



Parent Organization Network

Annual Report

2024

2024 was a transformative year for the Parent Organization Network (PON). We advanced bold advocacy goals, deepened the capacity of parent leaders, and expanded the network across communities and cultures. This report highlights our achievements, impact, and vision for the future as we continue to unite the power of underserved parents to break through barriers in public education.

Director's Message

Dear Members and Partners,

2024 was a transformative year for the Parent Organization Network (PON).

We advanced bold advocacy goals, deepened the capacity of parent leaders, solidified the statewide California Family Engagement Network (CA-FEN), engaged nearly 70 parents in our cross-cultural solidarity initiative, welcomed new board members, and introduced a refreshed digital presence.

These milestones reflect your steadfast partnership and shared belief that families must be at the center of educational transformation.

Thank you for walking alongside us as we strive to ensure every student receives a high-quality educational experience that promotes diversity and inclusion, is tailored to their needs, and prepares them for success in school and in life.

In solidarity,
Araceli Simeón
Executive Director



Our Mission & Vision



Our Mission

PON unites the power of underserved parents to break through barriers in public education

Our Vision

We strengthen family-school partnerships through advocacy, capacity building, and networks.

Who We Serve

Parents, nonprofit partners, and community-based organizations, and educators in Los Angeles County. Our policy projects have impact across California.

2024 Highlights

1. Advocacy

Family Engagement in Teacher Standards

In February 2024, the California Commission on Teacher Credentialing (CTC) unanimously approved the newest edition of the California Standards for the Teaching Profession (CSTPs). A key change in this version of the CSTP's is the priority given to evidence based family engagement practices, and heightened shift from one to two-way communication. The inclusion of these family engagement principles into the new standards is a direct result of years of collaborative advocacy by PON, CA-FEN, and our family engagement partners.

February 2024

CTC unanimously approved the newest edition of the California Standards for the Teaching Profession (CSTPs)

2025-2026

All induction programs must update to include the new changes



Key Changes in the New Standards



Student and Family Engagement

The standards emphasize two-way communication between teachers and families, listening to and learning from parents, and building partnerships to support student success.



Socio-emotional Development

A broader focus on supporting complex student social-emotional needs.



Culturally Responsive Teaching

More guidance for teachers on reaching diverse students through inclusive materials and methods.

The CSTPs will directly impact all induction programs, which must update to include the new changes by 2025-2026. All preliminary teacher preparation programs will feel the impact as well. These programs include multiple and single-subject credentials, special education, early childhood education, bilingual education, and more. Last, the CSTPs also serve as a guide for educator professional learning, development, and evaluation statewide.



2. Capacity Building

Supporting Parents of English Learners

154

Parents

Completed the 4ELS
program

5

Schools

Participated across
four districts

3

New Schools

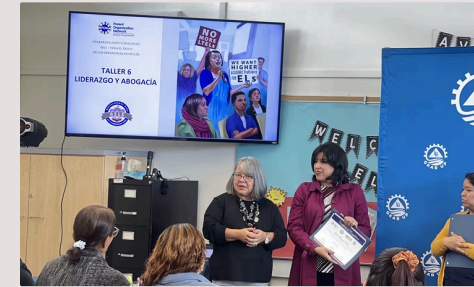
Will join in 2025

Our For English Learner Success (4ELS) program continued to expand in 2024, with 105 parents completing the program from five schools including Park Ave Elementary School (LAUSD), First Street Elementary School (LAUSD), Hellen Keller Elementary School (Lynwood USD), Los Alisos Middle School (Norwalk-La Mirada USD), and Buena Park School District.



4ELS Family Engagement – Cumulative Impact

Empowering Parents Since 2021: PON's 4ELS workshops equip families with English Learner children to monitor academic progress and advocate for their child's education.



