

2014-2015

Annual Report

connections



uplifteducation

Letter from our CEO

As we close out the 2014–15 school year and launch the 20th year of Uplift Education's existence, I am humbled by all we have achieved. This past year we provided a quality, college-preparatory education to more than 12,000 scholars in the D/FW metroplex. We again had 100% of our graduates accepted to college, and had our first round of urban graduates earn a college degree.



We can stand proud in our numbers and all we have accomplished, but we have not done it alone. We have worked hard to not exist in a bubble, but rather to join forces with organizations, communities, school districts, universities,

and community leaders to offer our scholars an educational experience that expands outside the classroom. At the heart of our mission is to inspire a love of learning. That means we want our scholars to learn about creativity, leadership, helping others, self-reliance, and global thinking. We want to guide our scholars to be intelligent, significant contributors to society, and our partnerships and connections help us realize that goal.

Sincerely,

Yasmin Bhatia

A handwritten signature of Yasmin Bhatia in black ink, written in a cursive style.

CEO, Uplift Education



Children's Medical Center TeleHealth at Uplift Peak



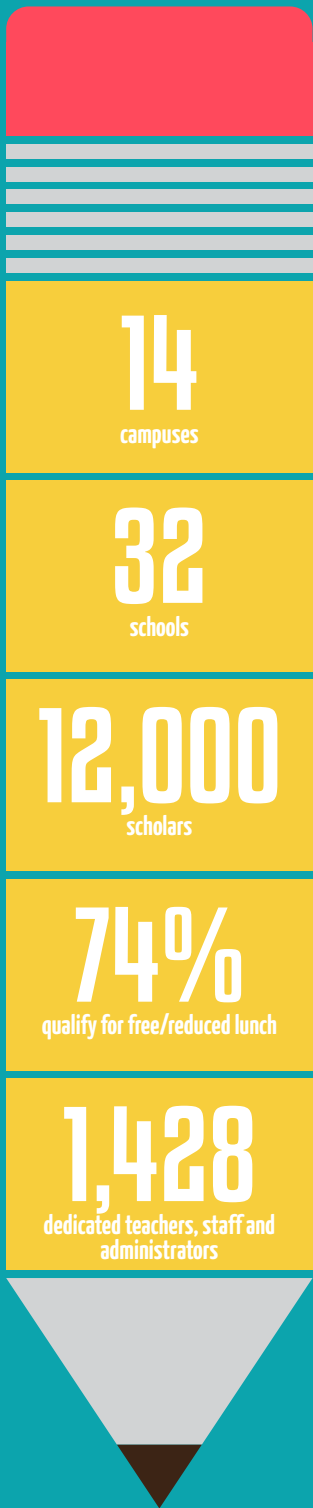
Reading Partners at Uplift Williams



Yasmin and Dr. Susan Simpson Hull, GPISD Superintendent, at E2 Uplift Lee ribbon cutting

Our Network

Uplift Education is a free, public charter school network serving the greater D/FW area.



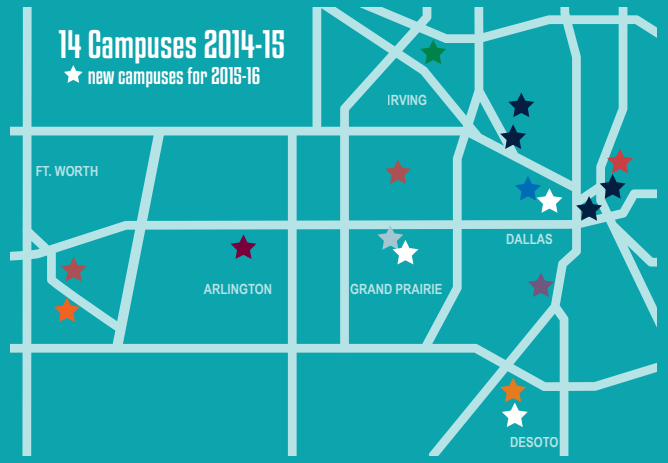
Covering two counties and six cities across North Texas and utilizing environmentally conscious practices

serving the communities of Dallas, DeSoto, Irving, Arlington, Grand Prairie and Fort Worth

63% Hispanic
19% African-American
6% White
12% Asian, Indian and Other

1,846,566 healthy and nutritious meals were served to Uplift scholars in 2014-15

more than half of our leaders and administrators have taught at least 1 year in an Uplift classroom.



The Uplift Education network has grown from a single school in 1996 to 14 campuses across the metroplex. To start the 2014-15 school year, we added a new community to the Uplift family with the opening of Uplift Grand in downtown Grand Prairie. The school started with grades K-2 and 6-7, and will eventually grow to a full K-12.

This expansion led to a unique partnership with Grand Prairie ISD, resulting in a new K-2 school for 2015-16, Uplift Lee. See Our Partners page for more details on the Education Energized partnership.

