

Leading *Houston* Forward

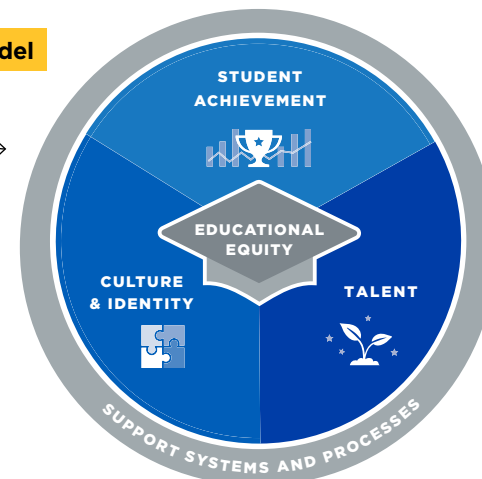


For more than 20 years, YES Prep has led Houston in providing students from underserved communities access to a high-quality, college-preparatory public education. The lives of students and families in our care have been forever changed as a result of our proven model and your tireless commitment of support.

Our Core Values



Our Core Model



"Top 100 High Schools in the Nation"

U.S. News & World Report (2017-present)

"Most Challenging High Schools"

The Washington Post (2013-2018)

"Highest Performing District"

Good Reason Houston (2019)

"Good Reason Houston's Inaugural Honor Roll"

Good Reason Houston (2019)

"Best Places to Work"

Houston Business Journal (2010-2013, 2015, 2018, 2019)

Dear Friends and Supporters,

When the 2019-2020 school year began, almost 14,000 students entered YES Prep's 19 campuses across the Houston area. Nobody imagined that seven months later, our community would face the dual crises of the COVID-19 pandemic and the pandemic of racism. The implications of these disasters are far-reaching, and our work has never been more important than it is now.

While the past several months have been extraordinarily challenging, we are deeply proud of how YES Prep has responded.

We moved quickly to launch *Keep YES Prep Learning*, a brand new remote learning program, so that our students could continue to be immersed in high-quality academics.

We celebrated more than 1,443 seniors who graduated from YES Prep this spring, joining the ranks of nearly 7,500 amazing YES Prep alumni, 90% of them first generation college bound.

And we took a stance in the face of racial injustice, expressing an unequivocal commitment to ensuring our students of color are recognized and celebrated for their individual identities and providing a critical support network to all students and their families, many of whom are suffering disproportionately in this health and economic crisis.

We recognize that by overcoming seemingly impossible odds, our students not only expand opportunities for themselves, their families, and

their communities, but also reshape entrenched myths about what they can achieve.

During this very crucial time in our history, YES Prep remains dedicated to **our mission – to increase the number of students from underserved communities who graduate from college prepared to lead.**

In addition to inspiring stories of student success, this report shares important news about YES Prep initiatives like the *Leading Houston Forward* campaign that will fund YES Prep's transformation into a full preK-12 model, with ten elementary schools opening across the Houston area over the next four years.

Our vision is that every child in Houston will have equitable access to a public school that delivers an excellent, college-ready education. The campaign and your support will make it possible for us to serve 23,000 students by 2024.

Despite these hard times, YES Prep's future is bright. Thank you for partnering with us to create extraordinary futures for our children.



Mark DiBella
Mark DiBella | CEO



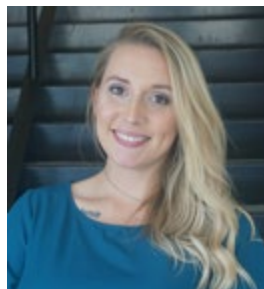
Mark Gregg
Mark Gregg | Board Chair



Your Support Makes *All Means All* Possible

Success Begins With Our Teachers

At YES Prep, we believe the right talent is crucial to student success, and teacher Lauren Holcomb is a great example. Having started her teaching career at YES Prep Southside in 2017, Lauren currently leads the YES Student Transition and Enrichment Program (YSTEP), which focuses on educating students in Special Populations.



Meeting Students Where They Are

Lauren is passionate about the work she does, teaching students with autism, intellectual disabilities, and other special needs in a self-contained setting. She carefully adapts district-wide information for the sake of her students' understanding. She says, "My job is to teach them according to how they learn."



Overcoming Remote Learning Challenges

In response to COVID-19, the seven YSTEP campus leaders teamed up to create content that catered to remote learning for their students. Lauren specifically took ownership of developing the English Language Arts content for all YSTEP students across the district.

