

THE FACE OF CHANGE

UPLIFT EDUCATION
ANNUAL REPORT 2012



uplifteducation



Uplift Education has proven that change in public school education is possible. We are built on the simple premise that all students, regardless of socioeconomic status, deserve the chance to attend college and achieve a better life for themselves and their families. Today, only 11% of low-income children will graduate from college. To close the achievement gap, we're changing how education works. Our goal is that 100% of students in North Texas be accepted to college and have a choice in their future. We believe that college acceptance should be the rule, not the exception.

Join us as we change the odds.



Letter from the CEO

IS IT ENOUGH that 100% of Uplift Education’s graduates are accepted to college? This is a question I find myself reflecting upon on a regular basis. The answer I come to time and time again is a resounding *NO*.

For Uplift Education, it is not enough that our scholars are accepted to college—our goal is to have more scholars entering college with higher SAT/ACT scores and advanced placement credits. For our region, it is not enough that our charter system of 7,500 students (2012-13 school year) will have access to college. We need for 100% of *ALL* students to have the opportunity to attend college or some other form of post-secondary education to make them career- and life-ready.

Three years ago, I was proud to join Uplift Education Founder Rosemary Perlmeter in the work that she started just a short 16 years ago. She was a pioneer for education reform in our region, working with other dedicated citizens to start the first North Texas public charter school, North Hills Preparatory. North Hills was to become the first school in the Uplift Education charter school network. Today, Uplift Education is joined in this important work by groups like Teach For America, Commit!, Education Pioneers, Teaching Trust and other high-performing charter schools to help effect positive change in education for all students. We are excited about the work our local traditional school districts have taken on and look forward to continuing to collaborate with all education institutions to help better the outcomes of *ALL* students.

What I have learned in my three years at Uplift Education is that we cannot do this work alone. We need the support of many—parents, students, teachers, school leaders, community leaders, nonprofits and funders—to make a significant and meaningful change in the way that education is delivered in our community. I am excited about the education climate in North Texas—it is ripe for innovation and results. I look forward to the exciting work and the outcomes that we will see in 2012-13. I know that Uplift Education will make tremendous gains in the coming year, and I’m excited to see how, as a region working together, we can impact the lives of every student in North Texas.

Shine through,
Yasmin Bhatia

Yasmin Bhatia
CEO



Founded here. Focused here.

Uplift Education started with a single school built on the backs of dedicated teachers and launched a movement for higher quality public education in North Texas. Unlike other national charter schools, our footprint is concentrated in our own backyard. And our model for success has proven for 16 years that we are a driving force for change in this region.

Our model for success.

Uplift implements the most rigorous college preparatory curriculum and framework to best prepare our scholars for long-term success in their college and professional careers. This means using the International Baccalaureate framework to build critical thinking skills and global views on complex problems. This means using assessment data to drive instruction so that 100% of scholars are achieving academic growth. This means teachers receiving the best training and support possible so they can drive instruction and achieve individual student success. This means empowered leaders focused on ensuring that the best possible instructional practices are delivered in every single classroom. This means equipping parents with the knowledge and skills to be involved partners in their child's education. All of these pieces are what creates the success that Uplift Education has been able to achieve in the last 16 years.

Impacting our community.

Uplift Education makes a significant impact on not only the scholars it educates but the greater North Texas community. Consider these simple facts:

