



**SAN ANTONIO REGIONAL PUBLIC
PK-12 EDUCATION FORUM II**

Proceeds from the 2017 PK-12 Education Forum will be used to support local education initiatives.



A GOOD EDUCATION IS *EVERYTHING*

What is the fundamental, underlying message of this Education Forum?

The challenge to adequately and effectively educate all the children of our state is enormous. And that challenge becomes more daunting as we move into the future.

All our children need us – all of us – to become better informed and more invested than ever before.

Most of us attending this Education Forum have been blessed with children and perhaps grandchildren who have received a very good to

excellent education. With our blessing comes an obligation and responsibility to help others with their education whenever, wherever, and however we can.

The good news is that many new education initiatives, both within ISD's and charter systems, are working very well. And we have considerably more good, caring, and devoted teachers than ever before.

Our job is not to find fault or to point fingers. We need to devote our energy to become much better informed and to identify constructive ways we can help. If you have the financial ability, then by all means support as many schools and worthwhile educational initiatives you can. Also, consider mentoring, tutoring, reading, and counseling. Visit schools – both high performing and struggling ones. Support, encourage, compliment, and thank teachers, principals, good students, and responsible board members. Read, research, and develop a better understanding of what works, what is effective, and what is productive. There is so much for us to learn.

Encourage our friends, family, and associates to become genuinely excited about making a positive difference in our education system. Speak up clearly and forcibly to our state legislators. Each of us can make a significant and substantial contribution in so many ways. If not us, who? If not now, when?

LOUISE AND MIKE BURKE

“Never believe that a few caring people can’t change the world. For, indeed, that’s all who ever have.”

Margaret Mead

FORUM AGENDA PK-12 PUBLIC EDUCATION FORUM

April 17, 2017 at the Mays Family Center, The New Witte Museum

EXHIBITS

10:00 am - 2:00 pm

REGISTRATION

10:00 am - 11:15 am

11:15 am All Audience Seated

PROGRAM

11:30 am - 1:30 pm

11:30 am Opening Comments - Marise McDermott, President/CEO, Witte Museum and Dr. Steve H. Murdock, Renowned, former Texas Demographer, Professor of Sociology, Rice University

Moderator: Robert Rivard, The Rivard Report

12:00 pm Panel Discussion Begins

1:30 pm Adjourn, 2:00 pm Exhibits Close

PANELISTS

Mike Morath
Texas Commissioner of Education

Victoria B. Rico
Founding Chair, Choose to Succeed

Brian T. Woods
Superintendent, Northside ISD

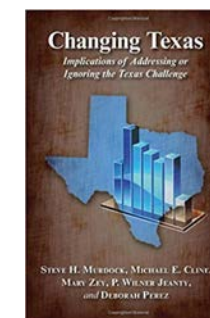
Shari Albright
Chair, Department of Education,
Trinity University

Pedro Martinez
San Antonio ISD

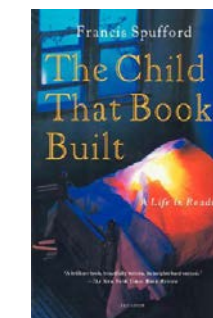
ATTENDEES

Over 630 concerned citizens and dedicated, energized leaders of our region

As a token of appreciation to each of our Education Forum Program participants we will donate each of these five star books (a total of 24) to a library of their choice.



Changing Texas: Implications of Addressing or Ignoring the Texas Challenge
Steve H. Murdock



The Child that Books Built
Francis Spufford



One Hundred Years of Solitude
Gabriel Garcia Marquez

2017 PK-12 EDUCATION FORUM PLANNING COMMITTEE

Ana Acevedo
Education Policy Administrator, COSA

Robert Aguirre
President, Aguirre Consultants

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Chair, Department of Education, Trinity University

Barb Alexander
Community Volunteer

Sarah Barah
CEO, Pre-K 4 SA

Bonnie Baskin
CEO/Founder, Hill Country Science Mill

Dejah Behnke
VP Regional Development IDEA Public

Dr. Kevin Brown
Superintendent, Alamo Heights ISD
President, Texas Association of School Administrators

Lisa Brunsvold
VP Development & Donor Services,
SA Area Foundation

Louise Burke
Board, IDEA

Mike Burke
Board: IDEA; Great Hearts;
Reasoning Mind

Kelly Hughes Burton
VP and Executive Director, City Year SA

Shannon Sedgwick Davis
CEO Bridgeway Foundation;
Board, Great Hearts

Judy Geelhoed
Executive Director,
San Antonio ISD Foundation

Henry Gonzalez III
Gonzalez Chiscano Angulo Kasson

Dr. Brian Gottardy
Superintendent, North East ISD

Ken Halliday
CEO, Silver Ventures

Joel Harris
CEO, City Education Partners

Janet Holliday
Founder/CEO, CE Group

Julie Huls
Interim CEO, Doseum

Vanessa Hurd
Founding CEO, Doseum; Board, Great
Hearts

Dr. Sean Kearney
Interim Dean, College of Education, Texas
A&M University San Antonio

Alex Khachatryan
Founder/CEO Reasoning Mind Inc.

Aaron Kindle
Superintendent, Great Hearts Texas

Mark Larson
Founder/CEO, KIPP San Antonio

Steve Lewis
Chair/CEO, Jefferson Bank

Julie Linn
Partner, Shapiro Linn Strategic Consulting

Laura Saldivar Luna
CEO, Teach for America SA

Jenna Price Mallette
Rivard Report Staff

Selene Martin
Director, Corporate Responsibility, USAA

Pedro Martinez
Superintendent, San Antonio ISD

Lisa McGrath
Education Specialist KLRN/PBS Television

Kathy MacNaughton
Executive Director, Masters Leadership
Program; Board, SA Youth Literacy

Scott Meltzer
Managing Director of Philanthropy,
City Year SA

Jackie Moczygemba
Executive Director,
Ewing Halsell Foundation

Marise McDermott
CEO, The Witte Museum

Bill Moll
Retired Chair, Clear Channel TV & KLRN;
KIPP Board

Harvey Najim
Najim Family Foundation

Dr. Carl Raba
Founder, Raba Kistner

Victoria Rico
Chair, Brackenridge Foundation

Matthew Randazzo
CEO National Math & Science Initiative;
Board, Great Hearts

Yvette Reyna
Communications Director, Great Hearts

Robert Rivard
Founder/CEO, The Rivard Report

Raul Rodriguez
Chair, US Mexico Foundation; Special
Worldwide Education Consultant to
Monterrey Tech

Kate Rogers
VP Communication & Health Promotion,
HEB; Interim Executive Director,
Holdsworth Center for Excellence

Katy Silva
Rivard Report Staff

Hunter Stanco
VP, Morgan Stanley Wealth Advisers

Mason Stark
Rivard Report Staff

James Talarico
Executive Director Central Texas,
Reasoning Mind

Tom Torkelson
Founder/CEO, IDEA Public Schools

Julian Treviño
Sr. Lecturer, Educational Leadership and
Policy Studies, UTSA; Former Chair, San
Antonio ISD

Dr. Deborah Valdez
Executive Director, SA Youth Literacy

Jessica Weaver
Executive Director,
Communities in Schools

Dr. Brian Woods
Superintendent, Northside ISD

Jodi Williams-Thomas
Deen Creative Design Group

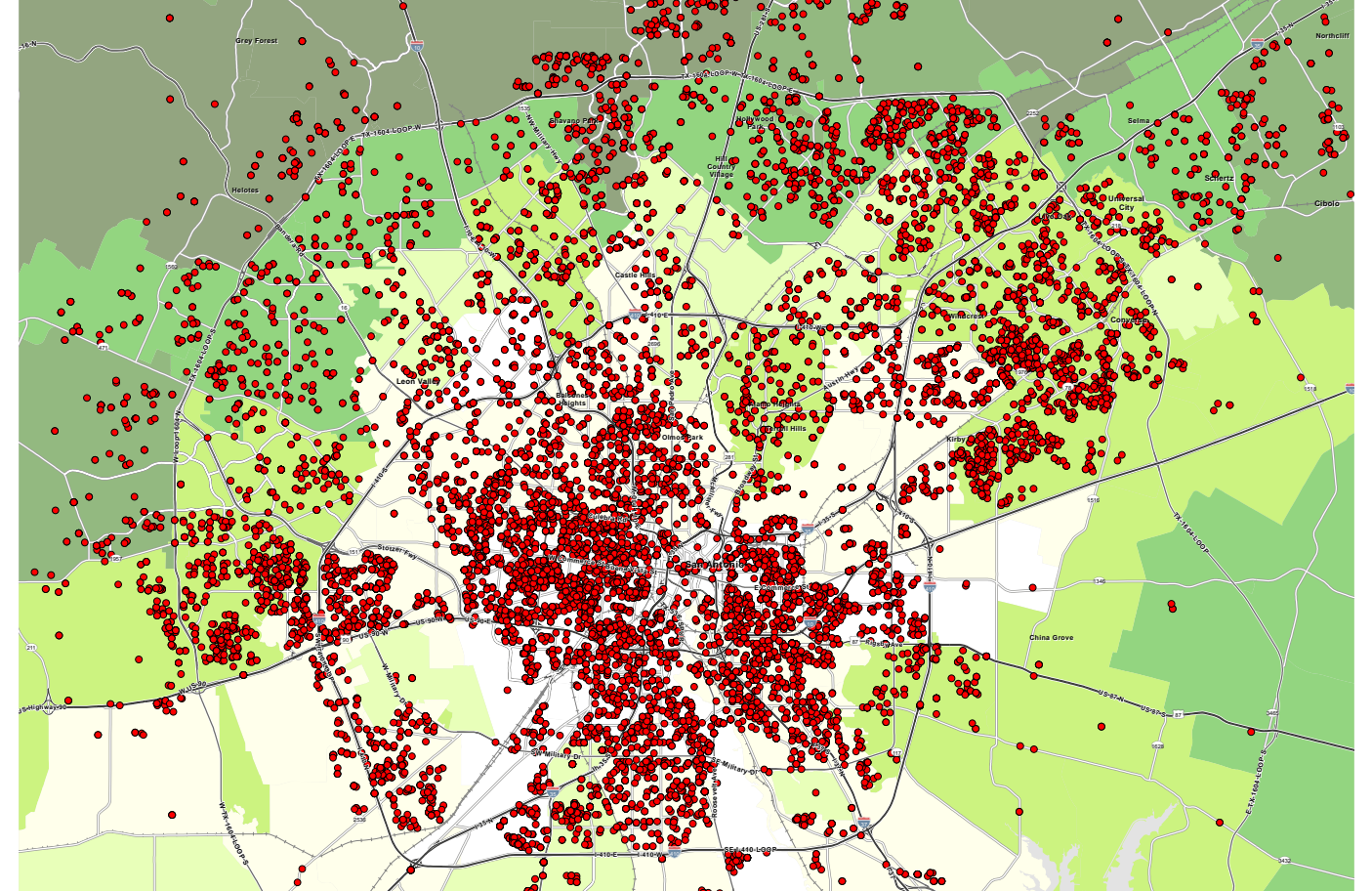
NET PROCEEDS FROM TODAY'S FORUM

Thank you to our 52 table sponsors and 25 exhibitors for your support! Your generosity has achieved net proceeds for our Education Forum far greater than our original estimate. Therefore, we're pleased to be able to distribute \$5,000 awards to: San Antonio Youth Literacy, Reasoning Mind, Inc., Communities in Schools, IDEA Public Schools, Great Hearts Texas, City Year San Antonio, Teach for America San Antonio, The DoSeum, KIPP San Antonio Public Schools, Hill Country Science Mill, SAMMinistries, Gemini Ink, Girls, Inc., and the SAISD Foundation.



LEADERSHIP LEVEL SPONSORS

GEORGE W. BRACKENRIDGE FOUNDATION



THE BURKE FAMILY PROUDLY SUPPORTS ALL
EDUCATION INITIATIVES AND DEDICATED TEACHERS.



WE THANK GOD WE ARE BLESSED WITH THE PRESENCE OF
DAVID ROBINSON AND HIS WONDERFUL FAMILY IN OUR GREAT CITY.

13,111 KIDS ARE WAITING

The demand for seats in San Antonio's public charter schools is growing. The waitlists are growing also, as schools like IDEA, Great Hearts, KIPP and Harmony lack the space to serve all the students who apply. These families need options.

But there is **hope**: Families Empowered serves all San Antonio families who are looking for school opportunities, with tools, resources and events to find their best-fit school. We connect families in need to great school options in San Antonio.

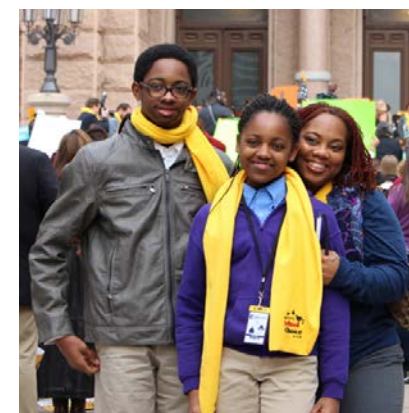


You don't have to search alone. We can help!
www.FamiliesEmpowered.org

(210) 347-2972

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PANELISTS AND SPEAKERS



MARISE MCDERMOTT

President/CEO, Witte Museum

Marise McDermott has 30 years of experience in cultural arts, most recently as President and CEO of the Witte Museum, since 2004. McDermott is focusing on the \$100 million campus expansion, with the new Mays Family Center for Exhibitions and Events, new museum entrance, Valero Great Hall, Naylor Dinosaur Gallery, McLean Family Texas Wild Gallery, Kittie West Nelson People of the Pecos Gallery and five associated Labs, along with recently opened buildings, Robert J. and Helen C. Kleberg South Texas Heritage Center and H-E-B Body Adventure. McDermott was the TriChair of the Alamo Experience Committee, was founding Chair of Luminaria, was Chair of the San Antonio Convention and Visitors Bureau, and currently serves on the Midtown/Brackenridge TIRZ Board and as Vice Chair of the Visit San Antonio Board of Directors. McDermott was named 2013 Executive Woman of the Year by the San Antonio Greater Chamber of Commerce and awarded the 2015

Texas Patriot Award by the Daughters of the Republic of Texas, Alamo Mission Chapter.

DR. STEVE H. MURDOCK

Renowned, former Texas Demographer, Professor of Sociology, Rice University



Steve H. Murdock is the Allyn R. and Gladys M. Cline Professor of Sociology at Rice University. He previously served as Director of the U.S. Bureau of the Census having been nominated for the position by President Bush and unanimously confirmed by the U.S. Senate in 2007 and serving until the change in administration in January of 2009. Prior to his appointment at Rice, he was the Lutcher Brown Distinguished Chair in Demography and Organization Studies at the University of Texas at San Antonio (UTSA) and the Director of the Institute for Demographic and Socioeconomic Research. Before UTSA, Murdock was a Regents Professor and Head of the Department of Rural Sociology at Texas A&M University. He was also the official State Demographer of Texas. He was appointed to this position by Governor Rick Perry and was the first person to occupy this position. Dr. Murdock earned his Ph.D. in demography and sociology from the University of Kentucky and is the author or editor of 15 books and more than 150 articles and technical reports on the implications of current and future demographic and socioeconomic change. He is the recipient of numerous honors and awards. These include the Faculty Distinguished Achievement Award in Research from Texas A&M University, the Excellence in Research Award and the Outstanding Rural Sociologist Award from the Rural Sociological Society, The Distinguished Alumni Award from North Dakota State University and the Distinguished Alumni Award from the Department of Sociology at the University of Kentucky. He is a member of the Phi Beta Kappa, Phi Kappa Phi, and Phi Eta Epsilon national honor societies.



ROBERT RIVARD

Director, The Rivard Report

Robert “Bob” Rivard is the founder and director of the Rivard Report, a nonprofit local news and information site that informs and connects engaged citizens in San Antonio.

The Rivard Report celebrated its fifth year of publication in February and now has 12 fulltime employees and a growing number of freelance contributors. It also serves as a publishing platform for people in the community to share their stories and commentaries.

Rivard is a longtime, award-winning journalist who served as editor of the San Antonio Express-News from 1997 to 2011, and previously worked for Newsweek magazine as its Central America correspondent covering the region’s civil wars in the 1980s and from 1985-89 as its global chief of correspondents.

He is the author of Trail of Feathers: Searching for Philip True, a nonfiction book that chronicles the disappearance and murder of Express-News reporter Philip True in Mexico’s Sierra Madre, and the long fight to win the conviction of True’s killers.

Rivard is married to Monika Maeckle, a writer, naturalist, and communications consultant. They have two sons, Nicolas, a designer and inner city developer, and Alexander, a history, government, and music teacher at Central Catholic High School.



SHARI ALBRIGHT

Chair, Department of Education, Trinity University

Shari Becker Albright serves as the Murchison Distinguished Professor of Practice in Education and Chair of the Department of Education at Trinity University. She is the Past-President of the Texas Association for Colleges of Teacher Education and serves as the Secretary of the municipal board for Pre K 4 SA, a citywide early childhood initiative for San Antonio. She is also a member of the Governing Board of the Holdsworth Center, a new statewide educational leadership center for Texas. Prior to returning to Trinity, she was the Executive Director of Education at the Asia Society and Chief Executive Officer of the Asia Society International Studies Schools Network, a national network of small, internationally-themed schools in urban, underserved communities dedicated to preparing college ready, globally competent citizens. Shari also served as the principal of a public magnet school in San Antonio, Texas – the International School of the Americas - and was

named the Texas High School Principal of the Year for 2004 by the H-E-B Excellence in Education Awards. In 2004, her school was awarded the Goldman Sachs Prize in International Education. She also served as an elementary school administrator, central office administrator, and elementary teacher in East Central ISD prior to teaching on the faculty of Trinity University. She earned her undergraduate and Master’s degrees from Trinity University and her Doctorate in Educational Leadership from Teachers College – Columbia University.

