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### Redefine Possible



YESPREP.ORG



YES Prep Public Schools will increase the number of students from disadvantaged communities who graduate from college prepared to lead.

### Why We Exist

Across the nation, only half of all students from low-income communities graduate from high school and only 10% earn a college degree. Over the long term, these statistics damage our economy and prevent the next generation of leaders from emerging. In a country where a child's zip code often determines his or her life trajectory, YES Prep provides evidence that different outcomes are possible when students are given access to high-quality educational opportunities.

At YES Prep, we believe that every student, regardless of race or socioeconomic status, deserves the opportunity to receive a world-class education.





sources: www.uscensus.gov, www.cew.georgetown.edu/jobs2018

### Who We Are

YES Prep Public Schools is redefining what is possible in public education. We are a system of high-performing public charter schools, proving that students from low-income communities can achieve at the highest academic levels. Our exceptional results demonstrate that better outcomes are not only possible, but also probable, when school systems invest in human capital, build a culture of high expectations, and create effective support systems to ensure that student achievement is at the forefront of every decision made.







**97%** African American

and Hispanic



85% Economically Disadvantaged

### WHAT IS A CHARTER SCHOOL?

Charter schools are public schools. Intended as incubators for innovation, charter schools are free from some of the regulations and red tape of traditional public schools. Many charter school systems, like YES Prep, are open-enrollment and serve all students, while others have admission requirements. In Texas, charter schools receive state funding, but do not receive any funding for facilities and so must raise those dollars privately.

### **Our Educational Model**

YES Prep operates small, sixth- through twelfth-grade campuses that enable our teachers and school leaders to build transformative relationships with students who often enter our system one or more grade levels behind. From day one, YES Prep students are held to higher academic standards than their peers in most traditional independent school districts. With state standards as the floor – not the ceiling – our curriculum is designed to prepare students for rigorous Advanced Placement (AP) level coursework in high school and ensure they are collegeready. Additionally, YES Prep students are involved in a wide array of enrichment opportunities, such as annual college trips, which expose them to top colleges and universities throughout the country.



#### OUR MODEL



## Great People Make the Difference

At YES Prep we know that our success is a direct result of hiring great people. We have built innovative programs to ensure we are growing excellent teachers, as well as strong leaders, for our campuses and system.





#### **Teaching Excellence**

For our newest teachers, the Teaching Excellence program provides rigorous training and individualized coaching to support teachers through their crucial first year.



#### **Teacher Continuum**

Our teachers' salaries are not determined by years in the classroom, but by the quality of their instruction and planning. The Teacher Continuum allows teachers to earn a competitive salary on an accelerated timeline, without leaving the classroom.



#### Leading Excellence

For those who aspire to high-level leadership, our Leading Excellence program exists to build a pipeline of future YES Prep leaders who will lead our organization forward at both the school and system level.



#### **Diversity Initiatives**

At YES Prep, we embrace and protect diversity in an effort to advance equity and social justice. We hire diversity ambassadors who facilitate a professional learning series for all team members.



*"It is inspiring to work in a system where so many people are invested in my growth and development."* 

- Laura Washington, Director of Academics, Fifth Ward



"I value being able to lead and have an impact without having to leave the classroom." - Craig Brandenburg, Advanced Teacher, North Central

### College Counseling & Alumni Support

Robust and comprehensive college counseling is a central component of the YES Prep program. In fact, beginning in sixth grade, students and their families are exposed to colleges and universities across the country through annual trips, parent information sessions, and college counseling seminars. Our ratio of students to counselors is **40:1**, compared to the Texas average of **355:1**.



The College Initiatives Team exists to develop college-going identities and empower our students and families to fulfill the YES Prep mission and they do so by serving students through the following mindsets:



#### Advising: We help students find the best fit.

Every YES Prep student receives individualized counseling throughout the college selection and application process, including through the creation of personalized college affordability plans with parents.



### Alumni: We help students earn a degree by promoting full-time enrollment.

In collaboration with campus leadership, our alumni support team works with students across the country to provide support and resources for their transition to and journey through college.



### **Seminar:** We help students develop their college-going identity by delivering high-quality instruction.

YES Prep students take a college counseling seminar each year of high school. These classes teach students both academic and non-cognitive skills essential to building their future college identity.



#### **Student Opportunities:** We help students connect to communities and non-traditional learning opportunities.

By the time a YES Prep student graduates from high school, he or she has visited more than 20 different college campuses across the country and will have engaged in at least one service, academic, or cultural enrichment opportunity outside of the classroom.

### **District Partnerships**

Our mission is not limited to YES Prep students; it is about all of the students in the communities where we work. While we are proud of the impact we're having on the 10,000 students we serve, we know that we can have a broader impact on the education reform movement by partnering with traditional school districts that are committed to raising the bar.





#### SKY (Spring Branch, KIPP, YES Prep)

In 2011 Spring Branch ISD, KIPP Houston, and YES Prep formed an innovative three-way partnership called SKY to provide additional excellent educational choices for students in the Spring Branch area. With the support of the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, the SKY Partnership is proving the idea that district-charter partnerships will enhance the performance of all students. The partnership allows the three districts to share best practices and services in order to offer all students the high-quality educational options they deserve.

### Aldine ISD

YES Prep launched a district partnership with Aldine ISD in 2013. The partnership unites two national Broad Prize-winning districts that are dedicated to sharing best practices and collaborating on a wide range of programs including but not limited to: college counseling, professional development, leadership development, operations and more. In addition to working under a shared-campus model at Aldine's Hoffman Middle School, Aldine ISD has implemented YES Prep's college counseling program.