

Preface

This report presents the results of RAND’s pilot study on how Los Angeles–area public schools and school districts secure support from private sources. The study was commissioned by the John Randolph and Dora Haynes Foundation, which supports research within the greater Los Angeles region on social science issues with policy implications.

The authors sought to answer questions in three major areas regarding support for schools and school districts: (1) Who are the private givers to public education? (2) How do schools and school districts attract private support—through school-based organizations or through school and district personnel—and what mechanisms do schools and districts use to attract private resources? (3) What types of support are provided and how are the contributions used? The results presented in this report are based on interviews conducted in fall and winter 2000 with superintendents and school district staff, school principals, and local education foundation (LEF) representatives.

This report is directed to multiple audiences. First, the findings in this report will help district, school, and LEF personnel plan for and assess the role of private support in their schools and districts. Second, businesses and foundations can use this report to make decisions on how best to support public education. And third, policymakers can develop better strategies for supporting the schools’ efforts to secure support.