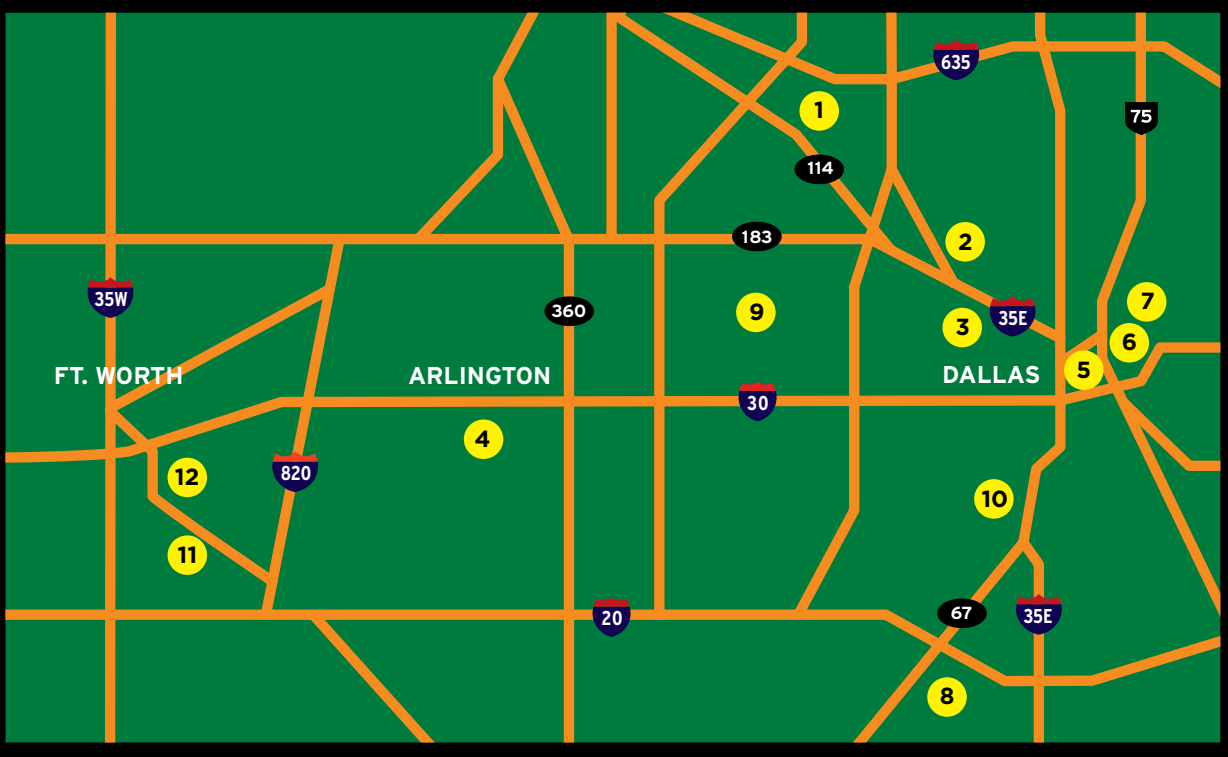
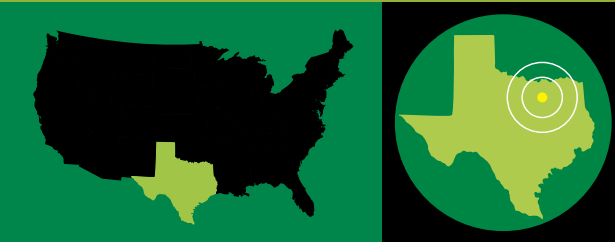
- 47% of Uplift graduates scored college-ready SAT scores (above 1050).
- More than half of Uplift's scholar population will be the first in their family to attend college and graduate from a four-year college institution.
- More college graduates means a stronger career-ready work force for our region.



A Catalyst for Change in North Texas

Uplift Education is the largest scaling public charter school in North Texas. In 2011-12 we educated 5,700 scholars at 22 schools on 9 physical locations in the Dallas-Fort Worth Metroplex. Today we are changing the lives of more than 7,500 scholars at 26 schools on 12 campuses.

"We can change the way education is delivered in our communities."



1 NH UPLIFT NORTH HILLS PREPARATORY Irving	5 L UPLIFT LAUREATE PREPARATORY PRIMARY Downtown Dallas	9 I UPLIFT INFINITY PREPARATORY South Irving
2 W UPLIFT WILLIAMS PREPARATORY Northwest Dallas	6 L UPLIFT LAUREATE* PREPARATORY SECONDARY Downtown Dallas	10 P UPLIFT PINNACLE PREPARATORY Oak Cliff
3 H UPLIFT HEIGHTS PREPARATORY West Dallas	7 P UPLIFT PEAK PREPARATORY East Dallas	11 M UPLIFT MIGHTY* PREPARATORY Southeast Ft. Worth
4 SI UPLIFT SUMMIT INTERNATIONAL PREPARATORY Arlington	8 H UPLIFT HAMPTON PREPARATORY South Dallas	12 M UPLIFT MERIDIAN* PREPARATORY Southeast Ft. Worth

*Opened in August, 2012



UPLIFT SCHOLAR DEMOGRAPHICS

- Hispanic 58%
- Asian 16%
- African-American 17%
- Caucasian 9%

Founded in 1996	2011-12 graduating seniors: 209	College acceptance: 100%
Dedicated teachers: 450	Free and reduced lunch: 63%	Student wait list: 5,000
College acceptances: 1,100 RECEIVED	Scholarships and grants: \$43 MILLION	Exemplary rated districts: 4 OUT OF 5

Home Grown, Nationally Recognized

Our hard work is paying off, not only for our scholars and their futures, but also in the fact that we are being recognized as a significant player in the education landscape. Our schools and our scholars are receiving recognition, both locally and on a national level, for their hard work and success.

All five Uplift high schools were named in the top 100 public schools in the nation by *The Washington Post*. Two of our high schools were named in the Top 25 Transformative High Schools by *Newsweek*. This measure applauds schools that achieve a remarkable amount in relation to the poverty of their communities.