For students like Lauren's, adapting to remote learning was especially difficult. To help her students cope, Lauren worked hard to recreate many of their classroom's normal activities virtually, as their daily morning meeting.

After a few weeks of remote learning, her students grew comfortable enough to lead and run the meetings themselves. We are grateful for Lauren and all of our talented staff who exemplify YES Prep's motto, ALL MEANS ALL – doing whatever it takes to serve ALL YES Prep students.



5,600 Hours
of direct services to students
in Special Populations



3,588
individual student services
logged, including counseling,
speech therapy, and dyslexia
support



6.7%
of students in
Special Populations



35.1%
Limited English Proficiency

Expanding Horizons Through New Opportunities



Students from YES Prep Southwest visiting various colleges in Minnesota

A Junior Spring Trip To Minnesota Drives Educational Equity

In February 2020, 49 YES Prep students toured IMPACT partner colleges, including Macalester College, University of Minnesota, the College of Saint Benedict & Saint John's University, Carleton College, and St. Olaf University. To learn more about our IMPACT College Partnership Program, visit: www.yesprep.org/departments/college-initiatives/impact.

By participating in these visits, YES Prep students start to imagine their college dreams as tangible realities.

"Many students might not be open to the idea of leaving home because they do not know what to expect," says Brianna Hernandez, YES Prep Southwest Class of 2021. "This experience made me realize that there is a whole other world outside of Houston that I should explore."

To read more about this year's Junior Spring Trip, visit: www.yesprep.org/news/blog/featured/-board/blog/post/2020-junior-spring-trip-to-minnesota.

*"After three days on the trip, most students realized that with the right winter coat, nine degrees isn't that bad when you get an **incredible education in return.**"*

Molly Teague, YES Prep Junior Spring Trip Chaperone



Spindletop Charities Hack-A-Thon

At this year's inaugural Spindletop Charities Hack-A-Thon, engineering students from Mr. Nunez's class at YES Prep Brays Oaks were tasked with developing a tool that could be used to install a product in a remote area with access issues. Young professionals representing all aspects of the energy sector were on-hand to mentor the participants. This event was generously hosted by the Spindletop Emerging Leaders.

Students and Families Keep Learning Through COVID-19 Pandemic



The outbreak of COVID-19 took the world by storm, forcing schools and workplaces to close and move their everyday operations to digital platforms accessed from home. Meanwhile, disruptions in employment and pay exacerbated challenges for many of YES Prep's current school families and alumni, making it harder to pay rent and utilities, buy food, and access medical prescriptions and other necessities.

Thanks to the incredible support of the YES Prep community, we responded quickly to the transition and went above and beyond for our families. Through the *Keep YES Prep Learning (KYPL)* initiative, we provided high-quality remote learning as well as nutritious meals and social-emotional support.

Meal Distribution

Recognizing the need to eliminate food insecurity, YES Prep has committed to providing meals to all children 18 and under in our communities for as long as the COVID-19 crisis requires. Since the start of the school closure in March, YES Prep has distributed more than 319,000 meals.



YES Prep distributed meals by bus to neighborhoods across Houston

Technology Needs

Knowing that our students could not afford to miss days of school, much less weeks or months, our campus leaders and teachers worked hard to fill the digital divide. More than 4,000 laptops were distributed to families to access YES Prep's online learning platform.

Javier Guerrero is the father of three YES Prep students in their junior and senior years at the Southeast campus. Javier shares:

"Receiving laptops from YES Prep has really kept my kids on track. I am grateful that there was no interruption in their education, that they did not lose focus, and did not fall behind. I am proud of the way YES Prep is offering the same quality of education during this new normal."



Emotional Well-Being

As part of *Keep YES Prep Learning (KYPL)*, our leaders and staff remain engaged with students and families to assist with challenges resulting from the ongoing global crisis.

During the school year, YES Prep counselors met digitally with students and families for an hour each day to assess and reinforce students' emotional well-being and reassure them of our community's ongoing support.



82%

overall satisfaction rate on KYPL family survey



\$625K

raised for families and alumni in need



1,000+

video lessons produced by YES Prep staff

Culture and Identity: A Celebration of Success



Black Excellence

DeAuvian Roberson graduated from YES Prep Southwest, which has a majority LatinX student population.

While she appreciated her diverse surroundings, she and her peers were grateful for a place

where various affinity groups could connect. The #BlackExcellence club at DeAuvian's school provides African American, Black, and biracial students with a voice to promote culture and provide a sense of belonging.

