



commit! Our Kids. Our Tomorrow.

Dear Friends,

This past week, the Commit! Partnership welcomed its 100th organization, one of many important milestones that represents our real opportunity to help all children in Dallas County reach their full potential. While we face substantial challenges as a community, they are solvable when we lean forward and work together.

Through our Leadership and Support Councils, local leaders have **contributed more than 350 hours** to guide this growing Partnership, which now includes institutions serving **300,000 K-12 students and 125,000 postsecondary students across our region.**

The Early Childhood Support Council has identified **two feeder patterns within Dallas ISD to pilot its efforts on meaningfully impacting both Kindergarten Readiness and 3rd Grade Literacy.** Working in close partnership with district and campus leaders in the South Oak Cliff and Molina High School feeder patterns, the Partnership is assisting in the creation of action plans to support teachers, parents and the 5,600 PreK-3rd Grade students across these 14 elementary schools.

The Grades 4-12 Support Council is building on the success of the North Texas College Access Network (TxCAN) piloted by Educate Texas over the past two years. Members have reorganized into **four new action-oriented networks** for the upcoming academic year.

The Advocacy Support Council has successfully ushered two bills (SB 172 and HB 2103) to the Governor's office, where they were recently signed into law. Both will **improve access to data our community needs** to better support students. Meanwhile, the Human Capital Support Council is focused on strengthening the quality of the region's educator pipeline, and the Data Support Council is building a database for synthesizing and analyzing Dallas County student data.

The Partnership has also surfaced district-level practices leading to outlier student achievement. In the months to come, we'll release **three case studies, or Stories of**



Summer Headlines

- 1) **College Access Network Moves Forward:** Following its successful pilot, a regional network the Commit! family. See where it's headed next.
- 2) **Where Do the Dollars Go?:** First-ever Giving Profile offers new insights about education philanthropy in Dallas County. What can we learn?
- 3) **Data Wins in Austin:** The Commit! Partnership left its mark on the 83rd Legislature. Find out how.
- 4) **Lifting Up What Works:** Read the latest *Story of Impact* to see how one partner is supporting students to and through college.
- 5) **Early Childhood Networks Launch:** Get the latest on the Partnership's on-the-ground efforts to improve early literacy in Dallas ISD.

News and Events

Click [here](#) to see upcoming news and events regarding the Commit! initiative and collective impact in our region.

Impact, detailing how partner districts are increasing access to quality Pre-K, improving middle school student engagement and academic achievement, and supporting students through college access and completion. Finally, as another academic year comes to a close, I want to acknowledge and thank each of you for your tireless work on behalf of our kids. Know that others across the country are beginning to take notice.
Warmest Regards,
Todd Williams
Executive Director, Commit!

College Access Network Moves Forward

[▲ Back to top](#)



We're excited to announce that the North Texas College Access Network (TxCAN) recently joined the Commit! family after a successful two-year pilot period with Educate Texas. TxCAN is a coalition of higher education admissions representatives, high school counselors and administrators, central district staff, college access providers, and a number of nonprofit organizations serving students in North Texas. Over the past two years, TxCAN planned and executed two Super Saturday FAFSA/TASFA completion events, created an asset map of college access services in area districts, launched a college access data collection portal, and.. [Read More >](#)

Where Do the Dollars Go?

[▲ Back to top](#)



In April, we released the full version of Dallas County's first-ever Giving Profile, an effort undertaken with education funders across the region to better understand how their philanthropic dollars add up (if you haven't yet, [download it now](#)). We encourage everyone to read the Profile from a position of inquiry. In that same spirit, here are five findings that caught our attention and some of the questions they raised for us...[Read More >](#)

★ Data Wins in Austin

[▲ Back to top](#)

This past week, Governor Rick Perry signed into law two bills that will improve access to education data. Both bills, Senate Bill 172 (SB 172) and House Bill 2103 (HB 2103), made it to the Governor's office after being successfully ushered through the legislature by the Commit! Partnership's Advocacy Support Council. SB 172 requires the Commissioner to...[Read More >](#)



📅 Lifting Up What Works

[▲ Back to top](#)



To ensure our region has the talent to meet demands of the local economy, it is critical for students to earn postsecondary degrees. However, only 66 percent of Dallas County students currently even begin postsecondary education. This month's Story of Impact features the Uplift Education charter school network's Road to College program that is proving to make all the difference for students who have been historically left out of the college-going conversation. In October we launched our Stories of Impact series, lifting up best practices and innovative initiatives that are making a notable difference for kids in our community. [Read More >](#)

🚩 Early Childhood Networks Launch

[▲ Back to top](#)

In Dallas County, only 42 percent of 3rd graders read at grade level. After months of hard work, the Early Childhood Support Council is excited to announce that it has identified two Dallas ISD feeder patterns as a starting for collaborative action impacting early literacy. District leaders and principals in the South Oak Cliff

and Molina High School feeder patterns of Dallas ISD have been engaged in intensive campus-level action planning for the upcoming 2013-2014 academic year...[Read More >](#).



News and Events

[▲ Back to top](#)

- The Charles & Lynn Schusterman Family Foundation, George & Fay Young Foundation, Rainwater Charitable Foundation, Carl & Florence King Foundation and RSF Partners have joined a growing list of financial supporters investing in the power of collective impact.
- On Tuesday, June 25, Literacy Speaks welcomes Donalyn Miller, author of *The Book Whisperer*. RSVP for this free event [here](#).
- Volunteers are needed for the Future Focus Summer Camp, presented by Accenture and the Dallas Regional Chamber. The camp runs July 8-18 (Mon-Thurs) and will provide students with the skills they need to succeed beyond high school. Sign up [here](#).
- Due in no small part to your efforts, Dallas has been selected to host the 2013 Strive Cradle to Career Network Convening on September 25-27. More details to come.
- We constantly update our online calendar and invite you to explore education-related events [here](#).

