

I can't afford college. • No one in my family has ever gone to college. • Am I smart enough to get accepted? • I don't need a formal education. • I don't know what I want to do. • I don't know how to apply to college. • I'm not sure that I'll "fit in" at college. • College will be too hard for me. • I can't go to college full time. • How will I pay for college? • My family needs me to work now. • I don't know anyone who has gone to college. • I'm scared to go to college. • I just want to get a good job and make lots of money. • I don't think I can get into a good college. • I don't want to end up with a lot of debt after college. • What if I can't find my classes? • Am I worthy of a college degree? • Can I do it?

8%





According to the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, only **8%** of students from low income families will earn a college degree within six years of high school graduation. Like you read on the cover, so many students are ready to tell us why they don't believe it can happen. No child should think these things.

We need to do better than 8%. If we don't, they won't have the opportunity to graduate from college. At Uplift, we believe all children can learn and all children can succeed in college. All they need is opportunity and support to be successful.



**uplift**education

# Opportunity.

We often think it's something available to everyone in our country. We call America the Land of Opportunity. But when you look at our cities, it's hard to ignore the real story: in our low-income communities, only 8% of our students are graduating from college within six years of completing high school.

I don't consider 8% a success story. I have three children of my own. I expect them all to graduate from college and have every opportunity to succeed. I look at every scholar at Uplift like I do my own children. I expect each one of them to go to college and graduate as well. I challenge each of us to hold all children to the college expectation.

Our big goal at Uplift Education is to drive college success sky high. We want no less than 70% of our scholars to graduate from college in six years. To accomplish this goal, we must make high-quality learning opportunities available in every grade at every school. We must give parents the opportunity to support their scholar's academic growth. We must give every scholar the opportunity to think about himself or herself as a college graduate.

That's a formula for success, and that's why since 2012, our alumni have been persisting in college at a rate of almost 90%. We are changing the dynamic for low-income students and turning 8% into 70% or greater. Through our proven formula, we prepare them for a future where their big challenges will be how to contribute to their communities, not how they will survive.

Yasmin Bhatia



Uplift Education CEO

## Our Big Goal:

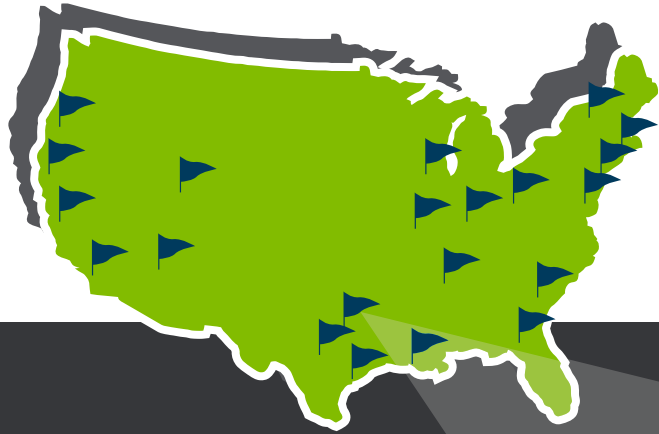
# 70%

of our alumni will graduate from college within six years.



Yasmin Bhatia, Chief Executive Officer, with scholars from Uplift Hampton Preparatory.

# Opportunity starts with choice



choice  
=  
greater opportunity to  
earn a college degree

## Why does a college degree matter?

- By 2018, 63% of all jobs will require a college education (60% in Dallas County).
- A college degree will double annual earnings potential.
- The unemployment rate is almost double for those without a college degree vs. those with a degree.

**20** years ago, parents had few school choices. There were either neighborhood public schools or private schools. Today, there are more than 5,200 charter schools all over the country offering a choice to families. High-performing charter school networks have made an important impact on the quality of education in metropolitan areas such as Denver, New Orleans, and Memphis. Uplift Education has led the charge in North Texas to give all families a choice since 1996.




**Uplift Network 2013-14**  
**9,724 scholars**  
**28 schools • 13 campuses**  
\*New campus in Grand Prairie for 2014-15