PEDRO MARTINEZ

Superintendent, San Antonio ISD



Pedro Martinez most recently was Superintendent in Residence for the Nevada Department of Education in Reno, Nevada and was responsible for advising the Governor’s office and the State Superintendent of Instruction on education policy decisions. Prior to that, he served as superintendent for Washoe County School District.

While in Washoe County, Mr. Martinez improved graduation rates and increased the percentage of students participating in and passing the Advanced Placement exam. He also previously served as Chief Financial Officer at Chicago Public Schools, the nation’s third-largest school district, under the leadership of Arne Duncan, now U.S. Secretary of Education. His employment history reflects that he is a data-driven leader with a strong financial background and in-depth knowledge of academic reform strategies.

Martinez has more than 20 years of experience in the private, nonprofit and public education sectors. He holds an MBA from DePaul University and a bachelor’s from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. He also is a graduate of the Broad Superintendents Academy.



MIKE MORATH

Texas Commissioner on Education

Mike Morath was appointed Texas Commissioner of Education by Gov. Greg Abbott in December 2015 and took office in January of this year.

As Commissioner, he heads the Texas Education Agency, which oversees pre-kindergarten through high school education for more than five million students enrolled in both traditional public schools and charter schools.

Prior to becoming the state’s Education Commissioner, Morath served on the Dallas Independent School District board of trustees for more than four years. During that time, he focused on academic improvements. And by his final year on the board, DISD witnessed dramatic improvement in the areas of kindergarten readiness, fourth grade math proficiency on the National Assessment of Educational Progress, high school graduation rates, and minority student performance on Advanced Placement tests that outpaced all large urban districts in the country.

A strong advocate of public education, Commissioner Morath graduated from Garland High School in the Garland Independent School District. And thanks to the great public school education he received in Texas, he went on to earn a Bachelor of Business Administration degree, summa cum laude, from George Washington University in two-and-a-half years.

PANELISTS AND SPEAKERS



VICTORIA B. RICO

Founding Chair, Choose to Succeed

Victoria B. Rico is a native of San Antonio and the current Chairwoman of the George W. Brackenridge Foundation. The Brackenridge Foundation seeks to advance the vision of its namesake by supporting transformative educational opportunities in San Antonio. In 2009, she became a trustee for the Foundation and has been heavily involved in San Antonio's education quality ever since. In 2011, she published "A Proposed Strategy for San Antonio: High-Quality Charter Replication," which was the cornerstone for Choose to Succeed and its efforts to recruit the top public charter school operators in the country. Victoria served as the founding Chair of Choose to Succeed. She currently sits on the board of IDEA Public Schools and has previously served on the boards of BASIS Schools and Great Hearts Academies Texas. Victoria holds a J.D. from the University of Texas at Austin and a bachelor's degree from Harvard University. She and her husband, Martin, reside in San Antonio with their two children.

BRIAN T. WOODS

Superintendent, Northside ISD

Dr. Brian T. Woods, a longtime Northside ISD educator, became Superintendent in July 2012.

Dr. Woods began his career in Northside in 1992 as a social studies teacher at Marshall High School and taught U.S. government, economics, and U.S. history. Woods then helped open O'Connor High School in 1998 as an Assistant Principal. He became Vice Principal at Clark High School in 2000 and, in 2004, he was named the school's Principal.

Dr. Woods was appointed Assistant Superintendent for Secondary Administration in 2006 and became Deputy Superintendent for Administration in 2008.

Dr. Woods has a bachelor's degree in political science from the University of Texas at Austin and a master's degree and doctorate in educational leadership from the University of Texas at San Antonio.

Dr. Woods serves on the Executive Committee for the Texas Association of School Administrators and is the Chair of the Regional Advisory Executive Committee for Education Service Center, Region 20. He is a member of the Go Public Steering Committee, the Board of P16Plus Council of Greater Bexar County, and the San Antonio Chamber of Commerce where he serves on two of its committees – the Legislative Committee and the Education/Workforce Development Committee. He also serves as President of the Board of Texas Academic Decathlon and is a member of the Superintendents Advisory Board of Principals' Institute, the steering committee for Fast Growth School Coalition, and the Commissioner's TASA Cabinet of Superintendents.

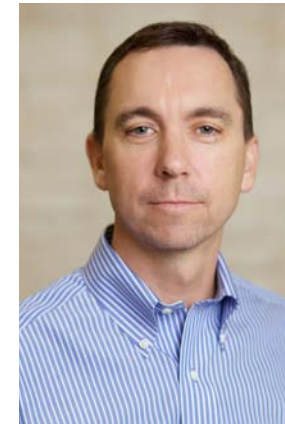
Dr. Woods and his wife Meredith have a son who attends a Northside ISD middle school.



"If you think you can do a thing, or think you can't do a thing; you're right."

Henry Ford

VIP BREAKFAST SPEAKERS



TOM TORKELSON

Founding Chair, Choose to Succeed

Upon graduating from Georgetown University in 1997, Tom joined Teach for America and taught fourth grade in Donna, Texas for three years, after which he successfully launched the IDEA Academy in 2000, serving as the first Board President and Founding Principal.

IDEA educates nearly 30,000 students across 51 schools in the Rio Grande Valley, San Antonio, and Austin, the majority of whom are Latino and from low-income communities. The mission of IDEA Public Schools is to prepare students from underserved communities for success in college and citizenship. For 10 consecutive years, 100% of IDEA's seniors have been accepted to college.

In 2015, The Washington Post and US News & World Report ranked all of IDEA's eligible high schools among the top 1% of the best and most challenging high schools in the nation. All six high schools received gold medals. IDEA Public Schools was recognized as one of three charter schools on the Texas Honor Roll. In 2016, IDEA won the coveted Broad Prize for Public Charter Schools.

An avid runner and frequent Ironman triathlon competitor, Tom and his wife, Dr. Nina Lee Torkelson, live in the Rio Grande Valley with their three children, Lincoln, Liam, and Gwendolyn.

MATTHEW RANDAZZO

CEO, National Math and Science Initiative

As CEO of the National Math and Science Initiative, Matthew oversees the organization's efforts to significantly improve student opportunities and achievement by advancing STEM teaching and learning.

Matthew joined NMSI in 2014 as chief growth & strategy officer, responsible for planning and implementing NMSI's external engagement strategies, including cultivation of public and private partnerships to grow NMSI's footprint while deepening its impact in communities across the country. Prior to joining NMSI, Matthew served as founding president and CEO of Choose to Succeed — where he mobilized \$45 million in local, state and national pledges to support exceptional, tuition-free public education options for families in San Antonio, TX — and as chief growth officer for IDEA Public Schools. Matthew was most recently named to the tenth class of the Annie E. Casey Foundation's Children and Family Fellows—a select group of leaders from the public, nonprofit and academic sectors dedicated to leading measurable improvements for children and families.

Matthew earned his bachelor's in political science and Latin American studies from Albion College and a Master of Public Affairs degree from The University of Texas at Austin.



BRIAN YAGER

Head of School, Keystone School

Brian has been an educator since graduating from Stanford University in 1991. From 1991-2007, he worked at The Cate School, a leading boarding school in Santa Barbara, California, teaching high school mathematics at all levels (Algebra 1 – AP Calculus BC), as well as AP Economics, Geology, and Human Development. In 2007, Brian became the Head of Upper School at the Community School of Sun Valley, Idaho, a k-12 independent school with a nationally recognized outdoor emphasis. In 2010, Brian became Head of School at Keystone School, in San Antonio.

The US News and World Report and the Washington Post have rated Keystone as one of the finest K-12 private schools in the nation.



IDEA Public Schools Means College For All Children!

Across 10 San Antonio schools, nearly 5,400 scholars are on the path to and through college with IDEA Public Schools.

IDEA Public Schools' District Report Card

A-F Accountability Ratings: **B A A A**

High Schools ranked Top 50 in the nation by *The Washington Post* **6**

High Schools ranked Top 60 in Texas by *U.S. News & World Report* **5**

Percentage of Schools that received All Eligible Distinctions in San Antonio **86%**

Learn more at ideapublicschools.org



LEADERSHIP

Mike Morath – Commissioner



DEPUTY COMMISSIONERS:

Academics: Penny Schwinn - Assessment and Accountability Division; Standards and Programs.

Educator Support: Martin Winchester - Educator Leadership and Quality Division.

Finance: Kara Belew - TEA divisions: the Permanent School Fund; School Finance; and Agency Finance.

Governance: A.J. Crabill - Accreditation and School Improvement Division; Complaints, Investigations and Enforcement.

Operations: Megan Aghazadian - strategic planning process, performance goals and milestone to improve student outcomes statewide. Oversees the TEA divisions of Communications, Governmental Relations and Human Resources.

Chief Information Officer: Melody Parrish - Information Technology Services/Statewide Education Data Systems

For more information, visit: tea.texas.gov

BOOKS

Books enclose the memories
Of the happy and the sad.
Written by careful hands
That have experienced it all.

Mysteries, incomprehensive faults,
It all is chronicled here.
And Fantasy land is your next stop.

The impossible; the straight-out fact.
Anything can happen,
If you only take a look and see.

When you read, you can go anywhere.
Encased, preserved between two covers,
You find that everything is written down.
If only you just try

By Siena, age nine



EDUCATION CENTERS

TEACHER DEVELOPMENT

GRANTS PROGRAM



Nurturing our future. *Today.*

Four years ago, San Antonio agreed; the key to our future success is sealing a love of learning in pre-kindergarten and beyond. Pre-K 4 SA is already changing the lives of thousands of San Antonians, including students, families, teachers and entire school districts. We're on our way! And it's beautiful to see.

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WE CAN TEACH THE NEXT GENERATION TO BE BETTER AT POLITICAL DEBATE THAN WE ARE

Dan Scoggin, Co-founder, Great Hearts Academies

October 10, 2016, *Dallas Morning News*, excerpt



Photo Courtesy of Jared Platt Photography

A paradox of the American experiment is that politics is the worst of teachers, but we need to teach for politics. A new survey from the Institute for Advanced Studies in Culture finds that nearly 90 percent of Americans believe political events today seem more like entertainment than a serious endeavor. So how do we educators teach politics when the relationship between inquiry and truth is completely ruptured?

Of course, politics has always been a messy business. Hit first and hit hard is its Machiavellian motto. And we should not expect a Socrates, Abraham Lincoln, or Martin Luther King Jr. to walk around the corner to give us clarity of thought, moral example and inspiration. Or should we? While we may not find

contemporary examples, there is one place we can look: to our students themselves.

This rising generation does not lack passion, courage or even brilliance. The scarce commodity of our time is the ability to deliberate carefully, see the multiple sides of an issue, and then exercise sound judgment according to first principles and proper ends. The ancients called this capacity wisdom. Amid the digitized cacophony of our time, it is more precious than ever and needs to be cultivated with care.

A simple concept that serves as the starting point: Wisdom begins in listening.

Socrates put it another way: “wisdom begins in wonder.” In the social and political context, wonder derives from a specific capacity we must develop in our students to step outside their own perspective. They must be able to “de-self” in order to mature. As Aristotle observed, “It is the mark of an educated mind to be able to entertain a thought without accepting it.”

This goes beyond critical thinking to heroic listening and rigorous empathy. In the study of literature, history, ethics, even science and the arts, we can convert our classrooms into mini-republics that reveal the best of human nature as we study it. As Socratic midwives, we teachers can coach and coax students away from the default of trying to win arguments in defense of entrenched positions. They can seek first to understand the perceptions and premises of classmates, to ask clarifying questions before making assertions, to then assert from first principles, acknowledge ambiguity, respect in disagreement, live at times in doubt, and allow multiple interpretations to exist even when convictions are confirmed. This unsettling process forms gentlemen and gentlewomen who have a capacity to govern themselves and others.

Instead of bequeathing a talk show, protest, or twitter culture, we can actually train our students to be confident, respectful listeners for truth, to hunger for it, and shift ground for breakthroughs and epiphanies. All adolescents are natural debaters who, with coaching, can become truth-seeking philosophers. Let’s let the next generation show us what politics was really created for: human flourishing.

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Tuition-free, classical liberal arts K-12 education

Great Hearts provides students with the finest education and moral formation. We operate a network of high-performing K-12 public charter schools staffed by exemplary teachers and founded upon the classical ideals of Truth, Goodness, and Beauty.

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TEACHER EXCELLENCE IN THE SAN ANTONIO REGION 2017

All teachers on these pages have been invited as our guests for our April 17, 2017 Education Forum.

No great surprise: These teachers were most grateful for the invitation, but the majority declined because of their teaching obligations!



Photo by Milken Family Foundation

Milken Winner: Amber Simpson - Barrera Veterans Elementary School Master Teacher, Somerset ISD



Congratulations 2016-2017 Trinity Prize for Excellence Winners!

This year's recipients are Ali Goljahmofrad, who teaches advanced quantitative reasoning at Roosevelt High School in the North East Independent School District, and Gloria Galvan, a 5th grade bilingual teacher at Price Elementary School in the South San Antonio Independent School District.

Courtesy of Trinity University

Congratulations Reg. 20
Teachers of the Year!



REGION 20 TEACHER OF THE YEAR 2017



EVA LONGORIA
Northside ISD
Ed Cody Elementary



CALVIN LAMBERT
Uvalde ISD
Uvalde High School

The Texas State Teacher of the Year Program, sponsored by the Texas Association of School Administrators (TASA), honors excellence in classroom education and provides a forum to showcase many outstanding educators whose efforts and example inspire their students, their colleagues and the communities they serve.

Outstanding Nominees:

- | | | | |
|---|---|--|--|
| ANNA MORONES
Carrizo Springs CISD
Carrizo Springs Elementary | AMBER JOHNSON
School of Science & Technology
Discovery | TYANA CHAIDEZ
Carrizo Springs ISD
Carrizo Springs Junior High | ERIN MCKINNEY
Northside ISD
Hobby Middle School |
| ASHLEY JACKSON
Comal ISD
Garden Ridge Elementary | RICKY DAVIS
Schertz-Cibolo-Universal City ISD
Schertz Elementary | MICHELLE KOEHL
Comal ISD
Canyon High School | KAREN HARRIS
San Antonio ISD
Young Women's Leadership Academy |
| SUSAN ROYAL
Floresville ISD
Floresville South Elementary | LISA RAE RIOJAS
Somerset ISD
Somerset Elementary | KATHLEEN HOSKINS
East Central ISD
Legacy Middle School | CORINNE WALL
School of Science & Technology
Discovery |
| LISA NEWBERRY
Kerville ISD
Nimitz Elementary | ELAINE VALENZUELA
Uvalde ISD
Robb Elementary | RAMON BURUATO
Floresville ISD
Floresville Middle School | MICHAEL HERRERA
Schertz-Cibolo-UC ISD
Steele High School |
| VERONICA GOLDBACK
San Antonio ISD
Ben Franklin Elementary | MICHELLE CANDLAND
Alamo Heights ISD
Alamo Heights High School | TERESA PEÑA
Judson ISD
Secondary Alternative | KAREN MORALES
Somerset CISD
Savannah Heights Intermediate |

2016-2017 TRINITY PRIZE FOR EXCELLENCE FINALISTS

- | | | |
|--|--|--|
| ALAMO HEIGHTS ISD
Eric Cruz, English teacher and creative writing director, Alamo Heights HS | LACKLAND ISD
Russell Keller, Visual arts and design teacher, Virginia Allred Stacey Junior-Senior HS | SOUTH SAN ANTONIO ISD
Gloria Galvan, 5th grade bilingual teacher, Price ES |
| BOERNE ISD
Craig Lenard, Agricultural mechanics and welding teacher, Boerne HS | MARION ISD
Donna Paschal, Algebra II, pre-AP algebra II, foundations of college math, Marion HS | SOUTHSIDE ISD
Claudia Rios-Wright, 1st and 2nd grade teacher and 2nd grade team leader, Heritage ES |
| COMAL ISD
Ashley Jackson, 4th grade teacher, Garden Ridge ES | NORTH EAST ISD
Ali Goljahmofrad, High school coach and math teacher, Theodore Roosevelt HS | SOUTHWEST ISD
Ana Jaramillo, 5th grade bilingual teacher, Elm Creek ES |
| EAST CENTRAL ISD
Erin Hawthorn, World history, U.S. History, and AP human geography, East Central HS | NORTHSIDE ISD
Suzanne Diou, Counselor, Charles L. Kuentz Jr. ES | THE WINSTON SCHOOL OF SAN ANTONIO
Roger Dillard, Upper school science teacher, robotics sponsor and coach, golf coach |
| FORT SAM HOUSTON ISD
Brenda Marafioti, Photo and journalism teacher, Cole Middle and High School | RANDOLPH FIELD ISD
Deborah Magnon-Nolting, Social studies teacher and department chair, Randolph HS | UVALDE CONSOLIDATED ISD
Tammie Sinclair, Special education case manager, department head, ELAR co-teacher, Morales Junior HS |
| HARLANDALE ISD
Ann Brown, Dual credit biology, current biology, and chemistry, STEM Early College HS | SAN ANTONIO ISD
Karen D. Harris, 6th - 8th grade science teacher, Young Women's Leadership Academy | |
| JUDSON ISD
Paul Fenoglio, Mathematics teacher, Karen Wagner HS | SOMERSET ISD
Amanda White, 8th grade English language arts teacher, Somerset Junior HS | |

The Grammy Foundation 2016 MUSIC EDUCATOR AWARD FINALIST

Out of 4,500 initial nominations, Judson ISD's Bonnie Anderson was selected as a top ten finalist for the Grammy Foundation's Music Educator Award. This is the second year Coronado Village Elementary's Marimba Group has performed live for our forum. We appreciate Bonnie Anderson, Judson ISD, and marimba parents for lending us your talented students.



