PUTTING FUNDERS IN THE DRIVER’S SEAT FOR EDUCATION ADVOCACY

Annual Report 2015

TEXAS EDUCATION GRANTMAKERS
ADVOCACY CONSORTIUM
DearGrantmakers,

At the end of every year, the Texas Education Grantmakers Advocacy Consortium (TEGAC), like so many other organizations, spends time reviewing and evaluating its work. The 2015 review revealed a year filled with accomplishments, encouragement and momentum. Looking back, we could not be more proud of our work and the work of all of our partners. Among the many highlights during 2015 are:

> The Consortium successfully created policy work groups, produced innovative research to fill critical data gaps for policymakers, and disseminated that research through a broad network of partners leading up to and through the 2015 Texas Legislature;

> We convened grantmakers for another extremely successful two days of advocacy and policy discussions at the Texas Legislature during the TEGAC Advocacy Convening;

> We expanded Consortium membership to 34 Texas foundations from every corner of the state.

The months leading up to the 2015 Texas Legislature were instrumental in advancing the work of the Consortium during the Interim, but 2015 revealed the true impact of our research and dissemination efforts. The Consortium’s research partners completed their reports and policy recommendations around pre-kindergarten, high school guidance counseling, and out-of-school time in preparation for the 2015 Texas Legislature. Together with our advocacy partners, we took what we learned from the research to policymakers to help inform policy making at the state level.

Two of TEGAC’s three policy priority areas -- expansion of quality Pre-K and counselor capacity/implementation of House Bill 5 -- dominated discussions around education policy during the legislative session. The work of the policy work groups on these issues proved to be critical in providing objective data for use by legislators and their staff as they drafted and debated policies on these and other crucial education issues.
Additionally, on February 27, 2015 after months of planning, we successfully gathered philanthropists from around the state at our 3rd Texas Education Grantmakers Advocacy Convening in Austin. The 2015 event was big, drawing more than 48 foundations and 120 foundation representatives from around the state. Some of the most influential education and political leaders, including Speaker of the Texas House of Representatives Joe Straus, joined Consortium members in discussion of our education policy recommendations. Our members continue to increase their access to high level policymakers making the Consortium an active and dynamic participant in shaping the policy environment for education issues.

After the legislative session ended in late May, the Consortium spent the summer months organizing events throughout the state for grantmakers to discuss critical public education policy issues and the local impact of recent statewide public education legislation on communities across the state. These meetings provided foundation leaders an opportunity to explore the local impact of public education legislation passed during the 2015 Texas Legislature.

Through these face-to-face visits and our biennial survey disseminated to all of our members in August 2015, we gathered input from our members and key stakeholders to identify our policy issues moving toward the 2017 Texas Legislature. These decisions were formally adopted by the TEGAC Leadership Committee in September 2015 and include: Guided Pathways to College and Career; Pre-Kindergarten; and Teacher Preparation. Over two-thirds of our members contributed to at least one policy work group in late 2015.

We are now gearing up for a busy 2016 with our policy work groups and community stakeholders to ensure that critical education research around these important issues is available and that transformative public education legislation passed during previous legislative sessions is implemented effectively. In this report, you will find details on the 2016 research and advocacy efforts as they relate to each of these policy issues.

TEGAC is unique because we’re putting funders in the driver’s seat for education advocacy. Our members are thinking bigger than individual programs and toward strategies that have the power to impact systems-level change. This is turning traditional advocacy grantmaking on its head and it is working.

Finally, I want to especially thank Jennifer Esterline and Jason Sabo for leading us, educating us, and organizing our group of Funders. With their help, TEGAC is making a difference for the children of Texas.

Thank you for your continued support of the Texas Education Grantmakers Advocacy Consortium. We are acutely aware of the fact that what makes this collaboration so successful is its members and the dedication each of you bring to this work. With your help, we look forward to making 2016 another year of tremendous accomplishments.

Sincerely,

Mary Jalonick
Chair, TEGAC
President and CEO, The Dallas Foundation
PUBLIC EDUCATION IN TEXAS

EVERYTHING IS BIGGER IN TEXAS

TEXAS STATS

> Over 1,000 school districts

> 202 charter districts

> 8,571 campuses (including 588 charters)

> 5.15 million students, 61% of whom are low-income, 52% of whom are Hispanic (13% AA, 28% Anglo)

> And these numbers are just growing. We add an average of 80,000 students per year approx at a cost of about $1 billion dollars per year.

> 5.15 million kids make up roughly 20 percent of the Texas population and 10 percent of all public school students in America. That means right now, one in ten public school students in America is sitting in a Texas classroom.