## At Uplift, opportunity looks like:

High expectations 

Clear growth goals 

Culture of success 

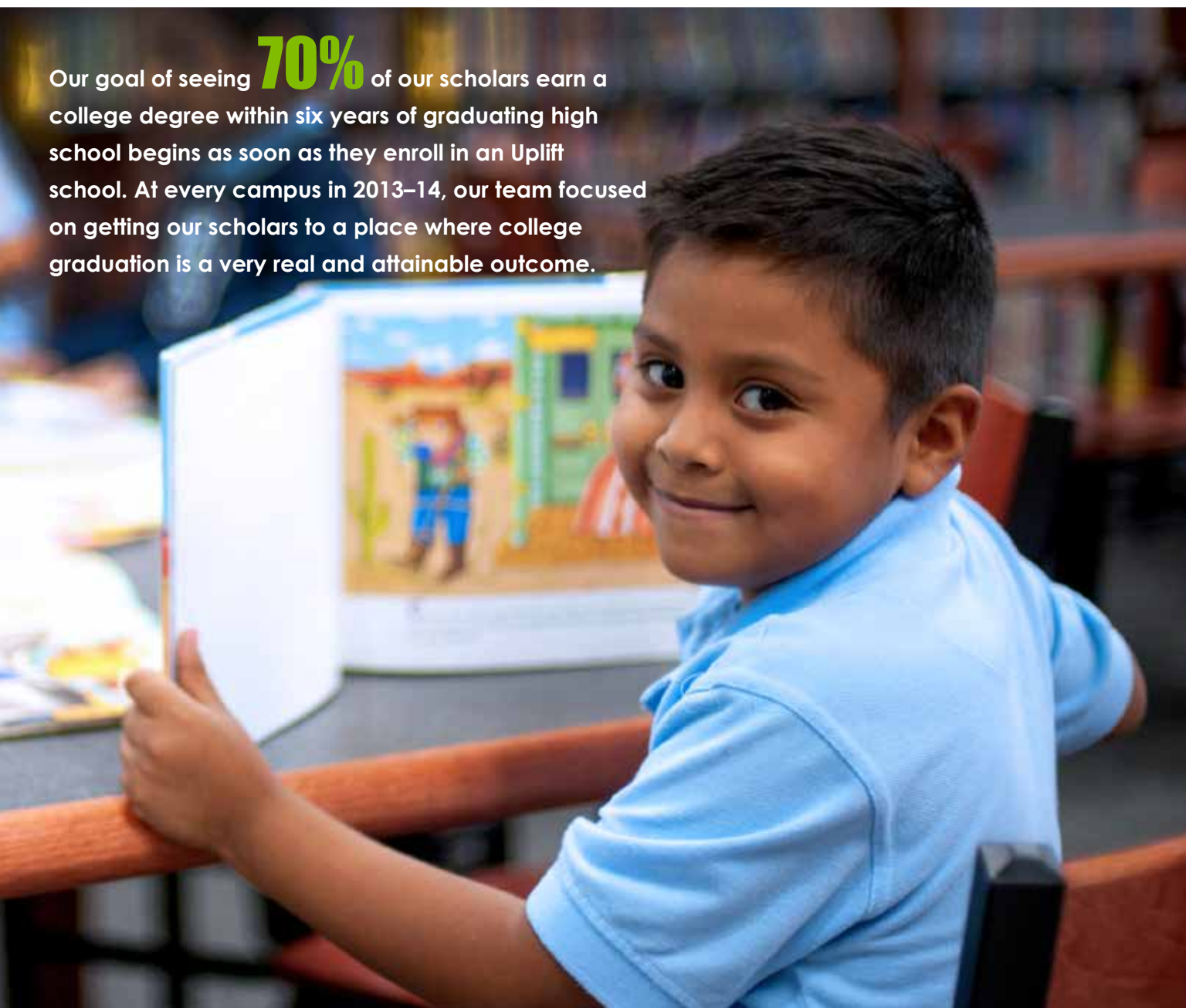
100% college acceptance 

Keep reading to see what opportunity looked like in 2013-14.



# Opportunity to start on the right track

Our goal of seeing **70%** of our scholars earn a college degree within six years of graduating high school begins as soon as they enroll in an Uplift school. At every campus in 2013–14, our team focused on getting our scholars to a place where college graduation is a very real and attainable outcome.



We immediately assess our scholars' academic skill levels and set goals using the Northwest Evaluation Association's Measures of Academic Progress® (MAP®).



We surround our scholars with college symbols, fight songs, cheers, mascots and the expectation that they will attend and graduate from college one day.



We give our scholars individualized attention during specialized instructional time built into the weekly schedule.



We use group time to teach teamwork and encourage respect for classmates. We continually reinforce community service and kindness toward others.



