In 2017, the Texas Education Grantmakers Advocacy Consortium and our 43 member foundations worked diligently to strengthen philanthropic engagement and policymaker support for public education in Texas. 2017 was a Legislative Session year, and once again, our policy priorities were front and center during important legislative debates, particularly around school finance and pre-kindergarten.

The 85th Legislative Session was one of the most contentious sessions in Texas history, and as a result, the unique voices of our diverse research, advocacy and philanthropic partners were critical to building bipartisan support for policies that improve public education in our state.

In 2017, we witnessed strong demand for the policy research we provided on access to quality pre-k, high school advising and endorsement selection, teacher attitudes on teacher preparation issues in Texas, and data on how public education spending in Texas affects student outcomes.

During the 85th Legislative Session, Governor Abbott's State of the State press release featured a quote from both TEGAC and our advocacy grantee, Texans Care for Children. Texas Education Agency Commissioner Mike Morath used information from our pre-k report during his testimony to the Texas Legislature. In 2017, the conversation among policy-makers shifted from “Is high-quality pre-k effective?” towards “How do we expand access to fund high-quality pre-k?” This transition is due in large part to the work of TEGAC and its many advocacy partners.

Also, this year, word about the work we are doing in Texas continued to spread across the country. We continued our work with the Alliance for Early Success to replicate our Texas model of engaging grantmakers in state policy and advocacy. This year, we focused on four states across the country through our Philanthropy Engagement Project (PEP), including Arizona, New Mexico, New York, and North Carolina. Read more about PEP in this report.

In February, we once again successfully gathered philanthropists at the Texas Capitol for our 4th Texas Education Grantmakers Advocacy Convening. The event was big, drawing more than 100 members from 45 foundations from around the state! Members met with legislators who serve on education committees, as well as a representative from the Governor’s office and TEA Commissioner Mike Morath. It was another huge success and continues to be the largest gathering of philanthropy at the Texas Capitol in the history of the state on any public policy issue.

After the 85th Legislative Session ended, the Consortium spent several 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. We were so encouraged by the amazing turnout we had at these sessions!

2017 will also be remembered as the year the Consortium’s long-term strategy snapped into focus. We built our current five-year strategic plan based upon the feedback and strategy drawn from our Leadership Committee members. This plan focuses on expanding the breadth and scope of our work by increasing our capacity internally and expanding the work we do through our policy work groups, as
well as finding a permanent home for TEGAC in 2018. Through the planning process, we discovered that although we have accomplished much in just a few short years, there is much more we can do together to protect, promote, and improve public education through effective public policy.

One of the most rewarding parts of serving as Chair of the Leadership Committee has been the opportunity to learn about the amazing work that our members and partners do every day in the communities across this great state. This local work is critical to informing public policy debates happening at the state level. Policymakers look to local communities to understand how to seed and scale innovative solutions and best practices to some of our society’s most pressing challenges.

Our TEGAC members are not only doing this work in their communities, but they are taking their stories and lessons learned to state policymakers to create scale and impact that goes well beyond one program or one community.

As always, thank you for everything you do in your communities and for your support and participation in TEGAC. We simply couldn’t do this work without you!

Sincerely,

Mary Jalonick
2017 Leadership Committee Chair, TEGAC
Texas Public Education Snapshot

MISSION

Our mission is to empower Texas philanthropy to invest and engage in effective public education policy and advocacy at the state level.

60% LOW INCOME STUDENTS

8,771 Campuses (Including 675 Charters)

18% of Students Receive Bilingual Education

180 Charter Districts

Texas adds 80K Students to the System Each Year

18% Texas Population are Students
VISION

The Consortium’s vision is to protect, promote, and improve public education in Texas so that all Texas students can achieve their educational goals from cradle to career.