> Texas cut $1.3 Billion in education programs and grants that mostly benefited low-income students
The Texas Education Grantmakers Advocacy Consortium was created in response to massive state cuts to Texas public schools in 2011. In 2012, the Consortium produced the only objective analysis of the impact of those cuts, paving the way for billions of dollars in restored funding. In 2014, the Consortium produced high quality research and mobilized unusual advocates to directly inform the most important education debates at the Capitol in 2015, including prekindergarten quality. Preparation for the 2017 Texas Legislature is well underway.

WHAT ROLE DOES THE CONSORTIUM PLAY IN TEXAS PHILANTHROPY AND EDUCATION POLICY?

If you are an advocate, it’s hard to find foundation money to support advocacy. If you are a foundation, it’s hard to find advocacy organizations that your board of directors will choose to fund. The Consortium bridges the gap between pragmatic advocates and impact-oriented foundations to support advocacy to protect and improve public education in Texas.

WHO IS INVOLVED IN THE CONSORTIUM?

The Consortium’s members include 34 family, corporate, community, and private foundations from across Texas. Membership dues are low and grants for advocacy and research pass through the Consortium. Participating foundations represent Texas’ smallest communities and largest cities. To our knowledge, the Consortium represents the largest foundation policy collaborative anywhere in the country.

“TEGAC has been more effective than anyone imagined. During the last legislative session, we spent less than $250,000 total and earned an extraordinary return. We got much more money for pre-k than there ever would have been without us, and that is only part of it.”

– Eugene Sepulveda, Trustee, KDK-Harman Foundation
WHAT DOES THE CONSORTIUM DO? HOW ARE ACTIVITIES PAID FOR?
The Consortium is a campaign, not a new nonprofit. Membership dues of $5,000 per year plus optional research and advocacy grants averaging around $10,000 per year support the Consortium’s work. The funds are housed at the Austin Community Foundation. Work in Texas has included:

- Survey every two years following regular sessions of the Texas Legislature and statewide meetings with foundations to determine common interests and priorities across a huge and diverse state.

- Direct engagement with legislators and staff concerning the priorities of philanthropy without lobbying for specific legislation or bills.

- Pooled grantmaking opportunities with foundations from across Texas to maximize small grants through joint funding of research and advocacy. Research topics have included impact of budget cuts, pre-kindergarten quality, business attitudes on out-of-school time, and middle and high school counselor availability.

- Partnerships with unusual suspects to highlight research supported by the Consortium, including Chambers of Commerce, Pastors for Texas Children, active duty police officers and sheriffs, and retired United States Admirals and Generals.

- Engagement with social and print media, including opinion pieces in the state’s most influential newspapers authored by foundation trustees.
The Consortium’s Leadership Committee plays a critical role in shaping and guiding the future strategy of TEGAC. Members of the Leadership Committee participate in quarterly conference call meetings, plan and participate in the Texas Education Grantmakers Advocacy Day at the Capitol during legislative sessions every odd year, and contribute expertise and ideas to the current and future work of TEGAC. Furthermore, because the Consortium does not have a formal board, the Leadership Committee handles many of the responsibilities normally managed by a board of directors.

### The Following Members Serve on the 2016 Leadership Committee:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Position/Role</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Amanda Cloud</td>
<td>President and CEO, Simmons Foundation, Houston</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Adrianna Cuellar</td>
<td>Executive Director, United Ways of Texas, Austin</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bruce Esterline</td>
<td>Vice President for Strategic Initiatives and Grants, Meadows Foundation, Dallas</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>John Fitzpatrick</td>
<td>Executive Director, Educate Texas/Communities, Foundation of Texas, Dallas</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Charles Glover</td>
<td>Program Officer, Meadows Foundation, Dallas</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Janet Harman</td>
<td>President and Trustee, KDK-Harman Foundation, Austin</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mary Jalonick</td>
<td>President and CEO, The Dallas Foundation, Dallas</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Melanie Moore</td>
<td>Executive Director, KDK-Harman Foundation, Austin</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gavin Nichols</td>
<td>Director, Grants and Programs, San Antonio Area Foundation, San Antonio</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Charlotte Rhodes</td>
<td>VP of Resource Development and Sustainability, Amarillo Area Foundation, Amarillo</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Beau Ross</td>
<td>President and Trustee, Kathryn and Beau Ross Foundation, Austin</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Caroline Sabin</td>
<td>Executive Director, Powell Foundation, Houston</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Eugene Sepulveda</td>
<td>CEO, Entrepreneurs Foundation of Central Texas, Austin</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mark Williams</td>
<td>Trustee, KDK-Harman Foundation, Austin</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Katherine Wright</td>
<td>Executive Director, Wright Family Foundation, Austin</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Members and Supporters:

Amarillo Area Foundation (Amarillo)
Austin Community Foundation (Austin)
Buena Vista Foundation (Austin)
Community Foundation of North Texas (Fort Worth)
The Dallas Foundation (Dallas)
Educate Texas/Communities Foundation of Texas (Dallas)
Entrepreneurs Foundation of Central Texas (Austin)
Greater Texas Foundation (Bryan/College Station)
MR and Evelyn Hudson Foundation (Dallas)
KDK-Harman Foundation (Austin)
Carl B and Florence E King Foundation (Dallas)
The Meadows Foundation (Dallas)
Genevieve and Ward Orsinger Foundation (San Antonio)
Powell Foundation (Houston)
Rainwater Charitable Foundation (Fort Worth)
Raise Your Hand Texas (Austin)
Bernard and Audre Rapoport Foundation (Waco)
RGK Foundation (Austin)
Sid Richardson Foundation (Ft. Worth)
Andy Roddick Foundation (Austin)
The Kathryn and Beau Ross Charitable Fund (Austin)
San Antonio Area Foundation (San Antonio)
Harold Simmons Foundation (Dallas)
The Simmons Foundation (Houston)
Still Water Foundation (Austin)
Tapestry Foundation (Austin)
Texas Guaranteed Student Loan Corporation (TG) Foundation (Statewide)
Texas Pioneer Foundation (Texarkana)
Trull Foundation (Palacios)
United Way of Metropolitan Dallas (Dallas)
United Ways of Texas (Austin)
Waco Foundation (Waco)
Webber Family Foundation (Austin)
Wright Family Foundation (Austin)

> Foundations that are part of the Consortium represent most of the state and range in size from small private family foundations to large community foundations in major cities.
“I believe that you are creating and modeling an incredibly powerful approach to engaging private foundation benefactors and trustees and empowering them to do what foundations are poised to do in our nation - bring their concerns to the policy table and be part of the essential process of educating lawmakers.”

– Andy Carroll, Policy Director of Exponent Philanthropy, regarding the TEGAC model.
RESEARCH

The Consortium is focused on objective research and advocacy. The Consortium’s focus on providing good data about Texas public education is the backbone of our success thus far. The Consortium works explicitly to answer the big questions that others cannot or will not answer. What was the impact of cuts to schools? How big are pre-k classrooms? Do we have enough counselors to educate parents about changes to the high school curriculum?

In 2014-2015, the Consortium produced three research reports addressing some of the state’s most pressing and important educational debates. In partnership with the Bush School at Texas A&M University, the Ray Marshall Center for the Study of Human Resources at the University of Texas at Austin, and Children at Risk, the Consortium published the following reports:

• The Ray Marshall Center for the Study of Human Resources at the LBJ School of Public Affairs at the University of Texas at Austin: Texas School Counselor Study: Exploring the Supply, Demand, and Evolving Roles of School Counselors
• Children At Risk: The State of Pre-K: Realities and Opportunities in Texas; and

We then provided the following policy recommendations for consideration by the Texas Legislature.
Pre-Kindergarten Policy Recommendations:

- Ensure transparency of prekindergarten assessments and program quality by increasing data available to taxpayers, parents, educators and policy makers about pre-kindergarten programs.
- Expand funding to school districts that limit staff-to-student ratios by requiring new funding for pre-kindergarten to be contingent upon the implementation of a staff-to-student ratio of 1:10.
- Create incentives for school districts to offer full-day pre-kindergarten by providing additional funding through the school funding formula or by establishing a sustainable grant program for districts wishing to expand to full-day.

House Bill 5 Implementation Policy Recommendations:

- Reduce time spent on administration of standardized tests to increase the time counselors have to perform the work they were hired to do.
- Provide counseling technology capacity building grants to allow high schools to partner with colleges, universities, and private vendors to develop and implement the technological tools to improve counseling efficiency.
- Enhance current data collection systems to ensure that House Bill 5 can be appropriately evaluated.
- Provide funding to school districts to increase the number of their counselors, to provide funding credit to colleges and universities who provide on-site college and career preparation services to non-dual credit high school students, and to take Advise Texas to scale.
- Specifically encourage school districts to create an 8th to 9th grade counselor position for each middle school to serve as a coordinator for graduating 8th grade students.
- Assist counselors to understand and use existing tools to evaluate local labor market demand.
- Encourage connections between local workforce development boards and high school campuses.