*“As a teacher, I not only want to see my scholars succeed, but I want them each to realize that college is an attainable goal. It’s never too early to begin that conversation. By focusing on my scholars’ individual academic needs, I can help them gain*

*the confidence to reach their goals and pursue their dreams.”*

*-Shannon Wright  
Uplift Meridian  
Preparatory*

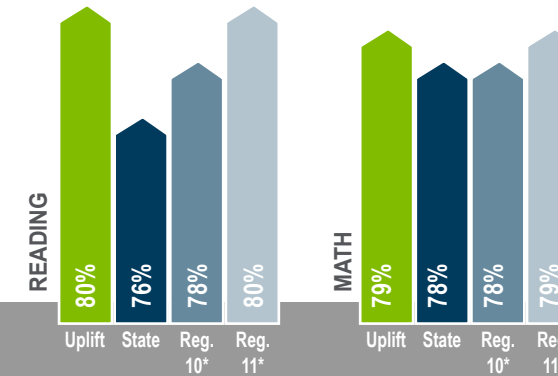
# Opportunity to grow

We all recognize that education is a process of growth. We take for granted that it happens in every classroom every day, but **8%** means that it is not happening with consistent quality in our country. At Uplift, we know every scholar can make extraordinary academic gains, especially when we set high expectations. Using the MAP® test and the ACT® Plan and Explore sequence of tests, we set rigorous goals for all of our scholars and then track their progress as they work towards those goals.



## STAAR Stellar Results

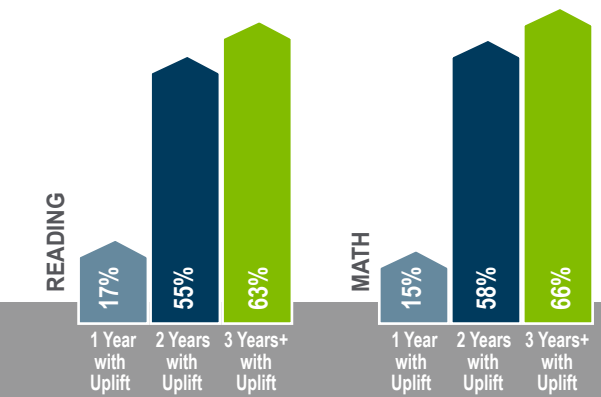
In reading and math, Uplift scholars outperform their local and state peers on Texas' STAAR test. The chart below depicts STAAR Level 2 or higher pass rate percentages for scholars in 3rd through 8th grades.



\* Region 10 encompasses the greater Dallas area, and Region 11 encompasses the greater Fort Worth area.

## Getting Better With Time

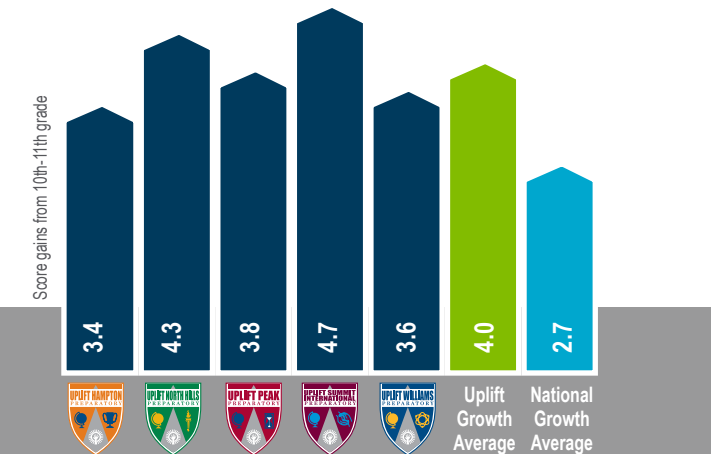
The longer scholars are with us the more likely they are to exceed national averages on NWEA's Measures of Academic Progress® (MAP®) growth assessment.



Percentage of scholars scoring above national average of MAP for the Spring of 2014. MAP is administered in grades K-8.

## Ready for Higher Learning - ACT Score Growth

In high school, the ACT line of tests helps us measure how scholars are growing compared to national norms. On average, our scholars are achieving college-ready scores, but more importantly, they are showing growth from sophomore to senior year. The chart below shows the ACT scoring gains for our scholars from 10th to 11th grade at our five high schools.



# Opportunity to experience

One thing that contributes to the **8%** is a lack of opportunity to try new things. We recognize the importance of allowing scholars to learn through experience. Our relationships with the Perot Museum, Big Thought, Boys and Girls Clubs, YMCA, Trinity River Audubon Center, the Fort Worth Symphony, Bridge Lacrosse and so many other groups help us enrich our school experiences. Our scholars take part in robotics and science fair competitions. They create smartphone applications, study the Trinity River basin, and on every campus, they learn to express themselves through visual and performing arts.

When scholars have the opportunity to try different things, they discover interests that will motivate them throughout life. With that passion guided throughout school, scholars will drive the **8%** number sky-high.



*“I think it is important to not just teach art, but show scholars how math, history and other academic subjects tie into art. I strive to teach them skills they can take with them into the future.”*

*-Jibril Rasheed, Uplift Peak Preparatory*



Our scholars have access to more than  
**3,900**  
laptops, Chromebooks and tablets, and  
**250**  
sports, clubs and specials classes.



