OUR VISION
Our vision is that every public school in California has engaged students, effective teachers and leaders, enriching environments that allow every student to reach their potential, and supportive communities that believe in the value and quality of public education.

OUR MISSION
The CDE Foundation works as a trusted partner with state education leaders and entities to create, resource, and implement solutions that result in a strong and valued public education system that serves every student in California. Our team accomplishes our mission in three ways:

- We **convene** people and organizations to develop goals and innovative solutions to improve our state’s public education system.
- We **communicate** to build awareness and access to key resources.
- We **catalyze** new approaches to meet statewide goals, assembling and stewarding resources, including philanthropic investments in the California Department of Education (CDE) and others, to invest in the development of innovative ideas and practices that can scale to advance public education.

We accomplish our mission through our committed and qualified staff, engaged Board of Directors, and skilled and effective consultants, and through our strong partnerships with CDE, State Board of Education, Governor’s Office, California Collaborative for Educational Excellence (CCEE), educator employee associations, foundations and corporations who share our commitment to public education and California’s students.

OUR HISTORY
Since our inception in 2011, CDE Foundation has facilitated public-private partnerships and catalyzed millions of dollars to incubate and scale innovative statewide initiatives for PK-12 education. CDE Foundation is a proud partner of the CDE, our closest collaborator. As the fiscal manager for CDE, we manage private donations to invest directly in a public education system that serves over 6 million students. Through this partnership, we support CDE’s mission to provide a world-class education for all students, from early childhood to adulthood. State Superintendent Tony Thurmond and his team have set forward a bold vision, and we are honored to partner with them.

ACHIEVING EQUITY
CDEF believes that educational equity is the practice of ensuring that each child has access to an educational experience that prepares them for success regardless of their external or internal, social or cultural contexts. CDEF is committed to creating fundamental systemic change that supports all children, teachers, administrators, and anyone participating in education on their journey to achievement and well-being, regardless of race, class, sexual orientation, immigration status, gender, gender identity, ability, religion, and ethnicity.

IMPROVING PUBLIC EDUCATION BY CREATING, RESOURCING AND IMPLEMENTING SOLUTIONS
OUR PROGRAMS

In addition to our core programs below, in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Foundation has partnered with CDE, State Board of Education and the Governor’s Office to manage the CA Bridging the Digital Divide Fund, raising over $18.4 million, with in-kind donations to equip students with computing devices and connectivity across the State.

California STEAM Symposium
The CA STEAM Symposium, in partnership California Department of Education, and the California Commission on the Status of Women and Girls, brings together thousands of teachers, administrators, students, higher-education representatives, program providers, philanthropic representatives, and industry representatives to engage them in STEAM education by providing strategies and resources for program implementation.

California Labor Management Initiative (CA LMI)
CA LMI engages labor-management teams in exploring research and best practices to build enduring cross-sector union-management partnerships in California public schools. Since 2015 the CA LMI has convened over 170 district and county labor-management teams across California to advance collaboration and continuous improvement through peer learning networks and training.

California Teacher Residency Lab (The Lab)
The Lab’s mission is to strengthen California’s capacity to provide equity-driven, clinically rich, teacher preparation and support. The Lab fosters a vibrant learning community committed to operationalizing equity through common program quality standards and state resources - leading to a powerful system of California teacher residency programs.

The Center for District Innovation And Leadership in Early Education (DIAL EE)
DIAL EE supports school districts to align early education and K-12 systems to ultimately realize the best outcomes for all children, from early childhood through high school graduation. DIAL EE acts as a convener and facilitator between school districts and various groups to align and integrate early education and K-12 systems.