

# SAY YES TO EDUCATION:

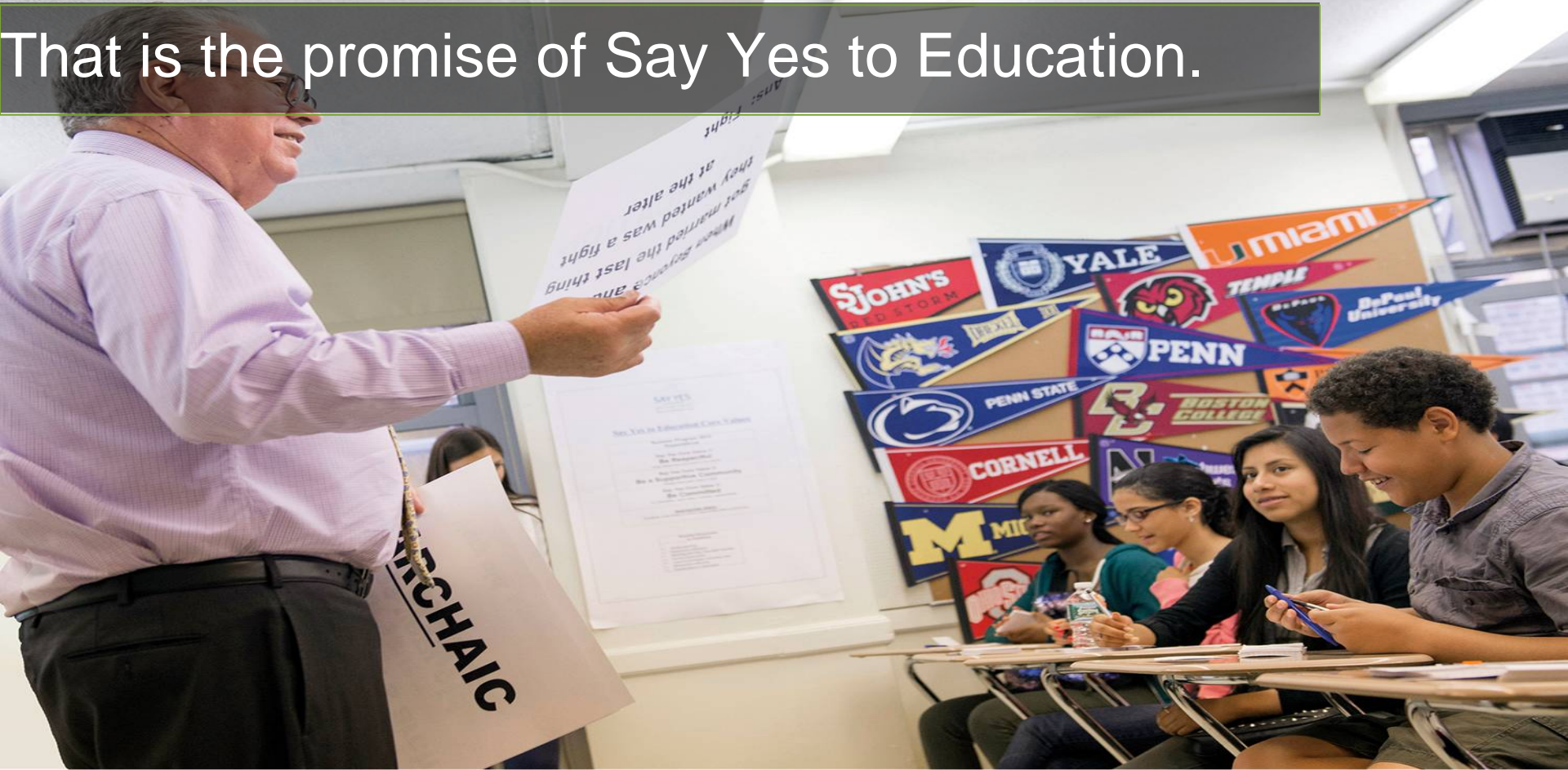
## Getting a Community's Students To and Through College



# WHAT IF...

...an entire community came together to ensure that each of its children had the opportunity to go to college?