College Bound

DeAuvian was accepted to nearly 20 colleges and universities, including Texas Southern University, Paul Quinn College, University of North Texas, and Stephen F. Austin State University. She also received more than \$50,000 in scholarships, including the Benedict College Presidential Scholarship for nearly \$15,000.

DeAuvian is committed to the YES Prep mission and plans to graduate from college prepared to lead. She will attend Dillard University in the fall, pursuing a major in business management. DeAuvian shares this incredible honor with her family, teachers, and supporters like you.

Building Upon His YES Prep Experience

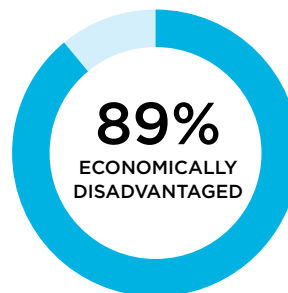
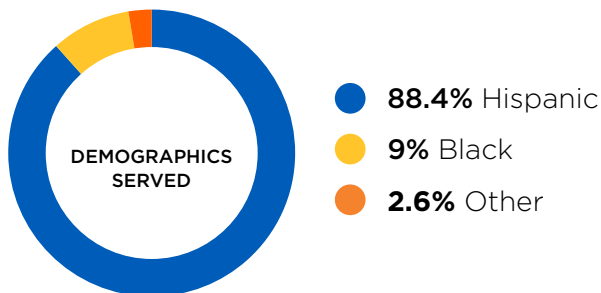


Carlos Hernandez, a rising senior at YES Prep Gulfton, is the fourth member of his family to attend YES Prep but the first to study at the School for Ethics and Global Leadership (SEGL) in Washington, D.C.

Although leaving YES Prep to study for a semester outside of Houston was challenging, Carlos acknowledges that studying at SEGL created a lot of opportunities for him. He was one of 24 students in the program who were able to witness testimony from Acting Director of National Intelligence Joseph Maguire during the Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence hearing for the U.S. House of Representatives Impeachment Inquiry in September 2019.

Thanks to these and other experiences and perspectives, Carlos is driven to help his community. To read more of Carlos' story, visit: www.yesprep.org/news/blog/featured/-board/blog/post/yes-prep-student-present-at-impeachment-inquiry.

"I am still in touch with my friends from SEGL. A lot of us have very different opinions about current events, but we all have a passion. I got a New York Times subscription and read it on the commute to school each morning. I am seeing how the world is changing and want to stay on top of it."



The 2020 Senior Experience

Many students and families eagerly look forward to Senior Signing Day, but this and other in-person rites of passage – including prom and graduation – were disrupted by COVID-19. YES Prep formed the Senior Experience Working Group to ensure that the Class of 2020 had a memorable, lasting, and uniquely positive senior year. Our team worked to capture the desires of seniors and their families to create a new experience that would bind the Class of 2020 together, celebrate their individual campus identities and cultures, and honor them for all they have and will accomplish.

Cap And Gown Parade

Teachers recognized seniors with music, balloons, and signs as they picked up their caps and gowns at their campuses. In turn, students and their families turned their vehicles into celebratory expressions of senior pride.

Senior Signing Day

In cooperation with social distancing, seniors submitted videos of their declaration to share in a system-wide, virtual Senior Signing Day. For the first time in YES Prep history, families were able to stand next to their child as they declared their future plans to all watching on the web. To watch highlights from the Virtual Senior Signing Day and YES Prep commencement ceremonies, go to our [YES Prep SSD 2020 video](#) on YouTube.