Photo by Judson ISD



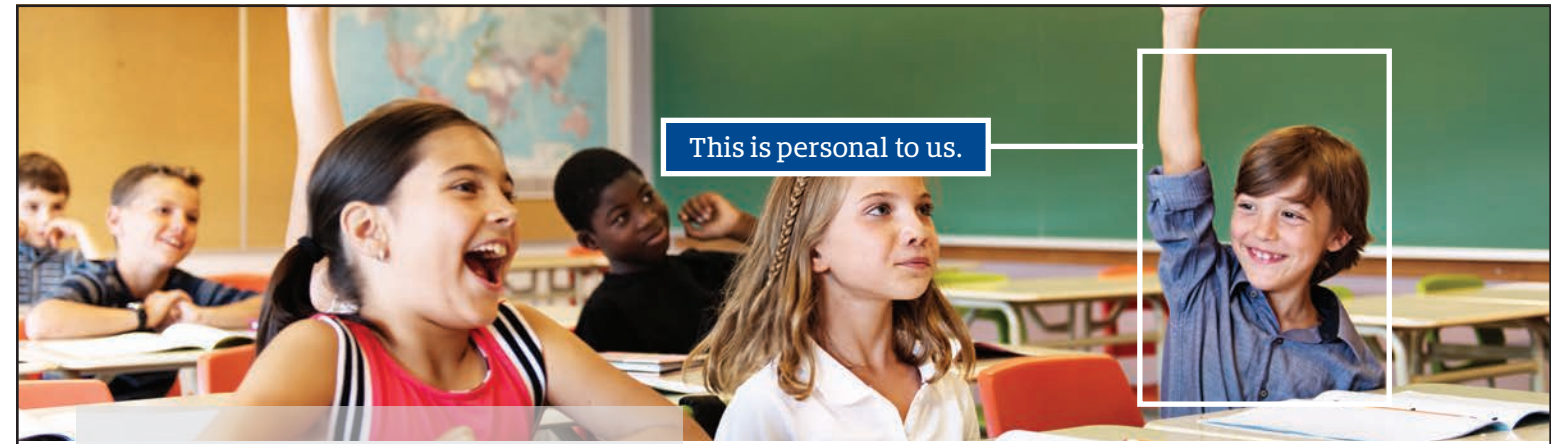
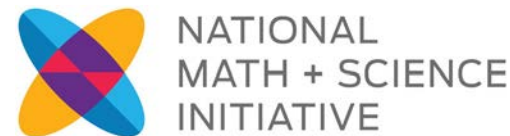
2015-2016 Trinity Prize Winners

Carol Marie Hudson, a kindergarten teacher at Henry T. Brauchle

Elementary School in the Northside Independent School District, and Calvin W. Lambert, senior Naval and JROTC science instructor at Uvalde High School in the Uvalde Consolidated Independent School District.

Courtesy of Trinity University

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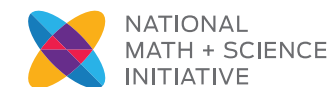
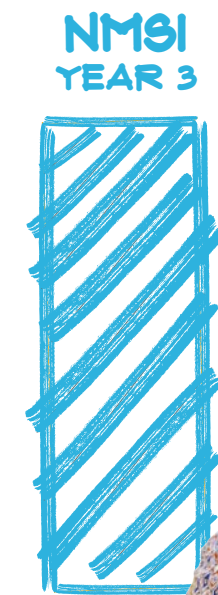
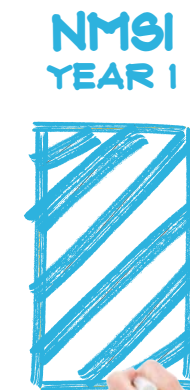
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ALAMO HEIGHTS ISD: POWERED BY THE PROFILE



The Alamo Heights ISD Profile of a Learner is at the heart of Heights. Crafted in the Fall of 2015, by a team of teachers, administrators, community members and students, the Profile of a Learner depicts all that we hope to achieve through the AHISD learning experience.

EMPLOY SKILLS FOR LIFE

- Develop strong work ethic and exhibit professionalism
- Take risks, accept challenges and value the learning that comes from failure
- Demonstrate adaptability and flexibility in an ever-changing world
- Apply learning to real-world situations
- Effectively manage time, assess progress and evaluate results
- Display grit and resilience in the face of challenge
- Exhibit exceptional character

DEVELOP A HEALTHY SENSE OF SELF

- Engage in self-reflection to understand one's personal strengths and unique gifts
- Recognize and address personal needs and challenges
- Make thoughtful choices that cultivate fulfillment and a balanced life
- Take responsibility for personal choices, actions and mistakes
- Develop and nurture healthy, loving relationships
- Live a physically healthy life
- Openly express themselves with humility and vulnerability

SEEK KNOWLEDGE AND UNDERSTANDING

- Exhibit intellectual curiosity
- Master a broad, rich curriculum
- Actively construct and demonstrate knowledge and skills
- Inherently value their own learning
- Nurture lifelong enthusiasm for learning
- Maximize resources to expand their learning environment

ALAMO HEIGHTS LEARNERS:

ENGAGE SOCIALLY AND GLOBALLY

- Model a spirit of mutual respect for all
- Understand their relationship and responsibility to society
- Value diversity as a strength
- Understand and engage in local, national and global issues
- Exhibit responsible digital citizenship
- Communicate effectively in more than one language
- Add value to the world through service

THINK CRITICALLY AND CREATIVELY

- Approach the world and others objectively
- Evaluate evidence and question assumptions
- Challenge existing mindsets and ways of thinking
- Identify, frame and solve multidimensional problems

COMMUNICATE AND COLLABORATE

- Speak and write with clarity and purpose
- Graciously give and receive constructive feedback
- Listen compassionately to support others
- Listen to decipher meaning
- Assume shared responsibility in collaborative work
- Value the contributions of others
- Balance individual goals with group goals
- Work flexibly as leaders and contributors



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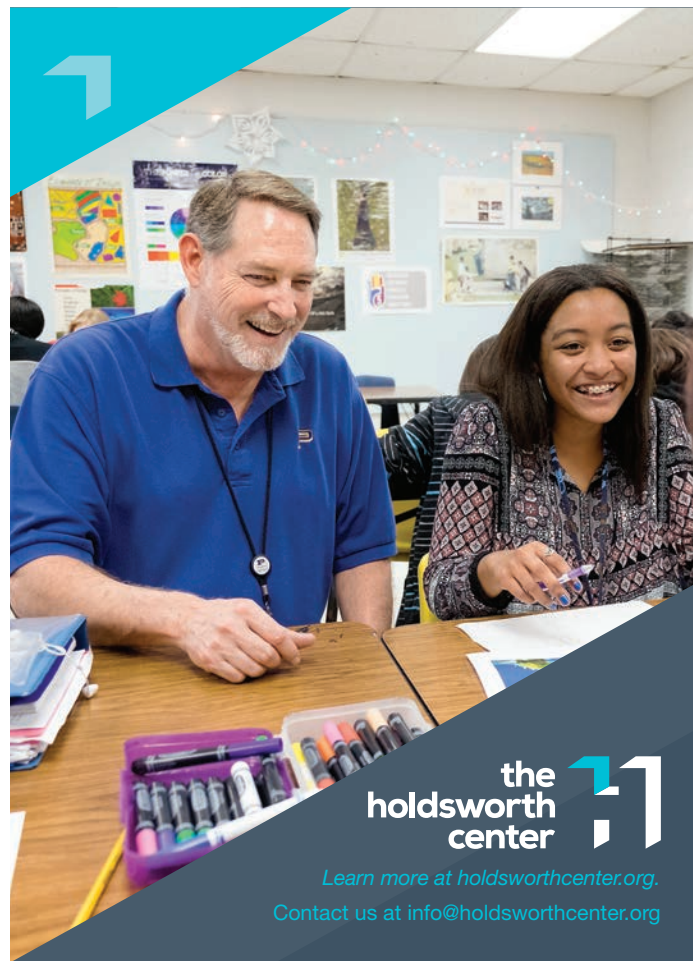
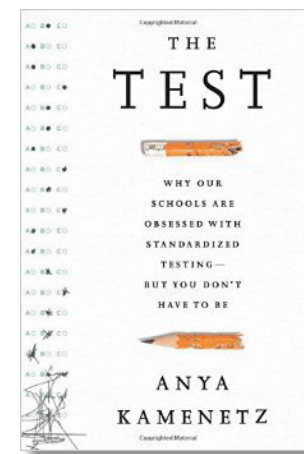
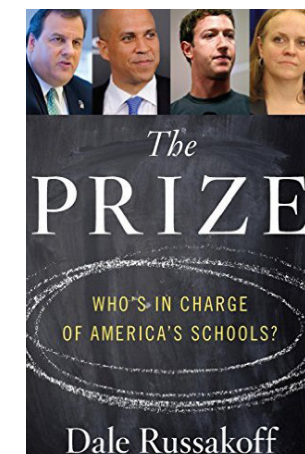
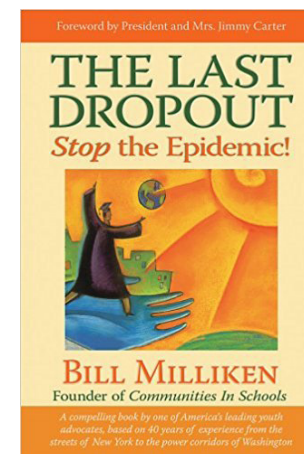
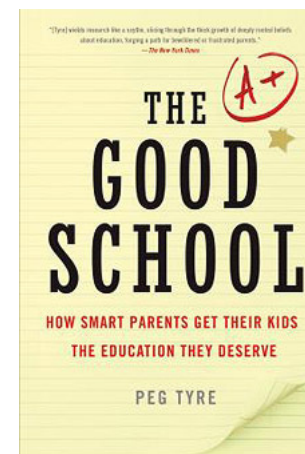
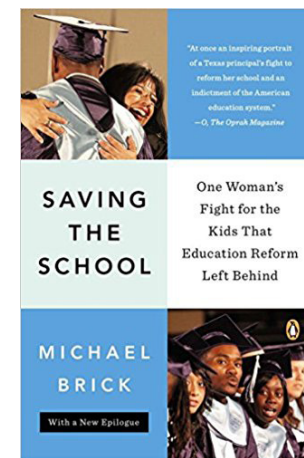
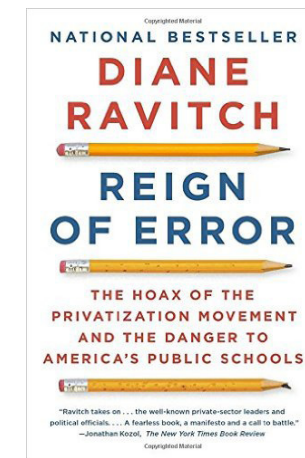
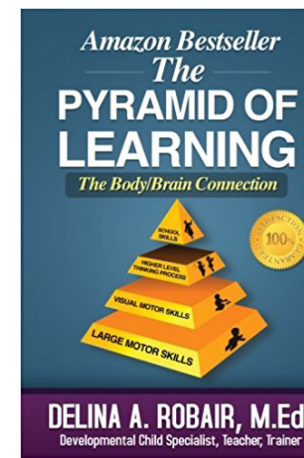
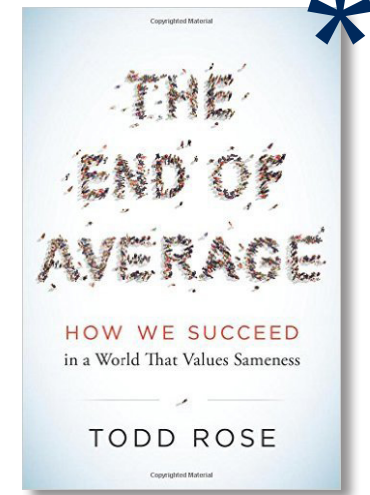
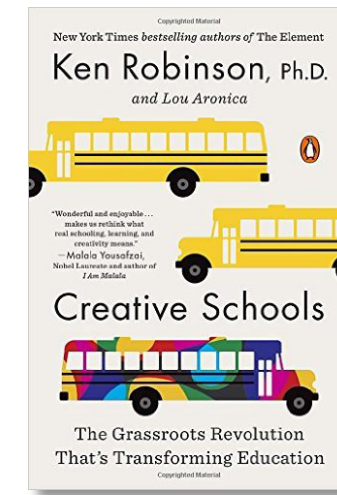
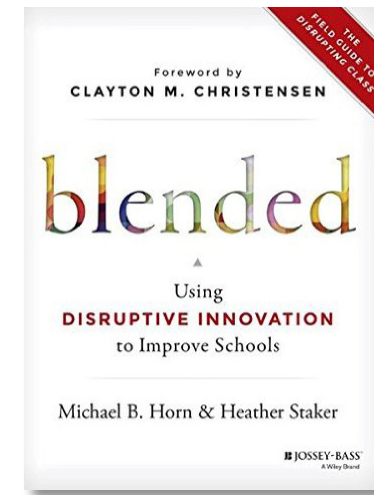


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Leadership is a journey, not a destination.

Founded by Charles Butt, the Holdsworth Center's mission is to support and develop public school leaders in order to improve, over time, the quality of education for all Texas students.

The Holdsworth Center will:

- Work with districts over a 3 to 5-year period to empower leaders to reach their fullest potential
- Help districts establish a road map for cultivating future leaders
- Offer a unique set of experiences including international travel and exposure to the best leadership experts in the country
- Focus on topics such as aligned systems and structures, personal leadership, change leadership and effective teaming
- Provide a serene setting that promotes reflection, thought and dialogue



Learn more at holdsworthcenter.org.
Contact us at info@holdsworthcenter.org

* Gift to all forum attendees from Raise Your Hand Texas.



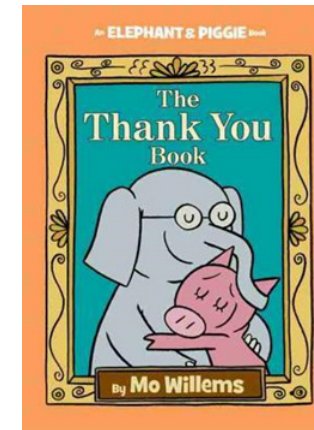
As an employer constantly seeking out top-talent, and as a socially responsible corporate citizen, supporting STEM education-related programs is the cornerstone of Tesoro's community investment strategy.



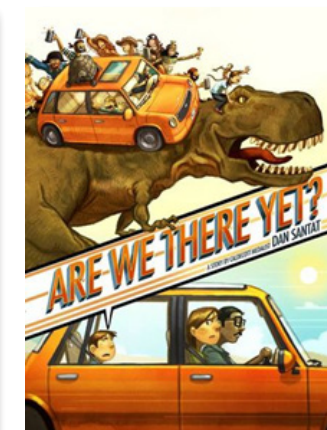
"There are worse crimes than burning books. One of them is not reading them."

Joseph Brodsky

RECOMMENDED BOOKS FOR CHILDREN



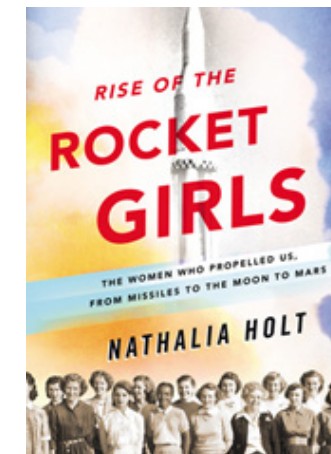
EARLY CHILDHOOD



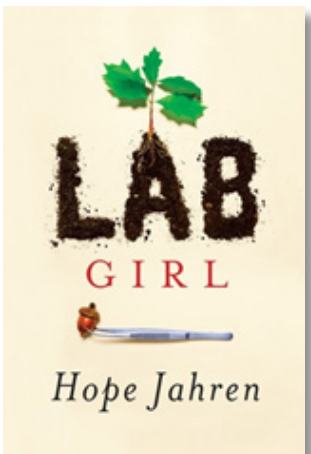
MIDDLE SCHOOL



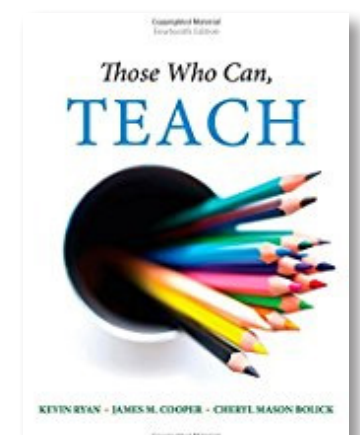
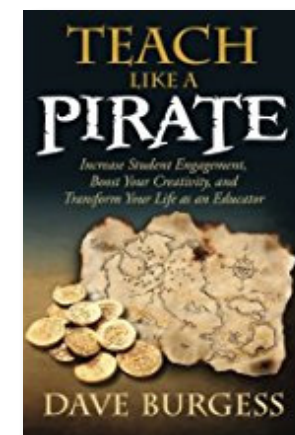
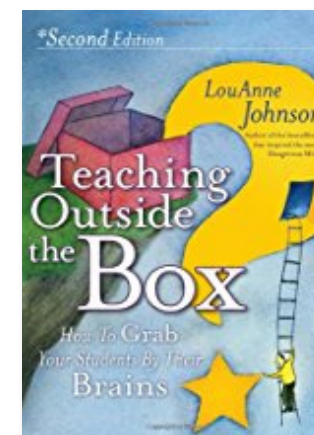
MIDDLE SCHOOL



HIGH SCHOOL



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RIVARD REPORT - A SAMPLING OF EDUCATION ARTICLES

Photos by Scott Ball



Local 'Nature Schools' Cultivate Life, Learning Skills
Bekah McNeil 3.14.17



SAISD Hopes to Attract 'Master Teachers' with \$15K Bonuses
Daniel Kleifgen 3.12.17



Latest Local Cyberbullying Case Contains Valuable Lessons
Bekah McNeil 3.13.17



New Public Library Branch to Open Its Doors on the Eastside
Bekah McNeil 3.24.17



Educate Texas Calls for Better Teacher Preparation
Bekah McNeil 3.23.17



UTeachSA Bridges the Gaps in the STEM Pipeline
Bekah McNeil 3.17.17



AHISD Responds to Bullying by Aiming For a 'Culture of Empathy'
Bekah McNeil 3.9.17



