



## **PRESS RELEASE**

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### **SPRINGBOARD SCHOOLS HAS BECOME PIVOT LEARNING PARTNERS**

SAN FRANCISCO, CA, June 12, 2009 – At its annual conference, held June 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> in Pomona, California, the non-profit organization Springboard Schools announced its name change to Pivot Learning Partners, effective July 1, 2009. The Springboard Schools mission of working with educators to raise student achievement and close the achievement gap will remain the same. Pivot Learning Partners will continue to focus on a “whole system” approach to improving public education, and will continue to provide support in the form of coaching and professional development to the over fifty school districts in which Springboard Schools has been working. In a world where many non-profits are challenged to work at scale, show impact, and develop a sustainable business model, Springboard Schools had compiled a remarkable record of success. Pivot Learning Partners will seek to build on this success and take the Springboard Schools model and approach to a “version 2.0”, becoming more efficient, effective, and innovative.

Public education today is facing dramatic new challenges with rising expectations colliding with diminishing resources, and Springboard Schools has a history of reinventing itself to respond to meet new challenges. Springboard Schools was founded in 1995 as BASRC, the Bay Area School Reform Collaborative, and became Springboard Schools when it shifted from being a grant maker to its current entrepreneurial and scalable model, and when it expanded beyond its base in the Bay Area to work with districts statewide. Today, California school districts are responding to crisis by expressing a serious

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#### **Pivot Learning Partners**

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interest in district redesign. The old ways don't work anymore, and Pivot Learning Partners is committed to incubating innovative approaches for educating the next generation. As Board of Trustees Chair Teresa Bonaccorsi puts it, "Pivot Learning Partners can be a cost-effective way for districts to continue the important work of improving teaching and learning . . . even in the face of huge budget cuts. Even in these times, kids still go to school, and they need and deserve to go to great schools. Our mission is to help."

Why **pivot**? According to Executive Director Merrill Vargo, "Pivot is a word that conveyed to us what the entire education field is being asked to do – *to turn quickly*. Historically, that's not something that the education system has ever been good at. So we wanted a name that says we can help. We are offering to be the premier partner to help school systems pivot . . . that is, to change quickly. It's a challenging assignment, and we're eager to get started."

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### About Pivot Learning Partners

Pivot Learning Partners (formerly Springboard Schools) is a non-profit public school change catalyst working with school districts throughout California to raise the achievement of students overall and close the achievement gap. We help create a future in which all students learn to high levels and where race, class, language, gender, and culture are no longer good predictors of educational outcomes. Our work consists of three parts: we study what works in the most effective schools in the state and nation; we teach educators what we have learned; and we follow them back to school and coach them to make new ideas work in real schools and classrooms with real kids and the challenges they bring to school every day. In the 2008-09 school year, we partnered with fifty districts serving 750,000 students. Our partner districts served a higher percentage of low-income (55%), minority (60%), and non-native English speakers (28%)

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than the state of California as a whole, yet despite these demographic challenges, they consistently outperformed state averages. For more information about Pivot Learning Partners, visit [www.springboardschools.org](http://www.springboardschools.org) or after July 1, 2009, [www.pivotlearningpartners.org](http://www.pivotlearningpartners.org).

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