# Opportunity to develop a global view



IB® learners strive to be:

- ◇ INQUIRERS
- ◇ KNOWLEDGEABLE
- ◇ THINKERS
- ◇ COMMUNICATORS
- ◇ PRINCIPLED
- ◇ OPEN-MINDED
- ◇ CARING
- ◇ RISK-TAKERS
- ◇ BALANCED
- ◇ REFLECTIVE



When children cannot see beyond their neighborhoods, it is very difficult to be imaginative. It may seem to them that there are only a few ways to get something done, and that outlook contributes directly to the **8%** outcome. A well-rounded, global mindset helps creativity flow. At Uplift, we put a high value on problem solving, self-motivated learning, and understanding of other cultures. We believe the International Baccalaureate® Programme provides the right framework for introducing these characteristics to all scholars.

By the end of the 2013–14 school year, **4,300** Uplift scholars were in IB® authorized programs. By the time our schools are fully built out and authorized, we will be the largest IB® authorized network of schools serving low-income students in the nation. Thousands of students will be equipped to think strategically about the challenges they face and the opportunities they will encounter. They will be the difference-makers.



**50%**  
of Uplift schools are IB® certified or in the certification phase.

**75%**  
of Uplift middle schools are authorized or in the certification phase for IB®.

**35%**  
of Uplift scholars are in an authorized IB® program for the 2014-15 school year.



# Opportunity to prepare for college

One of the most important things we do to drive up that **8%** figure is to surround our scholars with people who help them prepare for the transition to college. Our Road to College team is the linchpin. Our teams of academic, college and alumni counselors work relentlessly to make sure our scholars maintain a strong academic standing, successfully navigate the college application process, find scholarships and grants, and gain an understanding of college life. Armed with knowledge and resources, our scholars are better prepared to meet the opportunities they will encounter while they pursue their degrees.



**42%**

of the Class of 2014 have 75% or more of their college tuition covered by free money.

**125,000**

miles were traveled by our scholars this year to visit more than 50 colleges.



# Opportunity to celebrate

Although our ultimate goal is a college degree, we take time to celebrate the successes of our high school graduates. The Class of 2014 set multiple records: acceptances to top 100 schools, millions earned in scholarships and grants, and the most seniors accepted to college.

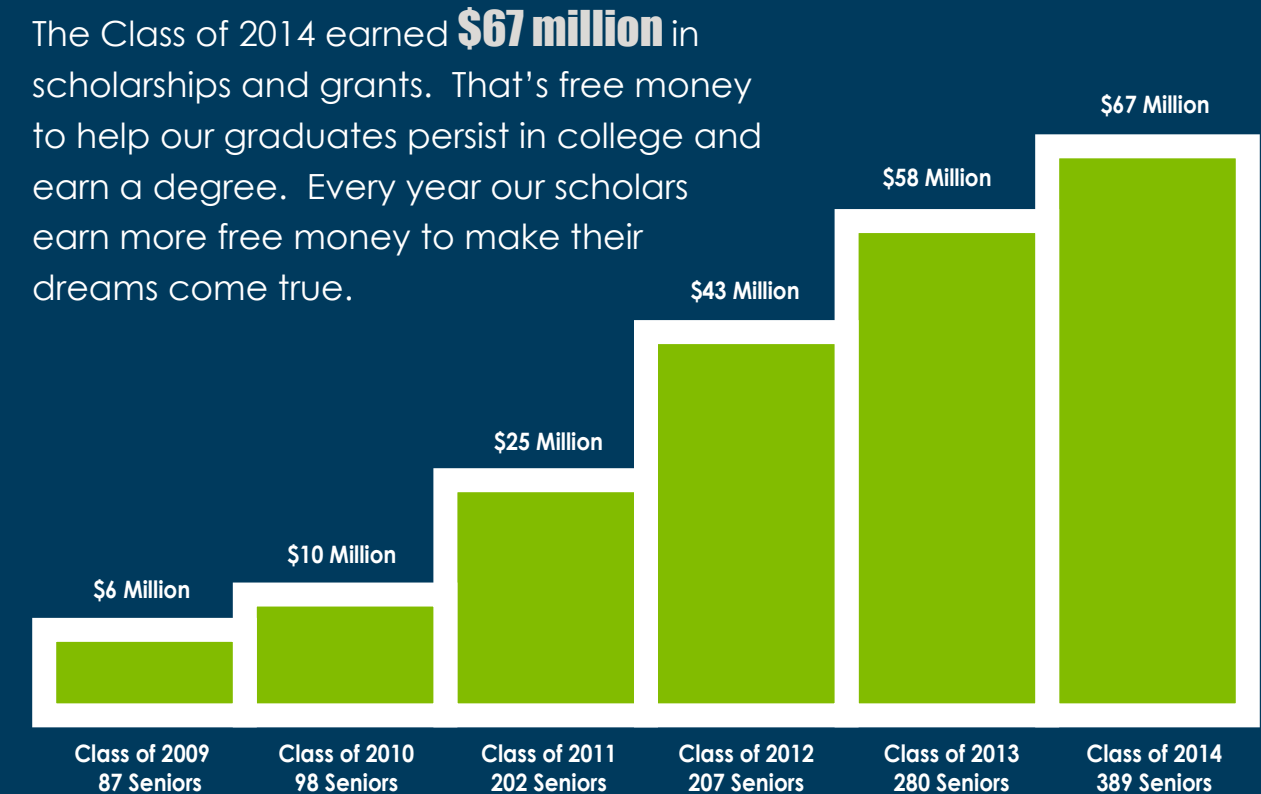
As we have done for the past four years, we gathered to celebrate those successes at College Signing Day. More than 6,000 people packed Southern Methodist University's Moody Coliseum to cheer as our seniors each took the stage to announce their college intentions.



