

Texas Education Grantmakers Advocacy Consortium

We are TEGAC, and our work is more important than ever.

WHO WE ARE

TEGAC, the Texas Education Grantmakers' Advocacy Consortium, is a group of more than 50 family, corporate, community and private foundations from across Texas that collectively represent Texas' smallest communities and largest cities.

Money matters in public education. And, TEGAC members collectively invest close many hundreds of millions in grants annually in Texas to support our schools and students. Yet, philanthropy can't do it alone. That's why our advocacy work is critical.

TEGAC's advocacy efforts contributed to broad-based support for significant state investments in our public education system.

Research, innovation, seeding best practices, and rapid response form the foundation of what Texas philanthropy provides to state lawmakers and policymakers.

TEGAC's collective voice and our seat at the table with state lawmakers and with the business community is helping to promote, to protect and to improve Texas' public and higher education systems.

WHY WE EXIST

Nearly a decade ago, TEGAC coalesced in response to the historic budget cuts – totaling \$5.4 billion – to public education by the Texas Legislature in 2011. We were united by the common goal to protect and improve public education in Texas through effective research, policy and advocacy.

Now, as we navigate the current pandemic and its impact on our state's budget and public education system, *our work is more important than ever.*

Our message and our work will play a critical role as the Texas Legislature grapples with the immediate basic health and human service needs of Texans, a weakened economy, and a historic, unprecedented budget shortfall.

WHAT WE DO

TEGAC's work concentrates on public and higher education policy issues that have the greatest impact on student outcomes, including early grade success; guided pathways to college and career; effective teaching; and, of course, school finance.

State lawmakers and budget writers, as well as state agencies, need objective, high-quality data to make informed decisions around public and higher education policy. That's what TEGAC delivers.

TEGAC is committed to serving as a trusted, non-partisan resource that provides fact-based data on Texas public schools and post-secondary institutions.

We are the "R&D" (research and development), while the state provides the scale necessary to bring proven policy into the classrooms and higher education institutions across Texas.

WHY IT MATTERS

Economic recessions contributed to state budget shortfalls three times since the 1980s. Each time, state leaders were forced to make difficult decisions impacting all areas of the state's budget.

Now, in 2020, Texas stands on the precipice of another historic budget shortfall and an uncertain, near-term economic future. Add to that, the fact the COVID-19 pandemic has laid bare so many of the inequities in our public and higher education systems.

Let's not repeat the past. The 2011 Legislative Session and cuts to public education are a cautionary tale.

We know from TEGAC-funded research the \$5.4 billion in cuts to public education in 2011 had far-reaching, long-lasting impact on Texas public schools and our students.

From larger class sizes and deferments of school facility maintenance and technology, from cuts to full-day Pre-Kindergarten to decreased student support and remedial services, our research objectively assessed the impact of deep cuts to public education.

Our state's budget woes and outlook will come into sharper focus in the next few months. *One thing is certain: TEGAC's work is more important than ever.*

TEGAC can and will play a critical role as the Texas Legislature grapples with this crisis.

We can and we must work together to promote, to protect and to improve Texas public education from cradle to career. We know education is a conduit to every aspect of a student's life, that's why our work now is so important. The future of our state depends on it.

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