



Beginning roughly six years ago, the Commit Partnership, Communities Foundation of Texas and Educate Texas collectively saw a critical need to develop policy strategies and best practices to improve our region's and state's ability to attract, recruit, retain and develop an effective teaching force. We recognized the importance of growing, retaining and equitably distributing highly effective educators to ensure that all students were on a pathway towards college, career, military readiness and living wage attainment. That's why we came together to form [Best In Class \(BIC\)](#).

Through the Best In Class coalition, our collective work with numerous partners yielded a number of transformational systemic improvements. They ranged from the expansion of the "ACE" strategic staffing initiative statewide; the policy formulation and passage in 2019 of both the Teacher Incentive Allotment ("TIA") and Reading Academies and the passage of ACE statewide funding in 2021; the implementation of curriculum audits by area districts; and our collective efforts to increase the number of area students of color interested in the teaching profession. The BIC joint venture also played an important role in the 2017 policy leading to the creation of Dallas College's School of Education, which has the unique opportunity to create a pipeline of grow-your-own teachers by providing a B.A. in Early Childhood Education and Teaching for less than \$10,000 in tuition over four years. We were only able to accomplish these systemic improvements due to the contributions of our valuable partners like you who joined us in this work.

Late last calendar year our two organizations decided to end our joint venture at the end of the June 2023 fiscal year. Our teams will continue to work with select efforts initiated under Best in Class through established partnerships. Additionally, we will engage through [our Texas Impact Network](#) joint venture to continue to help support TIA implementation while also building strategic alignment within our respective organization's policy and programmatic work.

We will continue to work closely with our regional partners within the teacher effectiveness and pathway ecosystem to build a diverse and highly effective teacher workforce in Dallas County so that all students, regardless of race, income, or zip code, can be on a pathway towards living wage attainment. We will also ensure the Best In Class toolkits and other resources live on through our Commit and Educate Texas web pages.

We want to thank our Best In Class team and our valuable partners for their relentless commitment over the years in helping our region and state implement systemic change in this critical area of educator effectiveness. While we are updating our respective structures to help us effectively accomplish our goals moving forward, it remains true that only by working

together can we collectively move outcomes faster across Dallas County and the state. If you have any questions, please reach out to Chelsea Jeffery from Commit at [chelsea.jeffery@commitpartnership.org](mailto:chelsea.jeffery@commitpartnership.org) or Dr. Priscilla Aquino Garza from Educate Texas at [pgarza@cftexas.org](mailto:pgarza@cftexas.org).

Sincerely,  
John Fitzpatrick and Todd Williams