Additionally, for 2015-16, we opened a K-5 feeder school for our Uplift Hampton school, Uplift Gradus. This new campus, located in DeSoto, started as a Pre-K-2 and will expand to Pre-K-5.



Our Highlights

100% of our graduates have been accepted to college for the past 7 years.

While our seniors continue to achieve stellar results, we know it is because they are well prepared once they reach their senior year. We are continuing to see improvements at all grade levels, especially with those scholars who have been in our network for three or more years.

Here are some of our highlights:

STAAR Reading Results 2015

Percent of students passing exam in all grades.

77%



75%



STAAR Algebra I Results 2015

Percent of students passing exam in all grades.

NOTE: In 2015, Algebra I was the only math exam that was validated by the state.

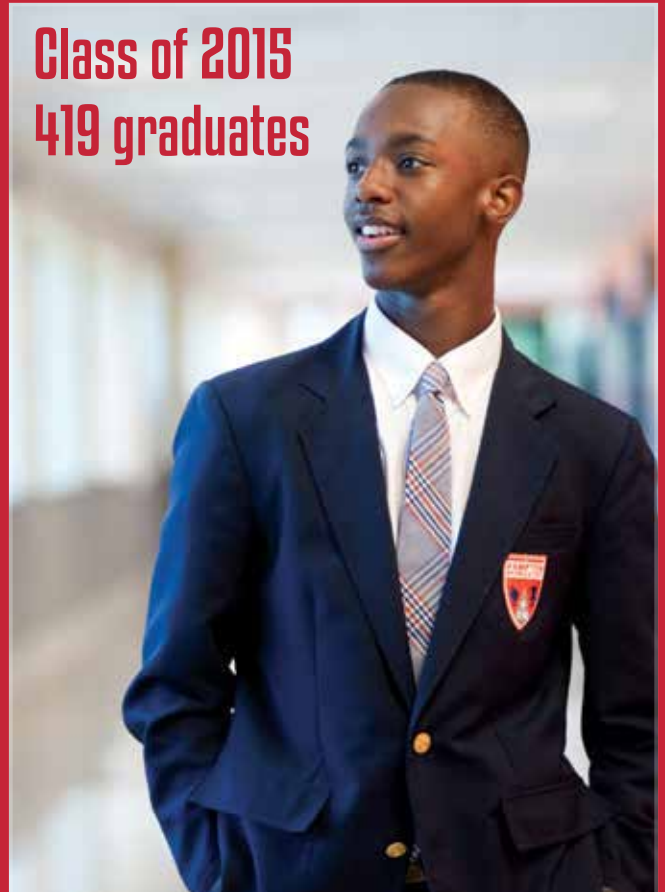
89%



85%



Class of 2015 419 graduates



\$66 million

in scholarships & grants

75%

received free money

65%

were first generation college attendees

65%

were on free/reduced lunch

48%

accepted to top 100 school

Our Partners

With dozens of partners, we are able to offer an enhanced educational experience to scholars.

Our big news for the year was the announcement of a strategic partnership with Grand Prairie ISD, named Education Energized (E2). E2 will redefine how charters and local districts work together in North Texas. The new initiative created a school-within-a-school program run jointly by GPISD and Uplift at Lee Elementary School in Grand Prairie.



The Meadows Foundation invested \$256,000 in the partnership, while Educate Texas, a public-private initiative of Communities Foundation of Texas, contributed another \$31,000 to help launch the initiative. Uplift Lee opened in August 2015 with grades K–2 alongside the existing K–5 GPISD program.



E2 has the full joint support of the GPISD and Uplift Board of Directors. Both are very interested to see what cross-pollination will happen and what powerful ideas for student success will come out of the partnership.



ACH Child and Family Services
Blessings in a Backpack
Boys and Girls Club of Greater Fort Worth
Bridge Lacrosse
Brighter Bites

Children's Medical Center
Cook Children's Hospital
First Tee
Literacy Instruction for Texas (LIFT)
Mercy Street

North Texas Food Bank
Readers2Leaders
Reading Partners
Renaissance Heights United
Serve West Dallas

Teen Trendsetters
Texas Wesleyan University
The Concilio
The School Zone
United Way of Metropolitan Dallas

Trinity River Mission
Vickery Meadows Learning Center
YMCA of Metropolitan Dallas
YMCA of Metropolitan Fort Worth

Our Future

Uplift is on track to become one of the largest IB districts in the state.

As Uplift looks toward the future, our goals are ambitious, and we have clear steps in place to achieve those goals. We have committed to four key strategies to take us into the next decade.

Equal Funding For Public Charters

Over the past several years, Uplift has become a leader in the advocacy arena and has made great strides for public charter schools alongside our charter partners. Public charter schools are funded by the state at a rate of approximately \$1000 less per student than traditional ISDs. Our big goal is to work to change the state laws to provide equal funding for public charters, especially as it relates to teacher compensation.



