2015

Senate Bill No. 359

CHAPTER 508

An act to add Section 51224.7 to the Education Code, relating to pupil instruction.

[Approved by Governor October 5, 2015. Filed with Secretary of State October 5, 2015.]

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL’S DIGEST


(1) Existing law establishes a system of public elementary and secondary education in this state, and authorizes local educational agencies throughout the state to provide instruction to pupils.

This bill would enact the California Mathematics Placement Act of 2015. The bill would require governing boards or bodies of local educational agencies, as defined, that serve pupils entering grade 9 and that have not adopted a fair, objective, and transparent mathematics placement policy as of January 1, 2016, to, before the beginning of the 2016–17 school year, develop and adopt, in a regularly scheduled public meeting, a fair, objective, and transparent mathematics placement policy for pupils entering grade 9 with specified elements, and would authorize governing boards or bodies of local educational agencies serving pupils preparing for high school to develop and implement a mathematics placement policy for these pupils. The bill would further require...
SVCF’S GRANTMAKING ROSE 72% IN 2015

- **$821 MILLION** in grants from all funds to local, national and global charities
- **$358 MILLION** in grants to 9-county Bay Area charities + $42 million to other California charities
- **$394 MILLION** in grants to U.S. charities outside California
- **$27 MILLION** in grants to international charities
- **12,800** total grants awarded
- **71** countries receiving grants (including U.S.)
- **$1.2 BILLION** in contributions
- **$7.3 BILLION** in assets

2014: **$476 MILLION**
2015: **$821 MILLION**

SVCF’s rank among all U.S. charities, based on 2014 private donations*  

*Chronicle of Philanthropy
With the help of our donors, community, corporate and government partners, Silicon Valley Community Foundation accomplished much to be proud of in 2015. We achieved a major public policy win for California students; we expanded our engagement with more nonprofit organizations and community leaders throughout Santa Clara, San Mateo and San Francisco counties; and our total grantmaking increased substantially.

These successes inspire us to believe that SVCF has a unique and special role to play in helping to address the many difficult challenges that remain in our community. At a time when Silicon Valley’s economy is booming, too many residents are still being left behind. Collectively, we must redouble our efforts to improve education, create affordable housing and reliable transportation, and combat economic inequality, among other services to strengthen the common good.

For the past few years, SVCF has worked to shed light on the problem of “math misplacement,” a documented and unfair practice that for years resulted in many deserving African American and Latino students being held back in mathematics courses, derailing their chances of college admission. Regrettably, few school districts rushed voluntarily to fix the inequities in their practices. So in 2015, for the first time, SVCF sponsored a bill in the California Legislature, SB 359, to require every California school district to implement fair and transparent policies when assigning all students to math courses. With help from all of our partners, SB 359 was signed into law by Gov. Jerry Brown on October 5, 2015. We could not be prouder to have led the fight for SB 359, which will increase the flow of students of color who will be able to attend college, forever improving their life chances and those of their future families. For more information on this initiative visit siliconvalleycf.org/mathmisplacement.

We also continued our local work on predatory payday lending and expanded it to the national level. We led a coalition of 57 community foundations to urge the federal Consumer Financial Protection Bureau to stop this practice, which traps low-income borrowers in a cycle of debt. And we continued our commitment to international philanthropy by making site visits in India to help corporate grantmakers improve their social responsibility programs.

Incredibly, our donors exponentially increased their support to nonprofit organizations. Because of their generosity, Silicon Valley Community Foundation granted $821 million to nonprofit organizations locally, nationally and globally. This is 72 percent more than the $476 million SVCF awarded the year before, and $358 million benefitted our regional community. This tremendous amount of charitable capital is improving communities at home and abroad. And, it’s tangible evidence of the immense generosity of SVCF’s donors.

All of these achievements are worthy of celebration, and we hope that after reading this report you will share our enthusiasm for what we can, together, accomplish in the future.

C.S. PARK
Board Chair

EMMETT D. CARSON, PH.D.
CEO and President
Many challenges face our local, national and global communities — reducing economic inequality and improving education, immigration, affordable housing and transit are just a few.

With dedicated donors, corporate and nonprofit partners and staff, SVCF advances innovative philanthropic solutions to these challenges.

Possibilities start here.
Solving Problems in Silicon Valley

ADDRESSING AFFORDABLE HOUSING, PREDATORY LENDING, EDUCATION AND IMMIGRATION

Through our grantmaking strategies, SVCF supports the most effective and innovative local organizations to solve the most challenging problems in San Mateo and Santa Clara counties. Since 2008, SVCF has awarded more than $75 million in grants to over 500 local nonprofit organizations through our discretionary grantmaking programs.