Understanding the Promise of Dual-Language Education in SAISD
Mary Field 3.9.17



The Challenges and Opportunities of 'Public Education 3.0'
Bekah McNeil 3.6.17

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To commemorate David Robinson's tireless efforts and contributions to education, and to celebrate his personal and professional successes, the Team & Family at IDEA Public Schools is honoring their board member and Carver Academy founder with The David Robinson Museum



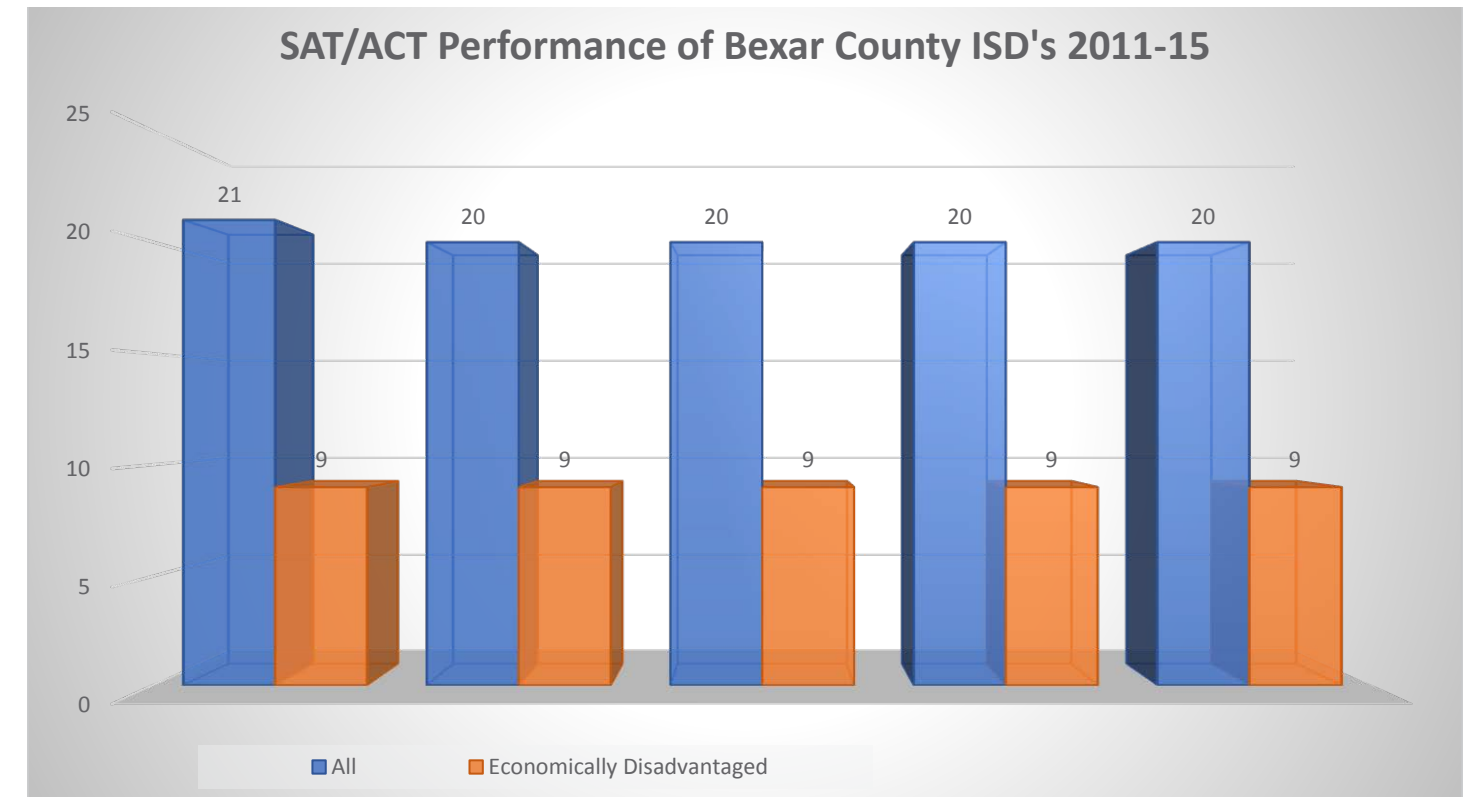
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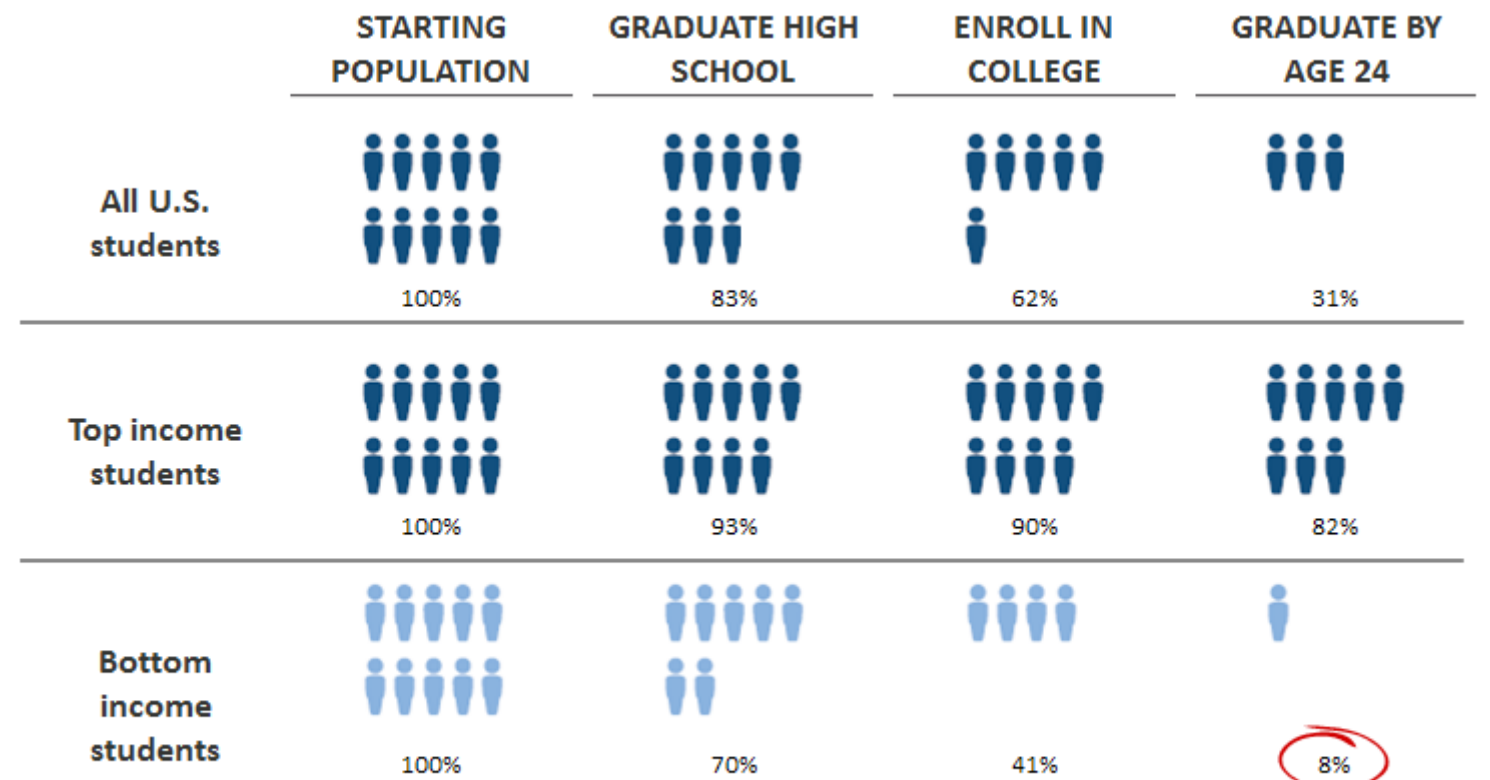
210.882.0842 | dejah.behnke@ideapublicschools.org



When you hear about the incredibly low percentage of San Antonio students who after 12 years of school are "College Ready", this is what is meant.

The percentage of examinees who scored at or above the criterion score (1110 SAT Math and Reading or 24 on ACT composite) on EITHER test. SAT max is 1600. ACT max is 36 (And only about 60% of Bexar students takes these tests)

Source: Texas Academic Performance: TEA



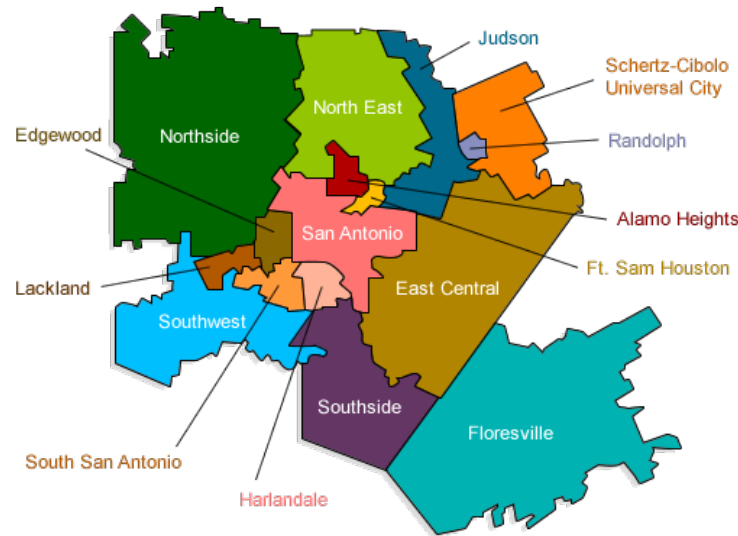
Low-income students earn degrees at a rate of 1/10th their high-income peers



Go Public is a non-profit 501 (c) (3) like no other in the country. Sixteen San Antonio-area Independent School Districts came together and formed the Go Public campaign to promote the wonderful things happening every day in public education. With schools focused on educating students, Go Public provides support in educating parents and the community about the benefits of public education.

Under the direction of its Steering Committee and Executive Director, the campaign highlights the myriad of choices and opportunities that contribute to a student’s success in life. Go Public showcases ISDs’ countless programs, academic achievements and extracurriculars utilizing media and social media. The 2016-2017 school year saw the 3rd Annual Heroes for Health community-wide partnership with members of the military, SAPD and SAFD and the brand new monthly, “Cool Schools” with KSAT’s SA Live.

The purpose of Go Public is not to root out and correct the faults of public education. We will leave that to others. Instead, 16 San Antonio-area independent school districts have come together with this singular goal: To inspire everyone — whether you have kids or not, whether you went to public school or not — to take a collective step back and celebrate the wonderful, heartwarming, life-altering things happening EVERY DAY in public schools.



ISD	SUPERINTENDENT	# SCHOOL	# STUDENTS
Alamo Heights	Dr. Kevin Brown	6	4748
East Central	Roland Toscano	12	16,000
Edgewood	Dr. Emilio Castro	20	12,000
Floresville	Sherri Bays	5	4,000
Ft. Sam Houston	Gail Siller	2	1,546
Harlandale	Rey Madrigal	31	15,324
Judson	Dr. Carl Montoya	32	72,972
Lackland	Dr. Burnie Roper	2	956
North East	Dr. Brian Gottardy	75	68,205
Northside	Dr. Brian T. Woods	115	102,129
Randolph	Lance Johnson	3	1,134
San Antonio	Pedro Martinez	91	53,857
Schertz-Cibolo-Universal City	Dr. Greg Gibson	16	15,000
South San Antonio	Dr. Abelardo Saavedra	16	10,000
Southside	Mark Eads	9	5,300
Southwest	Dr. Lloyd Verstoeyt	17	13,519

NORTH EAST INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT Brian G. Gottardy, Ed.D., Superintendent of Schools



North East ISD is the second largest school district in San Antonio. It spans approximately 133 square miles in the north central and northeast sectors of Bexar County. The majority of the District lies within the boundaries of the city of San Antonio, but several smaller communities are also encompassed within NEISD, including the cities of Castle Hills, Hill Country Village, Hollywood Park and Windcrest.

Total student enrollment is projected to be approximately 66,400, for the 2017-2018 school year, at its 46 elementary schools, 14 middle schools, 7 traditional high schools, 1 alternative high school, and 11 magnet schools and programs. NEISD’s magnet schools and programs target multiple areas of study and include:

- Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) Academy at Nimitz Middle School and Lee High School
- International School of the Americas (ISA) at Lee High School
- Krueger School of Applied Technologies (KSAT) at Krueger Middle School
- Agriscience Magnet Program (AMP) at Madison High School
- Design and Technology Academy (DATA) at Ed White Middle School and Roosevelt High School
- Electrical Systems Technology (EST) at MacArthur High School
- Engineering Technology Academy (ETA) at Roosevelt High School
- Automotive Technology Academy (ATA)
- North East School of the Arts (NESA) at Lee High School

All campuses are fully accredited by the Texas Education Agency. In addition, the District has a national exemplary after-school program at every elementary and middle school through its Adult and Community Education department.

NEISD has a long-standing tradition of excellence serving the community for more than 65 years. The District believes in the importance of providing a 360-degree education, meaning that in addition to core curriculum a robust selection of extracurricular programs is important to foster well-rounded students and global citizens. NEISD also seeks the highest quality staff and takes every effort to be good stewards to its community. The results are in the numbers, and NEISD is proud of some of its most recent accomplishments.

STUDENT PERFORMANCE

- NEISD’s 2016 graduates received \$58.7 million in scholarship offers. Almost 90 percent planned to attend a two-year, four-year, trade, technical or business school/ institution.
- In 2016, the District graduated 856 Summa Cum Laude students, completing high school with a 100+ grade point average.

EMPLOYEE EXCELLENCE AND FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT

- NEISD teachers on average have about 12 years of teaching experience and are among the highest paid in Texas.
- Over the past five years, the District has refinanced more than \$747 million of its outstanding bonds, saving taxpayers more than \$140 million in future debt payments.

Like us at: [facebook.com/NorthEastISD](https://www.facebook.com/NorthEastISD) Follow us at: twitter.com/neisd Visit us at: <http://www.neisd.net>
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IMPORTANT PK-12 PUBLIC EDUCATION INITIATIVES IN SAN ANTONIO



Insure that every child dramatically improves their educational success in school, college and career within Bexar County. Convene and facilitate educational enhancing efforts to inspire and prepare our communities' families and students for success.

Charlie Amato, Chair
Bartell Zachry, Founding Chair
Judy McCormick, Executive Director



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Shari Albright, Chair, Department of Education, Trinity University



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Working to attract the nation's best public charter schools to San Antonio. Our mission is to ensure that every family has access to exceptional, tuition-free public education options.

Victoria Rico, Founder
Steve Lewis, Chair



Teach For America corps members and alumni are helping lead an educational revolution in low-income communities across the country.

Laura Saldivar Luna, San Antonio Executive Director



Our mission is to surround students with a community of support, empowering them to stay in school and achieve in life.

Jessica Weaver, CEO



Establishes a positive trajectory for educational attainment by providing a child with a complete experience that ensures academic excellence in school inspiring students to develop love for learning & to become contributing members of society.

Sarah Baray, CEO



Led by 16 San Antonio-area Independent School Districts and co-chaired by Kim

Lubel, CEO of CST Brands, Lowell Tacker, Principal at LPA, Inc. and David Crouch, Vice President of Toyota Motor Manufacturing Texas, Go Public is inspiring people across the region to take a step back and celebrate the positive and sustained impact public schools make on all of us. All residents— whether they have kids in school or not— have reasons to love and support our public schools.

Lisa Losasso Jackson, Executive Director



We are a community of youth development leaders. Our members provide out-of-school Time (OST) services to young people and their families. Working together, our goal is to make San Antonio the top U.S. city for youth to learn, grow, and thrive. Program Director, Ryan Lugalía - Hollon

IMPORTANT PK-12 PUBLIC EDUCATION INITIATIVES IN SAN ANTONIO



The Witte Museum promotes lifelong learning through innovative exhibitions, programs, and collections in natural history, science and South Texas heritage. Lifelong learning is demonstrated in our daily activities, both inside and outside the museum. The Witte Museum embraces its venerable history, at the same time showing a bold front symbolizing the community's future.

Marise McDermott, President & CEO



San Antonio's only museum just for children where kids learn by doing, creating and tinkering—instead of just looking and listening. As an institution committed to fostering a lifelong love of learning among children. The DoSeum offers a diverse array of programs for children ages 0-10.

Julie Huls – CEO



Educational Services

KLRN is the Emmy-Award winning Public Television station for South Central Texas broadcasting to a 30-county radius. The mission of KLRN is to use the power of communications to provide quality programs and services which advance education, culture and community, to enrich the lives of people throughout our community. It is its “beyond television” strategy that forms KLRN's educational outreach model — to prepare children for kindergarten and academic success; to impact the quality of care; and to provide

Arthur Emerson, CEO

Lisa McGrath, KLRN Education Specialist



Provides the “Ready from Day One”—our Educator Preparation and Certification Program prepares candidates

to be ready for teaching in the classroom on day one. The School Leadership Consortium (SLC) is able to complete a Master of Arts degree in Educational Administration that can lead to principal certification. These programs focus on teaching practices that will prepare candidates to become highly effective teachers.

Dr. Eric López, Dean, College of Education & Human Development



The experience will inspire the youth of today to discover scientific and technical principles relevant to their everyday lives. Students will learn about careers in science that they might never have considered. Ultimately, they will come away with the feeling that “science is cool!” and “I can be an aeronautical engineer, neurologist or an electrical engineer!”

Bonnie Baskin – Founder, CEO



IDEA is one the highest performing charter school networks in Texas. Founded in the Rio Grande Valley 15 years ago, IDEA has successfully pursued its mission to make college for all children a reality.

Founders: Tom Torkelson (CEO) and JoAnn Gama
Rolando Pablos - Executive Director, San Antonio



Mission is to provide students the finest education and moral formation available anywhere in the world. We operate a network of high-performing K-12 public charter schools staffed by exemplary teachers and founded upon the classical ideals of truth, goodness, and beauty. Our students are prepared for success in higher education and to be leaders in creating a more philosophical, humane, and just society.