Janene Bottinelli, Uplift Hampton Preparatory Class of 2014, addresses the College Signing Day Tailgate Luncheon attendees.



Dallas Mayor Mike Rawlings shares words of inspiration with the Class of 2014.



# Opportunity to succeed in college

**8%** is a distressing number, but we know we can raise it dramatically by standing behind our scholars. Every Uplift high school is filled with success stories. Here are five scholars from the Class of 2014 whose lives have been energized by the opportunity in front of them. Each of these graduates successfully set and reached his or her goals with the support and encouragement from teachers, counselors, and family.

As the chart below shows, we are currently on track to meet our college persistence goal of **70%**.



**A.B. Bustamante**  
Uplift Peak  
U.S. Naval Academy

A.B. is enrolled at the U.S. Naval Academy. Throughout high school, A.B. worked multiple part-time jobs to help support his mother and two sisters. But despite the demands on his time, he maintained excellent grades to become an AP® scholar and earned the highest ACT score in Uplift Peak's history. A.B. graduated as valedictorian in 2014. The first in his family to graduate from high school, he was selected as the top U.S. Naval Academy nominee from his congressional district. His goal is to become an officer in the Marine Corps.



**Caitlyn Pobee**  
Uplift North Hills  
Babson College

Caitlyn was the kind of scholar leader every school dreams about. A dedicated IB® Diploma Programme graduate, she also set the pace for her peers by serving as a student ambassador, a National Honor Society Parliamentarian, and a UIL theater participant. She helped her fellow scholars manage the rigors of the IB® and AP® programs with humility, humor and encouragement. Always open to feedback, she has excelled in part by knowing when to lean on the support of the adults at Uplift.



**Jacoreya Lloyd**  
Uplift Hampton  
Texas A&M Commerce

Jacoreya is a dedicated student who spent her years at Uplift Hampton embracing the value of a college-preparatory education. Since those first conversations about careers, Jacoreya expressed interest in secondary education. She dreams one day of earning her certification and coming back to Uplift to teach. Her dedication to others resulted in recognition and commendation by President Obama for her volunteer work. In high school she gave more than 400 hours to a Southwest Dallas youth organization.



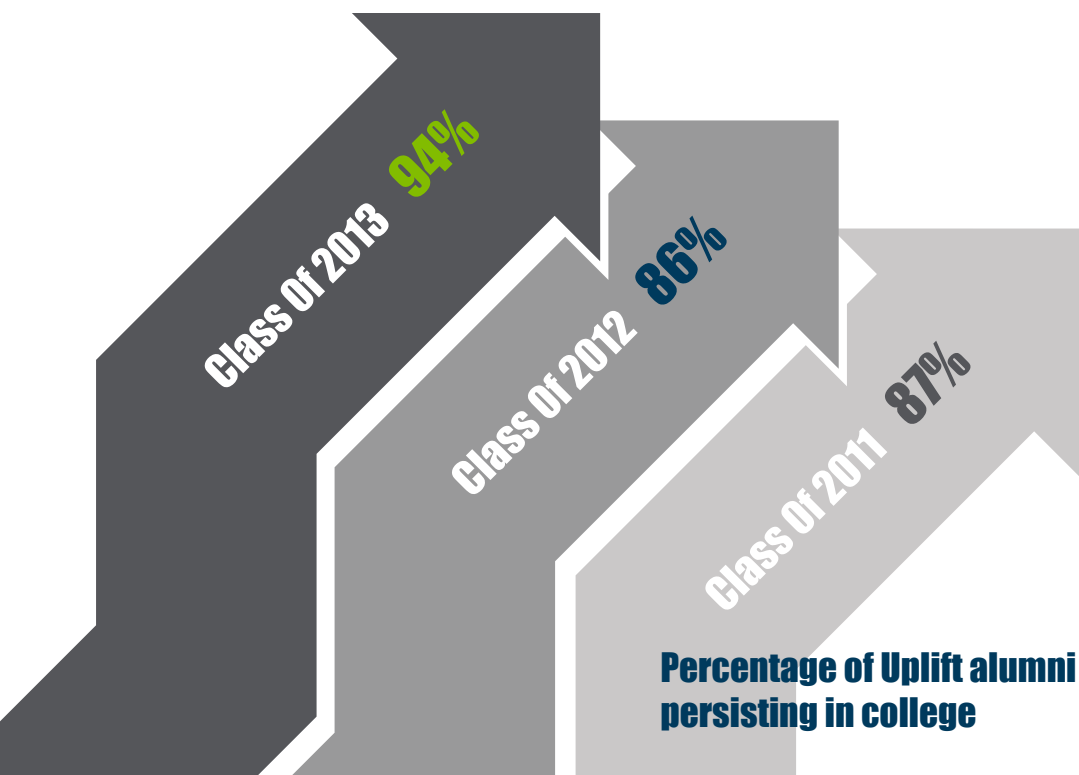
**Juan Galindo**  
Uplift Summit International  
Swarthmore College