5.4 BILLION
Cuts to Public Education by the Texas Legislature in 2011

5.3 MILLION PUBLIC SCHOOL STUDENTS

52%
Hispanic
13% African American
28% Anglo

Almost
1,100
Texas School Districts
The Texas Education Grantmakers Advocacy Consortium (“TEGAC” or the “Consortium”) is a funders’ collaborative that works to protect, promote, and improve public education in Texas from cradle to career through effective public policy and advocacy. TEGAC was created in 2012 to unify grantmakers around a multi-year effort to build support for and improvement in public education in Texas in response to the historic cuts made to public education by the Texas Legislature during the 2011 session. Texas foundations understand that our work is directly impacted by public education policy decisions that are made at the state level.

The Consortium’s work is changing public education policy in Texas and, maybe even more importantly, changing how philanthropy more broadly approaches public policy. Over the last five years, the Consortium has become the largest grantmaker advocacy coalition in Texas history and perhaps the largest grantmaker policy coalition in the U.S.

What is the Texas Education Grantmakers Advocacy Consortium?

The Texas Education Grantmakers Advocacy Consortium (“TEGAC” or the “Consortium”) is a funders’ collaborative that works to protect, promote, and improve public education in Texas from cradle to career through effective public policy and advocacy. TEGAC was created in 2012 to unify grantmakers around a multi-year effort to build support for and improvement in public education in Texas in response to the historic cuts made to public education by the Texas Legislature during the 2011 session. Texas foundations understand that our work is directly impacted by public education policy decisions that are made at the state level.

The Consortium does three primary things:

1. Provides objective data to policymakers on important public education policy issues

2. Channels/pools funds to provide grants to effective education advocacy and policy groups across the state, with an emphasis on the dissemination of relevant, credible research

3. Mobilizes grantmakers around a shared policy agenda
Texas policymakers need objective, high-quality data to make informed decisions about public education policy but often have a difficult time accessing objective data they can trust. The Consortium works primarily to fill data holes related to critical public education issues by providing this data to Texas policymakers. Because TEGAC is seen as a trusted resource without a specific political agenda, it serves a unique role in public education policy conversations.

TEGAC also works to disseminate this data to as broad an audience as possible through our statewide networks and partnerships with both traditional and unexpected advocates. Often, good data is trapped in what TEGAC likes to call “a three-ring binder prison” and is never shared and/or used to inform policy debates. Moreover, traditional advocates often work in isolation and with insufficient resources to be effective. The Consortium bridges the gap between pragmatic advocates and impact-oriented foundations by supporting the infrastructure of the advocacy ecosystem to protect and improve public education in Texas. Much of this work is done by coordinating and convening advocates to share objective data, align messaging, and coordinate advocacy activities.

Arguably, TEGAC’s most valuable contribution to public education is that it mobilizes grantmakers to serve as public education advocates themselves. Many foundations do not understand the rules and regulations related to grantmaker participation in policy advocacy, and their trustees are skeptical and/or risk averse to policy work in general. Much of TEGAC’s work focuses on educating grantmakers about what is possible in the policy advocacy space and helping grantmakers feel comfortable with their role in the process. We often talk about the grantmaker policy continuum. There is a place for every grantmaker along that continuum, from funding research to funding direct advocacy, and everything in between. By adding policy advocacy as one of several grantmaker strategies or “tools in the toolbox,” Texas philanthropy can leverage their grantmaking and have much greater impact in addressing overwhelming societal challenges.

“TEGAC plays a key role engaging philanthropic leaders across Texas in critical research and engagement with policymakers in the Texas Legislature. TEGAC vets issues seriously, organizes effective conferences and motivates its members to make a difference at the Texas Capitol before, during and after Legislative Sessions.”