Growing Participation

- **2024-2025:** 222 parents (154 in 2024, 68 in Spring 2025)
- **Since 2021:** 370 total parents trained

Extensive Reach

- **Training Sessions:** 20 programs (each program consists of six 2-hour sessions)
- **Schools:** 14 elementary, middle, and high schools

District Engagement

- **6 Districts:** Los Angeles, Long Beach, Norwalk-La Mirada, Lynwood, La Habra, and Pomona

Powerful Partnerships

- **Key Partners:** Promesa Boyle Heights, CSULB Gear Up, Gente Organizada, Latinos in Action, Mamas con Poder

4ELS Program Outcomes



Increased Knowledge

Parents increased their knowledge about English language development (ELD), reclassification requirements, and their children's academic standing.



Effective Advocacy

Parents advocated for their children by requesting meetings with teachers, EL Coordinators or counselors to discuss ELD progress and reclassification. These inquiries help students and administrators prioritize ELD work and progress, and ultimately led to students reclassifying or receiving additional services to support their learning.



Committee Participation

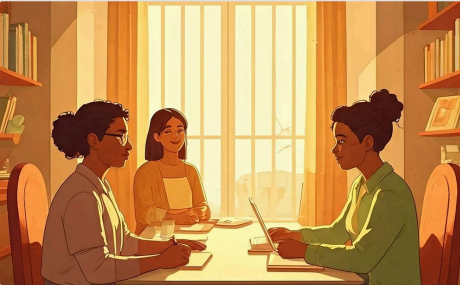
Some parents became active or better prepared to serve on English Learner Advisory Committees.

Additionally, PON made substantial progress developing a best practices training program for school staff, nonprofit staff, and parent leaders to share facilitation strategies and tools for engaging parents of English learners. These resources will be launched in summer 2025, extending our impact beyond direct service.

Café con PON – 2024 Highlights

Café con PON offered culturally affirming virtual spaces for families to engage, learn, and take action on issues directly impacting their children's education and well-being. Over 130 parents participated in these sessions.

Total parent participation across all sessions: 93



Mental Health: Stress Management

Parents learned strategies to manage stress and support their mental well-being



Summer Activities for Children and Adults

Participants explored enriching summer activities to keep families engaged and learning



Monitoring Learning: ELPAC for English Learners

Parents gained insights into English language proficiency assessment and monitoring