SVCF’s grantmaking focus areas are:

» **Building Strong Communities** – Supporting transportation, affordable housing and land use policies that build strong communities

» **Economic Security** – Combating predatory lending and supporting financial education and asset-building for low-income communities

» **Education** – Supporting programs to close the achievement gap in mathematics

» **Immigration** – Supporting English instruction and affordable legal services for immigrants

In addition, SVCF’s Community Opportunity Fund provides support for time-sensitive issues and ideas. We also made grants in 2015 to support The Big Lift, a partnership to build literacy skills in low-income children. In 2016, as planned and announced, we began a two-year strategic review process to ensure that our grantmaking strategies will continue to address Silicon Valley’s most pressing community needs in impactful, timely and relevant ways.

$16.7 MILLION
awarded through SVCF grantmaking strategies and initiatives
Giving Every Student a Fair Chance to Succeed

SVCF LED THE CHARGE TO CREATE FAIR MATH PLACEMENT PRACTICES

As the largest community foundation in the country, SVCF advocates for public policy changes that we feel can benefit people’s lives, whether they live in Silicon Valley, in California or across the country.

In 2015, SVCF achieved its biggest public policy win yet, when SB 359, a bill we sponsored in the California Legislature, was signed into law as the Mathematics Placement Act by Governor Jerry Brown. The law corrects a longstanding and unfair practice of “math misplacement,” which results in many African American and Latino students being undeservedly held back in their math coursework. This derails their ability to qualify for admission to competitive universities, including California state schools. California public schools will now be required to use objective means when deciding which math classes students must take in ninth grade. SVCF is very proud to have led the charge to effect this change.

SVCF’s other public policy-related efforts included working with the County of Santa Clara and City of San Jose to make grants to organizations providing legal services to immigrants at risk of deportation; committing our economic security grantmaking support to efforts that resulted in two more local communities – Morgan Hill and San Mateo – that have adopted regulations to curb payday lending, bringing the total to 12; and catalyzing the establishment of a new office of immigrant affairs in San Mateo County.

SB 359 corrects the unfair practice of “math misplacement,” which derails students of color from college admission.

At the after-school Math Scholars Program at St. James A.M.E. Zion Church in San Mateo, students receive intensive tutoring. The program is an SVCF grantee.

EDUCATION

51 grants totaling $4.2 million

Rev. Marlyn Bussey recalls what she saw during 25 years as a public high school counselor in Redwood City: “Kids of color were being put in the lowest math courses possible, which was a problem because these students had earned A’s and B’s in the prerequisite courses. Other kids who had earned similar grades were being put in geometry, algebra or even algebra 2,” she said. Rev. Bussey now runs an after-school math tutoring program at her church, St. James A.M.E. Zion Church in San Mateo. She testified on behalf of SB 359 to the State Assembly and Senate Education committees. “It felt like a privilege to be able to step up for those thousands of kids and be their voice.”
Forging Partnerships to Create Opportunity

TOO FEW KIDS CAN READ BY THIRD GRADE, TOO MANY YOUNG MEN OF COLOR ARE UNEMPLOYED LOCALLY

SVCF’s efforts to serve the community rely on our success at building strong partnerships with other nonprofit organizations, government leaders and staff, school districts and for-profit partners committed to social responsibility.

The power of partnerships was brilliantly highlighted with the kick-off of The Big Lift, a multi-pronged initiative to increase reading ability among young children in San Mateo County. Although the county is one of the most affluent in the United States, more than 40 percent of its children cannot read proficiently by third grade. The Big Lift – co-led by SVCF, the San Mateo County Board of Supervisors and the County Board of Education – involves more than 300 school

With grants from The Big Lift, school districts and their nonprofit partners are expanding the availability of high-quality preschool classrooms to low-income communities and engaging families more closely in their children’s preschool experiences. Here’s some perspective from a teacher in a Big Lift preschool:

“During our back-to-school night, one man shared his story after we asked what changes parents had noticed since their children started preschool. He said his 4-year-old daughter has been singing all the songs that she learned from school, and that she loves to play ‘teacher’ at home. ‘She also showed me all the parts of the book,’ the dad said, and ‘she is also asking a lot of questions.’ He said he was really happy with her coming to school. The Big Lift has made this possible for more of our local families. Our school has also been able to address the transportation needs of families that live in very remote areas such as Montara, Moss Beach, Highway 92 and Moonridge, ensuring that more kids get to school every day.”