— John Fitzpatrick, Executive Director, Educate Texas/Communities Foundation of Texas
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 Symposium 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 2017 Leadership Committee:

**Adrianna Cuellar**  
Executive Director,  
United Ways of Texas, Austin

**Bruce Esterline**  
Senior Vice President,  
Strategic Initiatives and Grants, Meadows Foundation, Dallas

**John Fitzpatrick**  
Executive Director,  
Educate Texas/Communities Foundation of Texas, Dallas

**Charles Glover**  
Senior Program Officer,  
Meadows Foundation, Dallas

**Christina Gorczynski**  
Program Officer, The Simmons Foundation, Houston

**Susan Hoff**  
Chief Strategy, Impact and Operations Officer, United Way of Metropolitan Dallas, Dallas

**Mary Jalonick**  
President and CEO,  
The Dallas Foundation, Dallas  
**Chair**

**Linda McDavitt**  
President, Genevieve and Ward Orsinger Foundation, San Antonio

**Mike Nellis**  
CEO, Austin Community Foundation, Austin

**Gavin Nichols**  
Director of Grants and Programs, San Antonio Area Foundation, San Antonio

**Wynn Rosser**  
President and CEO,  
T.L.L. Temple Foundation, Lufkin  
**Chair-elect**

**Caroline Sabin**  
Executive Director, Powell Foundation, Houston

**Jordan Scott**  
President, The Reissa Foundation, Austin

**Eugene Sepulveda**  
CEO, Entrepreneurs Foundation of Central Texas, Austin

**Tom Stanton**  
Executive Director,  
The Bernard and Audre Rapoport Foundation, Waco

**Katharyn Wiegand**  
Vice President of Community Investment,  
Amarillo Area Foundation, Amarillo

**Mark Williams**  
Trustee, KDK-Harman Foundation, Austin  
**Secretary and Treasurer**

**Katherine Wright**  
Executive Director,  
Wright Family Foundation, Austin
TEGAC MEMBERSHIP

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.

- Amarillo Area Foundation (Amarillo)
- Austin Community Foundation (Austin)
- Buena Vista Foundation (Austin)
- Cooper Foundation (Waco)
- The Dallas Foundation (Dallas)
- Educate Texas/Communities Foundation of Texas (Dallas)
- Entrepreneurs Foundation of Central Texas (Austin)
- The Genevieve and Ward Orsinger Foundation (San Antonio)
- Greater Texas Foundation (Bryan/College Station)
- The Hoglund Foundation (Dallas)
- Houston Endowment (Houston)
- The MR and Evelyn Hudson Foundation (Dallas)
- KDK-Harman Foundation (Austin)
- Carl B. and Florence E. King Foundation (Dallas)
- The Meadows Foundation (Dallas)
- The Miles Foundation (Fort Worth)
- The Morris Foundation (Fort Worth)
- Andy Roddick Foundation (Austin)
- North Texas Community Foundation (Fort Worth)
- The Kathryn and Beau Ross Charitable Fund (Austin)
- San Antonio Area Foundation (San Antonio)
- Harold Simmons Foundation (Dallas)
- The Simmons Foundation (Dallas)
- Still Water Foundation (Austin)
- Tapestry Foundation (Austin)
- Texas Pioneer Foundation (Texarkana)
- TLL Temple Foundation (Lufkin)
- Trellis Foundation (Austin)
- The Trull Foundation (Palacios)
- United Way for Greater Austin (Austin)
- United Way of Metropolitan Dallas (Dallas)
- United Ways of Texas (Austin)
- Waco Foundation (Waco)
- Webber Family Foundation (Austin)
- Wright Family Foundation (Austin)
- The George and Fay Young Foundation (Dallas)
Policy Work Group Model

1. Participating Foundations Determine Focus
2. Foundation Becomes a Work Group Funder
3. Policy Work Groups Identify Credible Research Partner to Conduct or Compile Politically Relevant and Objective Research
4. Evidence-Based Policy Recommendations Produced
Every two years, the Consortium reassess its direction and creates policy work groups with an eye on informing the conversation during the next Texas Legislative Session. During 2016, in preparation for the 2017 Texas Legislative Session, TEGAC commissioned research on the following themes selected by its members:

1. Guided Pathways to College and Career
2. Early Childhood Education and Quality Pre-Kindergarten
3. Teacher Quality
4. School Finance