Even before getting accepted to Swarthmore, Juan was blazing a trail. During his junior year, he was selected for the highly competitive UT Southwestern STARS internship, where he worked with researchers in a medical lab. He was also a Dell scholarship finalist, a member of both the National Honor Society and the National Hispanic Honor Society. He graduated Summa Cum Laude from Uplift Summit and is now studying psychology with plans to eventually become a criminologist.



**Cecilia Garza**  
Uplift Williams  
Agnes Scott College

After a high school career defined by academic performance and service, Cecilia was named the Southwestern Boys and Girls Club Youth of the Year. She was also a finalist for the Boys and Girls Club National Youth of the Year and a recipient of the Starfish Scholarship from the Williams Family Foundation in Dallas. While at Agnes Scott College, Cecilia plans to study biomedical science to prepare for a career in medicine. Thanks to the support of the adults around her, she is the first in her family to attend college.



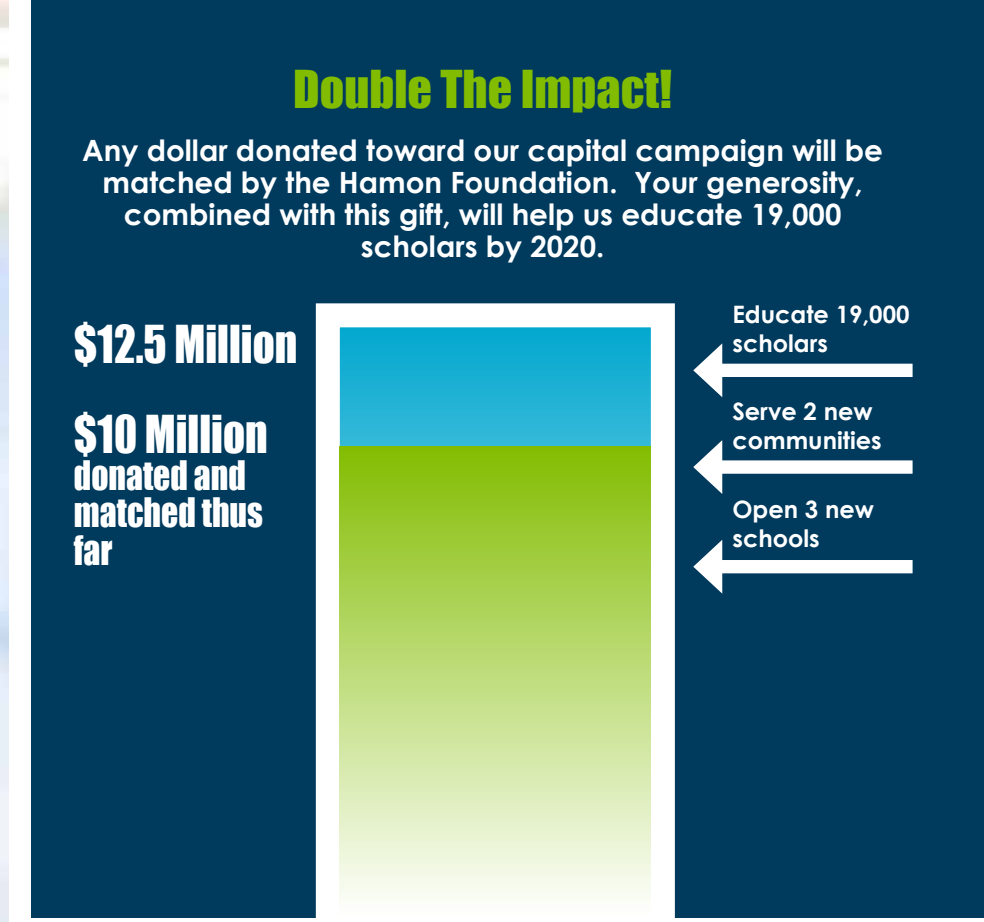
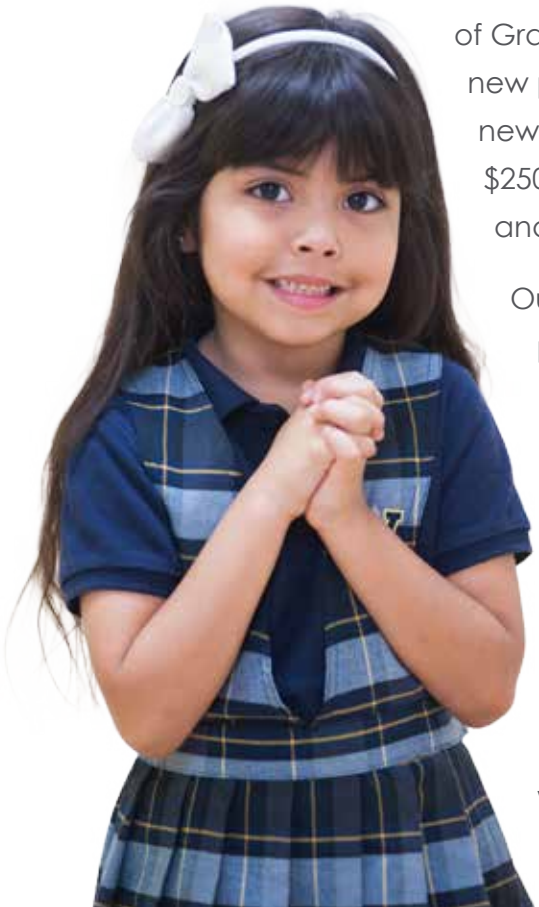
# Your Opportunity to have an impact