Dan Scoggin, Co-Founder and Superintendent

Wade Dyke - CEO

Aaron Kindle - Texas Superintendent



A part of the national KIPP network of free, open-enrollment, college-preparatory

public schools dedicated to preparing students in underserved communities for success in college and life. KIPP is a partnership among parents, students, and teachers that puts learning first with the major goal of college graduation.

Mark Larson – Founder/CEO



Nationally recognized for a successful instruction model, Carpe Diem educates, empowers, and equips students with the knowledge and skills necessary for college, career and life long success. Carpe Diem Schools promise to deliver exceptional results.

Robert Sommers – CEO



College Advising Corps works to increase the number of first-generation college going, low-income, and/or underrepresented

students who apply, enter, and complete college. CAC, with its partner universities, places well-trained recent college graduates as full-time college advisers in underserved high schools. We believe that every student deserves the opportunity to enter and complete higher education.

Nicole Hurd - Founder and CEO



The mission is to promote excellence in education for all students in Bexar County by improving the governance and collaboration among the 20 ISDs wholly or partially in Bexar County, Texas. Major goals are: Improve Governance; Identify Common Legislative Priorities; Collaborate on Areas of Commonality

Robert Blount, Jr. - President



City Year helps bridge the gap between what students need to succeed and how public schools are designed and resourced. As full-time, near-peer tutors, mentors, and role models, City Year AmeriCorps members tutor students one-on-one, provide in-class academic and behavior support, and organize school-wide initiatives to improve school culture proven to move high-potential students back on track to graduation.

Michael Brown – Co- Founder/CEO

Kelley Hughes Burton - VP and Executive Director



Led by United Way of San Antonio and Bexar County, Eastside Promise Neighborhood is a collaborative efforts impacting San Antonio's east side. Inspired by the Harlem Children's Zone and funded by the U.S. Department of Education, it focuses on achieving

results on Ten Promises to the community, all focused on improving education opportunities for youth and strengthening families and the neighborhood.

Mike Etienne, Ph.D., Director



Goal is to close the college graduation gap for San Antonio by helping its students graduate from high school, enroll in college, and

earn a college degree and/or certificate. The Partnership delivers its key services each year through three programs: Road to Success, the San Antonio Education Partnership Scholarship and cafécollege.

Adriana Contreras – Executive Director



San Antonio Public Library's early literacy program, designed to support the development of young children's love of books, reading and learning. Services are provided free of charge at public libraries, childcare facilities, schools and community-based organizations.

Cresencia Huff - Manager



Promotes the literacy skills of San Antonio's at-risk youth using SAYL Reading Budding Program, an early intervention program. SAYL trains volunteers to work one-on-one with elementary school children who are reading below grade level.

Deborah L. Valdez, Ed.D. – Executive Director

IMPORTANT PK-12 PUBLIC EDUCATION INITIATIVES IN SAN ANTONIO



MISSION: To empower students to achieve at globally competitive levels with our transformative K-12 academic program. BASIS schools

offer students something no other American public school does: An education that prepares them according to the highest, most rigorous international standards. Our schools have been ranked consistently among the best schools in the United States—and the world. The BASIS Primary School academic program includes humanities, math, science, Mandarin, art, music, drama, and physical education. The Upper School, which serves grades 8-12, offers an accelerated science and liberal arts program. New schools are in the Medical Center and North Central San Antonio.

Dr. Peter Bezanson - CEO



The Alamo Academies is a national award winning, innovative, STEM-based

instructional model operated by the Alamo Area Academies Inc., a non-profit organization, in partnership with the Alamo Colleges, San Antonio area high schools, industry and the cities of San Antonio, New Braunfels and Seguin providing America's youth with tuition-free career pathways into critical demand technical STEM occupations.

Gene Bowman – Executive Director



of San Antonio

Girls Inc. of San Antonio works to inspire all girls to be strong, smart, and bold. The organization equips girls to navigate gender, economic, and social barriers to grow up healthy, educated, and independent. Girls build confidence and embrace positive

decision-making to take charge of their health and wellbeing, and to achieve academic, personal, and career goals.

Lea Rosenauer, President & CEO



Provides comprehensive out-of-school programs that keep children safe and help them achieve in school and life. Focused on developing skills in one of more of the following areas: Technology, Education, Life Skills, Sports, Culture. More than 3,000 children from Bexar County have participated in 50 different programs since its launch.

Dr. Patricia Karam, Executive Director



Big Brothers Big Sisters of South Texas

For more than 100 years, Big Brothers Big Sisters has operated under the belief that inherent in every child is the ability to succeed and thrive in life. As the nation's largest donor and volunteer supported mentoring network, Big

Brothers Big Sisters makes meaningful, monitored matches between adult volunteers ("Bigs") and children ("Littles"), ages 6 through 18, in communities across the country. We develop positive relationships that have a direct and lasting effect on the lives of young people.

Denise Barkhurst - CEO



ACADEMICA
An Education Service Provider

Academica is one of the nation's longest-serving and most successful education service organizations, providing professional services and related support

to nearly 150 public charter schools. A pioneer in the charter school movement, Academica was founded in 1999 on the principle that each school of choice is a unique educational environment governed by an independent Board of Directors best qualified to forge its path to student success.

Fernando Zulueta - CEO



The Scobee Education Center aims to carry on the Space Shuttle Challenger crews educational mission - to spark interest and joy in science, technology, engineering and math. The Scobee Education Center is dedicated to enriching the lives of children and adults alike by fostering a love of science and astronomy through hands-on and minds-on experiential education.



Families EMPOWERED

Our mission is to empower families to engage in a marketplace of schools — that is, to understand their school options and choose the right school for their child. We do this by providing families with tools and resources for selecting a school and helping them navigate the application process to get there. We do not advocate

for any one schooling option over the other.

Colleen Dippel – Founder
Marek Bruckner Coordinator, San Antonio



A community challenge started by President Obama encouraging city leaders, including SA Mayor Ivy R. Taylor, to implement a coherent life-impact strategy. This national

initiative is designed to help boys and men of color reach their full potential regardless of life's circumstances. Locally, MBKSA will coordinate with other strategies that connect youth with opportunity and help young people build healthy relationships with themselves, their families and their community.

Mayor Ivy Taylor & Dr. Mike Etienne
Co-Chairs of Steering Committee



Texas Aquatic Science is a pathway for water science education providing educators a complete curricula and teaching guide aligned with TEKS and integrated with experiential place based field sites, mobile and interactive technologies, and comprehensive

on-line teaching options. Developed by Meadows Center for Water and Environment, Harte Research Institute for Gulf of Mexico Studies, and Texas Parks and Wildlife. Originated through funding by the Ewing Halsell Foundation. Texasaquaticscience.org

Dr. Rudy Rosen – project director.



CAST Tech High School, opening in August 2017, will be a career-themed school focusing on coding, cyber

security, gaming, entrepreneurship, business and more. Located near the city's downtown Tech District on the Fox Tech campus, the school will work hand-in-hand with industry partners to prepare students for careers in technology and business, where the demand is high for skilled workers.

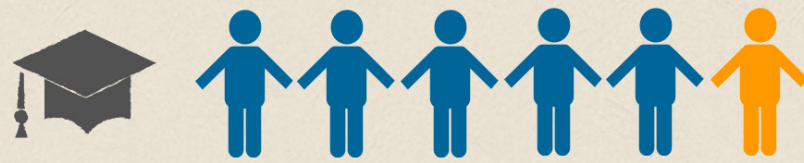
Kelly Flieger, Principal

To teach a person how they may learn to grow independently, and for himself, is perhaps the greatest service that one man can do another.

Benjamin Jowett



The Need for SAYL



1 in 6 children who are not reading proficiently in 3rd grade do not graduate from high school on time.

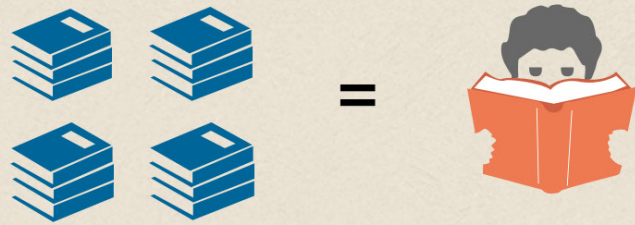
That's a rate **4x** greater than that for proficient readers.

In San Antonio, every **4 minutes** a student drops out.



In middle-income neighborhoods the ratio of books per child is

13 to 1



40%

of Bexar County inmates do not have a high school diploma.

68%

of people who are arrested for all crimes in the U.S. are illiterate.

While in low-income neighborhoods, the ratio is only **1** age appropriate book for every **300** children.



Research shows that young children who are not fluent readers by the end of 3rd grade may never catch up to their peers.

How Can You Help?

- ✓ **Give**

 - \$100 Purchases 10 Books
 - \$350 Supports 1 Student
 - \$1,000 Supplies for 1 School
- ✓ **Volunteer**

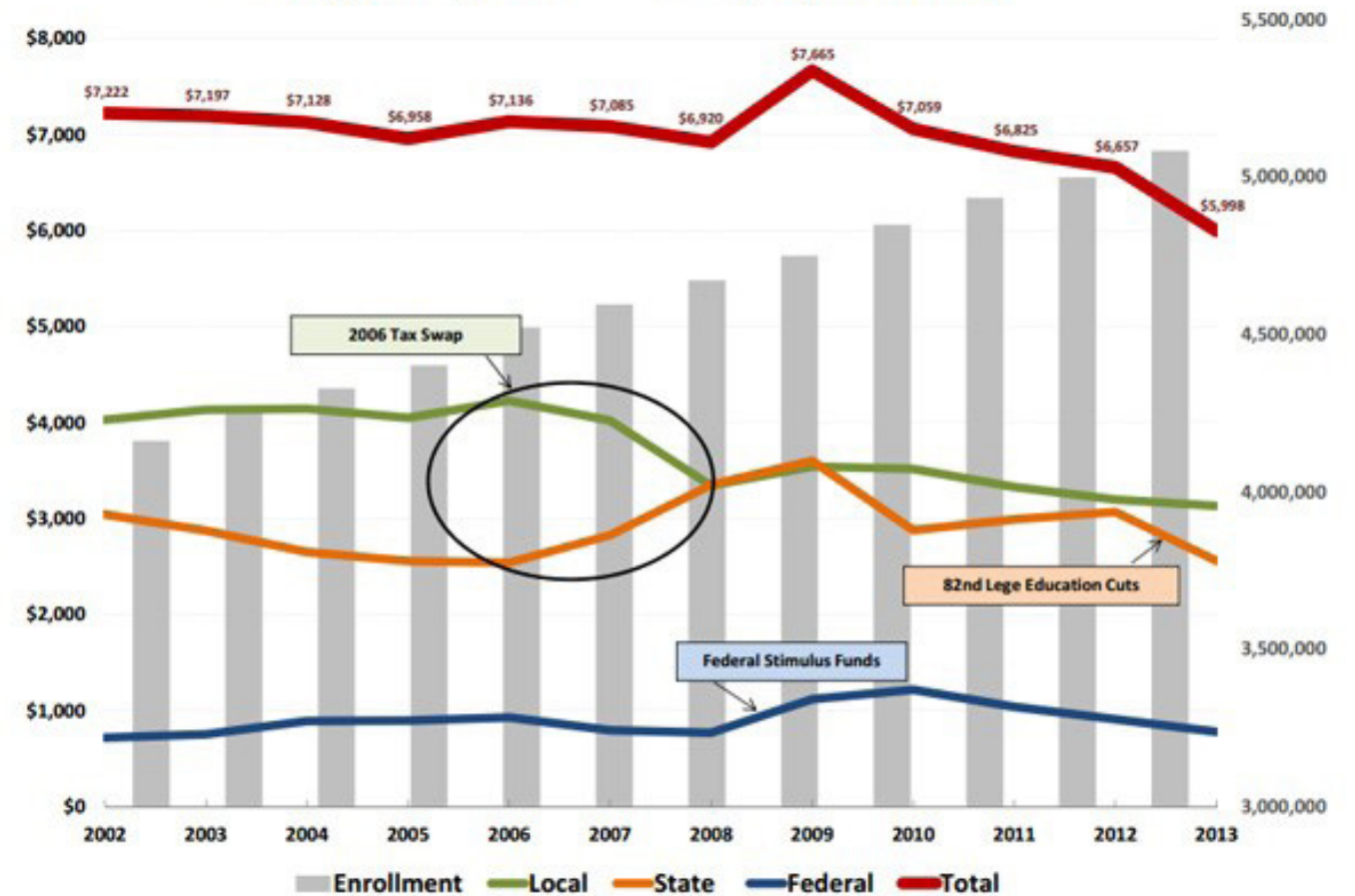
 - Become a Reading Buddy
 - Hold a Book Drive
- ✓ **Share**

 - Follow us on social media
 - Tell a friend, coworker, or family member about SAYL

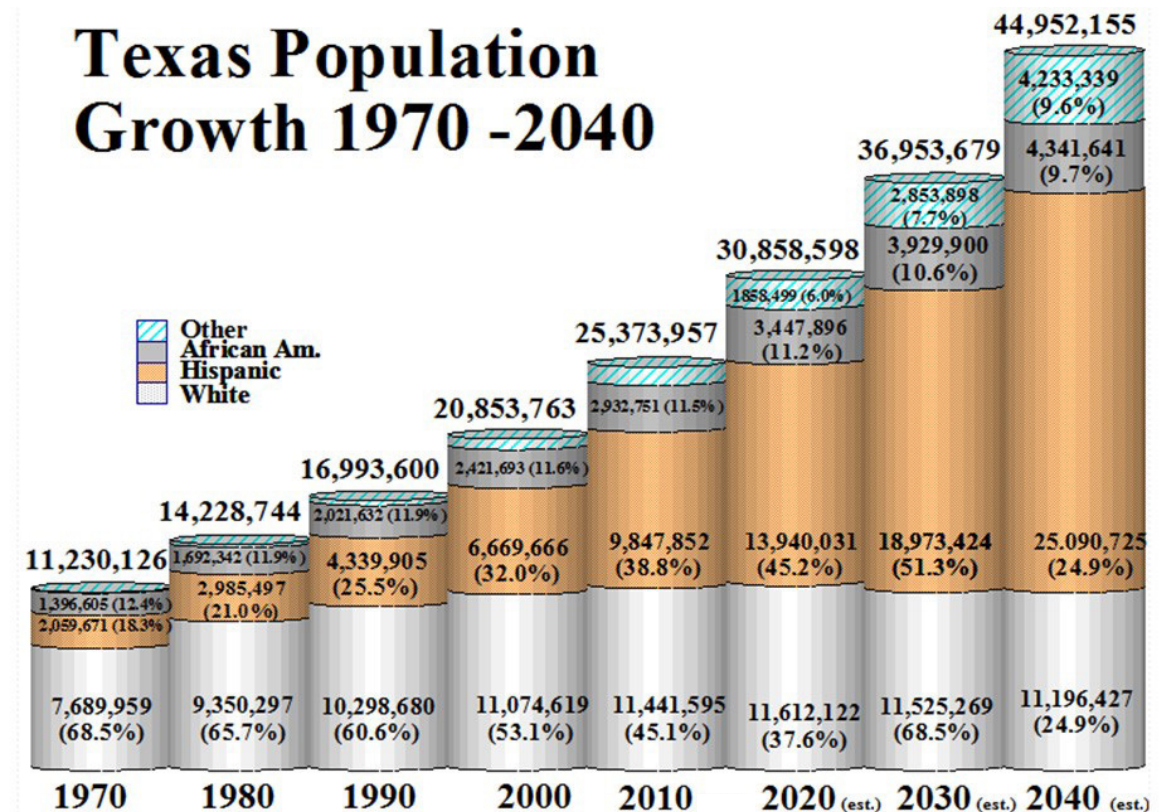
EVERYTHING IS BIGGER IN TEXAS...EXCEPT EDUCATION!

Texas Public Education Spending per Student

Source: Legislative Budget Board corrected for inflation: 2004 dollars



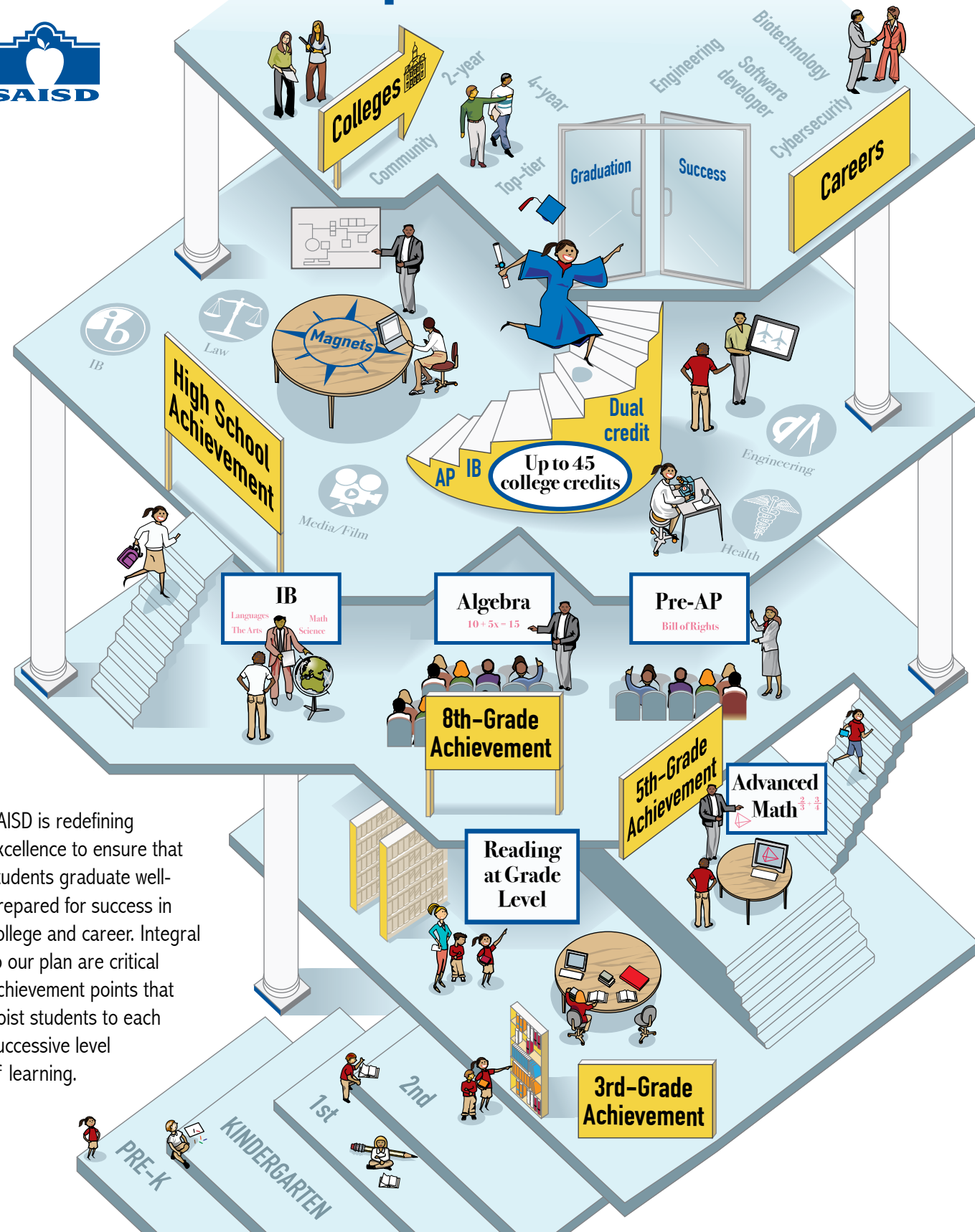
Texas Population Growth 1970 -2040



San Antonio Youth Literacy

www.sayl.org | 210.299.1533 | @SAYouthLiteracy

SAISD'S Blueprint for Excellence



SAISD is redefining excellence to ensure that students graduate well-prepared for success in college and career. Integral to our plan are critical achievement points that hoist students to each successive level of learning.