Graciela Krabbenschmidt
Teacher, Los Listos Preschool, Cabrillo Unified School District, Half Moon Bay

THE BIG LIFT
11 grants totaling $2.7 million
Sacred Heart Community Service, a grantee of SVCF’s building strong communities strategy, has worked to establish Renovadores Unidos por el Transporte Urbano (Riders United for Transportation Revitalization), or RUTU, which advocates and organizes for better public transit in Santa Clara County. “Our organizing work was fast-paced and effective, and we were able to turn out committee members to four community meetings held with the Valley Transportation Authority within a month,” said Diana Salazar, community organizer at Sacred Heart. “Many of the challenges RUTU identified are now being addressed by the Operations team at VTA, such as increasing weekday service beyond 6 p.m. for bus #14 in Gilroy – a route that our riders use to access medical care at St. Louise Hospital. Members are seeing the power of their voices.” Sacred Heart has RUTU bus-rider committees in Sunnyvale, Gilroy and San Jose as well as the United Seniors Action Committee, which organizes for an equitable transportation system in Santa Clara County.
Finding Regional Solutions

LOW- AND MIDDLE-INCOME SILICON VALLEY WORKERS STRUGGLE WITH THE INCREASING COSTS OF HOUSING AND TRANSPORTATION

To address pressing community concerns – from affordable housing and transportation, to education and livability – SVCF believes in seeking regional solutions. We must strategically engage with elected officials, business leaders, nonprofit organizations and donors on the issues that affect everyone living and working in the central Silicon Valley corridor – from San Jose to San Francisco. SVCF created the Silicon Valley Regional Fund to provide grants to expand housing and transportation strategies connecting San Francisco, San Mateo and Santa Clara counties. The fund bolsters the support we provide through our building strong communities grantmaking strategy, which promotes improved land use and transportation, as well as efforts to involve regular people in city and regional planning decisions.

In response to widespread interest, we expanded Silicon Valley Gives, the SVCF-hosted regional giving day, to all San Francisco-based charities beginning in 2016. The 24-hour fundraising event supports more than a thousand charities in San Francisco, San Mateo, Santa Clara and San Benito counties.

SVCF’s efforts to foster discussion of regional issues included numerous gatherings of donors,

The average Silicon Valley commuter lost 67 hours to congested traffic in 2014, in addition to normal commuting time.

With the City of San Jose, SVCF helped launch the My Brother’s Keeper: San Jose initiative to improve educational, social and career opportunities for boys and young men of color. San Jose Mayor Sam Liccardo, Emmett Carson, and Rafael López of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services are pictured at the launch event.
As one of SVCF’s immigration strategy grantees, the nonprofit African Advocacy Network helps local African immigrants with everything from legal issues surrounding their immigration to housing and health care referrals. Grants from SVCF helped AAN become accredited with the federal Board of Immigration Appeals, so an AAN employee can now handle clients’ complete immigration cases, not hand parts off to outside attorneys. “This has been a huge, huge step to improving the quality of services we provide,” said Aboudou Traore, project director. AAN completed its first asylum case in 2015, in which a Nigerian woman suffering from genital mutilation trauma and forced into a marriage was granted asylum and started a new life in the Bay Area. The network provides vital services in more than 10 languages and helped nearly 200 clients last year.

One third of our residents are immigrants. Legal services and English language classes help them contribute to Silicon Valley communities and support their families.

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SVCF strives to increase the availability of sound financial information and savings programs for low- and moderate-income families and individuals. Youth participants in the Youth Leadership Institute and MyPath, both SVCF grantees, work with adult allies and elected officials in San Mateo County to strengthen personal finance skills and learn about banking and credit unions, as well as financial debt traps like payday loans.
CEO Emmett Carson, Congresswoman Zoe Lofgren, San Jose Councilman Ash Kalra and staff from SVCF grantee Law Foundation of Silicon Valley gathered to draw attention to the dangers of payday loans. SVCF formed a coalition with other community foundations to urge new federal rules on payday lending.
SVCF continues to play a leadership role on issues of national concern to our field, spearheading an alliance of community foundations to advocate for a national public policy issue. In the spring, 57 community foundations signed a letter urging the head of the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau to adopt rules to curb payday lending practices that routinely draw consumers into long-lasting debt. The bureau is considering proposed rules to end payday-loan traps and online payday lending, and SVCF is monitoring this development.

SVCF continues to speak nationally about the need for diversity in the ranks of philanthropic organizations’ investment managers. Over the past few years SVCF has worked closely with our investment consultant to identify more minority- and women-owned firms, and ensure that our collective practices are inclusive, so that our managers represent a diverse set of strategies, views and backgrounds. As a result, diverse managers managed $139 million of SVCF’s assets in 2014, up 167 percent from 2013. This work is ongoing.