**Guided Pathways to College and Career**

In 2013, the Texas Legislature passed House Bill 5, which created new “endorsements” for all Texas high school students. In 2016, the Consortium commissioned the George H.W. Bush School for Government and Public Service at Texas A&M University to document and evaluate how Texas school districts are implementing these new high school endorsements in individual districts across the state. The report, “House Bill 5: the New Shape of Texas High School Education,” shed light on both the obstacles to implementation, as well as emerging best practices. It also explored the perceptions of the high school endorsement selection and implementation process across more than 20 districts. TEGAC worked with advocacy partners to disseminate the policy recommendations that emerged from the research leading up to and through the 2017 Legislative Session. The information was shared with members of the Texas Legislature, as well as the Texas Education Agency, Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board, and the Texas Workforce Commission.

Although districts, higher education institutions, and state agencies are making improvements through both state policy and local implementation, much remains to be done to improve systems’ alignment across high school, post-secondary, and workforce in order to ensure all students have access to college and careers. TEGAC’s data will continue to play an important role in guided pathways policy debates.
Early Childhood Education and Quality Pre-Kindergarten

One of the primary findings from the budget cut study that TEGAC commissioned in 2012 was that pre-k programs in districts across the state were negatively affected by the cuts. In 2014, TEGAC commissioned Children at Risk to do a study to collect data on pre-k programs in 1100 school districts. The study, “The State of Pre-K: Realities and Opportunities in Texas,” found that school districts were prioritizing quality pre-k, but that more resources were needed to provide quality and more data collection was needed in order to evaluate quality in public pre-k programs. Several of TEGAC’s policy recommendations from that report can be found in the major pre-k legislation that passed in 2015, which we refer to as HB 4 or the High-Quality Pre-K Grant Program.

Once the HB 4 grant funds were allocated in 2016, TEGAC was interested in understanding which districts did and did not apply, reasons for applying or not applying, and how districts planned to use funds. In 2016, TEGAC commissioned Texans Care for Children, who released its report,

“Ensuring the Success of HB 4 & Texas Students: A Preliminary Analysis of the Texas High-Quality Pre-K Grant Program,” providing a new analysis of school district participation in the grant program, as well as policy recommendations. Grant funds were also distributed to five non-profit, non-partisan groups working in Austin, Dallas, Fort Worth, the Rio Grande Valley, and Waco to conduct more locally-focused assessments of HB 4 implementation and community pre-k priorities.

The report received a tremendous response during the 2017 Texas Legislative Session as the Texas Legislature continued to debate the state’s investment in quality pre-k. TEGAC grantees worked tirelessly to disseminate the research findings and coordinated with various early childhood advocates to garner media attention and keep the spotlight on pre-k throughout the 85th Legislative Session.
Teacher Quality

When it comes to raising student achievement, little matters more than the quality of teachers in the classroom. In 2016, TEGAC worked closely with the Texas Teacher Preparation Collaborative on improving teacher preparation in Texas. The Collaborative, developed by TEGAC member Educate Texas, shares and scales research about supporting the texas teacher corps. As part of the Collaborative, TEGAC commissioned TNTP, a national nonprofit, to do a series of focus groups with teachers across the state to incorporate teacher voice into the Collaborative’s policy recommendations. In late 2016, TNTP produced a final report: “Effective from Day One: Teacher Perspectives on their Preparation.” TEGAC then partnered with advocacy grantee, Teach Plus Texas, to disseminate the research findings, create consensus, and develop shared messaging around the policy recommendations leading up to and through the 2017 Texas Legislative Session.

The impact during the 2017 session was outstanding. Because of TEGAC’s support, Teach Plus Texas was able to spend the Legislative Session working with Texas policymakers to educate them on the importance of improving teacher preparation programs across the state. As a result, lawmakers passed legislation that improves data sharing on effective teacher programs in Texas moving forward. This is a first policy win in a long list of effective policy recommendations that will ensure teacher preparation programs in Texas prepare our future teacher workforce, and TEGAC remains committed to continuing to advocate for these policy recommendations for many years to come.