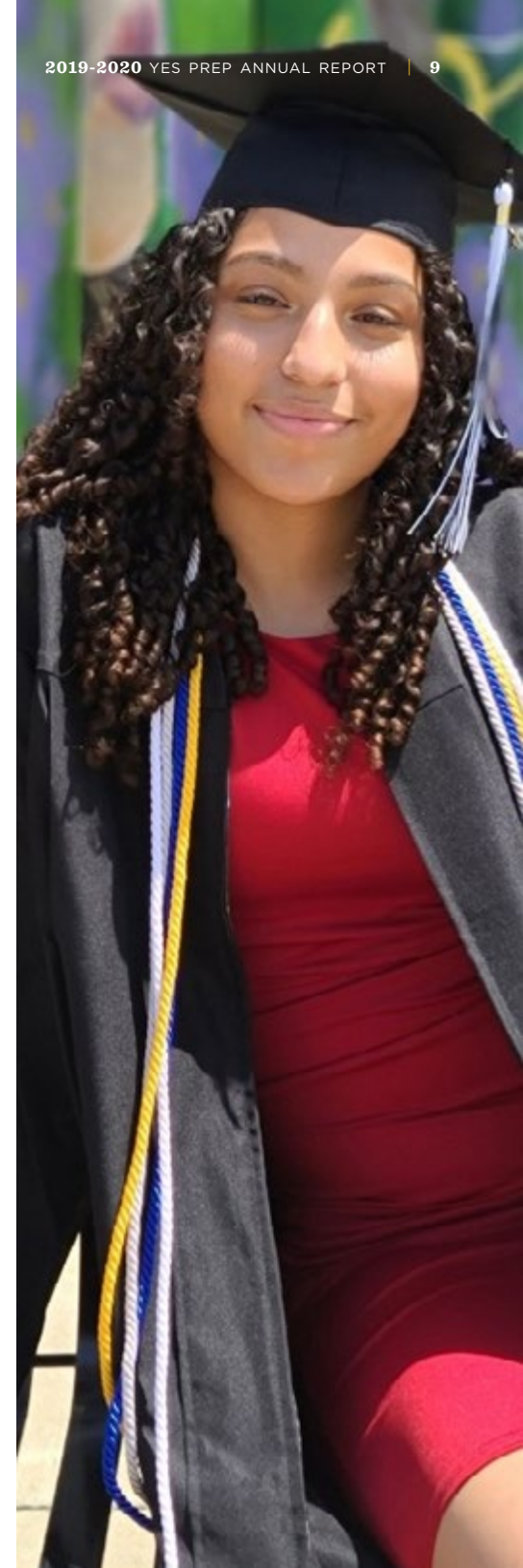
100% of seniors accepted to a 4-year or 2-year college



40.5% of the class of 2020 achieved a college-ready score on the SAT (480 ERW/530 Math)



80% of the class of 2019 matriculated to college within the first year of HS graduation



Leading Houston Forward



Third grade reading proficiency is a powerful predictor of long-term educational success. Unfortunately, a significant percentage of students entering YES Prep in sixth grade are two to three years behind in reading or math.

YES Prep is committed to doing all we can to help these kids catch up. To address these challenges, the YES Prep Board unanimously voted to convert our 6-12 grade model into a full pre-K-12 model, opening 10 new feeder elementary schools beginning in the 2020-2021 school year.

The *Leading Houston Forward* campaign will raise \$80 million from philanthropic sources over a five-year period to ensure the success of this effort. *Leading Houston Forward* also calls for crucial investments in three other mission-critical areas that are essential to achieving our goals: talent, student achievement, and school culture and design. Additionally, the campaign will provide funds to rebuild our East End secondary campus and open one new 6-12 campus.

Thanks to the generosity of Houston Endowment, Inc., The Cullen Foundation, The Brown Foundation, Inc., Laura and John Arnold, Charter School Growth Fund, MD Anderson Foundation, Good Reason Houston, our Board of Directors and Advisory Council, and donors like you, more than half of the funds have been raised.

Our first two elementary schools will open in the fall of 2020 next to our existing North Central and Southeast campuses, followed by North Forest and Southside elementary schools in fall of 2021.

We have spent the past 22 years spreading broadly across the greater Houston area. Now it is time to go deeper into the communities that we currently serve.

To learn more, please visit:

www.leadinghoustonforward.yesprep.org.



Where We Are Going

 **30** Schools  **23k+** Students  **2.6k** Staff Members



“The Leading Houston Forward campaign will allow YES Prep to expand from our traditional model serving grades 6-12 to a full pre-k-12 model, filling a critical need in the communities we serve. We are profoundly grateful to the Houston philanthropic community for generously contributing to the campaign, ultimately allowing YES Prep to provide a first-class education to 23,000 Houston children by 2024.”

Joe Greenberg, Campaign Chair

Campaign Cabinet

CAMPAIGN CHAIR

Joe Greenberg


HONORARY CHAIRS

Laura and John Arnold

CAMPAIGN CABINET

Michael Gamson, Ajay Khurana, Carla Knobloch,
Stuart Stedman, Garry Tanner, Carl Tricoli



 Current YES Prep campus

 Current campus and Expansion

Sites for the additional elementary schools will be prioritized based on community need for high-quality elementary school options, demand from families for a school of choice, and the availability of land or building space.