# That is the promise of Say Yes to Education.



- Founded by money manager George Weiss, 1980s
- 112 sixth graders in first chapter
- Now a national nonprofit that works with entire cities, counties, school systems
- About 65,000 students currently served



## The Economic Impact

- Say Yes Scholars enter the local and national workforce with the education to excel in a range of occupations.
- Affordable education draws people and businesses to Say Yes communities, leading to growth of property values and the tax base.



## The Scholarships

- At the heart of Say Yes are scholarships to college and other post-secondary institutions
- In-state public colleges and universities
- Private colleges and universities in the Say Yes Higher Education Compact



## The Supports

- Say Yes ensures that students and families have the resources and services outside the classroom to clear the path to academic success
- May include tutoring, after-school and summer programs, medical care, counseling, legal help



## The Supports

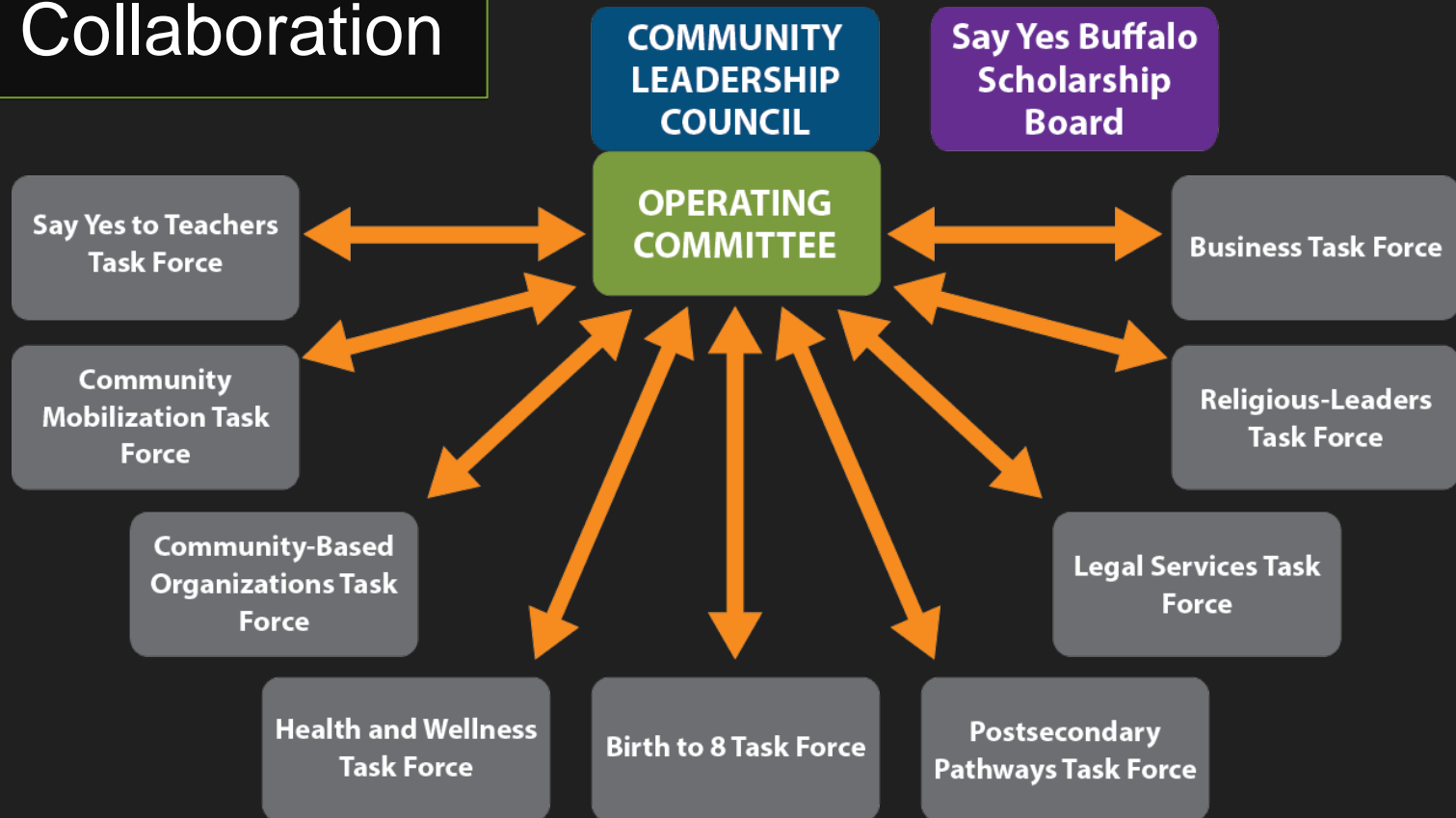
- Students' progress toward college (and other post-secondary) readiness is tracked through the Say Yes Post Secondary Planning System
- Resources and services then provided by social service organizations and other partners to those in need of assistance

