



Philanthropy Advocates empowers philanthropy to invest and engage in public and higher education policy and advocacy. We work to protect, promote, and improve public and higher education so that all Texas students can achieve their educational goals from cradle to career. In 2019, we joined forces with Educate Texas, a trusted change agent in education, to better advocate together on behalf of our state's 7 million students.

Philanthropy Advocates harnesses and combines our more than 55 members' collective knowledge and our portfolio of research and evidence to provide objective, high-quality data to state leaders to make informed decisions around public and higher education policy. Our legislative priorities for the 87th Regular Session track closely with our core mission and our policy work groups: early grade success, effective teaching, and pathways to college and career.

Broadly, we must work to protect landmark public education funding and policy changes from House Bill 3 (2019), as well as prioritize broadband connectivity for Texas schools, students, and teachers.

EARLY GRADE SUCCESS



Protect and continue to invest in funding for full-day pre-K that was part of HB 3 (2019) so students may close learning gaps and have a level playing field for success.



Protect and increase state financial support for bilingual education, English as a Second Language programs, and early childhood education in schools through per-pupil funding.



Improve the educational environments for young Texas English Learners by strengthening educator preparation programs, student progress monitoring, and family engagement practices.



Create a state strategic plan to guide action that addresses the needs of English Learners across all early learning systems.

Texas philanthropy knows the value of high-quality early childhood education as evidenced by decades of philanthropic investment in ages zero to eight. Overwhelming research indicates full-day, high-quality pre-K paves the way for student success by improving school readiness and early-grade achievement. A focus on early grade success is even more critical in light of the COVID-19 pandemic. Experts are predicting a significant "academic slide," in particular for young English Learner and low-income students. English Learners have always made up a significant portion of the Texas public school population.

**TEXAS SCHOOLS EDUCATE THE
GREATEST PROPORTION OF
ENGLISH LEARNERS IN THE U.S.**

28% OF THE STATE'S PRE-K THROUGH 3rd GRADE ENROLLMENT ARE ENGLISH LEARNERS.

EFFECTIVE TEACHING



Support access to trauma-informed instruction, student mental health, and support for the well-being of teachers.



Support policy and programs that focus on equity and diversity in faculty, materials, and curriculum to develop a robust, sustainable, and scalable pipeline for Texas teachers that encourages mentorship.



Maintain high standards and data transparency for educator preparation programs and reject any efforts to lower standards or prevent high-quality licensure assessments.



Increase transparency and accountability in the state's educator preparation program data system.

Texas must recruit and train diverse and high-achieving teacher candidates into quality educator preparation programs to meet the growing needs of our student population. Teachers are uniquely qualified to understand and re-envision how schools can best serve children. Through research on teacher preparation and with an additional focus on the impacts of COVID-19, our effective teaching legislative agenda focuses on professional needs generally with an emphasis on the short-term and long-term impact of COVID-19 on effective teaching.

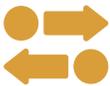
PATHWAYS to COLLEGE and CAREER



Provide higher education with actionable, accessible, and transparent data that support progress toward our 60x30TX goals and ensure college, career, and military readiness.



Support continued rigor and access in dual credit, Early College High Schools, and P-TECH to increase the number of students earning postsecondary and workforce credit while in Texas high schools.



Ensure continued support for and implementation of credit transferability as envisioned in SB 25 (2019).



Support improved coordination and collaboration between the Texas Education Agency and the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board to meet our 60x30TX goals.

20% OF TEXAS 8th GRADERS COMPLETE A POSTSECONDARY CREDENTIAL WITHIN 6 YEARS OF HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION, LEAVING THE TEXAS WORKFORCE IN DEMAND FOR HIGH-SKILLED LABOR.

Creating opportunities for multiple pathways to marketable skills, degrees and industry-recognized credentials supports students, while bolstering our state's economy, competitiveness and workforce needs. We should continue to examine and address obstacles for students transferring from community colleges to four-year institutions, as well as examine the impact of COVID-19 on this student population.