



## Calls to Action

### Goal 1: Children Enter Kindergarten School Ready

1. Join legislative team to promote and support Pre-K funding legislation

Multiple bills before the legislature this session support full-day Pre-K and other enhancements to our public and private Pre-K programs. You can work with others who care about high quality early childhood education in a few meetings over the next 4 months to help our students be better prepared when they enter Kindergarten.

2. Market “Born Learning Guides” (early childhood learning guidelines) to parents and through businesses

Many of our parents don’t realize what they should be looking for in their children’s development. Are they progressing as they need to be ready for Kindergarten and beyond? Help us provide this information to every parent who needs it – through businesses, civic groups, faith-based organizations - any place we can. We’ll give you Born Learning Guides for every stage of child development to share with others.

3. Join funding teams to maximize early childhood dollars

We know that effective early investment in our children returns 7 to 13 times in greater student success in education, lower costs for social services, and lower costs in rehabilitation. Yet our private funders aren’t coordinated to leverage dollars, and we often miss out on available government funds. Help us optimize Central Texas funding to realize this huge return on investment.

### Goal 2: Eliminate Achievement Gaps While Improving Overall Student Performance

1. Be a middle school tutor, mentor or academic coach. Recruit other volunteers and give time off to your employees to volunteer.

Every child needs a supportive adult in his life. We need **hundreds** of new middle school mentors, tutors, and coaches to meet with students for about an hour a week through proven, existing programs, so we’ve launched a major new volunteering effort through United Way Capital Area. As a leader in our community you can play an instrumental role! Recruit your own employees and give them time off to volunteer. Help us to bring other businesses and organizations on board. Contact Laura Garcia at [Laura.Garcia@UnitedWayCapitalArea.org](mailto:Laura.Garcia@UnitedWayCapitalArea.org) or 512.225.0376 to discuss how your organization can support this initiative.

2. Promote the “PUBV” message linking education to economic prosperity

The Para Una Buena Vida message, created by CommuniCard and linking education to economic prosperity has been tested across our community and it works! You can be part of the campaign to get it out- to every family, school, church, business, or social group you know. You can work with the Education Foundation of the Greater Austin Hispanic Chamber of Commerce <http://www.gahcc.org/> to provide outreach to schools, or we’ll provide the messaging materials and you get the word out to other groups – just let Oné (from CommuniCard) know when and where at [omg@visiblypr.com](mailto:omg@visiblypr.com) or participate in the major outreach event, *Feria Para Aprender*, next February!

3. Hire students over the summer

Our students need positive adult role models and a better understanding of the potential of what the real world holds. You can help by hiring students over the summer. Teach job skills while reinforcing the value of their education!

Go to [www.TheBlueprintforEducationalChange.org](http://www.TheBlueprintforEducationalChange.org) to find more detail and additional actions you can take!



### **Goal 3: Students Graduate College-and-Career Ready and Prepared for a Lifetime of Learning**

#### **1. Join a school's Career and Tech Ed Advisory Council**

Many of our area high schools have career and technical education (CTE) programs in IT, healthcare, engineering, culinary arts, and other areas. We need professional business people to serve on Advisory Councils for each of them to lend advice and real world relevance, typically in 3-4 meetings a year. Opportunities for direct classroom engagement with students are also available. CTE volunteer opportunities are available at Austin, Bastrop, Del Valle, Eanes, Georgetown, Hays, Lake Travis, Leander, Manor, Pflugerville, Round Rock, and San Marcos ISD's.

#### **2. Help develop regional standards and assessment for career readiness**

We have the research compiled on what professional skills are required for career readiness. Now schools, colleges and employers need to work together to help us establish a regional approach to establishing career readiness as a goal for students and measuring professional skills beyond what we can measure with the TAKS. A Taskforce can start this Spring.

#### **3. Volunteer for Summer Bridge program**

Help high school graduates at risk of not attending college as planned make the transition successfully. We need one day of your time to help, especially for students who are the first in their family to go to college. 2009 Summer Bridge program dates in June and July require a 6 hour volunteer time commitment. Volunteers will assist students in Financial Aid, planning transportation to college, addressing housing issues, how to manage changes in family situations, schedule planning, etc. Orientation will be provided.

### **Goal 4 Central Texas as a Community Prepares Children to Succeed**

#### **1. Join the Speaker's Bureau – get the Blueprint message out!**

The Blueprint will never be successful until people across the region are part of it. You can help us to get the word out by being part of the Speaker's Bureau!! We have CD's with the Blueprint Video, a Power Point slide deck, logos, and talking points. Take one and get the Blueprint message out *at least 2 times in the next 6 months* – just get back with Amanda at [ateske@E3Alliance.org](mailto:ateske@E3Alliance.org) to let us know when and where!

#### **2. Donate used computers to schools.**

Our school districts always need extra computers. We can recycle working computers that are made excess through organization refresh programs and donate to a student who needs access, or for parent centers, tutoring, and other critical needs. And if you donate it through Austin Partners in Education through their Education Waterfall Project, you can specify the receiving district and help to train students in certified compliant computer refurb technology skills at the same time! Email [technology@austinpartners.org](mailto:technology@austinpartners.org) to donate, or call Edward Furstenau @ 512.637.0986 for information.

#### **3. Help us leverage the religious community.**

One of our best ways to link education success to strong families and communities is through our faith-based communities. Parent access to schools and grades through computer after church; consistent messages from the pulpit; focused supports on our most needy families can all happen through churches. Be a part of making it happen!

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