares our students for success in the classroom but also equips them with the skills and confidence to thrive in their future learning journeys.

At Rise Up Academy, our school-age program uses the Accelerated Reader (AR) program and STAR assessments to foster a love for reading and improve literacy skills. AR helps students enhance their reading comprehension, fluency, and overall academic performance. Students took their first STAR test in December and retested in February, with over half demonstrating measurable growth. Remarkably, two students who started the year unable to read are now reading independently. Through consistent support, goal-setting, and celebrating progress, we are building confident readers with a lifelong passion for learning.



# Student Achievements

At Rise Up Academy, we set high expectations—and our students rise to meet them. From preschool through kindergarten, our children are excelling academically and developing the foundational skills they need for lifelong success.

In our preschool classrooms, students are mastering letter recognition, phonics, and number identification up to 10 and beyond. By pre-K, they are sounding out new words, beginning to read, and learning simple addition—including double-digit equations. By the time they reach kindergarten, students are confidently reading books independently, solving double- and triple-digit addition and subtraction problems, counting money, and tackling word problems.

Our goal is simple: equip every child with the tools to thrive—now and in the future.



**Jeremiah**

### Kindergarten Student Achievement's:

**Ivan** - Ivan was invited to join Dr. Stoot as he spoke at College Place Elementary in February of 2025 for Black History Month. Ivan performed stanzas from the poem Still I Rise by Maya Angelou from memory.

**Jeremiah** - “Jeremiah has been excelling in his reading and language and jumping up in the reading groups” - Dr. Terry

### Pre-Kindergarten Achievement's:

**Oyana** - “After 5 months of being in the classroom Oyana was sounding out and putting words together despite struggling to sound out letters her first couple weeks” - Ms. Dominique

**Hope** - “Hope was struggling with numbers before, but in a few months in pre-k, Hope has become confident with her number recognition, and making along with solving equations.” - Ms. Dominique



**Oyana**

### Preschool Achievement's:

**Liya** - “Liya started with an average test score of 64%, as she’s been learning in preschool Liya’s average mastery test scores have now been 82% or higher, and she has mastered her ABC’S and number recognition 1-10” -Ms. Mareddy

**Amari** - “ Amari has been in our Preschool room since last month and is stellar at his letter recognition, and sounding out new words, he is even reading independently.” - Ms. Mareddy



**Ivan**



**Liya**



**Amari**



**Hope**

# Rise Up Academy vs. Local Centers



Centre



Tuition



Curriculum

Rise Up Academy	\$1600 /month	26-year proprietary, holistic approach
KinderCare	\$1955 /month	Cognitive, language, physical, emotional
Discovery Childcare	\$1800 /month	FunShine Express – theme-based
Starbright Early Learning	\$1670 /month	Play based learning

## Why choose Rise Up?

- ✓ Holistic Approach
- ✓ Effective Curriculum
- ✓ Strong parent communication
- ✓ Social-emotional learning
- ✓ Culturally responsive environment

## Rise Up Academy

*Where your child can learn anything!*

# Rise Up Academy Classrooms

## PRESCHOOL

Rise Up Academy's Preschool focuses on early literacy and foundational math skills. Students engage in daily activities that enhance their understanding of the alphabet, letter sounds, and basic math concepts. By the end of Preschool, children can recognize numbers 1–30, perform simple addition and subtraction, and write their names. The curriculum also introduces shapes and colors, laying the groundwork for future learning.

Our innovative Reading and Math curriculum has been instrumental in closing achievement gaps over the past 23 years. With a low student-to-teacher ratio, each child receives personalized attention, ensuring a strong start in their educational journey.



## PRE-K



Rise Up Academy's Pre-Kindergarten program builds upon the strong foundation established in our Preschool, preparing students for advanced Kindergarten-level phonics and math. Students master letter names and sounds, blend sounds to read simple words and stories, and answer comprehension questions. In math, they count to 100 by ones and tens from any given number, solve addition and subtraction word problems, and compose and decompose numbers 11 to 19 into tens and ones (e.g.,  $18 = 10 + 8$ ).

Our curriculum introduces students to STEAM education—Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Math—fostering curiosity and critical thinking. We emphasize social and emotional development, teaching resilience, mindfulness, and adaptability to prepare students for lifelong learning.

With a low student-to-teacher ratio, our dedicated educators provide personalized support, ensuring each child thrives academically and personally.

Rise Up Academy's Kindergarten offers an accelerated yet supportive curriculum, ensuring students remain motivated and confident. With a low student-to-teacher ratio, each child receives personalized attention, fostering academic excellence.

Over the past 23 years, our innovative Reading and Math curriculum has effectively closed achievement gaps. By the end of Kindergarten, students read at a first-grade level, decode multisyllabic words, and comprehend story structures, including beginning, middle, and end. In Math, they perform double-digit addition and subtraction, count by ones and tens up to 120, and understand numerical relationships up to three digits.