Supported by Pillars of Success: Academic Excellence. Talent Management. Culture Shift. Stakeholder Engagement. Fiscal Management.

SAISD Transformative Efforts

Last school year, San Antonio ISD launched efforts to redefine excellence for students, and in the process, transform the District into a national model for other urban school systems. The District established measurable academic goals to ensure accountability and progress by 2020. Year 2 is focused on implementation—putting in place the systems and conditions needed for Districtwide excellence.



2016-17 Initiatives

Talent Management

- Created new role of Master Teacher and launched extensive recruiting efforts internally and externally for 250+ highly skilled teachers with a track record of achieving high levels of student success.
- Partnered with universities to create lab schools, where aspiring teachers are paired with Master Teachers while they work toward certification and graduate degrees.
- Partnered with universities to offer graduate degree programs to elevate literacy instruction and increase the number of teachers credentialed to teach dual-credit and Advanced Placement courses.
- Launched the New Leaders Aspiring Principals program to create a strong pipeline of principals.

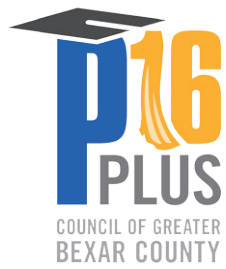
Innovation in Schools

- Launched in August the Advanced Learning Academy for highly motivated students, in partnership with Trinity University.
- Preparing to launch August 2017:
 - CAST Tech, a career-themed high school focusing on technology, entrepreneurship and business, located near the city's downtown Tech District.
 - Steele Montessori Academy, the only public Montessori school in San Antonio.
 - Twain Dual Language Academy, providing dual English and Spanish immersion for the entire student body.
 - Ogden Elementary, a lab school in partnership with the Relay Graduate School of Education. Master teachers will serve as mentors to resident interns working toward their certification, while providing students with a customized and challenging learning environment.
 - Lamar Elementary School's conversion into an in-district charter, to include project-based learning, civic engagement, social-emotional learning, a dual language program and an extended school day and year.

Expanding What Works

- Increased the number of International Baccalaureate programs to five campuses: currently one IB World School and four IB-candidate schools, spanning elementary, middle and high school. More campuses are expected to be added.
- Added 6th grade to 11 elementaries – a first step to increase the number of PK-7 or PK-8 schools. Studies show students benefit both socially and academically by staying longer in the elementary school environment. Next year, 11 more elementaries will add a 6th grade.





2017 BEXAR COUNTY COMMUNITY SCORECARD

CRADLE TO CAREER MILESTONES

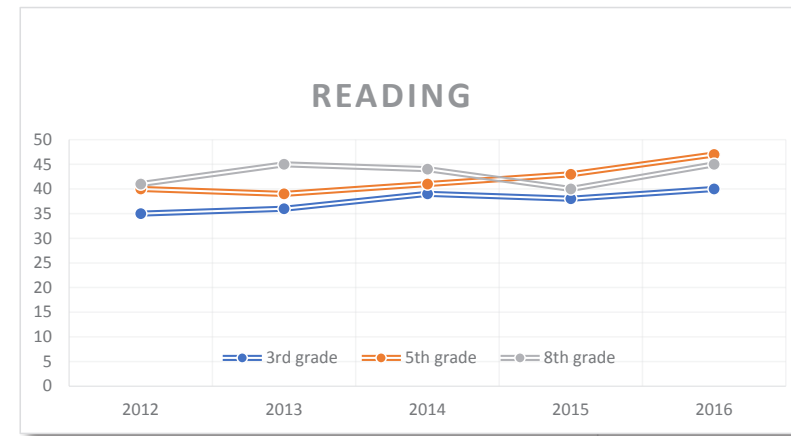
Indicator	Status (2015-16)	Improvement in % points	
		since 2011-12	since 2014-15
Kindergarten Readiness ¹	<i>pending</i>	<i>pending</i>	<i>pending</i>
Third Grade Reading ²	40% of students met grade level performance	↑ 5%	↑ 4%
Eighth Grade Math ²	28% of students met grade level performance	↓ 1%	↓ 2%
High School Graduation ³	90% of adjusted cohort graduated in four years	↑ 5%	↑ 1%
Post-Secondary Enrollment ⁴	47% of graduates enrolled in TX post-secondary institutions	↓ 3%	↓ 2%
Post-Secondary Attainment ⁵	38% of 25-34-year-olds have a certificate or above	↑ 2%	— 0%

Join us for our full scorecard release on April 18 from 9-11 am. Visit www.p16plus.org for details.

Sources, definitions, and additional data disaggregations can be found on our website.



1. United Way of San Antonio and Bexar County, CI:Now; data not available at time of printing
 2. Texas Education Agency Student Assessment, 15 ISDs, 2016; final recommended level 2 (post-secondary readiness) standard
 3. Texas Academic Performance Reports, 15 ISDs, 2015; federal four-year graduation rate
 4. Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board, 2015; only includes TX institutions
 5. American Community Survey and THECB, 2015; includes Level I certificates



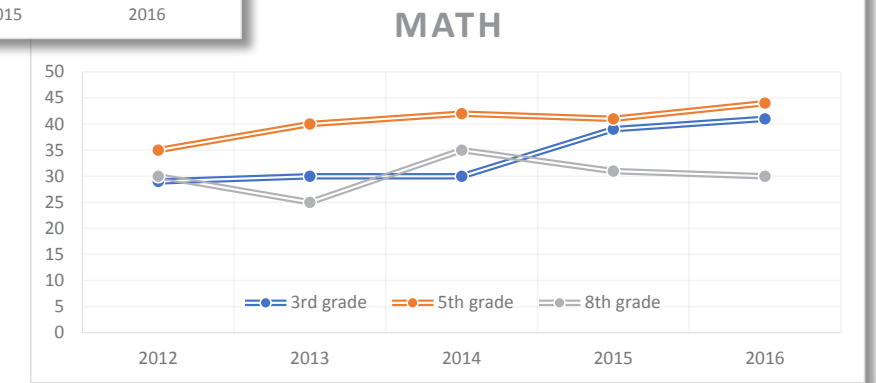
TEXAS STAAR PERFORMANCE

BEXAR COUNTY ISDs

Percentage of Students Meeting Grade Level

Math - 2016
 3rd Grade - 41%
 5th Grade - 44%
 8th Grade - 30%

Reading - 2016
 3rd Grade - 40%
 5th Grade - 47%
 8th Grade - 45%



CAST TECH HIGH SCHOOL



CAST Tech High School, opening in August 2017, will be a career-themed school focusing on coding, cyber security, gaming, entrepreneurship, business and more. Located near the city's downtown Tech District on the Fox Tech campus, the school will work hand-in-hand with industry partners to prepare students for careers in technology and business, where the demand is high for skilled workers. The school will also serve as a lab school for educator development with The University of Texas San Antonio. The school will open with 150 ninth graders and add a grade level each year.



The Committee Members are:

Tri-Chair: **Gavin Gallagher**, Chief Information Officer, H-E-B

Tri-Chair: **Deborah Carter**, Sr. Manager, Global Talent Development, Rackspace

Tri-Chair: **Matthew Reedy**, Executive Director, Innovation, USAA

Bill Phillips, SVP / Chief Information Officer, University Health System

Bret Piatt, CEO, Jungle Disk

David Heard, CEO of Tech Bloc & Chief Marketing Officer for SecureLogix

Dick Evans, Former Chairman & CEO, Frost Bank

Doug Mathes, Assistant Vice President for Technology Development, AT&T

Earl Eiland, Senior Engineer, root9B

Kate Rogers, Executive Vice President, Holdsworth Center

Kim Harle, Community Relations, Whataburger

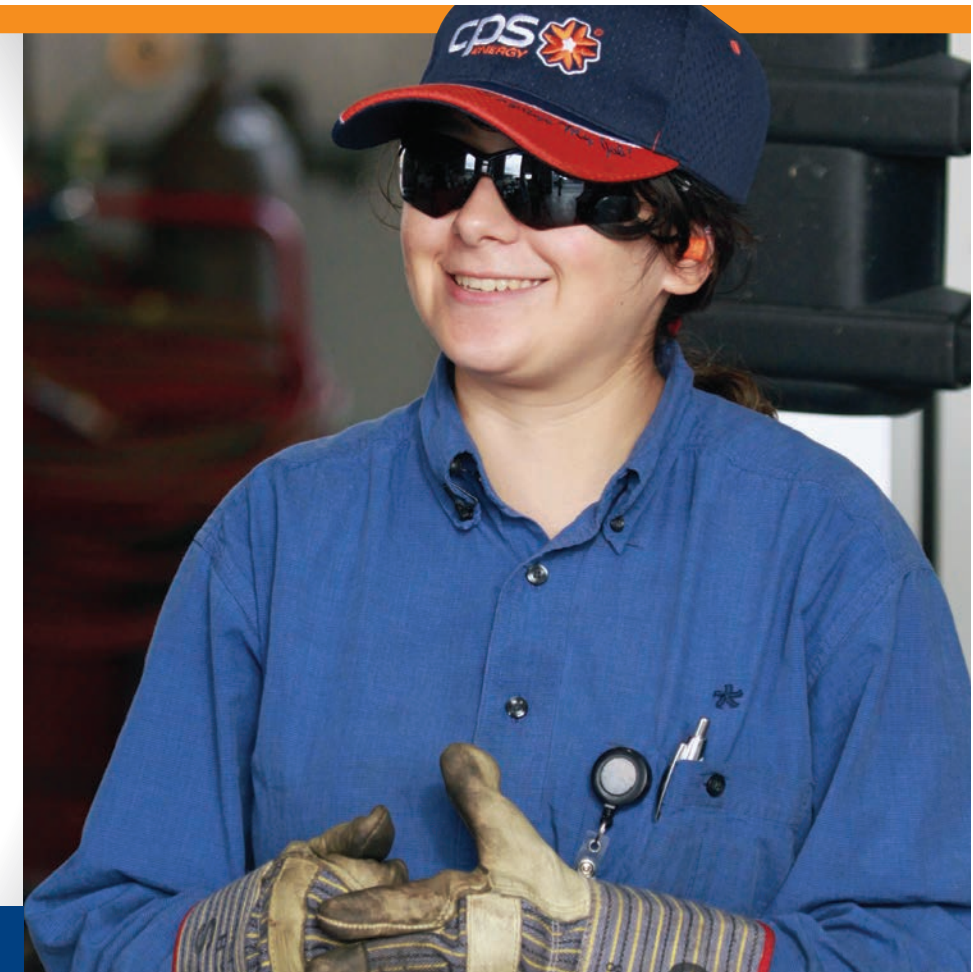
Lorenzo Gomez, Founder, Geekdom

Principal: Kelly Flieger

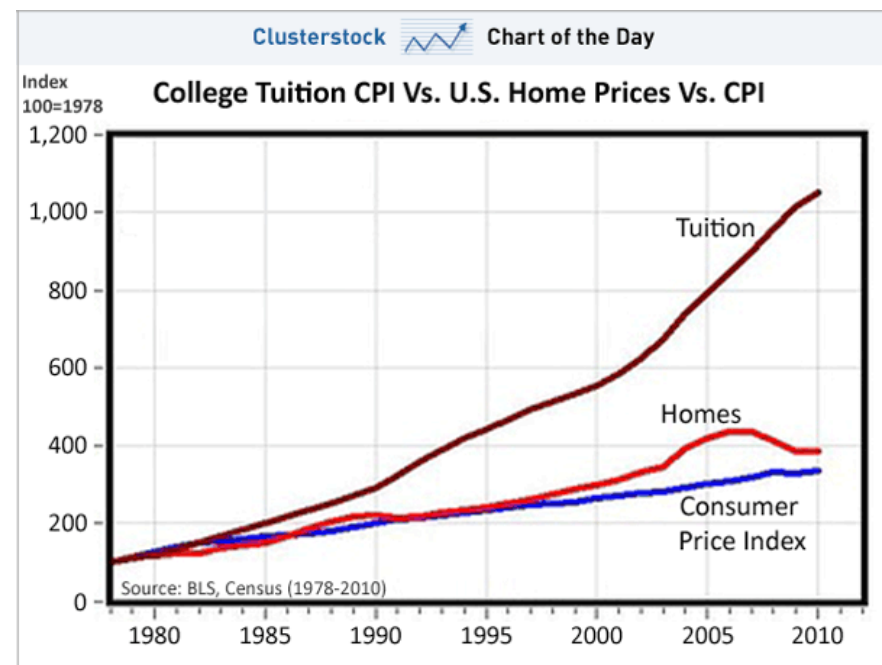
EXHIBITORS



Preparing our future leaders through targeted education, mentoring and internship programs.

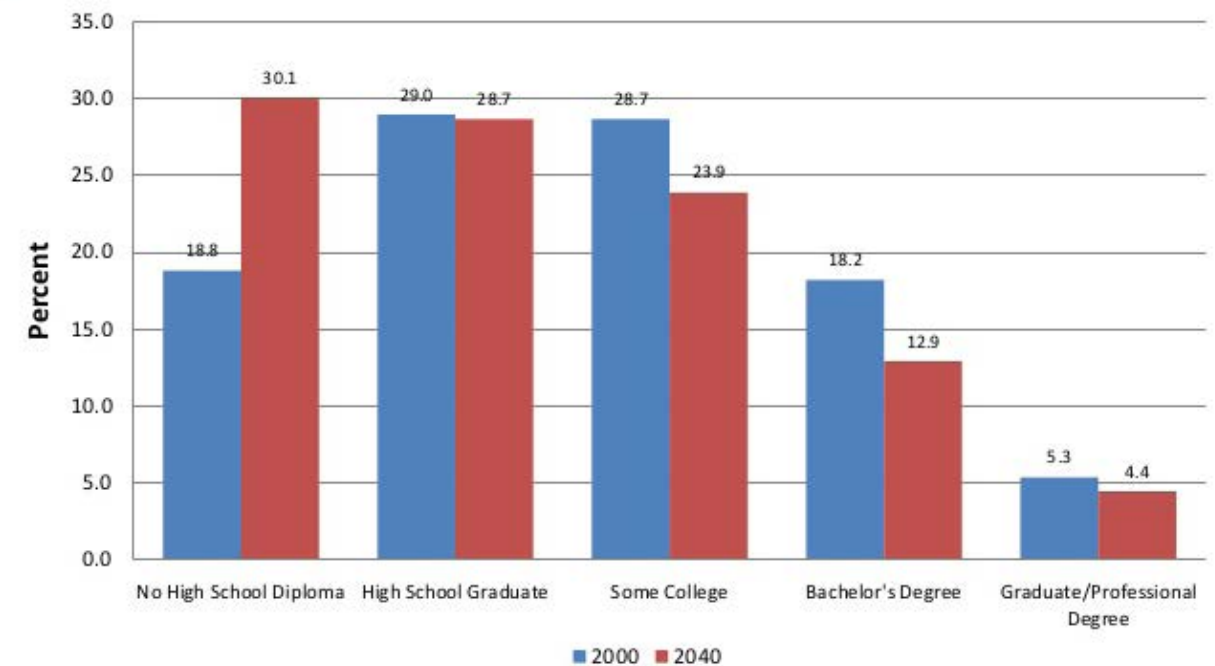


While housing went up 4x at its peak (~400), college tuition has gone up over 10x.



Projected Percent of Labor Force by Education Attainment in Texas, 2000 and 2040

Source: Texas State Data Center



We must prove our State demographers' forecast wrong!



CHAVEZ EXCEL ACADEMY OFFERS FLEXIBLE PATH TO DIPLOMA

Visitors to the Irene L. Chavez Excel Academy will often find confetti on the floor in the school office. It's not cause for a custodian; it's cause for celebration. Every time a student picks up their diploma, they are showered with confetti and an announcement of their success is made on the school intercom.

During the 2015-2016 school year, there were 312 opportunities for confetti as 312 students earned diplomas through the Excel Academy, a flexible program for high school students currently located on the Holmes High School campus.

"It's an academic alternative school, not a disciplinary alternative school," says Principal Darren Calvert.