Engaging Businesses Around Out of School Time Policy Recommendations:

- Establish regional or statewide coordinators to:
  1. build a database of best practice models;
  2. disseminate information and education about programs to working parents and companies;
  3. lead the program evaluation process; (4) build new networks of stakeholders through provision of networking events across local communities and regions.
- Establish a statewide grant competition to incentivize cross-sector collaborations between a broader range of private and public stakeholders, to support innovative afterschool or summer programming.
- Create a workforce award (e.g. through Workforce Commission) for those companies leading in implementation of most family-friendly workforce/workplace policies.
ADVOCACY GRANTS
The Consortium fills gaps in data. However, the Consortium also works to make sure that the research it funds actually impacts policy and is readily available to the public, media, and policymakers. During 2015, the Consortium had great success commissioning and communicating high-quality research on critical public education debates. Too often, critical education research is left in its three-ring binder prison, not used to inform policy decisions. In order to ensure that the Consortium’s investment in research was widely available and distributed, policy work group members supported non-traditional voices to disseminate the Consortium’s research findings. These diverse voices were instrumental in educating policymakers on issues of critical importance and undoubtedly helped shape education policies resulting from the 2015 Texas Legislature.

Rev. Charles Johnson of Pastors for Texas Children speaks during the 84th Texas Legislature.

Council for a Strong America, a Consortium grantee, brought police officers, sheriffs, and retired generals to testify on the benefits of pre-kindergarten to the Education Committees of the Texas Senate and House of Representatives.
On February 24-25, 2015, the Texas Education Grantmakers Advocacy Consortium held its third event in Austin as part of its biennial Advocacy Convening. More than 120 philanthropists representing 48 foundations from all corners of the state convened in Austin for two days of networking and information sharing.

On the 24th, grantmakers heard from an impressive lineup of panelists, including the chiefs of staff from Chairman Jimmie Don Aycock’s office, the Education Policy Advisor to Lieutenant Governor Dan Patrick, Representative Marsha Farney, TEA Commissioner Michael Williams, Chairman of the Texas Workforce Commission Andres Alcantar, Commissioner of the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board Dr. Raymond Paredes, as well as experts in the field of education, both local and national. Panelists provided input on the most pressing education issues, particularly as they related to the Consortium’s three priority areas: quality pre-k, counselor capacity and the implementation of HB 5, and expanded learning opportunities.

On February 25th, Consortium members secured a room off the Texas Senate Chamber and invited legislators to visit with philanthropy for thirty minutes. Some of the most influential education leaders joined the conversation, including Speaker Joe Straus, Representatives Jimmie Don Aycock and Jason Villalba, Senators Van Taylor and Eddie Lucio, and representatives from the Governor’s office.
## TEGAC 2015 OPERATING BUDGET

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Estimated</th>
<th>Actual</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Revenue</strong></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>TEGAC Membership Fee ($5,000 X 25 members)</td>
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<td>$130,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Operating Grants for TEGAC Infrastructure</td>
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<td><strong>Total Revenue</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Personnel Expenses</strong></td>
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<td>Project Consultant</td>
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<td>Accounting</td>
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<td>Professional Development (trainings)</td>
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<td>Foundation Conferences (membership dev)</td>
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<td>ACF Admin Fees</td>
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<td><strong>Project Expenses</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Convening and Advocacy Day costs</td>
<td>$15,000</td>
<td>$16,815</td>
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<tr>
<td>* (food, venues, AV equipment rental, etc)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Printing and office supplies</td>
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<tr>
<td>IT (website design and maintenance)</td>
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<td>Statewide Travel (mileage, flights, lodging, meals)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Office Space, Furniture Rental and Bills</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total Expenses</strong></td>
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As we look ahead to 2016, the Consortium plans to build upon the success of the past year. We have proven that there is a safe, legal and effective way to do public education advocacy work through our policy work groups. In preparation for the 2017 Texas Legislature, the Consortium gathered input from TEGAC members and key stakeholders to identify our 2016-2017 policy issues. These decisions were formally adopted by the TEGAC Leadership Committee in September 2015. Again, the Consortium will commission and disseminate research on the following policy priorities in preparation for the 2017 Texas Legislature:
1. Guided Pathways to College and Career;
2. Early Childhood Education and Pre-Kindergarten; and
3. Teacher Effectiveness and Support.

The Consortium is now garnering national attention, including inquiries and invitations to speak across the country from grantmaker organizations such as Exponent Philanthropy, National Committee for Responsive Philanthropy, and Alliance for Justice. In fact, Grantmakers for Education recently developed a case study on the Consortium for foundations from across the U.S. to learn about our work. You can read it here: http://edfunders.org/sites/default/files/Case%20Study_TEGAC_2016.pdf

The goal of the Consortium has always been to dramatically change the way that philanthropy thinks about and engages in public policy and advocacy, regardless of the issue. Our members are now beginning to recognize how the TEGAC model is transferable to any state and around any issue if the right elements are in place. To learn more about the Texas Education Grantmakers Advocacy Consortium, visit www.tegac.org or contact jennifer@tegac.org.