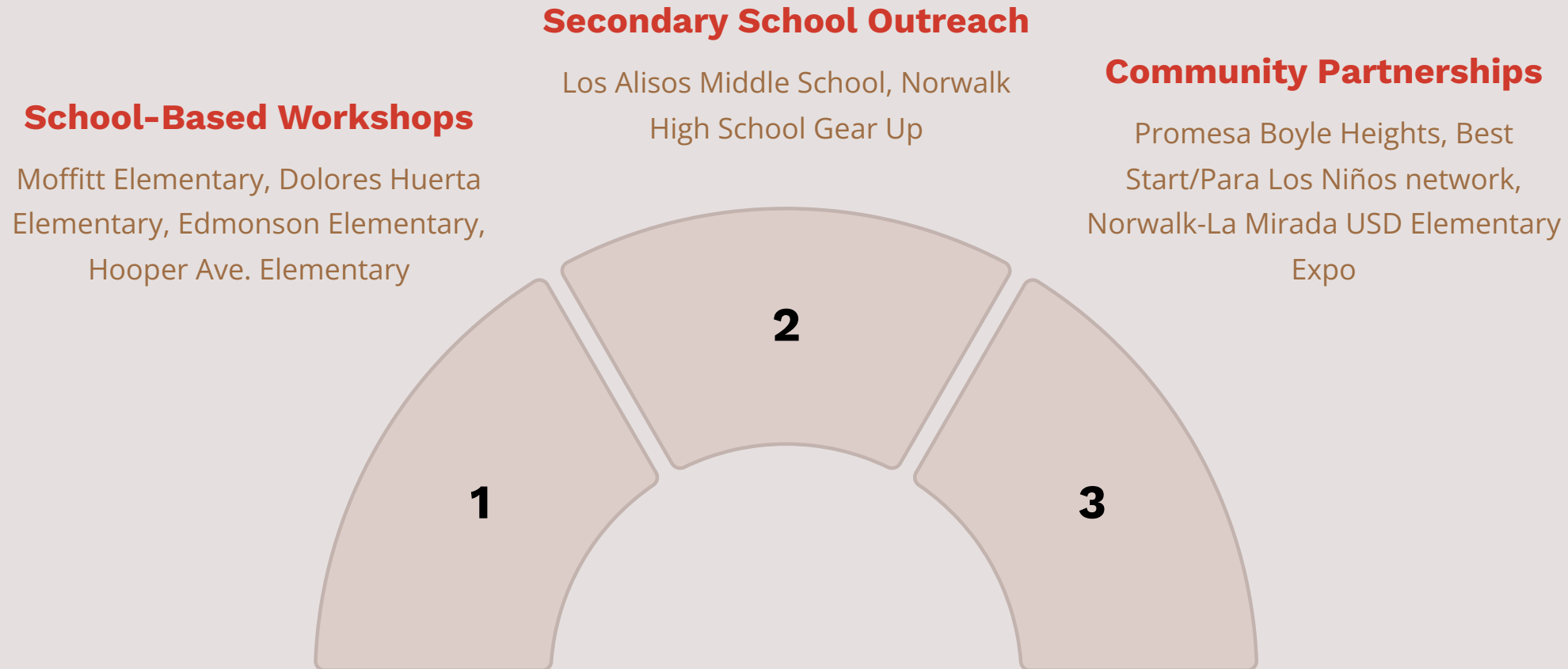


Monitoring Learning: ELPAC, SBAC & Reading Level

Families learned how to track and support their children's academic progress

Monitoring Student Learning – Community Outreach

Focus: Empowering parents to support their children's learning and understand key academic benchmarks



Total Impact: Reached over 180 parents and educators across 9+ events, helping families become informed advocates in their school communities.

3. Communications

New Websites and Strategic Plan

In 2024, PON significantly enhanced its communications capacity. These communications investments will help us better serve families by making resources more accessible and raising awareness of PON's programs and advocacy initiatives.



CA-FEN Website

Launched in January 2024, creating a dedicated platform for this expanding statewide initiative



PON Website Redesign

Secured funding to refresh the PON website with parent-friendly information and resources



Media Recognition

Our CSTP advocacy was featured in EdSource

4. Board Development

Preparing for Nonprofit Status

PON took significant steps toward becoming an independent nonprofit organization. Achieving these milestones in PON's organizational development will position us to expand our impact in supporting family engagement across California's education system.



Board Expansion

Added 5 individuals with expertise in education, nonprofit management, and fundraising



Transition Plan

Developed a plan to guide PON's evolution from fiscal sponsorship to independent nonprofit status



Governance Structures

Established board committees that will support long-term organizational sustainability



Mission Alignment

Maintained focus on PON's grassroots, parent-centered mission

5. Network Diversity



Latino Family Summit

Over 250 parents, youth, and children participated in PON's Latino Family Summit at Pomona College in September 2024, up from 135 the previous year. Families from 10 cities across the region celebrated Latin American culture and learned together about navigating the education system, monitoring student learning, college admissions, and leadership development. Parent leaders spearheaded fundraising and coordination, modeling family agency in action.



Cross-Cultural Solidarity Project

In collaboration with the National Association of African American Parents & Youth (NAAAPY) and the Loken Foundation, and funded by The California Endowment, PON facilitated a groundbreaking cross-cultural solidarity initiative. Nearly 70 parents and community members, primarily Latino and Black families, engaged in facilitated affinity groups and joint sessions. Parents explored identity, power, ethnic studies, and collective advocacy. This model deepened trust, connection, and shared commitment to educational justice.



