



September 21, 2026

Dear Friends,

After more than 12 years with SEAL, including nearly a decade leading this organization, I have made the deeply personal decision that this will be my final year as Executive Director. I will transition from my role in June 2027.

Leading this organization has been one of the great privileges of my professional life. One of the hardest decisions for a long-time leader is knowing when to make space for what comes next. After much reflection, I believe this is that moment. I am ready to explore what that looks like for me, and I believe SEAL is ready for its next chapter.

When I joined SEAL, we were an initiative of Sobrato Philanthropies with an ambitious vision for young multilingual learners. I am especially grateful to Dr. Laurie Olsen, whose pioneering vision created SEAL's foundation, and to Sobrato Philanthropies, where that vision was nurtured. Together, we launched SEAL as an independent nonprofit, expanded across California, strengthened the evidence, and grew our role in the field.

But when I think about my time at SEAL, I think first about people: children engaged in rigorous learning, and taking pride in being multilingual; educators creating classrooms where children's languages, cultures and identities are part of how they learn and thrive; and the extraordinary SEAL team and community of partners, researchers, advocates, funders and supporters who have made this work possible.

SEAL is entering this transition from a position of strength. Our new strategic direction builds on what we have learned and sets an ambitious direction for the years ahead, deepening our impact in California and building a broader ecosystem of national partners committed to multilingual learners. We have a strong team, an engaged Board and clear direction for the next phase of our work. The work is already underway.

Our Board is leading a thoughtful and open search for SEAL's next Executive Director with support from NPAG. I will remain fully engaged through June 2027, continuing our work while supporting a strong transition to SEAL's next leader.

As I begin this final year, I am feeling grateful for what we have built together, how much I have learned from all of you, and the countless people who have given their time, talent and trust to this mission. Thank you for believing in SEAL and, most importantly, for believing in the brilliance and potential of multilingual learners. I am proud of where SEAL is today and excited about what this extraordinary community will make possible next.

With gratitude,

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

Dr. Anya Hurwitz
Executive Director