



uplifteducation

annual report 2018

What a year this has been for our organization! We reached so many milestones and saw the vision for our future become more crystallized. As I personally mark my tenth year with Uplift, I am in awe of the teams of instructors, staff, leaders, friends, and partners who are all working in tandem to support our mission and ensure that our scholars achieve their highest potential.

Our strategic goal of “IB® For All” reached a new landmark this year as we expanded our International Baccalaureate® Diploma Programme to all 10 of our high schools and finalized IB® authorization for 100% of our K–12th continuum schools and three K–5th primary schools. Why IB®? An International Baccalaureate® education combines academic rigor with social and emotional growth, creativity, and global thinking. IB® helps scholars become not only problem-solvers, but also people who understand community, connection, and how they are a part of it all. IB® is a proven factor in our formula for success.

IB® is the academic arm of our larger formula for success—the “Whole Scholar” approach. By combining IB® with culture, connections, and a college mindset, we

believe that we offer our scholars the best possible pathway to realizing their goals through high school and after graduation.



In the subsequent pages you can read how this approach is manifesting itself in our classrooms, our communities, and throughout the national landscape.

We invite you to enjoy this year’s annual report and see how we are continuing to serve the communities of North Texas.

Sincerely,
Yasmin Bhatia
Yasmin Bhatia, CEO

At every grade level, our scholars excel in Uplift's Whole Scholar approach that sees each learner as an individual and supports his or her academic, social, and emotional well-being.

Across each of our Pre-K–5th and Pre-K–12th grade schools, the Whole Scholar approach is at work with rigorous academics, nurturing school communities, supportive families, and unmatched college preparation.

The Whole Scholar approach incorporates four key areas:

- IB® for All
- Strong Scholar Culture
- Road to College & Career
- Connected Families





Open-minded
Communicator

Caring

Risk-taker

Critical Thinker



Inquiring

Principled

Balanced

Reflective

Knowledgeable

Uplift adopted the International Baccalaureate® as our academic pathway more than 20 years ago. We knew that IB® students were more likely than their peers to succeed in higher education, and that the focus on personal development would help our scholars reach their fullest potential as adults.

“IB® helped me in the long run because it really challenged me to look at different perspectives and to broaden my horizons as I entered into higher education. I felt I had a leg up on some of my peers and was more prepared for the rigors of college life.”
—Nima Rahman,
Uplift North Hills Alumnae

This year we are proud to announce that 100% of our K–12th continuum schools and three K–5th primary schools are now IB® authorized, and that ALL 10 of our high schools will now be offering the IB® Diploma Programme. At Uplift, we believe in "IB® For All!"

Over **80%** of the Class of 2020 are on track to earn a prestigious IB® Diploma.



As of 2018, **ALL 10** Uplift high schools are authorized for the IB® Diploma Programme, giving our scholars the full IB® Continuum experience.



With **13** primary schools, **10** middle schools, and **10** high schools authorized in IB®, Uplift Education is proud to be among the **TOP FIVE** IB® districts in the nation.



A happy scholar is a successful scholar, and we know that happiness can depend on many factors including safety, social inclusion, and extracurricular activities. Each of our campuses has its own unique culture which has been built around its scholar population. That culture begins with caring teachers and leaders who are committed to creating a positive environment, and continues with programs focused on social and emotional health.

Uplift Education offers an innovative and robust mental health counseling program staffed by highly qualified clinicians which prioritizes the mental health and well-being of scholars. We are proud to offer licensed mental health professionals at each grade level, which rivals or surpasses even the largest public-school districts.

Campus safety is something we take very seriously and have for years. From campus security to emergency procedures, we are always perfecting what is in place, and looking for opportunities to improve. All of our campuses were planned with safety in mind, and we are serving as a model to other districts.

LOTS OF CLUBS AND ACTIVITIES AT UPLIFT SCHOOLS!

