Parent Organization Network
Breaking Through Barriers

2025 ANNUAL REPORT

LETTER FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

> 2025 marked a meaningful new chapter for the Parent Organization Network and for my own professional journey. Stepping into the role of Executive Director has been both an honor and a profound responsibility. — *Nancy Villarreal, Executive Director*

Dear Members and Partners,

As I reflect on 2025, I do so with deep gratitude and pride. This past year marked a meaningful chapter for the Parent Organization Network and for me personally, as I stepped into the role of Interim Executive Director at a pivotal moment in the organization's journey, and now I serve as the permanent ED. It has been both an honor and a great responsibility to steward PON's mission while also supporting its stability, growth, and collective learning.

2025 was a year of transition, one that required adaptability, transparency, and shared leadership. Together with PON's dedicated staff, advisory board, parent leaders, and partners, we advanced work rooted in parent voice, education equity, and systems change. Even amid uncertainty, our community demonstrated resilience and an unwavering commitment to ensuring families are seen, heard, and valued as leaders in education.

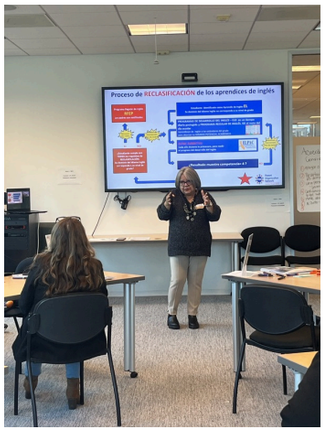
For me, this role represents a significant milestone in my professional journey. After many years working alongside families and communities, leading PON during this season reaffirmed my belief in the power of relationships, trust, and collective wisdom. I am incredibly proud of what we accomplished together and grateful for the confidence placed in me during this transition.

As you explore this annual report, I invite you to reflect on the progress we made and the foundation we continue to build. This annual report captures a moment in time, but our work is ongoing. We invite you to stay engaged, continue learning alongside us, and help shape what comes next as we build toward an even stronger, more just future for families and communities.

The work ahead is ambitious, but our shared vision and the strength of our community gives me great confidence in what's possible.

With Gratitude,

Nancy Villarreal,
Executive Director
Parent Organization Network







OVERVIEW

OUR VISION & MISSION

PON envisions that parents truly are equal partners and decision-makers in every public school, opportunity and achievement gaps are closed, and all students receive 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.

We are achieving our vision by uniting the power of underserved parents* to break through barriers in public education, so parents and educators can effectively partner to ensure equity and excellence for all students.

**PON defines "parent" broadly to include birth, adoptive, and foster parents, legal guardians, as well as grandparents, adult siblings, aunts and uncles, and other relatives and non-relatives who are involved with raising and educating a child.*

WHAT WE DO

At PON, we believe that parents are essential partners in creating equitable and high-quality educational opportunities for all children. Our mission is to unite the power of underserved parents to break through barriers in public education so that families and educators can work together to ensure student success and educational equity. We achieve this through parent leadership development, family engagement, advocacy, professional learning, and community partnerships that amplify family voice and strengthen school-family relationships. Through programs such as **4ELS**, **Strengthening My English Learner: A Parent's Journey, PON's monthly network meetings**, **wellness and leadership best practice workshops, and policy advocacy initiatives**, we equip parents with the knowledge, skills, and confidence to support their children, influence educational decisions, and drive systems change in their schools and communities. By investing in families as leaders and change agents, PON is helping build stronger schools, more responsive systems, and brighter futures for multilingual learners and all students.

WHAT WE ACCOMPLISHED

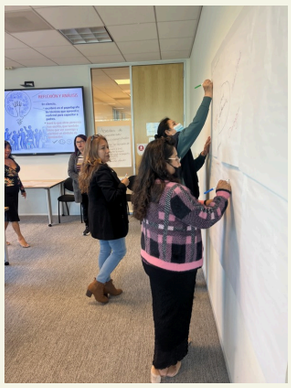
In 2025, PON strengthened family leadership, advanced educational equity, and expanded support for multilingual families through parent education, advocacy, wellness initiatives, and community engagement. We continued to grow our **4ELS** program; launched **Strengthening My English Learner: A Parent's Journey**, an Early Childhood family engagement model; and elevated family voices through the Community Solidarity Project and statewide advocacy efforts. Together, these initiatives helped families build knowledge, strengthen connections, and create positive change in their schools and communities

ORGANIZATION HIGHLIGHTS









CAFE CON PON

Building Resilience Through Emotional Wellness

During Fall 2025, PON hosted **six virtual wellness sessions and one in-person gathering** that provided safe spaces for parents of English learners to connect, heal, and build resilience. Facilitated by PON staff and professors from Universidad Rafael Landívar–Guatemala, participants explored wellness strategies while strengthening community support networks.