Beyond academics, students engage in extracurricular activities such as music, health and fitness, typing, and chess club, promoting well-rounded development.

## KINDERGARTEN



# Rise Up Academy Programs

## Before and After School Program

Rise Up Academy's Before and After School Program supports academic success throughout the year and is available to students up to 12 years old.

During the school year, the program focuses on homework assistance, mentoring and tutoring. During summer break, Rise Up offers a number of sports camps to keep students active when they're not in the classroom.



During the school year, our Before and After School Program's main focus is on academic support, providing students with the tutoring and individual attention they need to be successful. Weekly STEM and Chess Club activities also support the students' development of reasoning and problem-solving skills.

Rise Up Academy provides transportation to and from a number of schools in the Mukilteo and Everett School Districts.

Over summer break, Rise Up maintains a focus on reading and math to ensure students are prepared for the following school year. Weekly online testing allows teachers to track progress and keep students on pace. Students are incentivized with individual and class prizes for math and reading achievements throughout the summer.

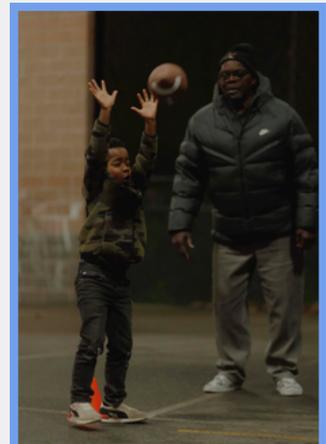
Rise Up Academy also offers a number of summer sports camps to keep our children active including golf, basketball, tennis and running club.

## Sports Program

Coaches Austin Joyner and Dr. Terry Metcalf lead program participants in the form, function and theory of football.

The Rise Up Academy Sports & Enrichment Program is designed to promote physical activity, social connection, and community engagement in a safe and structured environment.

The purpose of the program is to use various sports to help build character, develop leadership skills, and foster inclusivity. This program is open to the public and interested children can participate at no charge.



# Alumni Quotes

“The early literacy and numeracy skills I developed helped me grasp more complex subjects over the years, while the social and emotional learning taught me how to work well with others and navigate challenges.”

-Christopher D.

(Grateful for the) “rich experience, support, and attention given to help sow into the solid educational foundation and work ethic I have presently.”

-Jemayah R.

RUA was a “safe haven”, giving me a place to feel comfortable and supported. The “family atmosphere” allowed me to explore the things that I loved at a young age, after given my very first camera.”

-Bobby H.

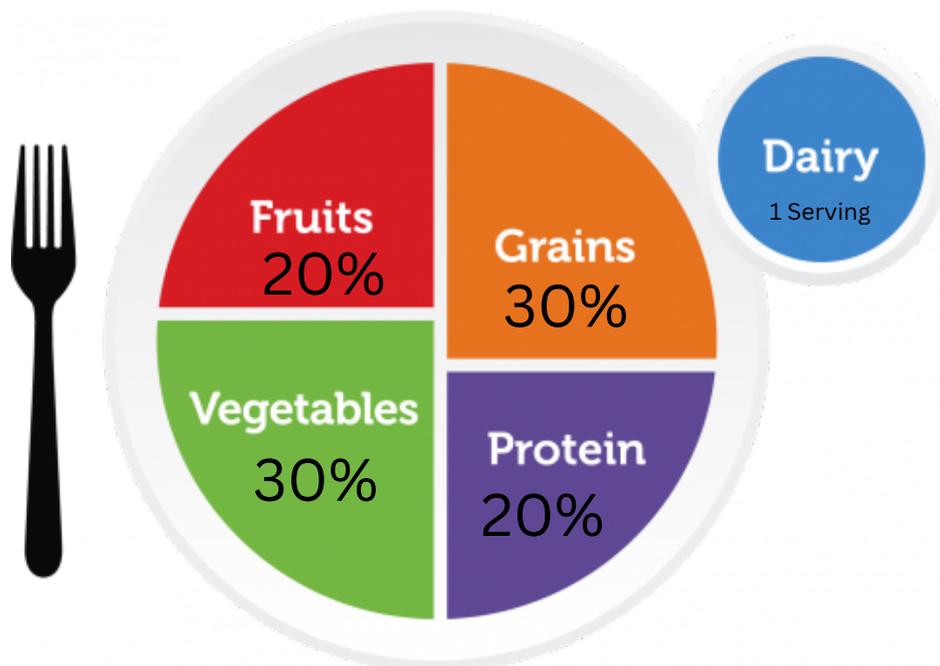
“RUA had homey feeling, the teachers and staff really cared and filled each room with love and respect. My emotions were heard and considered valid, and the teachers truly listened when difficult moments occurred.