"It's a different way to do academics for students with needs and challenges that keep them from attending school from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m."

In order to be eligible for the Excel Academy, students must reside in Northside ISD, be at least 17 years old, have earned at least 17 credits, and have passed their state exit-level exams. At Excel they can finish core course requirements in a rigorous, self-paced online program they must attend for at least five consecutive hours a day, five days a week. On average, it takes about three months for students to complete diploma requirements.

"It's a self-paced program, not a snail-paced program," says Calvert. For students at risk of dropping out of high school due to family, medical, or financial issues, it's a welcome choice.

Angel Raya was behind in course credits at his previous high school and was also working as an assistant manager at a movie theater. When he arrived at the Excel Academy, he wasn't self-motivated and took his time.

"But there really is no excuse here with the flexibility," Raya says. "I learned that the hard way when I didn't care as much. I started seeing my classmates graduate and thought 'what am I still doing here?' To me, the Excel Academy is freedom and independence. It's all on you."

Raya is now movie theater manager and is taking online courses at Northwest Vista College. He wants to become a police officer with the San Antonio Police Department.

"This place is about miracles," Raya says. "It will mature you."

Rayna Bolden had medical issues that affected her attendance at her previous high school. Her goal at the Excel Academy was to finish her remaining courses as quickly as possible and move on to college.

"Here, it's about what you want," Bolden says. "This place motivated me. There weren't as many distractions and I felt more in control of my education."

Bolden is now taking courses at Northwest Vista College and hopes to become an athletic trainer.

Both Bolden and Raya say the confetti celebration at Excel was an important milestone for them and their families, even though they also took part in traditional graduation ceremonies at Paul Taylor Field House.

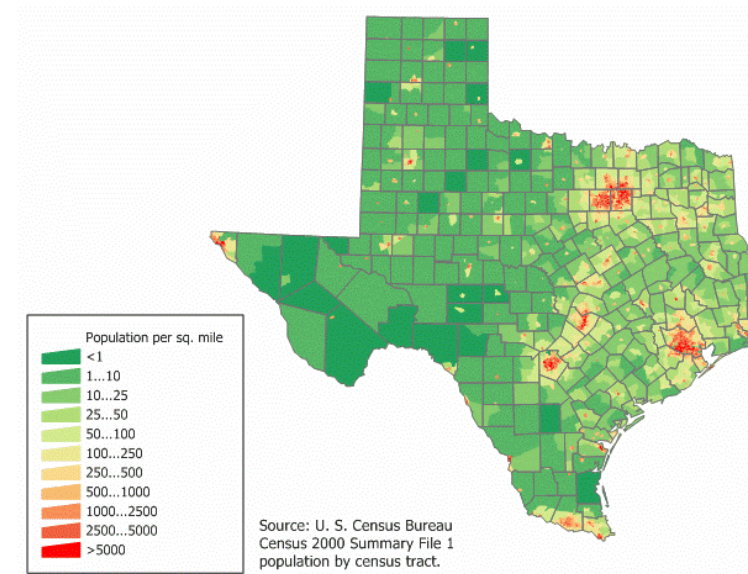
They also agree that the Excel Academy prepared them for college by putting them firmly in charge of their learning.

"We're a family at the Excel Academy," says Calvert. "We're for students, not against them. We know their names and we know their stories. We're about finding solutions and taking away barriers to earning diplomas. This school is all about moving forward and how we as educators can get students where they need to go."



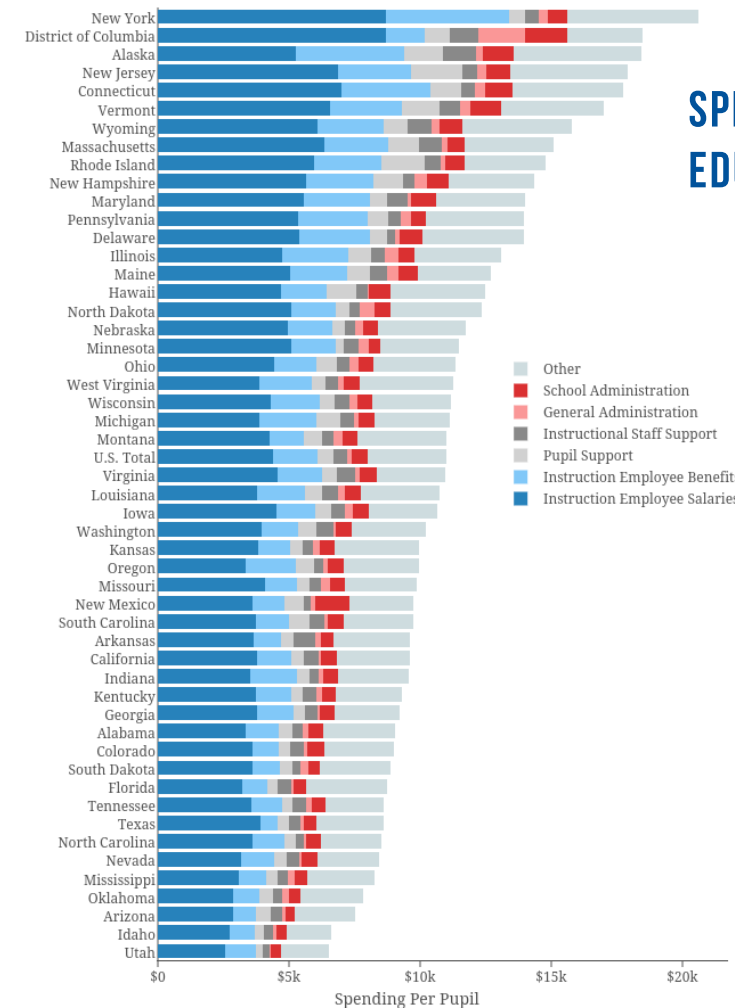
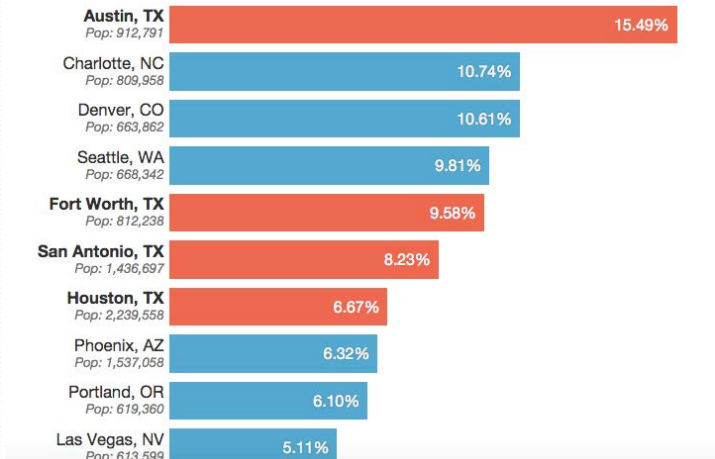
Pictured with Principal Darren Calvert (center) are graduates Rayna Bolden and Angel Raya.

ALMOST ALL TEXANS (88%) HUDDLED TOGETHER IN A TINY FRACTION OF A BIG STATE



Ten Fastest-Growing Cities in the U.S.

Between 2010 and 2014, four Texas cities were among the 10 fastest-growing cities in the U.S. for cities with a population larger than 500,000. Austin, the nation's fastest-growing big city, grew by nearly 16 percent.



SPENDING PER STUDENT ON K-12 EDUCATION BY STATE



"True teaching is one that not teaches knowledge but stimulates children to gain it."

Jill Eggleton

NOTE: Adult education, community services and other nonelementary-secondary program expenditures are excluded. Enrollments for state educational facilities and charter schools whose charters are held by nongovernmental entities are also not reflected in the totals.
SOURCE: U.S. Census Bureau 2014 Annual Survey of School System Finances

MANY KIDS NOT READY FOR KINDERGARTEN

Science Daily October 25, 2016

Many children are still learning to control their behavior as they enter kindergarten and may need educational support to develop that critical skill, indicates one of the most conclusive studies to date of early childhood self-regulation.

The federally funded study, co-authored by Michigan State University scholars, shows major differences in how self-regulation develops in children ages 3 to 7. While some enter preschool more able to control their behavior and ready to learn, others don't develop such self-control until they get to kindergarten -- or even later.

The findings come as preschool and kindergarten classrooms in the United States have shifted focus over the past few decades from social and emotional skills, such as self-regulation, to more academic skills. **The researchers suggest it may be time to put some of the focus back on self-regulation, widely accepted as a marker for future success.**

"If you can help children to develop this fundamental skill of behavioral self-regulation, it will allow these students to get so much more out of education," said Ryan Bowles, associate professor in MSU's Department of Human Development and Family Studies. "Self-regulation is very predictive of academic success."



Together with recent MSU graduate Janelle Montroy, Bowles and colleagues analyzed the data from three separate studies that measured the "Head, Toes, Knees and Shoulders" task, in which young children are instructed to do the opposite of what they're told. If they're told to touch their head, for example, they're supposed to touch their toes. This ability to do the opposite of what they want to do naturally and to stay focused for the entire task involves self-regulation.

A clear pattern emerged in each of the studies, with participants generally fitting into one of three trajectories: early developers, intermediate developers and later developers. On average, the later developers were 6-12 months behind intermediate developers and at least 18 months behind early developers. Overall, about a fifth of the 1,386 participants appeared to make few gains on behavioral self-regulation in preschool.

The study also found that development of self-control was linked to several key factors: gender (boys were more likely to be later developers), language skills and mother's education levels.

"It's well known that self-regulation is crucial to helping kids get an early jump on education, from math to literacy -- really all the skills they learn in school," Bowles said. "So the kids that develop later are really missing out on these great opportunities. They're already behind."

EDUCATION LEADERS SURVEY

CIS School and District Support Study, Summer 2016

BY THE NUMBERS

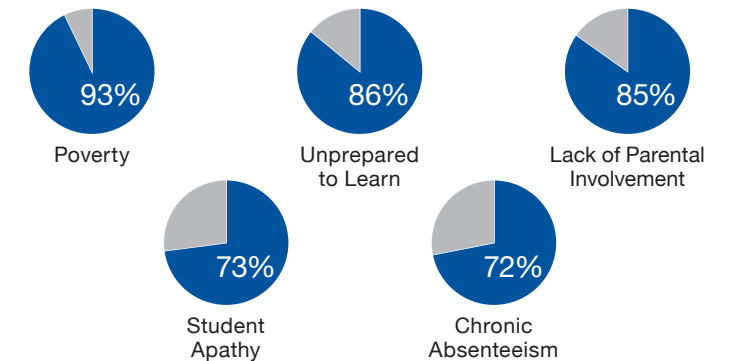
- 32 AFFILIATES participating
- 13 STATES and the District of Columbia represented
- 484 respondents including:
 - 361 TEACHERS
 - 100 PRINCIPALS
 - 23 SUPERINTENDENTS

100% OF SUPERINTENDENTS AGREED THAT CIS HELPED ADDRESS THE NEEDS OF STUDENTS IN THE DISTRICT AND ALIGNS WITH THE GOALS SET OUT FOR THE DISTRICT

SELECTED KEY FINDINGS

BARRIERS TO LEARNING

- **POVERTY IS THE MOST IMPORTANT ISSUE** facing the schools and districts that CIS serves.
- Other pressing issues that are also related to poverty – students coming to school **UNPREPARED TO LEARN** and a reported **LACK OF PARENTAL INVOLVEMENT** – were both in the top three problems for all respondents.



HOW CIS ADDRESSES BARRIERS TO LEARNING

- When asked the extent to which CIS helped address the barriers that schools face, respondents indicated that **CIS HELPED ADDRESS POVERTY MORE THAN ALL OF THE OTHER BARRIERS** (88% of teachers, principals and superintendents indicated that CIS helped with this problem either extensively or moderately).
- **TEACHERS** said that CIS helped address students coming unprepared to learn (90%), poverty (89%) and lack of parental involvement (83%).
- **PRINCIPALS** had the same top three in a different order – poverty (80%), students coming unprepared to learn (78%) and lack of parental involvement (74%).
- **SUPERINTENDENTS** focused on poverty (95%), as well as students dropping out (80%), a lack of parental involvement (80%) and chronic absenteeism (80%).



Poverty



Unprepared to Learn



Lack of Parental Involvement



Chronic Absenteeism



Dropout

<https://www.communitiesinschools.org/about/publications/publication/school-and-district-support-study>

“Upon the subject of education ... I can only say that I view it as the most important subject which we as a people may be engaged in.”

Abraham Lincoln

TEXAS 845TH LEGISLATURE EDUCATION SUMMARY

Education has been a topic of focus – and sharp disagreement – in the Texas Legislature this year. Five key issues include:

SCHOOL CHOICE AND VOUCHERS

Lt. Governor Dan Patrick began the session with “school choice” among his legislative priorities. Patrick filed SB3, which sought to fund homeschool and private school options for Texas parents through two public programs. The bill passed in the Senate 18-13; however, the House, believing rural districts with a dearth of private schools would not benefit from tuition vouchers, voted 103-44 to block SB3. School choice is unlikely to pass this session, but last October Patrick vowed to “fight for school choice session after session after session.”

PRE-KINDERGARTEN PROGRAMS

Improving pre-k education has long been one of Governor Greg Abbott’s top policy goals. In 2015 he championed HB4, which provided \$118 million in pre-k grants. In 2017, Abbott sought to double the program to \$236 million, but both the House and Senate have declined to renew HB4 funding at any level. Instead, their budgets include supplemental pre-k programs that provide schools greater flexibility in how they spend early learning funds.

ACCOUNTABILITY RATINGS

In 2015, Gov. Abbott signed a new school accountability system into place, which rates schools on an A–F scale in five areas, including two focused on STAAR test results. Advocates called for removal of the STAAR requirements and a greater emphasis on other factors. In late March, HB22 was passed unanimously by the House Public Education Committee, removing STAAR criteria and instead grading schools solely on student achievement, school climate, and student progress. HB22 also moves the start date of the A-F system from 2018 to 2019.

SPECIAL EDUCATION REFORM

In 2016, it was alleged that Texas had been allocating special education resources to only 8.5% of students in need statewide. Although the state denied this allegation, bills were introduced in the House in early April that would prevent any cap on the number of eligible special education students, better tailor graduation requirements for high schoolers in special education, and increase funds to support children with autism and dyslexia.

SCHOOL FINANCE REFORM

Last May, Texas Supreme Court ruled that the state’s school finance system was constitutional but suggested that reform was needed. In late March, HB21 – a \$1.6 billion school finance overhaul – was approved 10-1 by the House Public Education Committee. The bill would increase the amount of money the state sends to schools, with additional funding for schools with bilingual and dyslexic populations.

Summary provided by James Talarico



TEXAS EDUCATION LEGISLATORS

TEXAS SENATE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION



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Larry Taylor R
District 11: Brazoria, Galveston,
and Harris Counties



VICE-CHAIR

Eddie Lucio, Jr. D
District 27: Brownsville

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Kel Seliger R District 31 Big Spring
Van Taylor R District 8 Plano
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Gary VanDeaver R District 1 Texarkana





WE ARE SAREADS

"Creating A Culture Of Reading... One Book At A Time"

WE ARE SBRI

SAReads is creating San Antonio's newest teacher education channel focused on science-based reading instruction to systemically increase student reading proficiency.

IN TEXAS, APPROXIMATELY 20% OF MINORITY AND LOW INCOME STUDENTS ARE PROFICIENT IN READING BY FOURTH GRADE, COMPARED TO 49% OF THE STATE'S GENERAL STUDENT POPULATION.¹

Students at risk of reading failure have good prospects for success if they are identified early and taught properly using quality Science-Based Reading Instruction (SBRI).² SAReads is dedicated to providing quality SBRI programs to area schools as defined by the National Reading Panel's 2000 report that outlines effective reading programs and their use of science-based reading research.³

The SAReads Literacy Academy provides SBRI programs for preservice and classroom teachers, while supplementing student reading instruction with family engagement experiences. The SAReads Book Bank works to eradicate book deserts in San Antonio as well as enhance classroom libraries by giving thousands of books to students, teachers and nonprofits.

Sources: 1. NAEP Reading Score Card, 2015; 2. "Whole-Language High Jinks," by Louisa Moats, 2007; 3. "Teaching Children to Read," National Reading Panel, 2000.

EARLY MATH MATTERS—WHY IT'S IMPORTANT AND HOW TECHNOLOGY CAN IMPROVE OPPORTUNITIES FOR OUR YOUNGEST LEARNERS

By Alex Khachatryan, CEO and co-founder, Reasoning Mind

As an attendee at this year's Regional PK-12 Education Forum, I suspect you are already aware of the importance of high-quality early childhood education. You likely know about the research demonstrating its long-term benefits for our most vulnerable learners, including improved graduation rates, college attendance, employment opportunities, and earnings, to name a few. You may also have seen the longitudinal analysis suggesting that every \$1 spent on high-quality early education returns up to \$17 in value back to society.

But I'll bet there is one fact about early childhood you are not already aware of: the outsized importance of math.

Did you know, for example, that early math skills are the single greatest predictor of later academic success at both third and fifth grade? A 2007 analysis by Dr. Greg Duncan at UC Irvine looked at six longitudinal studies, and found that early math was more predictive of later success than reading, attention, and social-emotional behaviors. Moreover, the predictive power was not just limited to math—early math knowledge also predicted later reading success, and actually did so with even more accuracy than early reading ability. The data is clear: early math matters.

With this in mind, you might assume that our schools and early childhood centers have adequate resources for early math, but that assumption would be wrong. In comparison to reading and literacy solutions, there are relatively few quality educational tools focused on early math, and hardly any that are scalable, low-cost, and based on proven instructional pedagogy.

But this fall, that is going to change.