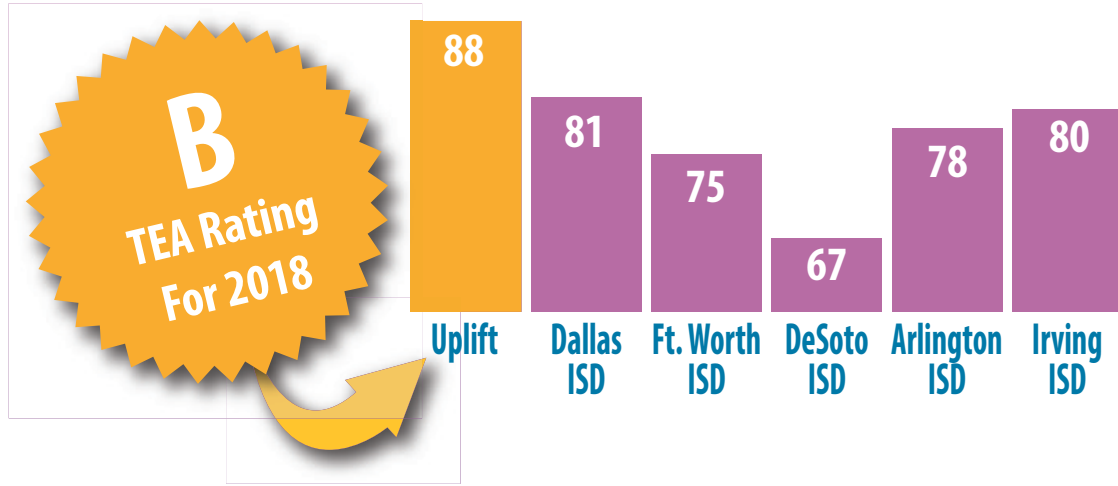
- Animation • Art Club • Arts Journal • Baking Club • Band • Baseball
- Basketball • Black Student Association • Cheerleading • Chess
- Cross Country • Dance • Debate • DECA • Diverse Lounge • Dungeons and Dragons Club • Engineering Club • Flag Football • Folklorico • Gay Straight Alliance • Glee Club • Golf • Gospel Choir • Graphic Novel Club
- IGNITE (women’s leadership organization) • Junior World Affairs Council
- Just Say Yes • Kappa League • Latin Dance • Mock Trial • Model United Nations • Music Theory and Production • Muslim Student Association
- National Beta Club • National Honor Society • Peer Mediation and Diversity Club • Newsletter
- Project Lead the Way
- Restorative Justice Circle
- Robotics
- Scholar Athlete Advisory Committee
- Scholar Council
- Science Bowl • Senior Council
- Sexuality and Gender Alliance
- Soccer • Spanish Honor Society
- Studio Art • Swimming
- Tae Kwon Do • Tennis
- Track and Field • UIL Theater
- Volleyball • Women in Science • Yam Club
- Yearbook • Zine Club (literary arts)



Uplift employs more than **40** highly qualified licensed mental health professionals as part of our model which prioritizes the mental health and well-being of scholars.



Uplift earned a "B" rating from the Texas Education Agency, which is higher than many of the surrounding metroplex school districts.



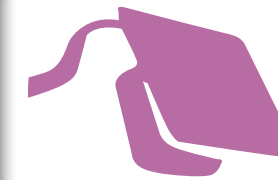
100% of eligible high schools earned national recognition from U.S. News and World Report.



2X
55% of Uplift graduates are earning college degrees within six years. This is 2X higher than the state and surrounding counties.

CLASS OF 2018

- 658 graduating seniors submitted more than 6,000 applications and were accepted to over 340 different colleges and universities, earning a grand total of \$84M in scholarships and grants
- 76% on free/reduced lunch
- 74% first generation college attendees
- 100% college acceptance / 46% selective colleges
- 94% college matriculation



UPLIFT INFINITY AND UPLIFT MIGHTY CELEBRATED THEIR FIRST GRADUATING CLASSES IN 2018.





We believe that our scholars' success is closely tied with parental involvement. We want our parents to be partners in the process and be connected to the culture of each school. Whether our parents are volunteering to help on campus, attending school celebrations, or receiving Uplift-sponsored continuing education, we are proud to nurture those connections.