SUMMIT INTERNATIONAL PREPARATORY

#3 Transformative School in the nation
by *Newsweek*
#29 top public school in the nation by
The Washington Post

1

Gates Scholar

WILLIAMS PREPARATORY

#8 Transformative School in the
nation by *Newsweek*
#69 top public school in the nation by
The Washington Post

PEAK PREPARATORY

#16 Transformative School in the nation by
Newsweek
#34 top public school in the nation by *The
Washington Post*
Gold medal winner for Best High School in
the nation by *U.S. News & World Report*

NORTH HILLS PREPARATORY

#14 top public school in the nation by
Newsweek
#24 top public school in the nation by *The
Washington Post*
Gold medal winner for Best High School in
the nation by *U.S. News & World Report*

4

Dell Scholars



2

Newly authorized International Baccalaureate (IB) schools

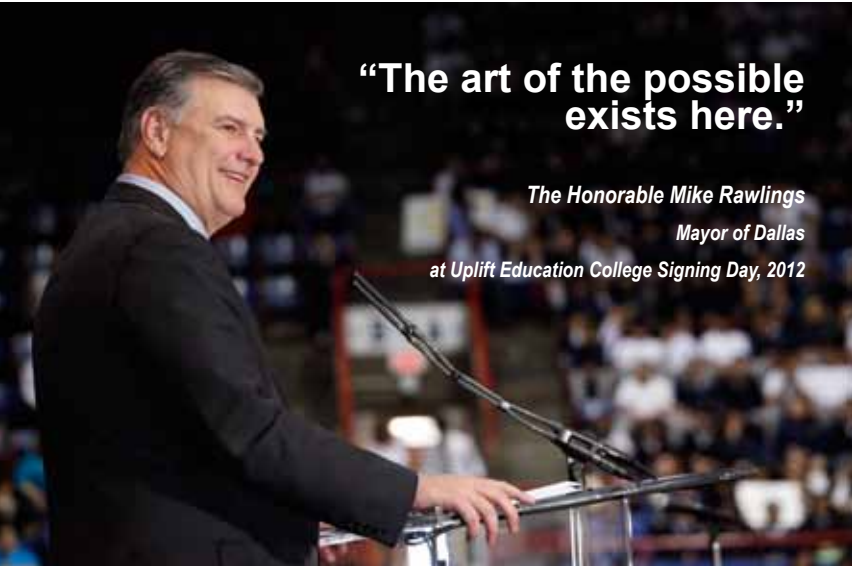
HAMPTON PREPARATORY

#41 top public school in the nation by
The Washington Post

Committed to College

College for our scholars doesn't happen by chance; it's part of an intentional program and K-12 strategy that Uplift Education successfully implements year after year. We begin talking about college in Kindergarten. Walk into any Uplift Kindergarten class and ask them if they will go to college and 100% of hands will go up. Our Road to College program galvanizes our scholars to carefully consider fields of study that align with future career goals, select colleges that fit their specific needs, and aggressively seek out scholarships and grants to pay for their college dream. This program, coupled with our rigorous college-preparatory curriculum, produces 100% college acceptance.

Uplift's Road to College program does not stop at high school graduation. Because of the startling national statistics on college persistence rates for low-income, minority students, Uplift Education has the INSPIRE program that follows our graduates through college. INSPIRE is our alumni counselor program that through regular communication, advice and support ensures that the large majority of our graduates persist through college.



“The art of the possible exists here.”

*The Honorable Mike Rawlings
Mayor of Dallas
at Uplift Education College Signing Day, 2012*