International Baccalaureate (IB)

IB prepares our scholars for college through a rigorous, globally-focused education. Uplift is continuing our focus of International Baccalaureate authorization for every campus. Currently, 50% of our middle schools are authorized and we expect 80% of our middle and primary schools to be authorized within the next two years, making us one of the largest IB districts in the state.

To learn more about the benefits of IB, visit www.ibo.org.

20K By 2020

Uplift continues to expand its scholar population. In 2015–16 we are serving 14,000 scholars. We plan to open new campuses in the D/FW area and build out all of our existing campuses to serve 20,000 scholars by 2020.



Best Practices For All

While our scholars are our main focus, we are just as interested in sharing our best practices across all educational boundaries. We are passionate about providing all children in under-served communities with a high-quality education, which means extending our relationships with partners and other school districts to share what works for us and learn what works for them.



Our Sustainability

As we grow, we take great care to balance growth with financial planning and fiscal responsibility. Uplift continues to maintain its investment-grade rating and develop innovative ways to bridge the funding gap created by state policies for charter schools. This careful planning produces amazing results:

91% scholar retention rate

means we can accurately project enrollment numbers for planning and budgeting purposes

\$64,000,000 raised

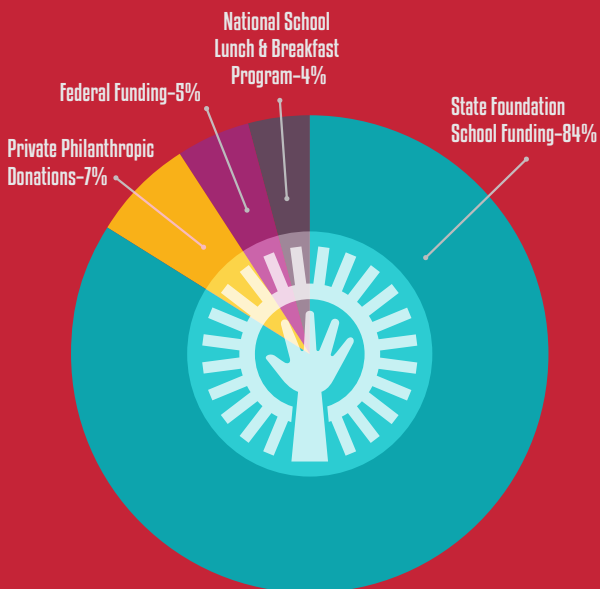
over past five years to expand and create new schools

20,000 seats

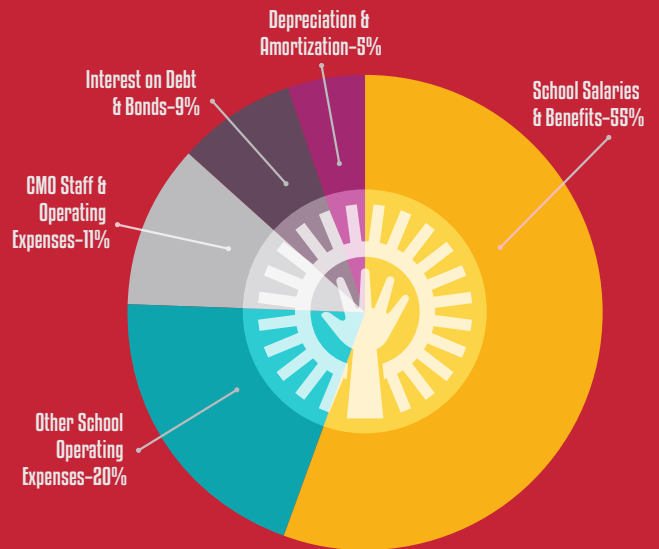
will provide more choices for families regardless of zip code



Revenue



Expenses



Your Time, Talent and Financial Investment

While only 8% of high school graduates in the United States from urban areas earn a college degree within six years, Uplift graduates are persisting toward that college degree at a higher rate. Our ultimate goal is a college degree for all of our graduates. The enthusiasm for this goal can be seen each year at our College Signing Day Event and in any classroom within our network.

We know that time is a precious commodity, but even a small amount of your time can be impactful. Uplift has a variety of opportunities to work with our schools and scholars, whether you simply spend 30 minutes reading to a child or share your life experience as a mentor to a high school scholar. We hope you will consider not only sharing your time and talent, but also consider investing financially into Uplift.

Your dollars will be used to continue to develop new practices to further increase scholar achievement and, best of all, we will share those results with others so the impact can multiply. At Uplift, we believe in expanding educational opportunities for all children in North Texas. Please consider a gift to help us put our beliefs in action.



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We thank our Board of Directors for the 2015–16 school year who will help guide the strategic direction of our network.



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