"I love the relationship that we've built with my child's teacher, and the nurturing relationship she has built with my child. I see my son's confidence growing like never before and I love that I'm part of the process."
—Leslie Jaramillo
Uplift Infinity Parent of Andrew, 1st Grade

Family connections also extend to community connections. We encourage our families to be involved in our local neighborhoods and we work to build relationships between the community and our schools. Many of our afterschool activities and programs are provided by local organizations and provide a valuable service to our families. It's this circle of school, family and community that makes our experience unique for scholars.



Uplift families and friends logged more than **5,000** volunteer hours last year at our campuses, and this



year we have had nearly **4,000** people sign up to volunteer.



We are proud to partner with the following organizations to provide quality afterschool programming for our scholars.





College is the goal for our graduates—not just attending, but earning that coveted college degree and moving into a successful career. Uplift has always had a distinctive Road To College program that prepares our scholars for higher education and helps them find their best-fit college. This past year, the program expanded to include career exposure trips which give all our scholars the opportunity to learn about a variety of pathways that await them after college.



Over **5,000** Uplift scholars traveled more than **1,000,000** miles to visit colleges this past year.



Our high school Road To College counselors will also work in conjunction with network Alumni Success Counselors to provide support to alumni by college and region.

These expanded services for our graduates will include career counseling, internship opportunities and more support to persist toward college completion.

As a result, our graduates earn college degrees at **DOUBLE** the rate of the state and surrounding counties.



“Once my senior year arrived, I felt prepared to start applying to colleges. Upon graduation, I knew I was ready for college, and was excited for the future, thanks to the support from my teachers and Road To College counselors.”
 —Cala Cross
 Uplift Mighty Alumnae”

Currently, **76%** of Uplift graduates are enrolled in college or have obtained a bachelor’s degree.



College Visits | Career Exposure | College Fairs | Essay Writing | Application Guidance | College Transition Classes | Best-Fit College Acceptance | Financial Aid Guidance | College Partners | Career Coaching | Internships | Networking

→ → → **THE UPLIFT ROAD TO COLLEGE AND CAREER** → → →

Uplift continues its carefully planned expansion to serve more scholars. This past year, our Uplift Pinnacle South campus was renamed to Uplift Wisdom and expanded to incorporate a primary school. Uplift Wisdom will grow to a full Pre-K–12th grade campus and will serve as a continuation school for our Uplift Pinnacle primary scholars.

Our Fort Worth growth continued this year with the opening of Uplift Ascend in south Fort Worth. We welcomed more than 280 new scholars into Kindergarten, 1st, 2nd, and 6th grades. Fort Worth growth will continue for the 2019-20 school year with the opening of Uplift Elevate, located near I-20 and west Loop 820.

In order to support our Fort Worth growth, a second Central Management Office was opened

in the Fort Worth area. This office provides key personnel support and training space to our staff in the western part of the metroplex.

In addition to school expansion, we continue to focus on providing best-in-class IB[®] programming for all our scholars. We will continue to expand our college and career support to ensure all graduates are matched with their best-fit school and career.

We are also proud to announce that we will be expanding our partnership with Grand Prairie ISD to include middle school. This unique model for a "school within a school" is being custom-designed by Uplift and GPISD, and will serve as a model for other charter and public school partnerships.



Board of Directors

We thank our Board of Directors for the 2018–19 school year who are helping guide the strategic direction of our network.

Grid of Board of Directors members including Ryan Moss (Chair), Pilar Davies, Rev. Dr. Lael Melville, Tony Dona, Amy Messersmith, Richard Frapart, Cathy Estrada, Carol Proffer, Kay Allen, Christine Frary, Stuart Ravnik, Cristina Barbosa, Dexter Freeman II, Brunilda Santiago, Michael Stack, James Stanton, W. Carey Carter, Michael Giles, Brice Tarzwell, Cullum Clark, Kenneth Govan, Ed Tauriac, George Conant, Cameron Johnson, Josh Terry, Adam Cox, Dawn Mann, Jason Villalba, Bruce Ware, and Cathleen Crews, Donell Wiggins.

