



HELP SPREAD THE WORD ABOUT RISE NEW YORK!

I'm thrilled to announce that RISE—Resources for Indispensable Schools and Educators—has arrived in New York City! I'm writing to you now as the founding New York City Executive Director of RISE, but I'm also writing to you as a student forever marked by a teacher.

I'll never forget how much I struggled in my 10th grade Algebra class, and I was getting horrible grades. I didn't think I could ever master it, but my teacher Mr. Stauffer believed I could. He worked with me after school, he taught me how to improve my study habits, and he gave me the confidence I needed to succeed. I will never forget him and the way he changed how I saw myself.

I bet you had a teacher at some point like Mr. Stauffer. Remember how that special teacher made learning come alive and helped you believe anything was possible? So many of us were lucky enough to have a teacher like that, but the story is drastically different for far too many low-income children.

Putting an effective teacher in every classroom is the most important factor in changing a student's educational success. But almost 70% of teachers in low-income communities nationwide leave the profession within five years. Sadly, the most effective teachers are often the first to leave.

RISE is working to change this by helping schools in low-income communities across the country retain and attract excellent teachers. In the 8 ½ years since our inception, RISE has grown to serve more than 90 Partner Schools in the Bay Area, Los Angeles, and Chicago—improving public education for tens of thousands of underserved students.

Here in New York, we are losing our most talented teachers—almost of half of NYC teachers leave our public schools within their first five years of teaching. This constant teacher turnover leaves many of our 1.1 million public school children in dire need. Consider these statistics. They are alarming, especially when we think of the individual children behind them:

- Only 43% of NYC 8th graders were at grade level in English/Language Arts last year.
- Only 60% of NYC 8th graders were at grade level in Math last year.
- Only 50% of NYC 12th graders graduated from high school last year.

I am honored and excited to start up RISE's program here as New York City Executive Director. I couldn't be more optimistic about RISE's potential to be part of the city's education reform solution. Working with schools across the city's most impoverished neighborhoods—from Harlem to South Brooklyn—RISE will help schools **RETAIN** great teachers, through our Teaching Conditions Survey process, and **ATTRACT** great teachers, through our recruitment program.

The challenge is far too great for RISE to operate in isolation. I'm writing today in the hope that you will join me in supporting the launch of RISE's New York City program.

Please spread the word about RISE's program to your friends, family and colleagues. If you know any school principals, teachers or education reform advocates that might be interested in RISE, please send them my way! I can be reached at lstein@risenetwork.org or 718-902-3526, or via an interest form on RISE's website: <http://www.risenetwork.org>.

Thank you so very much for reading—and thanks in advance for your referrals and support.

Best wishes during this holiday season!

Laura Stein
Executive Director, RISE New York

Help us get off to a great start by investing in RISE's New York City program.
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