CA-FEN Expansion

The California Family Engagement Network has grown to include approximately 20 family-serving organizations and education institutions championing family engagement across the state. The passage of the CSTPs helped build momentum to expand the coalition's collaboration across sectors (i.e., pre-service, induction, and in-service). CA-FEN promotes family engagement that is rooted in acknowledging and embracing all aspects of diversity: cultural, linguistic, socio-economic, geographic, and political.

Organizational Outcomes

Program Expansion

- Expanded 4ELS program to serve 105 parents across five school districts
- Conducted seven *Café con PON* virtual sessions
- Hosted the Latino Family Summit with over 250 participants from 10 communities

Policy Influence

- Successfully advocated for family engagement priorities in the 2024 California Standards for the Teaching Profession
- Met with Senator Padilla's office regarding legislation to support English Learners and their families
- Joined Learning Policy Institute's Advocacy Advisor Panel. Members of this panel provided feedback to LPI's "Long Term English Learners in California" report, released in December 2024
- Joined Sobrato / WestEd's English Learner Study – Advisory

Strategic Partnerships

- Joined Californians Together's English Learner Leadership & Legacy Initiative (ELLLI)
- Hosted focus groups with partners to collect data for the "Family Voices" report
- PON became a collaborating partner with First Partner Jennifer Siebel Newsom's, California Partners Project (CPP)
- Member of Loyola Marymount University's Center for Equity for English Learners (CEEL) Advisory Board
- Advisory Committee Member of the Consortium for Multilingual Learner Success
- Education Trust West's Core Collective

Priorities in 2025

1

Strategic Growth

- Advisory Board and staff will lead engagement sessions to update PON's strategic plan and select a new Executive Director
- Launch CA-FEN as an independent organization to maximize state wide impact
- Implement the Best Practices Training program for 4ELS
- Refine the Cross-Cultural Solidarity Project
- Expand our parent base to include more families of children ages 0 to 5 and co-develop projects with them, based on their needs