Reasoning Mind—the nonprofit I co-founded with my family in 2000—has just introduced its newest digital learning program for early mathematics, Blueprint. Designed for pre-kindergarten through first-grade students, Blueprint is a cloud-based, supplemental software program that covers the skills and knowledge essential to future success in math, such as numbers and operations, logical reasoning, measurement, geometry and spatial sense, algebraic thinking, and word problems. Students are immersed in a virtual world where they connect math to their everyday surroundings and build conceptual understanding through engaging animations, songs, exercises, and explanations. Like all our programs, Blueprint was developed using our acclaimed instructional approach that integrates international pedagogy and best practices. Best of all, teachers using Blueprint are empowered with meaningful data that helps them target interventions and address student needs more efficiently.



If we want Texas to remain competitive in the 21st century, when more and more jobs are STEM-related, we need to provide all children with a strong early foundation in mathematics. As you attend this year's forum of inspiring leaders and educators, we hope you will help us spread the word: early math matters!

To learn more, visit www.reasoningmind.org/blueprint.

Participating Partners



Visit SAReads.org or connect with us on social media to learn more about how we use data to drive implementation of SBRI programs in Bexar County.



EXCERPTED FROM: TEXAS A-F SCHOOL GRADES GIVE BOOST TO CHARTER

By Julie Chang, Melissa B. Taboada, Dan Hill - American-Statesman Staff 1.14.17



Traditional public schools for months have complained that the plan should be repealed, arguing that the letter grades provide little meaningful information to guide student learning and are meant to make traditional public schools look bad.

The A-F system, passed by the Legislature in 2015, is based largely on state standardized test performance. The Texas Education Agency is expected to make some tweaks to the system before it's put into official use, but as it stands now, schools and districts are graded in four areas:

- How students perform on the State of Texas Assessments of Academic Readiness.
- How students improve on the STAAR year over year.
- How well students are prepared for careers and college after high school.
- How campuses and school districts close performance gaps between low-income and higher-income students.

It's not clear why charter schools did better under the A-F system than the current system, but traditional public school advocates said that charter schools tend to "cherry pick" the students they admit and focus their coursework on doing well on standardized tests.

David Dunn, head of the Texas Charter Schools Association, says that's not the case, pointing out that many charter schools also performed poorly in the A-F advisory ratings.

"We're encouraged by the fact that there are fewer campuses compared to traditional ISDs at the D or F level," Dunn said. "But stepping back, bigger picture, none of us can be terribly pleased with the results. This rating system shows that the education system in Texas — writ large, whether you're in a charter or in a traditional school district, there's a lot of room for improvement, and we've all got a lot of work to do."

Critics of the new A-F grading system for Texas schools have long warned that the state's letter grades would give an undeserved boost to charter schools.

The advisory grades issued this month show how schools and districts would have performed for the 2015-16 school year if the A-F rating system already had been in place. Under the existing accountability system, charter schools that year were slightly more likely to have at least one failing mark than traditional public schools.

But traditional schools — not charters — were more likely to fail under the new letter grades, even though data from the same year were used to calculate them.

Just as defenders of traditional public schools had feared, the results of the advisory grades have emboldened those who support school choice — a blanket term for efforts to use public dollars to pay for alternatives to traditional public schools.

"Public education is at a crossroads. There are active people trying to truly dismantle the public education system in order to encourage privatization of our public schools," said state Rep. Mary González, D-Socorro, who has proposed legislation to repeal the A-F system.



In fact, we fairly fell off the wall trying to get back to the old tree we had used to climb up.

The author attempts to show —

- F)** that the children were not skilled at walking on the wall
- G)** how the children's actions resembled those of the monkeys
- H)** that the climbing skills of the monkeys were better than those of the children
- J)** how afraid the children were of the grandpa monkey

GRADE 7

Rita has a loan of \$45,580 with a simple interest rate of 4%/yr. What is the amount of interest that Rita will be charged on this loan at the end of one year?

- A)** \$47,403.20 **C)** \$18,232
- B)** \$11,395 **D)** \$1,823.20

Black walnut trees produce a nontoxic chemical that becomes highly toxic when it is exposed to air or soil. How does this chemical help black walnut trees compete with plants growing nearby?

- E)** By attracting herbivores to the other plants
- F)** By suppressing the growth of the other plants
- G)** By increasing the photosynthesis rates in the other plants
- D)** By limiting the amount of water available to the other plants

Ms. Brown had \$80 to purchase school supplies. She bought 32 glue sticks & 32 boxes of crayons. Each glue stick cost \$1.40 & each box of crayons \$0.59. How much money did Ms. Brown have left after these purchases?

- I)** \$16.32 **J)** \$18.88 **K)** \$63.68 **M)** \$35.20

GRADE 8

Which of these changes would likely occur if the rate of Earth's rotation on its axis increased?

- A)** The length of the seasons would be shorter.
- B)** The length of the seasons would be longer.
- C)** The length of a day would be shorter.
- D)** The length of a day would be longer.

What value of x makes the equation $-5x - (-7 - 4x) = -2(3x - 4)$ true?

- E)** $x=3$ **F)** $x=5$ **G)** $x=1/3$ **H)** $x=1/5$

Which was an argument made against slavery in the Thirteen Colonies?

- F)** Manufacturers argued that slavery discouraged the development of industry.
- G)** Farmers argued that using slave labor was expensive and inefficient.
- H)** Quakers argued that slavery violated Christian principles.
- J)** Puritans argued that the slave trade encouraged materialism.

HIGH SCHOOL

The primary objective of the Dawes Act was to —

- A)** promote cultural assimilation of American Indians
- B)** turn American Indian reservations into corporate farmland
- C)** end warfare between American Indians and the U.S. military
- D)** promote American Indian investment in private industry

So several of my dateless friends and me banded together and decided to go as a big group. What changes should be made in the sentence?

- F)** Change me to I
- G)** Insert a comma after together
- H)** Change decided to decide
- J)** No change should be made.

Four different nucleotides are used as building blocks of DNA. Which of the following can be used to distinguish one nucleotide from another?

- K)** The nitrogenous base
- L)** The shape of the deoxyribose sugar
- M)** The length of the phosphate group
- N)** The type of fatty acid

What value of x makes the equation $-5x(-7-4x) = -2(3x-4)$ true?

- F)** $x=3$ **G)** $x=5$ **H)** $x=1/3$ **I)** $x=1/5$

What was the initial response of the U.S. government to the attacks of September 11, 2001?

- O)** To impose economic sanctions on Libya for sponsoring terrorist activities
- P)** To begin military operations in Afghanistan
- Q)** To reopen military bases in Europe that had been closed after the Cold War
- R)** To form a coalition to eliminate training bases in Pakistan

Which expression is a factor of $36x^2 - 49$?

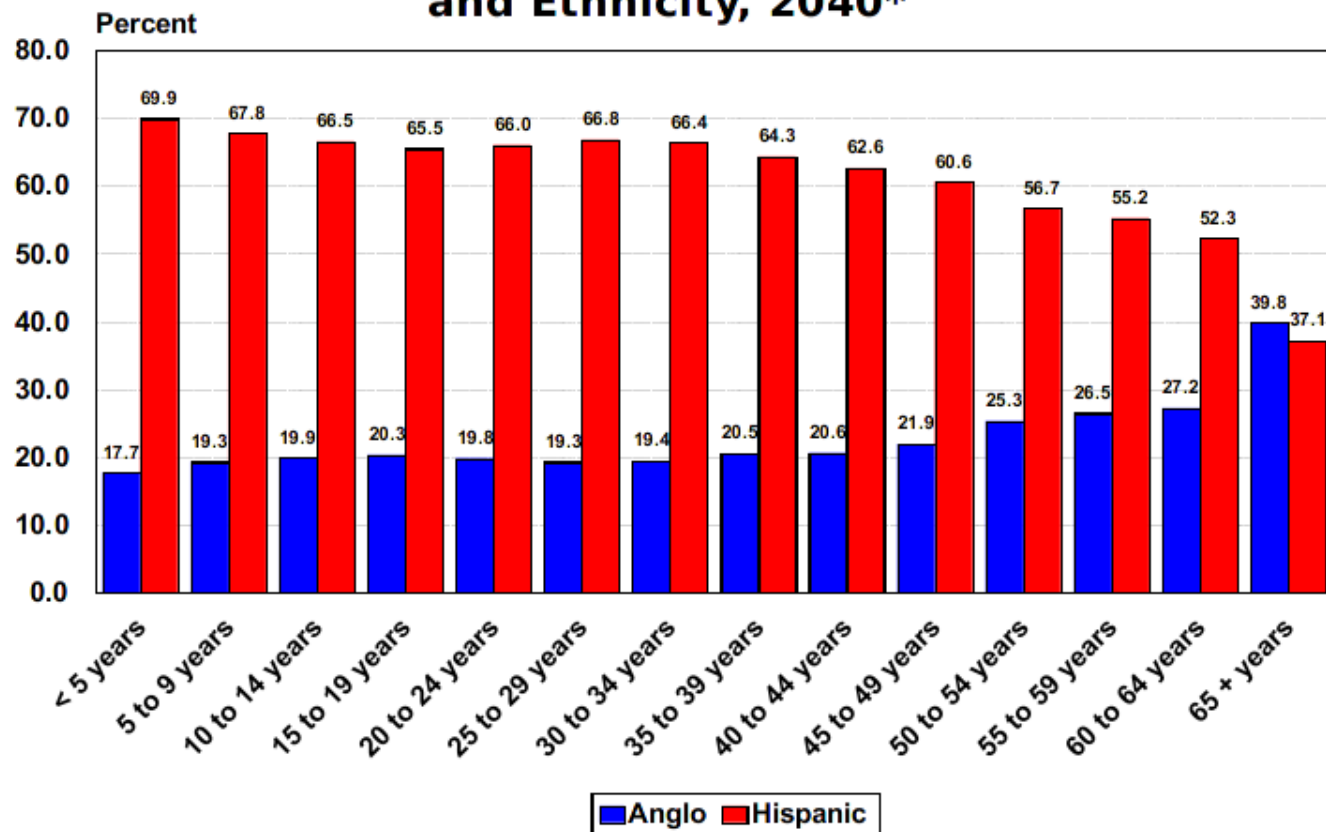
- S)** $18x-7$ **T)** $6x-49$ **U)** $18x-49$ **V)** $6x-7$

“The greatest sign of success for a teacher is to be able to say, The children are now working as if I did not exist.”

Maria Montessori



Percent of Texas Population by Age Group and Ethnicity, 2040*



* Projections are shown for the 1.0 scenario

Hobby Center for the Study of Texas at Rice University

STAAR Quiz Answers

GRADE 3 C	GRADE 6 Math: C Writing: J	GRADE 8 Science: C Math: E History: H	HIGH SCHOOL History: A English: F Science: K Math: F History: P Math: V
GRADE 4 D	GRADE 7 History: D Science: G Math: J		
GRADE 5 A H			



Brochure Design and Forum Graphics by Jodi Williams-Thomas www.deen-creative.com

TEXAS TRIBUNE ARTICLES ON EDUCATION

School leaders welcome proposed changes to A-F system



During a House Public Education Committee hearing, education experts and activists testified on legislation related to the state’s A-F accountability system for public schools and districts

<https://www.texastribune.org/2017/03/21/house-education-committee-takes-bill-would-revamp-f-system/>

Analysis: The Texas Legislature giveth — and taketh away

Local governments and school districts battling the Texas Legislature over property taxes have a couple of things in common: They want local control over taxes and a more reliable partner in the state government. By Ross Ramsey 3.8.17

<https://www.texastribune.org/2017/03/08/analysis-texas-legislature-giveth-and-taketh-away/>

School choice bill proponents, foes debate what’s best for families



Tuesday’s Senate Education Committee debate on private school subsidies lasted more than seven hours and saw experts on both sides arguing they knew best how to educate black and Latino Texas students. by Aliyya Swaby 3.21.17

<https://www.texastribune.org/2017/03/21/school-choice-debate-debates-what-best-families/>

Analysis: Can Abbott assemble an army for this session’s pre-K fight?



Gov. Greg Abbott has hit tough sledding with his call for more spending on early education in TX. Lawmakers aren’t warm to the idea and the governor hasn’t assembled many supporters to back up his position. by Ross Ramsey 3.22.17

<https://www.texastribune.org/2017/03/22/analysis-can-abbott-assemble-army-sessions-pre-k-fight/>

Public charters fight uphill battle for facilities funding



Charter schools, seeking more state money, want the public to know that they’re public schools, too. by Aliyya Swaby 3.2.17

<https://www.texastribune.org/2017/03/10/public-charters-fight-uphill-battle-facilities-funding/>

After Huberty’s comments, school choice advocates lobby state Republican Party



House Public Education Chairman Dan Huberty’s comments about school choice legislation being a “dead” issue this legislative session have angered Texas supporters of the voucher-like programs. by Aliyya Swaby 3.2.17

<https://www.texastribune.org/2017/03/02/push-back-huberty-school-choice-vote/>

House leader announces \$1.6B school funding plan



The top public education policymaker in the Texas House unveiled a \$1.6 billion plan on Monday that he described as a first step to overhauling the state’s beleaguered school funding system. By Aliyya Swaby 3.6.17

<https://www.texastribune.org/2017/03/06/house-school-finance-plan-would-add-16b-extra-public-ed/>

IMPORTANT PK-12 PUBLIC EDUCATION INITIATIVES IN TEXAS



Strong public schools are one of the best investments that we can make in the future of our State. Creating change in a system with over 1,000 school districts and more than 8,000 public school campuses can be slow, and at times frustrating. It will not happen overnight, and it will not happen without the quality of our public schools being a top concern of every Texan.

Alison Badgett, Executive Director
Charles Butt, Founder



Headed by the Commissioner of Education, TEA is the state agency that oversees primary and secondary public education. The mission of TEA is to provide leadership, guidance and resources to help schools meet the educational needs of all students.

Mike Morath, Commissioner



TASB is a statewide educational association that serves and represents local Texas school districts. A volunteer-based organization, TASB shares information through publications and training to help Texas board members serve their communities more effectively and speak with a unified voice to decision makers to chart the best future for Texas public schools.

Charles Stafford, President



The development of leadership capacity is critical to the success of

Texas public schools. Dynamic partnerships are necessary to carry out our work. We must cultivate a broad network of allies committed to strengthening public education in our state and nation. The participatory nature of the organization is vital to the success of our mission. The ideals described in Creating a New Vision for Public Education in Texas are the compelling principles that guide our pursuit of these enduring aspirations.

Dr. Kevin Brown, President



Through policy and advocacy, Texas Aspires is committed to building a world-class education system that provides every Texas child the opportunity to achieve their full potential and contribute to a stronger Texas. A bipartisan, non-profit organization working in partnership with education, business, and community leaders to provide greater opportunity for Texas children by improving education in the State.

Courtney Boswell, Executive Director



TCSA was created to unify, support and grow the charter movement. It has embarked on a planning process designed to assess the current environment, chart a course for the future and define a sustainable business model that enhances vital services for our members and the broader charter school community.

David Dunn, Executive Director

Reasoning Mind

Reasoning Mind is an education nonprofit with a mission to provide a first-rate math education for every child. The organization designs interactive, online learning programs for mathematics that develop higher-order thinking skills, ignite their interest in math, and prepare them for advanced courses like algebra—the “gatekeeper” to college. Reasoning Mind offers ongoing professional development, training, and in-person support for teachers and administrators.

Alex Khachatryan – CEO/ Founder
James Talarico - Executive Director, Central/South TX



NMSI was formed to address one of this nation’s greatest economic and intellectual threats – the declining number of students who are prepared to take rigorous college courses in math and science and are equipped for careers in those fields. To flourish in the 21st Century, our nation must continue to generate intellectual capital that can drive the economic engine of our future prosperity.

Matthew Randazzo, CEO

IMPORTANT PK-12 PUBLIC EDUCATION INITIATIVES IN TEXAS



TEO is a statewide organization that works with parents, educators, community leaders and elected officials to advocate for expanding educational options in Texas. TEO seeks to advance meaningful legislation that would allow for every child in Texas the opportunity to attend the school of their parent’s choice, specifically in the form of an education savings account.

Stacey Hock, Chair
Amando Covo, Executive Director



CLI at McGovern Medical School at UTHealth is the preeminent resource for learning solutions that produce tested, proven, effective results through scientific research and evidence-based interventions. The CLI team includes more than 200 experts in the fields of child development, education, medicine, neurodevelopment, research analysis, and more. Services provided include clinical assessment; diagnosis and treatment of learning disorders; cutting-edge research on techniques to enhance a child’s home and learning environments; and development of multi-modal teaching, learning, and coaching platforms.

Dr. Susan H. Landry, CEO



a public-private initiative of Communities Foundation of Texas

A leading catalyst for progress, Educate Texas is an innovative public-private partnership focused on a common goal: Improving the public education system so that every Texas student is prepared for success in school, in the workforce, and in life. Educate Texas has been nationally recognized for tapping into a bold and collaborative approach for creating transformational change for Texas students.

John Fitzpatrick, Executive Director



Children at Risk serves as a catalyst for change to improve the quality of life for children through strategic research, public policy analysis, education, collaboration and advocacy.

Dr. Robert Sanborn, President & CEO



TCC is a statewide, non-profit, non-partisan, multi-issue children’s policy organization that develops research and policy to engage community leaders and educates policymakers, the media, and the public about what works to improve the well-being of Texas children and families. TCC’s work covers child protective services, juvenile justice, mental well-being, health and fitness, and early childhood development.

Stephanie Rubin, CEO

The Charles A. Dana Center at The University of Texas at Austin

The Dana Center works with our nation’s education systems to ensure that every student leaves school prepared for success in postsecondary education and the contemporary workplace. Work focuses on K–16 mathematics and science education with an emphasis on strategies for improving student engagement, motivation, persistence, and achievement. The center strives to develop innovative curricula, tools, protocols, and instructional supports and deliver powerful instructional and leadership development.

Uri Treisman, Executive Director
Carolyn Landel – Managing Director



The Holdsworth Center is a new training and leadership development center in Austin for school district leaders from across Texas that offers the opportunity for sustainable improvement. Research shows effective teachers and principals are two of the most powerful factors in affecting students’ academic success. The center will be run by educators and will pull from best leadership training practices in education, the military and the private sector.

Founder: Charles Butt, HEB
Executive Director, Kate Rogers