Donors

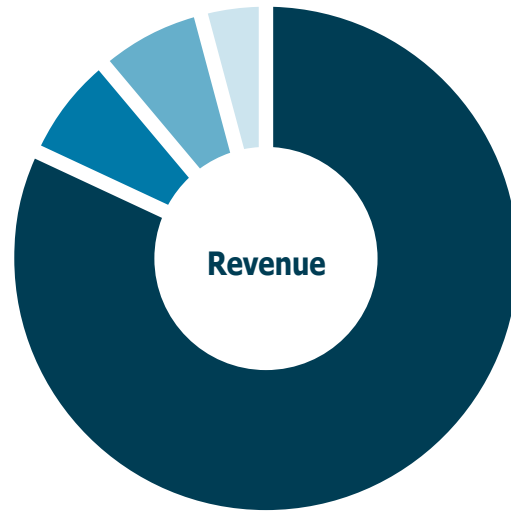
Without the generosity of our donors, Uplift would not be able to provide an education for the 18,000+ scholars enrolled in 2018-19. We extend a heartfelt thank you to the following donors for their generous 2017-18 gifts and lifetime donations over \$25K to support Uplift’s mission.

- List of donors including Richard and Tory Agnich, Leo Alaniz, Dolores Alcalá, Gabe Alcantara, Stephanie Aughinbaugh, Fred L. Battles, Yasmin and Vik Bhatia, John and Pamela Beckert Family, Kim and Mike Bloss, etc.

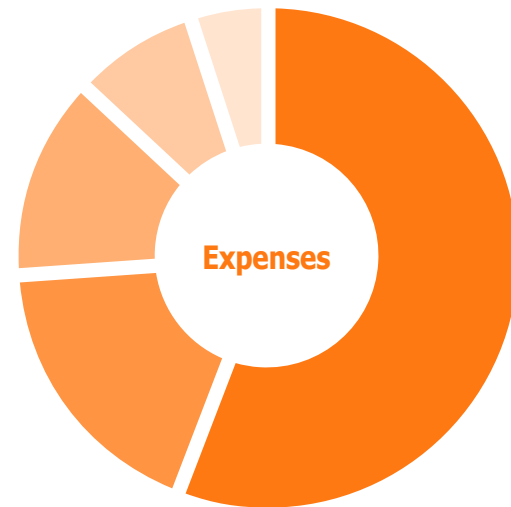
- Continuation of donor list including The Broad Center, Educate Texas, Dane Hoang, The Meadows Foundation, Vin and Caren Prothro Foundation, TG Public Benefit Program, etc.

As in years past, Uplift maintains its investment-grade rating and continues to grow and fund innovation through private philanthropic support. Additionally, Uplift advocates to find ways to bridge the funding gap through state policies.

Financial Summary for Fiscal Year 2018



- State Foundation School Funding (82%)
- Private Philanthropic Donations (7%)
- Federal Funding (7%)
- National School Lunch & Breakfast Program (4%)



- School Salaries & Benefits (56%)
- Other School Operating Expenses (18%)
- CMO Staff and Operating Expenses (13%)
- Interest on Debts and Bonds (8%)
- Depreciation and Amortization (5%)



Investing in Uplift Education accomplishes more than just opening new schools! We work to develop globally-minded scholars who are college-ready, and who stay on track to earn a college degree. While we have an amazing team of teachers, leaders and support staff, we also know that our goal cannot be reached without the support of community partners and volunteers. Uplift has a variety of opportunities to work with our schools and scholars, from tutoring students to supporting our front office staff.

We hope you will consider not only sharing your time and talent, but also investing financially in Uplift. Your dollars will be used to continue the development of new practices to further increase scholar achievement and, best of all, we will share those results with others so the impact can multiply. Annually, Uplift receives 20,000 applications for 2,500 scholar spots. Your dollars will provide access to high quality education for North Texas' highest need families.

For volunteer and corporate partnership opportunities, contact:

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To learn more about giving opportunities, contact:

Deborah Bigham
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or (469) 621-8493

To donate to Uplift Education, please visit:

www.uplifteducation.org/donate



Be a part of our mission. Be a part of our community.



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