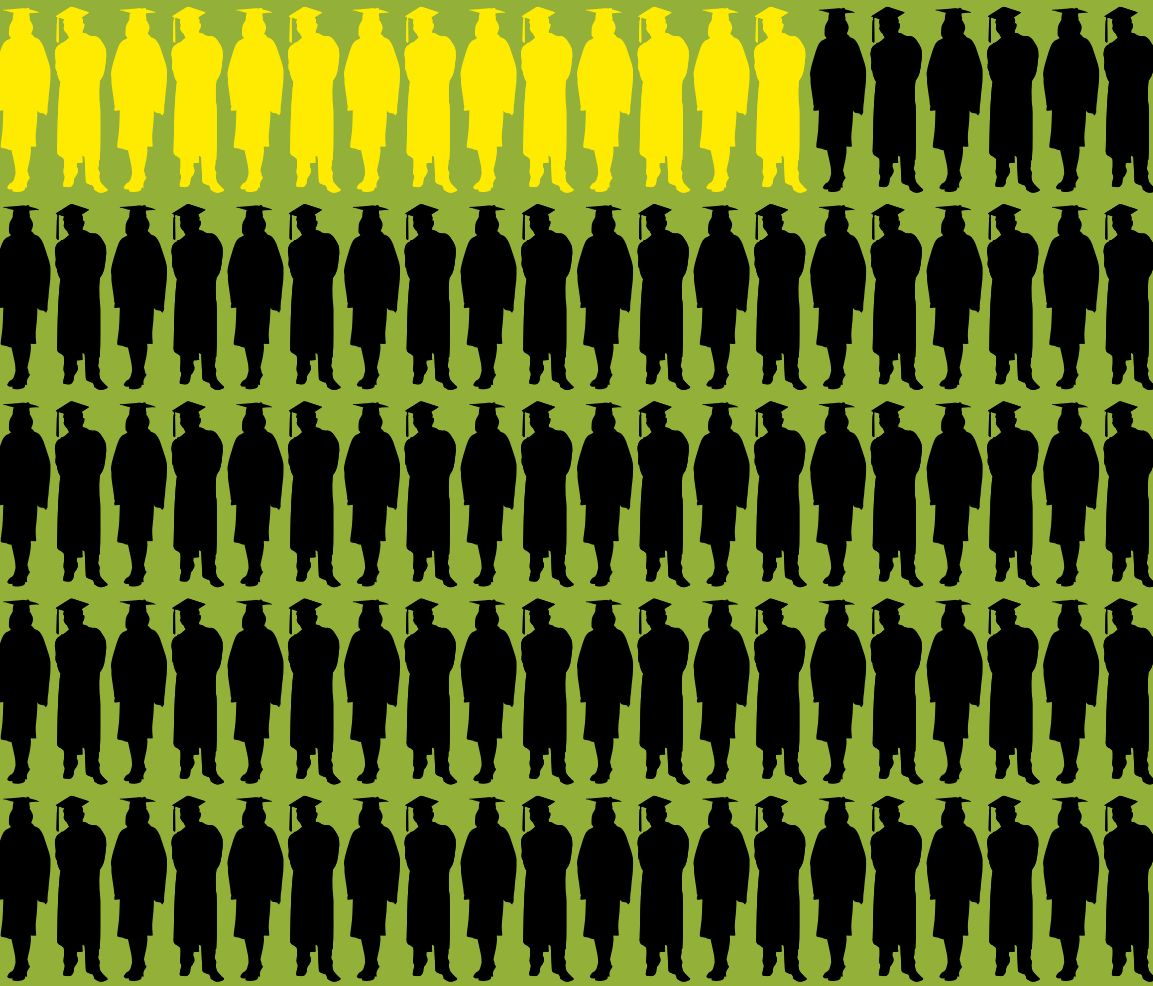
Uplift graduates have been accepted to the following colleges:

- Abilene Christian University
Agnes Scott College
Alabama State University
American University
Amherst College
Angelo State University
Antioch College
Arizona State University
Assumption College
Auburn University
Austin College
Ave Maria University
Babson College
Baldwin-Wallace College
Barnard College
Barry University
Bates College
Baylor University
Bellevue College - Washington
Benedictine College
Bentley University
Berklee College of Music
Binghamton University
Birmingham-Southern College
Blinn College
Boston College
Boston University
Bowdoin College
Brandeis University
Brookhaven College
Bryant University
Bryn Mawr College
Bucknell University
California Polytechnic State University
Carnegie Mellon University
Case Western Reserve University
Catholic University of America
Cedar Valley College
Centro Universitario Hipócrates (Acapulco)
Clark Atlanta University
Colgate University
College of Notre Dame of Maryland
College of Saint Benedict
College of the Holy Cross
Colorado School of Mines
Columbia College
Concordia University - Portland
Cornell College
Creighton University
Dallas Baptist University
Dartmouth College
Davidson College
Denison University
DePaul University
DePauw University
Dillard University
Dominican University of California
Drew University
Drexel University
Duke University
Earlham College
Eastfield College
Eckerd College
- El Centro College
El Paso Community College
Elmira College
Elon University
Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University
Emerson College
Emmanuel College
Emory University
Florida A&M University
Florida Institute of Technology
Florida State University
Fordham University
Full Sail University
Furman University
George Washington University
Georgetown University
Georgia Institute of Technology
Global College at Long Island University
Grambling State University
Grand Canyon University
Grayson County College
Grinnell College
Hampton University
Hardin-Simmons University
Haverford College
Hawaii Pacific University
Hendrix College
High Point University
Hiram College
Hope College
Houston Baptist University
Howard Payne University
Howard University
Huston-Tillotson University
Illinois College
Illinois Institute of Technology
Indiana University - Bloomington
Indiana University - Purdue University Indianapolis
Iowa State University
Jarvis Christian College
Johns Hopkins University
Johnson C. Smith University
Juniata College
Kansas State University
Kent State University
La Roche College
Lafayette College
Lamar University
Lawrence Technological University
Lawrence University
Lehigh University
LeTourneau University
Louisiana State University
Loyola University New Orleans
Lubbock Christian University
Marietta College
Marshall University
McDaniel College
McMurry University
McPherson College
Menlo College
Middlebury College
Midwestern State University
Mills College
Millsaps College
Mississippi College
Mississippi State University
Mount Holyoke College
- Mountain View College
National University of Singapore
Navarro College
New York University
Newman University
North Carolina State University
North Lake College
Northeastern University
Northern Arizona University
Northland College
Northwestern University
Northwood University
Oberlin College
Odessa College
Oglethorpe University
Ohio Wesleyan University
Oklahoma Baptist University
Oklahoma State University
Oklahoma Wesleyan College
Oregon State University
Otis College of Art and Design
Our Lady of the Lake University
Paul Quinn College
Pennsylvania State University - University Park
Pensacola Christian
Pepperdine University
Philadelphia University
Polytechnic Institute of NYU
Pomona College
Prairie View A&M University
Pratt Institute
Purdue University
Regent University
Regis College
Regis University
Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute
Rhode Island School of Design
Rhodes College
Rice University
Richland College
Ripon College
Rochester Institute of Technology
Rochurst University
Rosemont College
Saint Anselm College
Saint Catherine's University
Saint Leo University
Saint Louis University
Salem College
Sam Houston State University
San Antonio College
San Diego State University
Savannah College of Art and Design
School of the Art Institute of Chicago
School of the Visual Arts
Schreiner University
Seattle University
Seton Hall University
Sewanee: The University of the South
Smith College
South Texas College
Southern Methodist College
Southern Methodist University
Southwestern Adventist University
Southwestern University
Spelman College
Spring Hill College
St. Bonaventure University
St. Edward's University
- St. John's University - Queens
St. Joseph's College - New York
St. Louis College of Pharmacy
St. Mary's University of San Antonio
St. Michael's College
St. Thomas Aquinas College
St. Vincent's College
Stephen F. Austin State University
Stephens College
Stevens Institute of Technology
Sul Ross State University
SUNY College of Environmental Science and Forestry
Swarthmore College
Sweet Briar College
Syracuse University
Tarleton State University
Tarrant County Junior College
Temple University
Texas A&M International University
Texas A&M University
Texas A&M University, Commerce
Texas A&M University, Corpus Christi
Texas A&M University, Kingsville
Texas A&M University, Texarkana
Texas Christian University
Texas College
Texas Lutheran University
Texas Southern University
Texas State Technical College
Texas State University
Texas Tech University
Texas Wesleyan University
Texas Woman's University
The Art Institute of Dallas
The College of Wooster
The King's College
Transylvania University
Trinity College
Trinity University
Trinity Valley College
Tufts University
Tulane University
Tyler Junior College
Union College
University at Buffalo The State University of New York
University of Alabama
University of Alabama at Birmingham
University of Arizona
University of Arkansas
University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff
University of California at Berkeley
University of California at Riverside
University of California at San Diego
University of Chicago
University of Cincinnati
University of Connecticut
University of Dallas
University of Denver
University of Georgia
University of Houston - Downtown
University of Houston - Main
University of Houston - Victoria
University of Kansas
University of La Verne
University of Mary Hardin-Baylor
University of Massachusetts, Amherst
University of Massachusetts, Boston
University of Miami
- University of Michigan
University of Mississippi
University of Missouri, Columbia
University of Missouri, Kansas City
University of Nebraska, Lincoln
University of New Haven
University of New Mexico
University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill
University of North Texas
University of North Texas at Dallas
University of Notre Dame
University of Oklahoma
University of Pennsylvania
University of Pittsburgh
University of Portland
University of Richmond
University of Rochester
University of South Florida, Tampa
University of Southern California
University of St. Thomas
University of Tampa
University of Tennessee, Knoxville
University of Texas, Arlington
University of Texas, Austin
University of Texas, Brownsville
University of Texas, Dallas
University of Texas, El Paso
University of Texas, Pan American
University of Texas, Permian Basin
University of Texas, San Antonio
University of Texas, Tyler
University of the Incarnate Word
University of the Pacific
University of Tulsa
University of Utah
Vanderbilt University
Vassar College
Villanova University
Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University
Wabash College
Waldorf College
Washington University
Webster College
Wellesley College
Wells College
Wentworth Institute of Technology
Wesleyan University
West Texas A&M University
Whittier College
Wiley College
Willamette University
William Jewell College
Wittenberg University
Xavier University of Louisiana



Changing the Odds

In America, only 35% of high school seniors achieve proficiency in reading and only 23% achieve proficiency in math. Nationwide, only 74% of all 9th graders and less than 50% of African-American and Hispanic students graduate within four years. These achievement gaps add up to a tragedy of unfulfilled potential and economic underachievement.



In Texas, only 14 out of every 100 ninth grade students will graduate from high school on time, go directly to college, and graduate within six years.

