

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:
Leveling the Playing Field
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“Leveling the Playing Field” Partners with “Five Below Foundation” to Support More Youth Athletes

Five Below will be the official “P.E. Class Sponsor” of Leveling the Playing Field for the 2024-2025 school year.

Washington, D.C. (September 3rd, 2024) - Leveling the Playing Field has announced a new partnership with the Five Below Foundation. Five Below Foundation is supporting LPF with \$15,000 in funding for the 2024-2025 academic year, as they become the official LPF Physical Education class sponsor.

School P.E. programs represent one of the most accessible options for youth to play sports and be active. While sports gear is popular in our warehouses year-round, P.E. equipment such as jump ropes, hula hoops, dodgeballs, and cones are also in high demand. LPF works closely with school systems to better understand the needs of P.E. teachers and be an ongoing resource for them. The majority of schools LPF serves are Title I schools.

“We are so excited to be working with Five Below to provide much needed sports equipment to under-resourced P.E. teachers, who play such a crucial role in their students' development,” says Max Levitt, Executive Director at Leveling the Playing Field. “Five Below's commitment to giving back to the community will ensure that P.E. teachers will have the resources they need this upcoming school year to introduce their kids to new sports and enhance the sports they are currently teaching. This partnership is making a meaningful difference in the lives of many young students, and we are thrilled to work alongside such a dedicated and impactful company.”

“At Five Below, we are passionate about making a positive impact in communities and enabling access to sports and play for kids in our region and nationwide,” said Ron Masciantonio, President of the Five Below Foundation and Executive Vice President of Five Below, Inc. “Through our partnership with organizations like Leveling the Playing Field, we are proud to support efforts that provide essential sports equipment to those most in need and ensure fun opportunities for all children”.

Signage will appear in LPF warehouses during the summer season and will be ready to go by Fall 2024. In addition, compelling photos and stories featuring playground and recess equipment will be highlighted throughout the upcoming academic year. For more information on this partnership or Leveling the Playing Field, visit LPFSports.org or contact info@levelingtheplyingfield.org.

About Leveling the Playing Field: Leveling the Playing Field is a non-profit organization which collects and re-distributes sports equipment to under-resourced communities. The organization currently operates in five cities: Greater Washington D.C., Baltimore, MD, Philadelphia, PA,

Buffalo, NY, and Columbus, OH. Leveling the Playing has donated over \$14 million in sports equipment to schools, youth teams and leagues, and other non-profit organizations since 2013.

About The Five Below Foundation: The Five Below Foundation is a non-profit 501(c)(3) organization dedicated to providing grants to philanthropic partners, neighborhoods, and non-profit organizations across the country. By supporting youth education, purposeful play, empowered inclusion, family support and community enrichment, the Five Below Foundation is on a mission to open-up unlimited possibilities for everyone.