Corporate Partners

Experts predict that by the end of this year, 65% of all new jobs will demand education beyond high school. This is what fuels YES Prep to advance its mission, and we are grateful for generous corporate partners that fund capital projects, growth, innovation, and enhanced programming.

Valero

The YES Prep East End campus was selected as a beneficiary of the 2019 Valero Benefit for Children by the Valero Energy Foundation, resulting in a \$75,000 investment in strategic student enrichment opportunities. Valero is deeply committed to improving the East End community, home to its Houston refinery.



Enbridge

One of YES Prep's earliest corporate partners, Enbridge, supported our redesigned Leading Excellence program. With the growth of our organization, we need a pipeline of high-performing leaders at all levels. Through the Enbridge's support, YES Prep was able to develop and deliver equity-driven adaptive leadership training to all campus-based leaders.



Halliburton

YES Prep was honored to be chosen as a recipient of proceeds from the 25th Annual Halliburton Charity Golf Tournament, which benefits selected charities that have a significant impact on the communities they serve. The event raised \$4.5 million for over 100 nonprofit organizations, once again making it one of the largest non-PGA golf tournament fundraisers in the U.S.

**Halliburton
Charitable Foundation**



Chevron welcoming Fifth Ward students to the first day at school

"Valero's generous investment has improved the educational opportunities we can provide students. Technology enhancements for our classrooms, equipment upgrades for physical education, and assistance for students to attend spring college trips – all of this and more is thanks to Valero's commitment to our community."

Aaron Simmons, YES Prep East End Principal

Special Events

Leading Houston Forward Celebration 2019

Over \$1 million was raised at the Third Annual Leading Houston Forward Luncheon on October 16, 2019 at the Wortham Theater Center. Chaired by Emily and Jordan Marye, the luncheon hosted almost 400 guests in support of YES Prep.



Guests at the luncheon enjoyed a captivating keynote address from Dr. John B. King Jr., a passionate social justice and civil rights advocate

and inspiring educator. Tapped by President Obama in 2016 to lead the U.S. Department of Education and commended for his commitment to “preparing every child for success,” King currently serves as the president and CEO of The Education Trust, a national nonprofit that works to close opportunity gaps that disproportionately affect students of color and students from low-income families.

“Emily and I support YES Prep because it is the only major charter district solely focused on Houston and that consistently delivers unmatched student achievement results. YES Prep is truly leading Houston forward and we are proud to be a part of this mission.”

Jordan Marye, Event Chair

During the luncheon program, three families graced the stage, showcasing the past, present and future of YES Prep. These families represent thousands across Houston that proudly send their children to our schools with the full trust and commitment that we will provide them with an excellent college ready education.

The Chris Barbic Legacy Award was presented to longtime corporate supporter Vitol, for their tireless commitment to YES Prep’s mission.

Veteran educator and YES Prep CEO Mark DiBella shared, “Vitol has been a humble partner and champion of YES Prep for over a decade, supporting the fundamental belief that we hold at YES Prep - that all children deserve equitable access to educational excellence.”

Both the Leading Houston Forward Celebration and the YES Prep Texas Hold Em’ Poker Tournament bring together some of our most loyal and impactful donors and friends in support of our students and their success.



Event chairs and the keynote speaker, Emily and Jordan Marye, and Dr. John B. King, Jr.