School Finance

In late 2016, TEGAC formed its School Finance Policy Work Group and commissioned the University of Texas at Austin and the Center for Public Policy Priorities (CPPP) to explore trends and correlations in the school finance data between public education expenditures and student outcomes. The first phase of this analysis, “Consequences of the Texas Public School Funding Hole of 2011-2016,” focused on a longitudinal analysis of how school districts absorbed the legislative cuts made in 2011. This work builds on TEGAC’s initial investment in a 2012 Children At Risk study, “Doing More With Less: Public Education in a New Fiscal Reality,” that looked at the immediate impact of the 2011 cuts in Texas public schools. The CPPP report found that education spending in the state of Texas remains below pre-recession levels.
of 2008 for students in every grade, and that services for students with the highest needs continue to decline.

During the 2017 Texas Legislative Session, the information that CPPP provided on school finance dominated the school finance debate. CPPP provided a series of technical legislative briefings on how the state’s school finance formulas operate, estimates for how proposed policy changes affect school districts, and several analyses for public stakeholders on the details of legislative bills. As a trusted voice in school finance, CPPP served as invited testimony for several large hearings and helped shape the school finance discussion during the session.

After the 2017 Special Legislative Session ended in July, TEGAC’s School Finance Policy Work Group began to ramp up the second phase of its work by coordinating a diverse group of partners led by business and philanthropy to work on school finance issues over the interim period. TEGAC’s School Finance Work Group will continue to provide critical school finance data analysis, build consensus, and work to align messaging around school finance issues leading up to the 2019 Texas Legislative Session.

“TEGAC has established itself as a go to source for objective information for all things P-16 education. Our recent investments in organizational capacity are paying off. The way TEGAC is bringing data to the school finance conversation is an example. We were ahead of the issue with objective, non-partisan data that perfectly informs this critical policy debate. TEGAC is a unique, trusted, objective voice for Texas’s 5.3 million public school and 1.3 million public higher education students.”

— Wynn Rosser, President and CEO, T.L.L. Temple Foundation, Lufkin
Advocacy Update

The Consortium fills gaps in data. However, the Consortium also works to make sure that the research it funds impacts policy and is readily available to the public, media, and policymakers. During 2017, TEGAC 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. To ensure that the Consortium’s investment in research was widely available and distributed, policy work group members supported both traditional and non-traditional voices to disseminate the Consortium’s research findings. These grantees met with key legislators, held community outreach events, and continuously reached out to local media to promote the Consortium’s research findings. These diverse voices were instrumental in educating policymakers on issues of critical importance and helped shape education policies resulting from the 2017 Texas Legislature Session.

Our 2017 advocacy partners include:
- Center for Public Policy Priorities
- Children At Risk
- Council for a Strong America
- Pastors for Texas Children
- Teach Plus Texas
- Texans Care for Children

85th Texas Special Legislative Session

This summer, the Texas Legislature held a special session aimed at taking on twenty topics, one of which was school finance. The special session started on July 18, 2017, and came to an end on August 15, 2017.

During the special session, a bill was passed establishing the Texas Public School Finance Commission. Under provisions of the bill, the commission is “established to develop and make recommendations for improvements to the current public school finance system or for new methods of financing public schools.”

Throughout the special session, TEGAC’s grantees provided data to legislators as they discussed school finance. Moving forward into 2018, TEGAC and its grantees look forward to serving as a resource to School Finance Commission members as they do their work.
The Consortium hosted its biggest event, the Texas Education Grantmakers Policy Symposium and Advocacy Day, in Austin on February 28 and March 1, 2017. Every odd-numbered year, this unique grantmaker event brings together hundreds of foundation representatives in Austin to discuss current public education topics, specifically as they relate to public education policy, during the Legislative Session. The event constitutes the largest gathering of private philanthropy at the Texas Capitol in the history of the state on any public policy issue.