Participants explored topics such as:

- Shifting from sadness to joy
- Releasing guilt and embracing relief
- Moving from fear to sound judgment

PON Served 50 Participants

****Special thanks to Mary Rosales for her leadership and dedication to this effort**

4ELS FOR ENGLISH LEARNER SUCCESS

PON conducted **six 4ELS (For English Learner Success) Parent Trainings**, serving **138 parents and caregivers** of multilingual learners. Through this six-session series, families strengthened their understanding of English Learner development, reclassification requirements, and strategies to support their children's academic success. Participants gained the knowledge and confidence to monitor progress, advocate for their children, and become stronger leaders within their schools and communities.

PON Served 138 Parents of English Learner Students

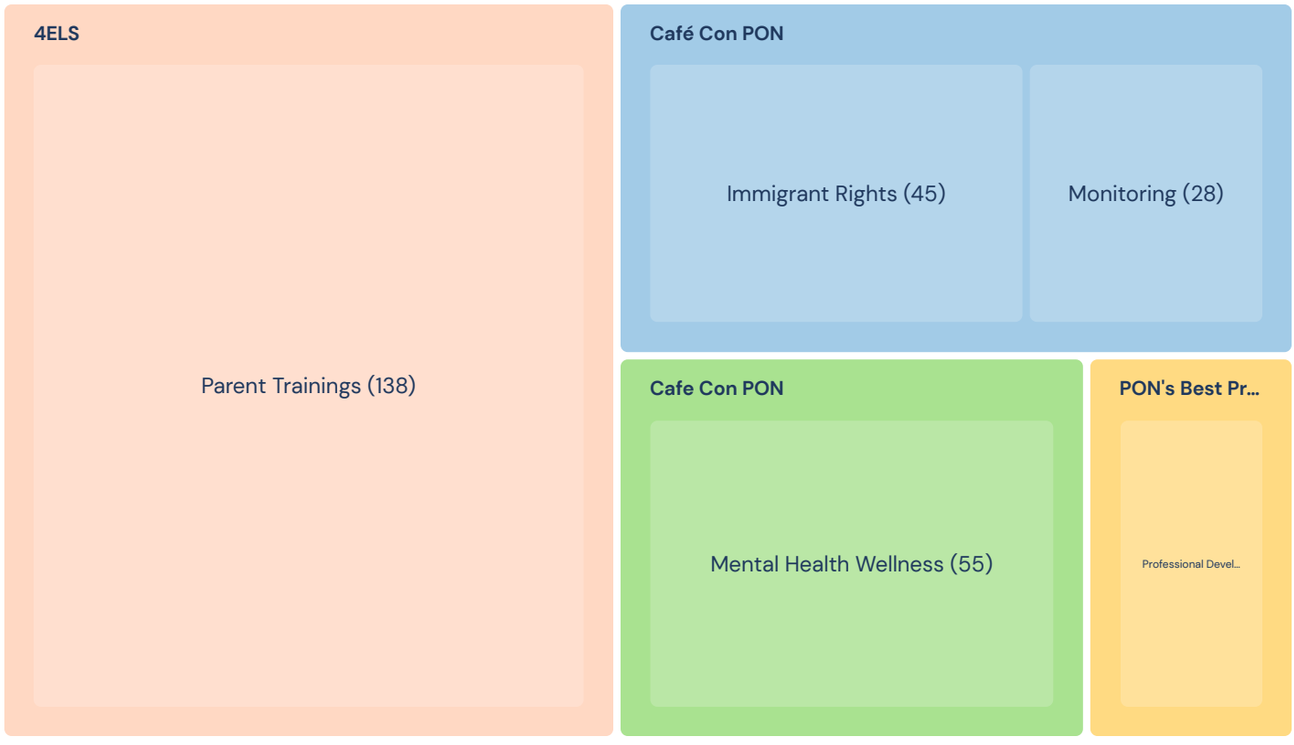
PON PRESENTATIONS

PON on the National Stage

In 2025–2026, PON's expertise in family engagement, multilingual education, and parent leadership was recognized through several state and national conference presentations. PON presented at the **Head Start West Family Engagement Elevate Conference** (October 2025), **Trying Together's UnConference** (February 2026), and the **23rd Annual Early Years Conference** (April 2026) hosted by the **San Diego County Office of Education**. In September 2026, PON will share its innovative Early Childhood family engagement model, **Strengthening My English Learner: A Parent's Journey**, at the **EdTrust-West Education Equity Forum**, further elevating the voices and experiences of multilingual families and parent leaders.

PON Served 75 Early Education Teachers, Parents, and Administrators

OUR YEAR IN NUMBERS



This chart illustrates participation across PON's training and wellness programs, reaching **290 parents, caregivers, and community members**. The highest participation occurred in **4ELS Parent Trainings**, demonstrating strong demand for English Learner advocacy and parent leadership development.



SUSTAINABILITY AND IMPACT

PON remains committed to building sustainable systems that strengthen multilingual families, elevate parent leadership, and advance educational equity. Throughout 2025, we expanded our impact by providing parent leadership training, emotional wellness supports, immigrant rights education, and early childhood engagement opportunities that empower families to advocate for their children and communities.

Our work continues to demonstrate that informed and connected parents are powerful agents of change. Through programs such as **4ELS**, parents gained the knowledge and confidence to support their children's academic success and advocate for improved educational outcomes. PON also expanded its reach through **Strengthening My English Learner: A Parent's Journey**, an innovative **Early Childhood family engagement model** that equips parents of young multilingual learners with tools to support language development, school readiness, and bilingual success from the earliest years.