**8%** to more than **70%**: it's a bold goal. We owe it to all of our scholars to help them achieve that important college degree. It will mean more than \$1 million in earnings during their lifetimes, not to mention countless opportunities to engage in a meaningful career.

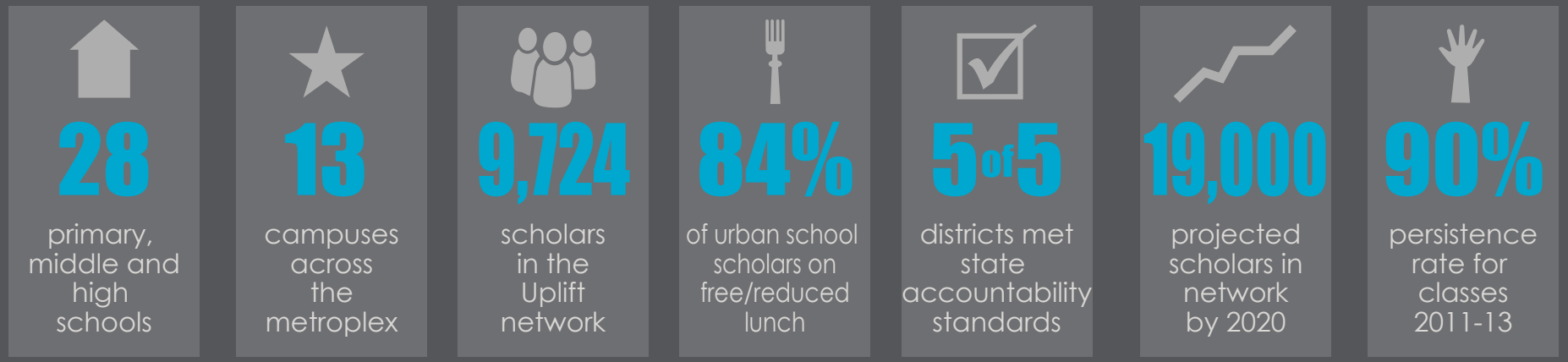
While we are proud of the 1,072 scholars who have earned high school diplomas from Uplift over the past four years and are persisting in college at a rate over 80%, there are still many more students who want to attend an Uplift school. Serving these additional students requires more schools. For the 2014-15 school year, we expanded into the city of Grand Prairie with two new schools. Additionally we opened new primary buildings at Uplift Hampton and Uplift Infinity and a new secondary building at Uplift Heights. This growth is part of our \$250 million strategic plan to see the network grow to 38 schools and enrollment to more than 19,000 scholars by 2020.