On February 28, conference attendees heard multiple presentations from policymakers, advocates, journalists, and researchers from around the state. Among them were representatives from Grantmakers for Education; Alliance for Early Success; Alliance for Justice; chambers of commerce, Quorum Report, Texas Politics Project, and the Texas Tribune.

On March 1, members met with legislators at the Capitol. These meetings are primarily meant to meet three objectives: (1) ensure that legislators understand that Texas philanthropy is a resource for policymakers, (2) talk about priorities and find alignment where possible, and (3) help grantmakers understand where and how to best align limited private investment with public dollars.

**Legislative Debriefs**

In the summer months following the end of session, the Consortium held five legislative debrief meetings to update members and other interested Texas

Grantmakers on public education policies resulting from the 85th Legislative Session, as well as an overview of how the work of TEGAC and its partners around its four priority areas set the tone for policy discussions during the session.

These meetings provide foundation leaders an opportunity to explore the local impact of public education legislation in their communities.
In the Consortium’s interactions across the state, we share ideas and information and solicit feedback from foundation leaders, policymakers and advocates for public education to ensure the Consortium’s priorities represent the concerns of the larger education community and that our priorities have the best possible chance to make an effective impact on 5.3 million public school students.

A special thanks to our host foundation members, including the Amarillo Area Foundation, Austin Community Foundation, Central Texas Education Funders, The Dallas Foundation, Houston Endowment, the Powell Foundation, and the San Antonio Area Foundation.

**TEGAC Fall Members Meeting**

As part of its ongoing effort to provide foundation members with opportunities to come together to network and learn about policy issues, TEGAC holds two member meetings in Austin each year. During these meetings, TEGAC members hear from education and political reporters, legislators and their staff, representatives from the executive agencies, researchers, advocates, and other education policy experts.

The Consortium hosted its Fall Members Meeting on September 22, 2017, at the Austin Club with more than 80 grantmakers in attendance. During the meeting, we held our first ever Legislator Appreciation Luncheon honoring those legislators who worked on behalf of Texas public education during the 85th Texas Legislative Session. These interactions with policymakers help to solidify TEGAC’s reputation as an objective resource to policymakers around critical public education issues. Moving forward, we plan to host this event after each legislative session.

**TEGAC Speaking Engagements**

Part of TEGAC’s mission is to encourage Texas grantmakers to participate in and support policy advocacy work in Texas. TEGAC staff are often invited to present at various meetings throughout the state, and increasingly, the nation. In 2017, in addition to various presentations throughout the state, TEGAC and its members were invited to present at the Council on Foundations national conference in Dallas, as well as the Alliance for Early Success annual conference in Tampa.
In 2017, TEGAC worked with an exciting new national partner, the Alliance for Early Success, to replicate our Texas model and to bring the expertise and national network of early childhood experts to Texas. The Alliance for Early Success (the Alliance) is a national nonprofit that brings together state, national, and funding partners to improve state policies that lead to improved health, learning and economic outcomes for young children, birth through age 8. The Alliance works to create and enhance partnerships by bringing leaders together in new and innovative ways, with the goal of achieving results faster and better than anyone could do alone.

The Alliance is currently in its second year of a partnership with TEGAC to adapt our grantmaker advocacy model in four states: Arizona, New Mexico, New York, and North Carolina. In year three and beyond, our plan is to continue to support these four states and also expand our pool to include additional states. TEGAC and the Alliance will be leading and managing the individual state work, as well as the Philanthropy Engagement Project Peer Learning Network, a community of practice that we have developed to share our model and encourage learning among grantmakers across these five states. The peer network across foundations mirrors the Alliance model to engage foundations across the country to come together in support of early childhood advocacy and policy.

“We are grateful to TEGAC for inspiring our Philanthropy Engagement Project and for their leadership as we ramp up foundation support for early childhood advocacy and policy across the country.”

— Lisa Klein, Executive Director, Alliance for Early Success
## TEGAC 2017 Operating Budget

### Revenue

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### Personnel Expenses

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### Total Expenses

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