To ensure long-term sustainability, PON strengthened partnerships with schools, community organizations, higher education institutions, and statewide advocacy coalitions. These collaborations increase our collective capacity to serve families while advancing policies and practices that support multilingual learners across California.

As PON continues its transition toward independent nonprofit status, we are investing in organizational infrastructure, technology, board development, and staff capacity to ensure that our work remains responsive, impactful, and sustainable for years to come. Through these efforts, we are building a stronger organization while creating lasting opportunities for families to lead, thrive, and shape more equitable educational systems.

Our Model for Impact

PON ensures its programs are sustainable by designing them around the needs, experiences, and leadership of the families we serve.

Our People

People are at the heart of PON's mission and impact. We invest in the growth and well-being of both our staff and the families we serve by fostering leadership, collaboration, and continuous learning. Through parent leadership development, emotional wellness support, advocacy training, and community partnerships, we help build the knowledge, confidence, and capacity of multilingual families to create positive change in our schools and communities.



Maria Rosales



Nancy K. Villarreal, M.S.



Daisy J. Amezcua

LOOKING AHEAD

As we look to the future, we are inspired by what we have learned from the families and communities we serve: lasting change happens when parents are informed, connected, and empowered to lead. In the coming year, PON will continue to strengthen parent leadership, expand our Early Childhood family engagement model, deepen our support for multilingual learners and their families, and grow partnerships that advance educational equity and community well-being. We also remain committed to building a strong and sustainable organization through investments in staff, technology, governance, and infrastructure. We are excited about the opportunities ahead and look forward to working alongside our members, partners, and supporters to create a future where every family has the knowledge, voice, and power to help their children thrive.

PON ADVISORY BOARD

> "I am truly honored and humbled to serve alongside PON Parent Leaders, their communities, staff, and the Executive Director. I am continually inspired by their leadership, resilience, and advocacy, whose voices and experiences drive meaningful change. Together, we are committed to empowering families, advancing educational equity, and ensuring every student has the opportunity to thrive. It is a privilege to contribute to this important work and to support PON's mission." ~ *Elvia De La Torre, Co-Chair*



Dr. Joyce G. Watts
Co-Chair
Co-Editor / Co-Facilitator
African American Parent/Community Coalition for Educational Equity

Elvia De La Torre
Co-Chair
Director of Grants & Operations
Californians Dedicated to Education (CDE) Foundation

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