-Cortaysia W

# Nutrition and Wellness



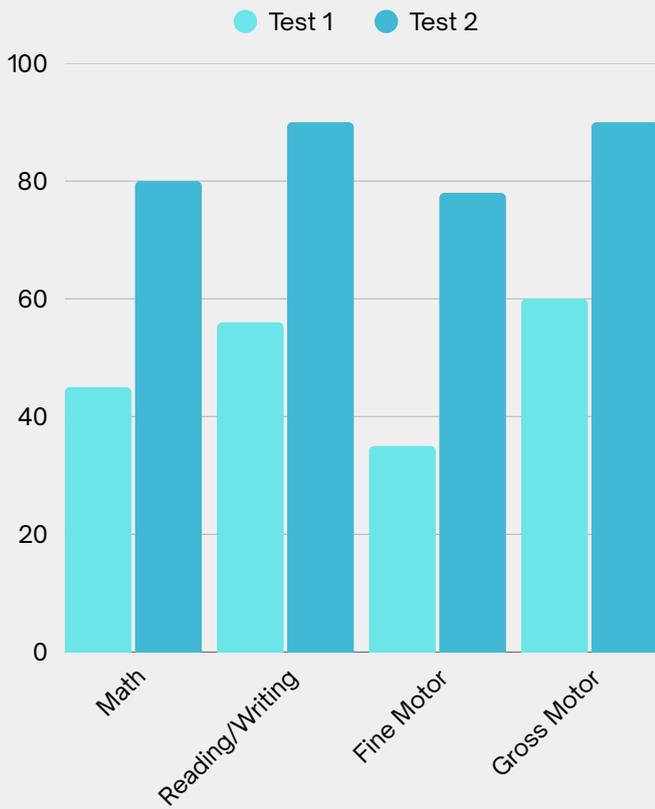
Meets Washington Food regulation and nutrition requirements in breakfast and lunch meals, provided by the USDA Federal Food Program



# Student Performance Analysis

## Student Mastery Assessments Growth

This chart reflects the progress of student learning based on mastery assessments conducted throughout the academic year. The bar graph shows performance comparisons between Test 1 and Test 2 across core learning areas, including Math, Reading/Writing, Fine Motor, and Gross Motor skills. The line graph highlights the overall average improvement in scores across four assessment periods. Data was collected and analyzed using Airtable to track growth over time.



## Average score per test



# Event Highlights



## Rise Up Academy Annual Gala

The Rise Up Academy Annual Gala is our signature fundraising and community celebration event, dedicated to honoring our mission, highlighting student achievements, and building support for the work ahead. In 2025, we proudly celebrated our 25th Silver Anniversary Gala at the Lynnwood Event Center, where longtime supporters, new friends, and community leaders came together for an inspiring evening of connection, entertainment, and generosity. Thanks to this incredible show of support, we raised over \$270,000 to fund vital programs and services that empower our students and open doors to opportunity. With the enthusiastic participation of our Gala Ambassadors, Attorney Anne Bremner and Mr. Krist Novoselic, the event reflected the heart and impact of our community—and remains a powerful reminder of what we can achieve when we rise together.



## Rise Up Academy Celebrity Golf Classic

The Rise Up Academy Celebrity Golf Tournament is a beloved annual tradition that brings together community members, supporters, and local celebrities for a day of friendly competition, connection, and giving back. Held at one of the region’s premier courses, the tournament raises vital funds to support Rise Up Academy’s educational programs and student services. Participants enjoy a full day of golf, on-course activities, and the opportunity to engage with special guests who share a passion for empowering youth. More than just a sporting event, the tournament is a celebration of community spirit and shared commitment to creating brighter futures for the students we serve.

# Future Plans

## The New Rise Up Academy

Estimated Cost of New School  
Construction: \$10,332,000



Rise Up Academy is excited to announce a transformative initiative to redevelop our campus in South Everett, highlighted by a new 10,000 square-foot school and early learning center. This will replace our nearly 60-year-old building, which no longer meets the needs of our growing community.

The new facility will allow us to double the number of students we serve, from 65 to 130, while maintaining our commitment to low student-teacher ratios and personalized attention.

### Key features of the new facility include:

- **Twice the space of the current building**
- **Double the classrooms, from three to six**
- **A Performing Arts Space, the Krist Novoselic Performing Arts and Theatre Classroom, also supporting STEAM learning**
- **An expanded library and technology hub, featuring the Anne Brenner Reading Room and Library**
- **Classrooms with cutting-edge technology**
- **A new cafeteria and kitchen**

We're adding a rooftop playground and refurbishing the sport court, which is over 20 years old. The facility will be designed to meet green building standards with potential for LEED certification, promoting environmental responsibility among students.

As RUA begins preparations for the campaign, we are conducting a fundraising feasibility study to assess the level of anticipated philanthropic support and develop the most effective strategy to secure donor-advised funds. The study will involve confidential interviews with members of the RUA community and the broader public. The results will guide the school's decision-making process.

This project will provide Rise Up Academy with a modern, sustainable space to continue empowering students and families for years to come.

# Together, We Rise: Honoring Our Sponsors



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