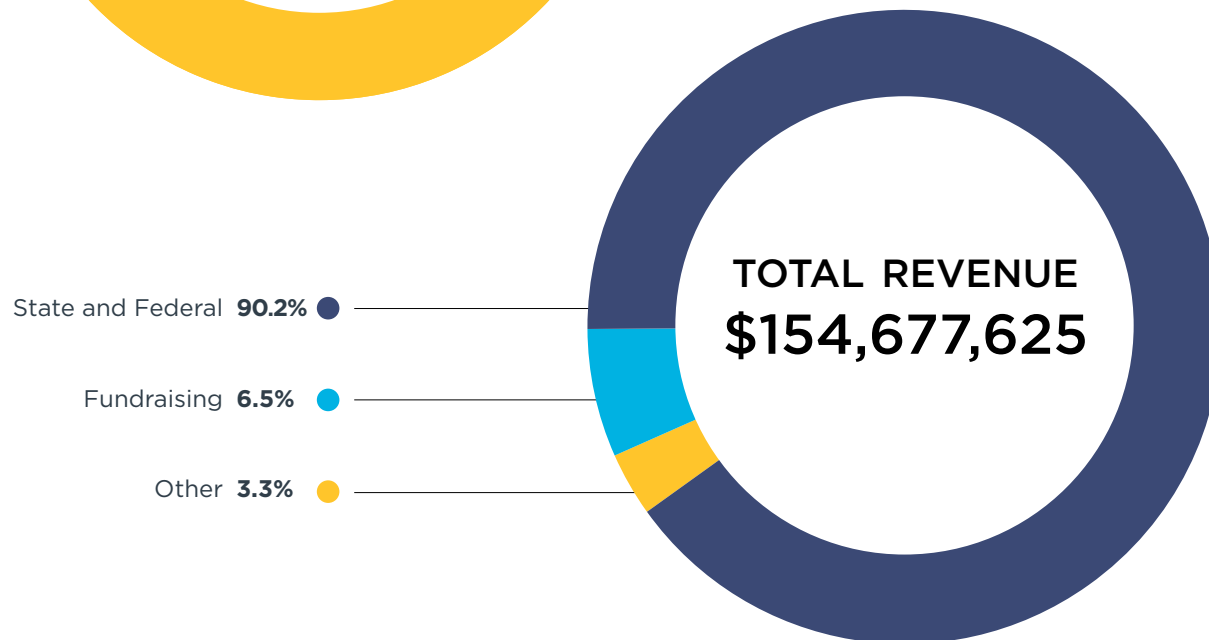
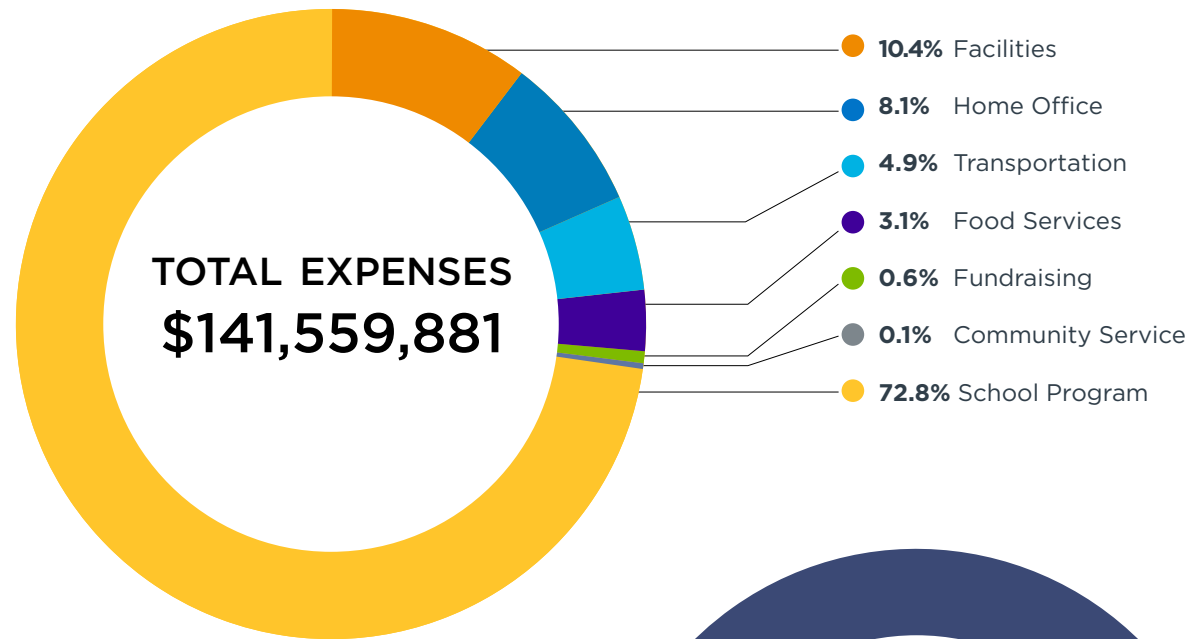


15th Annual Oil & Gas Texas Hold ‘Em Tournament

On March 5, 2020, YES Prep and Houston’s leaders in the oil and gas industry and philanthropic community hosted the 15th Annual Oil & Gas Texas Hold ‘Em Tournament at The Corinthian. Since the first tournament in 2006, the event has raised over \$15 million in support of YES Prep. This year, more than 550 guests attended the record-breaking night that raised more than \$1.6 million to support YES Prep’s 19 campuses across Houston, with more than half raised the evening of the tournament.

Financial Report

FY19



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OUR MISSION

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





YES Prep Public Schools

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