9:1

Uplift Education has the advantage of leveraging private philanthropy with public dollars. With 90% of our funding coming from public sources, every dollar of private support will have nine times the impact.

30X
RETURN ON
INVESTMENT

Uplift Education students matriculate to college at more than twice the national average for low-income students. The difference between high school and college completion for Uplift students is equal to more than \$1M in lifetime earnings. When considering those increased earnings alone, the impact of a dollar invested in an Uplift school student is 30X.

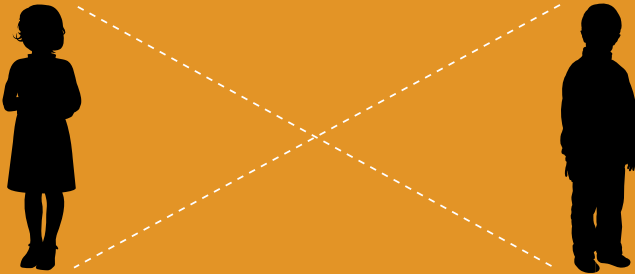
AVERAGE
COST PER PUPIL
\$6,983
(public dollars)

\$1,397
= 20% less than
traditional districts
(private sector)

What it Takes

In order for Uplift Education to provide a rigorous college preparatory education, we must have certain components in place. Teachers are valued as professionals who have the most direct impact on student achievement. Students are empowered to be in control of their learning and embrace the additional instructional time and teacher support. Parents are encouraged to be active participants in their child’s education, and the Road to College program closes the circle, ensuring all students have the appropriate amount of guidance and support to achieve their college dreams and then satisfy that college promise.

A Leveraged Investment



Uplift leverages public dollars with private philanthropic investments to create schools of excellence that produce 100% college acceptance year after year.

Average spending
on instruction
84%

College Freshmen to Sophomore Persistence Rate



Innovation in Action

Uplift intentionally puts the interests of students first in every decision and ensures that every adult within the system is working toward the goal of sending those students to college ready to succeed.

Uplift Education Model

The Uplift model sets the gold standard for results-based public education. In order to prepare all of its students for college:

Uplift prioritizes funds for more in-class instruction through longer school days, an extended school year, and Saturday sessions focused on targeted intervention. All students participate in a rigorous curriculum that includes Advanced Placement, Dual-Credit or International Baccalaureate coursework.

Uplift aggressively recruits school leaders who have a “can do” attitude, value collaborating with their peers, create a culture of high expectations, and use data to drive results on their campus.

The Uplift Board, comprised of appointed business and community leaders, oversees governance and major policy for the organization, while regional school boards focus their attention on holding their respective schools accountable for student achievement and community involvement.

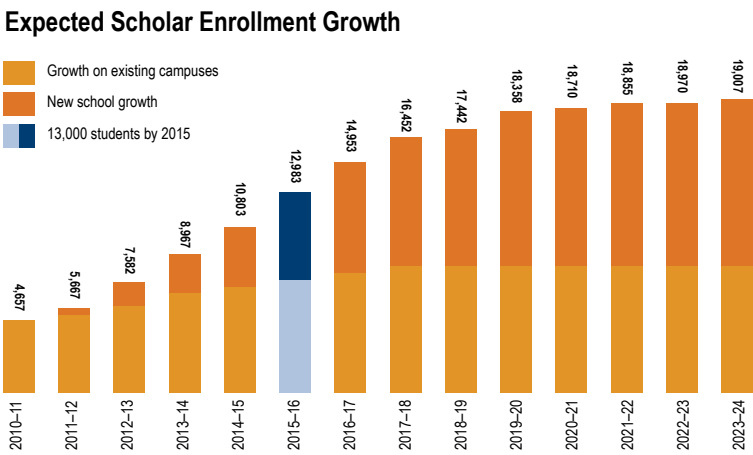
Parents are actively engaged in their child’s academic success, and education is provided around the value of graduation and college acceptance for their student.

Change Agent

Uplift acts as a learning laboratory testing best practices in education and sharing those with traditional and nontraditional educational partners thereby broadening its impact and reaching more students.

13,000 Strong

Uplift expects to educate 13,000 students annually by 2015-16 who will ultimately succeed in college and in life. In order to achieve this goal, Uplift will continue to add two to four new schools per year throughout North Texas.



Growing to 13,000 Strong

Uplift is one of the largest high-performing public charter school operators in North Texas and raises the bar for student success by believing that all students can successfully attend college. As the nation's sixth largest economy, North Texas is uniquely positioned to transform the educational landscape by leveraging the innovation of Uplift and other reform-minded organizations.

Scaling charter schools is essential if North Texas wants to improve its public education in a sustainable, systemic manner. Across the nation, the cities that are making the most progress toward improving public education results are using quality charters not only to provide better choices for students and families, but also to model for traditional districts what is possible in public education. Growing Uplift will benefit the community by scaling quality public education options for 13,000 students annually.

