

## PRESS RELEASE

### **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

#### **REEL Announces Strengths Fair 2026: A New Vision for Neurodiversity, Learning, and Innovation**

Palo Alto, CA [January 21st, 2026] — REEL (Resilience & Engagement for Every Learner) today announced the date of its second annual [Strengths Fair](#), the only-one-of-its-kind community event that reframes how parents, educators, and local leaders perceive and understand neurodiversity and twice-exceptional (2e) learners. This year's theme, "*Where Strengths Shine and Futures Grow*," captures the heart of the event's mission: to illuminate the extraordinary potential of neurodivergent students and the bright futures they can build when their strengths take center stage.

At a time when conversations about education often center on struggle, remediation, accommodation and "what's wrong," Strengths Fair shifts the narrative around neurodiversity to a fresh, solutions-focused perspective highlighting "what's strong." This event showcases what becomes possible when students' strengths lead the way and reflects a growing movement recognizing not only what neurodivergent students need to thrive, but also what they uniquely contribute when they do.

In the heart of Silicon Valley where creativity and unconventional thinking have fueled global innovation, many of tomorrow's most promising creators and innovators are still being overlooked. Neurodivergent and twice-exceptional students often don't fit neatly into traditional school systems, leaving their talents underrecognized or more often, misunderstood. "In a region known for world-changing ideas, and leading the way with innovation, we can't afford to leave brilliant problem-solvers out of the story simply because they learn differently," said Yael Valek, Co-founder at REEL. "The Strengths Fair is about widening the lens on what potential looks like."

This year's event showcases hands-on exhibits, progressive school options, interest-led demonstrations, parent resources, along with inspiring talks from leading voices in neurodiversity. Highlights include a keynote featuring Amanda Morin, a neurodivergent advocate, award-winning author, and nationally recognized voice in the neurodiversity movement on "How Strengths-Based Communication Builds Trust, Confidence, and Connection." Additional sessions include "Raising Future-Ready Kids in an AI World" by Audrey Wisch, founder of Curious Cardinals; and a presentation by Shu Hsien Ho & Royd Hatta of Beyond the Box exploring how playful characters can foster creativity and confidence in essay writing. Together, these offerings create a comprehensive and informative event for Bay Area families raising neurodivergent children.

The urgency of this work is especially clear for a population that remains largely invisible: an estimated 1 in 20 students are twice-exceptional (having both advanced capabilities for their age and being neurodivergent with ADHD, autism, dyslexia, and more), yet few traditional systems are designed to support them. This statistic may be higher in the Bay Area. REEL's Strengths Fair brings visibility to this often misunderstood population and responds to rising demand among families seeking strengths-forward, developmentally aligned educational and enrichment options.

Members of the media, and community partners are invited to speak with REEL leadership about the urgency of supporting neurodivergent, 2e learners and the innovative approaches showcased at the REEL Strengths Fair. To request interviews, gather additional information, or explore partnership opportunities, please contact the REEL team using the information below.

Families, educators, and community members can now register for Strengths Fair 2026 and experience firsthand how strengths-based environments transform learning.

Register at:

REEL Strengths Fair 2026

Date: March 8, 2026, 12-3pm

Location: Los Alto Community Center

Hosted by: REEL

Website / Registration: <https://www.reel2e.org/reel-strengths-fair>

---

## About REEL

REEL (Resilience and Engagement for Every Learner) is a community-driven non-profit organization that ensures Silicon Valley neurodivergent, twice-exceptional students thrive in school by raising parent and educator awareness and understanding of practical, research-based strategies to address their needs successfully.

Learn more at [www.reel2e.org](http://www.reel2e.org) or follow us on **Social Media** ([Facebook](#), [Instagram](#), [LinkedIn](#), [YouTube](#))

## Media Contact:

Dianna Sadler

Growth & Outreach Director, REEL

[dianna@reel2e.org](mailto:dianna@reel2e.org) | 415-438-0260