2

Continue Signature Programs

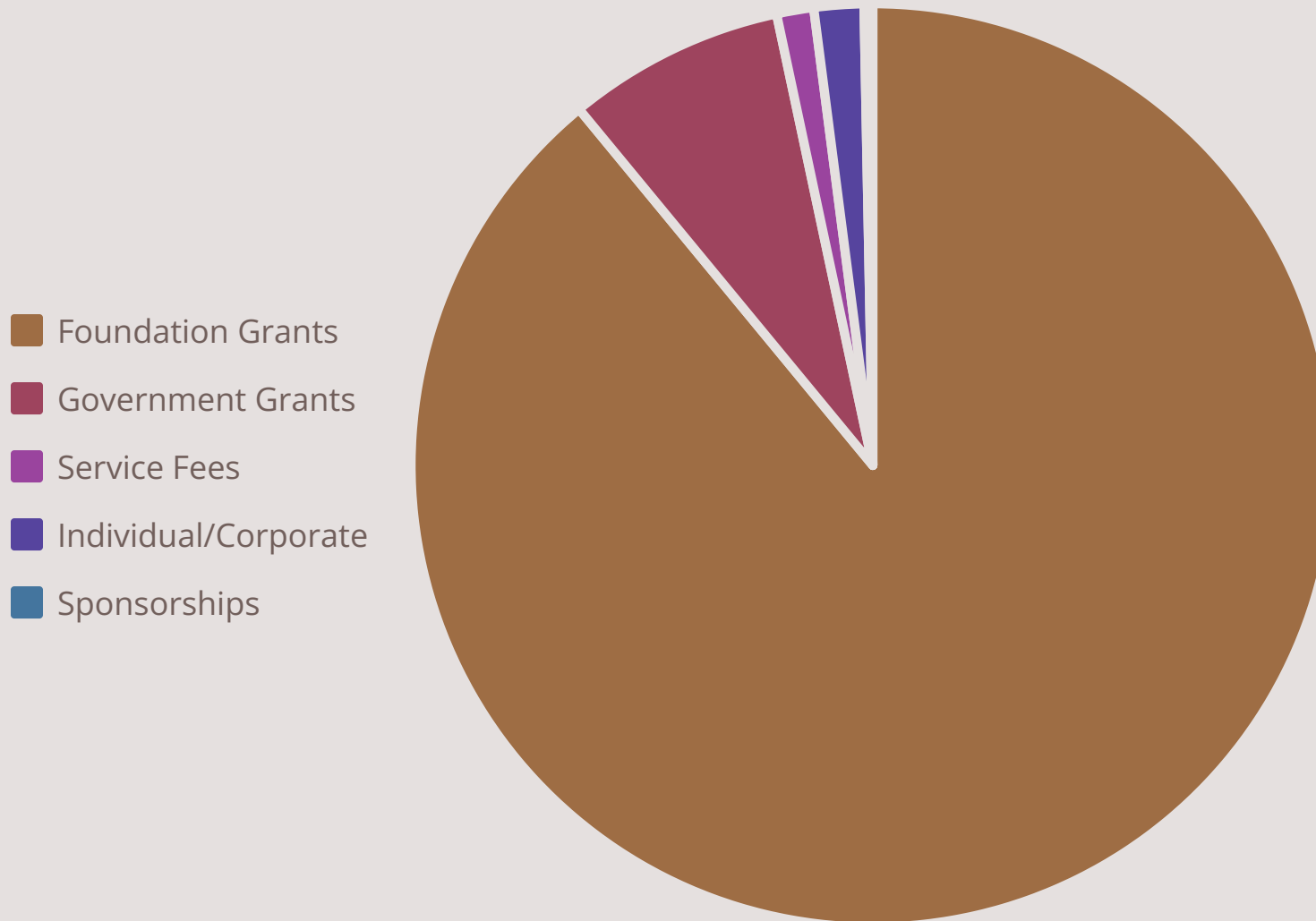
- Begin new 4ELS programs in new schools, continue *Café con PON* virtual sessions
- Host the 2025 Family Summit
- Continue monitoring education policies affecting English Learners and family engagement practices

3

Communications Focus

- Develop and implement a comprehensive communications strategy
- Expand outreach to connect more parents with supportive services and advocacy opportunities

Financials



In 2024, PON raised a total of \$655,381. Of this, 91% came from foundation and government grants, with \$583,466 from foundations and \$50,000 in government grants. The remaining income was generated through service fees (\$8,500), individual and corporate contributions (\$11,415), and sponsorships (\$2,000). The service fees came from coalition participation and intermediary project support.

PON spent \$694,989 in 2024, slightly more than the previous year. Personnel expenses accounted for 54% of the budget, with \$318,106 for staff salaries and \$36,382 for benefits. Payroll taxes totaled \$25,374 (4%). Administrative fees paid to the fiscal sponsor were \$58,132, or about 9% of total expenses.

Acknowledgements



Our work would not be possible without the trust and commitment of our funders, partners, members, parents, and staff. Thank you for your ongoing support!

Funders

- Alliance for a Better Community and the Consortium for Multilingual Learner Success
- Amity Foundation
- California Community Foundation
- Education Trust West
- Heising-Simons Foundation,
- Learning Policy Institute & California Partnership for the Future of Learning
- Loken Foundation
- Sobrato Philanthropies
- The California Endowment
- The Ralph M. Parsons Foundation
- The Weingart Foundation

Strategic Partners

- Dr. Shulamit Ritblatt, delibrainy LLC,
- Toni Loken, Loken Foundation,
- National Association for Family, School, and Community Engagement (NAFSCE),
- Lisa Borrego, CA FACE Initiative,
- Teneh Weller, High Expectations,
- California Partnership for the Future of Learning

Member Organizations

We extend our deepest gratitude to our member organizations and the dedicated parent leaders who drive our work forward every day. Your commitment to educational equity and family engagement inspires all that we do.