Uplift offers proven performance documented by numerous third parties:

- 100% college acceptance rate among graduates—giving students a competitive edge
- Investment-grade debt rating from S&P
- More than \$160MM in bonds issued in the past six years
- Permission via summary waiver for continued expansion from the Texas Commissioner of Education

Uplift is collaborative and a demonstrated change agent:

- As a large scaling charter operator, Uplift is a critical factor in recruiting other high-performing education reform organizations into our city.
- We develop innovative best practices to share and replicate broadly across the public education landscape.



Expanding Our Reach

In August of 2012, Uplift Education expanded into Fort Worth with the opening of Uplift Meridian Prep and Uplift Mighty Prep in the southeast area of the city. These two schools not only marked a significant step forward in Uplift's regional impact, but also met a pressing need for educational options in Southeast Fort Worth. Uplift's Mighty Preparatory opened with 334 students serving grades K-2 and 6-7. Uplift Meridian Preparatory opened with 138 students in grades K and 1. Both schools will continue to expand to provide a full K-12 continuum in the area.

Additionally, we opened a secondary campus for our downtown primary school, Laureate Preparatory. The Laureate Secondary campus opened with grades 6, 7 and 9 in the iconic Deep Ellum district near downtown Dallas. Uplift is proud to become a part of this growing community.



Honoring History

The home chosen for one of our newest schools, Uplift Mighty Preparatory, was the former site of the historic Masonic Home and School of Texas. The Home operated from June 1899 to May 2005, providing shelter, security and strong foundations for many Texas children. During the 1930s and 1940s, the Home's Mighty Mites football team overcame tremendous odds to become a championship team under the direction of coach Rusty Russell.

While moving forward with our educational goals, Uplift felt it important to preserve the history of the site by naming the school after the historic team, thus Uplift Mighty Prep was born. Uplift has been proud to carry on this bit of Fort Worth history.



Our Teachers Make The Difference

Our teachers don't just teach, they inspire. Beginning in Kindergarten, scholars learn that college is possible as they enter classrooms decorated with college spirit gear and learn about their teacher's college success. Our teachers don't just teach, they captivate. Whether it is through song, dance, games, technology or any other creative method, our teachers are not scared to step out of the box with teaching methods that make learning fun. Our teachers don't just teach, they motivate. Throughout our schools, you will find teachers who believe in our mission and vision and go the extra mile for their students. Whether it is staying after school or coming in on a Saturday for tutoring, communicating with parents or developing a personalized learning plan for a scholar, our teachers make sure every single scholar is on target to succeed.



Teachers of the Year

Uplift's Teachers of the Year exemplify our organization's commitment to college preparation, striving year over year to ensure scholars are on track to enter and succeed in college.



Tenisha Willis
Hampton



Kris Thibault
Heights



Shana Bernabela
Infinity



Danielle Bleecker
Laureate



Martin Ansell
North Hills



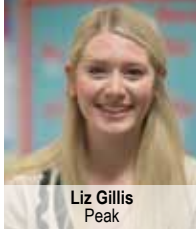
Liz Nied
North Hills



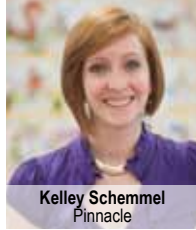
Angie Russell
North Hills



Lori Crouch
Peak



Liz Gillis
Peak



Kelley Schemmel
Pinnacle



Thomas Davenport
Summit



Autumn Lamphier
Summit



Sara Schleimer
Summit



Tammie Davis
Williams

Our teachers don't just teach, they inspire ... captivate ... motivate.

Exemplar Teachers

Exemplar teachers are instructional classroom leaders who have the data and results that show what they are doing makes a meaningful impact on advancing scholars toward college readiness.



Jena Addison
Infinity



Michelle McCree
Infinity



Victoria Margolin
Laureate



Ben Hunt
North Hills



Will Maddox
North Hills



Candice Parhms
North Hills



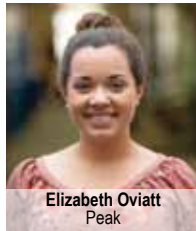
Calvin Ruth Smith
North Hills



Danielle Erbert
Peak



Megan Frazier
Peak



Elizabeth Oviatt
Peak



Monica Delahant
Pinnacle



Katie Leinenkugel
Pinnacle



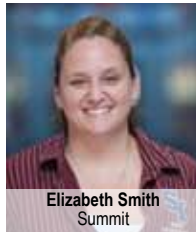
Cynthia Brown
Summit



Amanda Dudley
Summit



Brandon Pope
Summit



Elizabeth Smith
Summit



Netanya Evans
Williams

Fiscal Responsibility

Uplift operates as a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization that serves a predominantly minority (91%) and low-income (63%) student body. Eighty-six percent of Uplift's funding comes from the state and federal governments. Fourteen percent comes from private philanthropic donations.