# The Outcomes

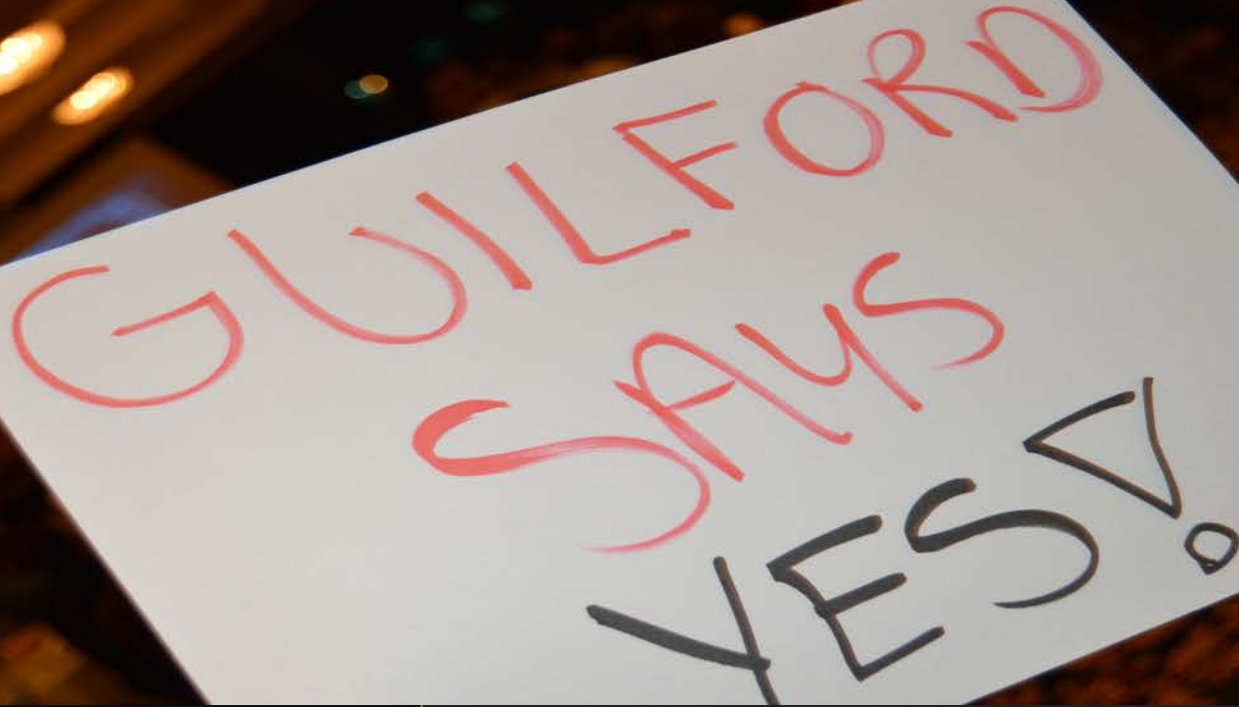
- Buffalo's college matriculation rate increased from 57% - 66% in the first year.
- 9th grade drop-out rates in Syracuse dropped by 44% in one year (2009-2010)
- Property values in Syracuse up 3.9% since 2009



# The Collaboration



- To accomplish its goals, Say Yes helps bring together every stakeholder in the community
- Say Yes also works with leading educational and business management experts and prestigious foundations



GUILFORD  
SAYS  
YES!

## Current Process

- There are working groups are addressing several key areas.
- Working to secure fundraising pledges.
- Adoption of MOU Agreements

# Questions?



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