For Immediate Release

Contact: Beth Hook
214.668.2126
bhook@cftexas.org

Texas Network for School Improvement Collaborative receives $500,000 Grant to Improve 8th Grade Math Education in North Texas

Partners Educate Texas, Learning Forward and the Charles A. Dana Center will Lead the Network

DALLAS (Sept. 13, 2018) – Educate Texas, a public-private initiative of Communities Foundation of Texas, in partnership with Learning Forward and the Charles A. Dana Center at The University of Texas at Austin (the Dana Center) has been selected by the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation as an inaugural recipient of a Networks for School Improvement (NSI) grant. The team will establish the first-ever Texas Network for School Improvement Collaborative (TXNSI Collaborative) with the one-year, $500,000 grant, which aims to increase 8th grade math proficiency – a key indicator in college success – among low-income and minority students at 10 North Texas schools.

“We are thrilled to join forces with Learning Forward and The Dana Center to tackle such a critical gateway course and indicator of students’ college success – 8th grade math, including Algebra 1,” says George Tang, managing director of Educate Texas. “Our goal is to enhance the future success of North Texas students, and we’re excited to begin recruiting schools to participate.”

The TXNSI Collaborative is one of 19 networks in 13 states using continuous improvement methods to change middle school and high school outcomes – a total of $92 million in grants from the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation. As part of the effort, the collaborative will recruit 10 campuses from several North Texas districts to equip and implement targeted interventions and improvements using a structured continuous improvement process beginning in fall 2018.

Educate Texas, Learning Forward and the Dana Center each bring unique expertise to the initiative, all serving specific roles to ensure success.

For more than a decade, Educate Texas has partnered with public and private entities to achieve large-scale change to transform the Texas public and higher education systems so that every student is successful in school, the workforce and life. Educate Texas will serve as the lead network developer and will be responsible for identifying the network of schools, coordinating network communication and convenings, and providing data analysis.

Learning Forward, an international membership association focused on building education leaders’ capacity to establish and sustain highly effective professional learning, brings its expertise in continuous improvement to the project. Learning Forward will support the network and participating school teams to implement improvement science concepts to advance schools’ progress toward identified goals.

(MORE)
“The TXNSI Collaborative is a wonderful opportunity for us to work hand-in-hand with committed partners,” said Stephanie Hirsh, executive director of Learning Forward. “We’re eager to serve the educators who participate in this initiative – we know they want to create meaningful mathematics learning opportunities for all the students who walk through their doors.”

The Dana Center, with a long history in both K-12 and postsecondary mathematics instruction, policy, and research, will support the network with subject matter expertise in math education and student success. The Dana Center’s work supports educators, administrators, and policymakers in creating seamless transitions throughout the K–16 system for all students, especially the underserved.

“The transition to college has a long ‘on-ramp’ including Algebra I,” said Doug Sovde, director of K-12 education strategy, policy and services at the Dana Center. “Therefore, this work with our partners through the Collaborative is a critical component in a larger strategic focus on transition points throughout a student’s educational experience.”

Visit edtx.org for more information on this initiative. On Twitter: #TXNSI

###