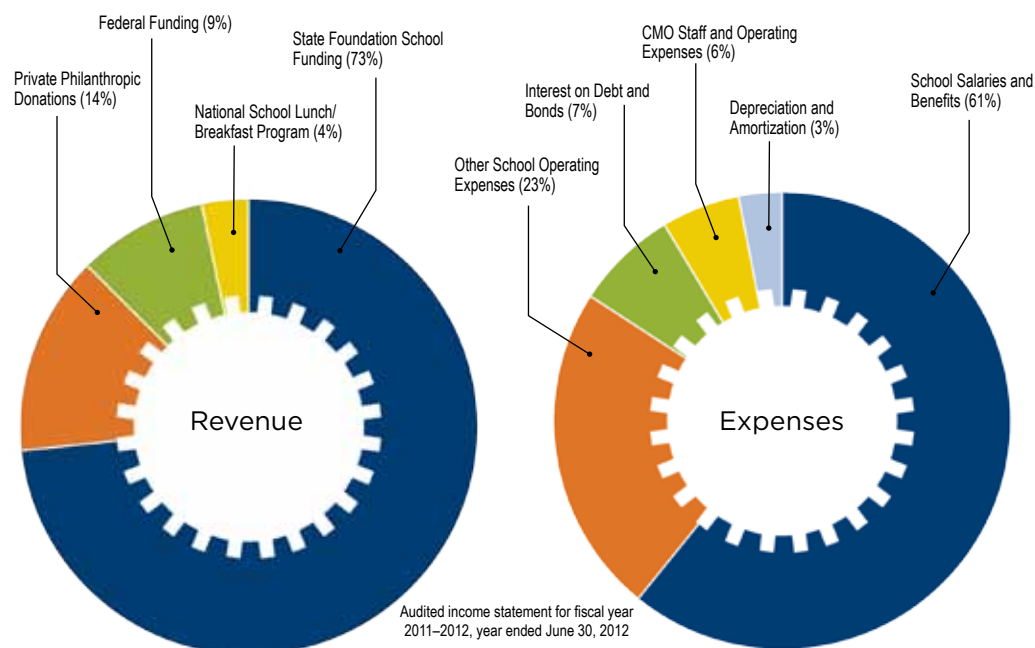
Uplift schools are self-sustaining after the first three years of operation. Due to lack of facilities funding from the state, Uplift requires philanthropy to open and grow schools to serve more children and to fund programs of excellence.

By operating on approximately \$6,983 per student versus \$9,000-\$11,000 for traditional public schools, Uplift is proving that great things can be accomplished with fewer dollars.

We are proud of the following facts, which demonstrate our fiscal responsibility:

- North Hills Preparatory and Peak Preparatory were named to the Texas Honors Circle for 2012 for receiving a 5-Star FAST Rating, demonstrating academic growth and fiscal responsibility.
- Investment-grade debt ratings from S&P
- We successfully secured approval for the creation of an issuer of municipal bonds to help fund growth. Approximately \$15 million of the offering are Qualified School Construction Bonds (QSCBs), which are federally subsidized bonds. Those bonds carry a lower effective interest rate and saved Uplift about \$300,000 annually, which we directed to teachers and classrooms.

Uplift Financials for FY2012



Donor Recognition

Thank you to the following donors for their generous gifts to support Uplift’s mission.

Uplift Education extends special thanks to those donors who have cumulatively given more than \$100,000 since our inception.					
\$1,000,000 +	\$250,000 to \$999,999	\$100,000 to \$249,999			
Charter School Growth Fund Communities Foundation of Texas Communities Foundation of Texas - Texas High School Project The Matejek Family Foundation The Michael & Susan Dell Foundation The Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation Rainwater Charitable Foundation The Harold Simmons Foundation The Rees-Jones Foundation The Walton Family Foundation U.S. Department of Education Teacher Incentive Fund The Todd & Abby Williams Foundation	Anonymous The Brown Foundation, Inc. Amon G. Carter Foundation The Hillcrest Foundation The Hoblitzelle Foundation M.R. & Evelyn Hudson Foundation The Perot Foundation The Posey Leadership Enhancement Fund Sid W. Richardson Foundation TI Foundation	Anonymous Food and Drug Administration Greater Texas Foundation Hillcrest Foundation Mr. and Mrs. Ken Murphy The Stemmons Foundation The Mike and Mary Terry Family Foundation The Real Estate Foundation (TREC) TG Public Benefit Program The George and Fay Young Foundation TG Public Benefit Program The George and Fay Young Foundation			
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