Payday loans often have interest rates of 400%. These loans drain wealth from low-income communities.

At an SVCF event for donors, author Robert Putnam (Bowling Alone; Our Kids: The American Dream in Crisis) discussed opportunity gaps that are endangering upward mobility in the U.S.
Engaging in International Charity

SVCF VISITED NONPROFITS IN INDIA ON PARTNERS’ BEHALF

At SVCF, we have many donors and nonprofit partners whose definition of “community” extends around the globe. To facilitate their charitable goals, we made grants to 61 countries last year in addition to the United States, and our enthusiasm for ensuring that “possibilities start here” has led us to expand our presence in international causes.

For example, SVCF staff visited villages and government officials in India on behalf of corporate partners – Juniper Networks India and Symantec Foundation – seeking to deepen the positive impacts of their social responsibility programs there. Our staff became the extra eyes and ears that our corporate partners could rely on to evaluate the impact of and potential for CSR programs in India. With acclaim from the field, we also released our first Global Employee Engagement report, which examined CSR in Brazil, China, India, South Africa and the United Kingdom and provided practical information and

SVCF believes that our cultural differences do not restrict what is possible, but rather they provide us with opportunities.
guidance for companies looking to expand their employee engagement programs internationally. SVCF also led a seminar for donors and corporate and nonprofit partners about the ongoing international threat posed by the Ebola virus. Speakers included officials from the Centers for Disease Control Foundation, the Paul G. Allen Family Foundation, and the U.S. Department of State.

To help promote effective giving overseas, SVCF has established a Global Charity Database of more than 1,300 fully vetted nongovernmental organizations around the world that can receive grants. The database is available to individuals and corporations across the United States who wish to make international charitable contributions.

SVCF has begun offering site visits to nongovernmental organizations in India on behalf of corporate clients and individual or family donors who wish to strengthen their philanthropic impact there. This photo was taken during our visit to the village of Orohalli.
Benefiting Nonprofits Locally and Globally

Many generous individuals in Silicon Valley have made commitments to engage in philanthropy to improve our region, our nation and the world, and have chosen to do so through charitable funds created at SVCF. The growth and popularity of donor advised funds have rightly raised public interest about how these funds operate. As the nation’s largest community foundation, and because our core values include public accountability and transparency, we have a responsibility to help inform this discussion by sharing our experiences.

We believe that through openness and transparency we can help assure the public that the rise in popularity of donor advised funds provides benefits to nonprofit organizations both today and in the future. SVCF donors are active philanthropists, and SVCF philanthropy advisors work closely with donors to help them discover nonprofit organizations that speak to their charitable passions, whether locally or globally. Every grant SVCF distributes is approved by senior staff with the oversight of our volunteer board of directors. Here, we offer some statistics on the activity of SVCF’s donor advised funds as of December 31, 2015.

SVCF hosts events for donors throughout the year, including educational and volunteer opportunities that have focused on education and technology, the environment, the Ebola crisis and many other topics. Here, SVCF hosted former New York Times food writer Mark Bittman at a donor event.
# DONOR ADVISED FUNDS BY ASSET BALANCE

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th># OF FUNDS</th>
<th>AVERAGE PAYOUT RATE</th>
<th>% OF FUNDS MAKING GRANTS</th>
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<tr>
<td>LESS THAN $25K</td>
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<tr>
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**NOTES** Includes donor advised and committee advised funds. Excludes corporate advised, memorial and employee engagement funds. Excludes funds with zero balance. Payout figures represent the average of the calculated payout ratios for each fund. Payout ratios were calculated by dividing the total grants authorized by each fund during the calendar year by each fund’s average balance for the year.

Jenise and Kevin Henrikson created a donor advised fund with SVCF in 2014, and have supported various charities, including Friends of Deer Hollow Farm, where they are pictured here.
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About Silicon Valley Community Foundation
Silicon Valley Community Foundation advances innovative philanthropic solutions to challenging problems. As the largest community foundation in the world, we engage donors and corporations from Silicon Valley, across the country and around the globe to make our region and world better for all. Our passion for helping people and organizations achieve their philanthropic dreams has created a global philanthropic enterprise committed to the belief that possibilities start here. Learn more at siliconvalleycf.org.
To foster literacy skills and healthy brain development, Raising A Reader, a supporting organization of SVCF, served more than 125,000 low-income children and families in 34 states in 2015.