



September 21, 2026

Dear SEAL Community,

On behalf of SEAL's Board and our Search Committee, I want to extend our deepest gratitude and best wishes to Anya as she moves into this next chapter of her career.

Our Board worked closely with Anya over the past year to develop a thoughtful approach to her leadership transition. Part of what we decided together was to embark on the development of SEAL's next strategic plan, while Anya was still on board, and this helped to establish strategic clarity prior to the search for SEAL's next leader. We couldn't be more excited for SEAL's future direction as the organization continues to evolve and expand its impact on multilingual education and students in California and beyond.

We are immensely grateful to Anya for charting that course with us, alongside SEAL's leaders and staff, and positioning the organization strongly for further growth. Because of Anya's steadfast leadership and management, SEAL has a capable team in place as well as robust financial reserves. The full Board of Directors and SEAL's Leadership Team are poised to support this transition over the next year. The Board has retained a search firm to support the search for SEAL's next Executive Director, and we will share updates with our community as the search progresses.

We appreciate your continued support. We are grateful for the critical contributions that you make every day to improve the experiences and outcomes for multilingual learners. Thank you for all you have done and continue to do, to help our teachers, students, and school systems to thrive, now and into the future.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John M. Sobrato", written in a cursive style.

John Matthew Sobrato
Chair, SEAL Board of Directors and Search Committee