Our capital plan includes both public bond sales and philanthropy. We are nearing the end of a five-year, \$64 million capital campaign. In 2013, the Hamon Foundation gave Uplift a \$12.5 million matching gift to help us finish strong. Your participation in the campaign will turn that generous gift into \$25 million and increase the number of scholars we can serve. But even more importantly, you can help us surround those scholars with people who will show them how to make the most of their opportunity to earn a college degree.

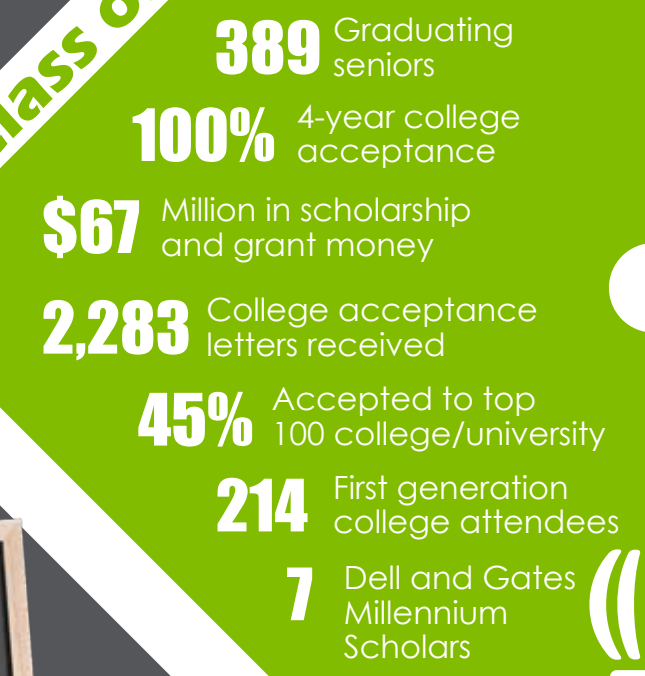
Visit [www.uplifteducation.org/donate](http://www.uplifteducation.org/donate) to have an impact.



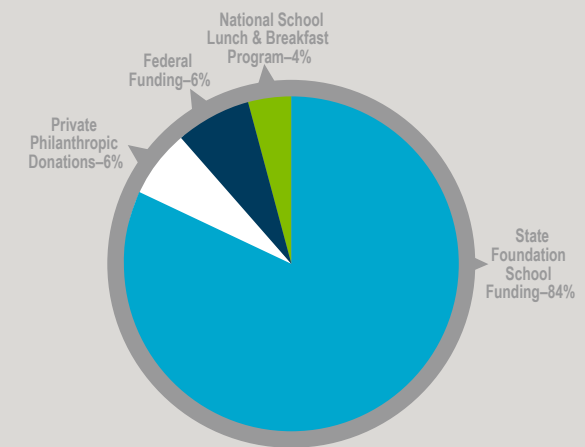
# Year At A Glance 2013-14



## The Class of 2014



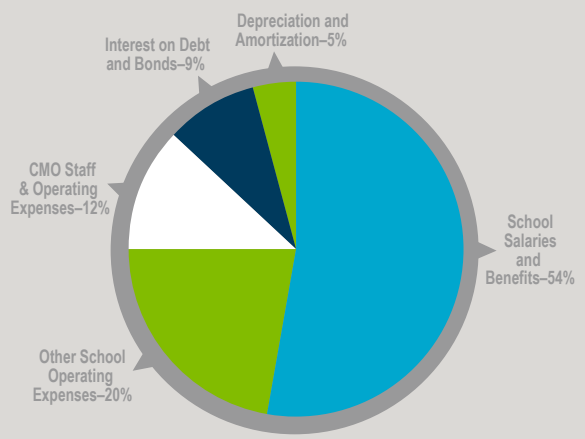
### REVENUE



Uplift received the first investment-grade rating in the country for a charter school in 2005 and has retained that rating in the years since.

We have issued more than \$200MM of tax exempt bonds in the public market (most recent issuance was \$41MM in 2014).

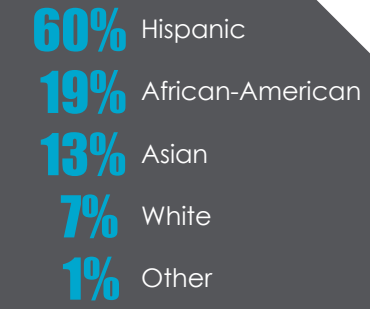
### EXPENSES



Uplift received a \$12.5MM challenge grant from the Hamon Foundation to support growth.



### Network Scholar Demographics



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Without the generosity of our donors, Uplift would not be able to provide an education for the nearly 10,000 scholars enrolled in 2013-14. We extend a heartfelt thank you to the following donors for their generous 2013-14 gifts and lifetime donations over \$25K to support Uplift's mission.

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