



Equitable Funding in Our Schools

Increasing Resources and Ensuring Equitable Funding for Our Schools.

Change falls flat without adequate and equitable resources for our schools. Across the country, Teach Plus Teacher Leaders helped to shape legislative policy that increased the investments needed for students and teachers to thrive. In Texas, Teach Plus Teacher Leaders achieved unprecedented change in enacting their priorities and additional funding into law.

In California and Massachusetts, Teach Plus Teacher Leaders advocated for investments to make diversity a priority in the state's teaching force and to support high-need students.

TEXAS

Teach Plus Teacher Leaders proved the power of teacher leadership in the Texas Statehouse with the passage of a historic school finance bill, HB 3, that invests 6.5 billion new dollars in education. The 2019 bill expands full-day preschool, provides new options for teacher advancement and compensation, provides for nearly \$1 billion in targeted resources for the state's highest-need students, prioritizes early literacy, and adds an additional \$1,000 per student in every Texas school.

Teach Plus Texas Teacher Leaders testified, met with legislators, hosted legislative briefings, authored op-eds, talked with the media—and saw every single one of their priorities enacted into law.



"We need to allocate resources so our high-need students have access to equitable education and can grow into contributing, working citizens. Additional funding for all K-3 students who are low income or English language learners would reward quality early childhood programs and better prepare our students for future successes."

—Teach Plus Policy Fellow Natalie Brown, Dallas, Texas.

"HB 3 is a monumental school finance bill that is a tremendous leap in the right direction for better and more equitably funded public schools."

—Teach Plus Policy Fellow Sarah Perez, San Antonio, Texas.



CALIFORNIA

For every student to have the opportunity to achieve their full potential, they must have access to excellent, empowered, and diverse teachers. Recognizing that this was not the case for many of California's historically underserved students, Teach Plus Teacher Leaders advocated for the state to explore a range of recruitment, development, and retention strategies to expand the teacher workforce. The teachers' advocacy helped to secure nearly \$90 million in competitive grant funds for candidates to enter the teaching force and teach in shortage fields and priority schools. The teachers also helped to secure \$38 million to support professional development for teachers to serve emergent bilingual students, including \$10 million to implement the California English Learner Roadmap Policy, as well as training on implicit bias, social and emotional learning strategies, and trauma-informed practices.



"I am encouraged to see our state leaders focusing on investing in professional learning opportunities and meeting the needs of California's diverse student body ... there is a significant opportunity for districts to use their grants from this program to focus on strategies to support social-emotional learning or practices to create a positive school climate."

—Teach Plus Policy Fellow Daniel Helena, Los Angeles, California.

"For our most vulnerable student populations, California public schools can be the sanctuaries that offer safe haven and acceptance. This is especially true in schools where students are taught by a diverse teaching faculty that reflects the range of life experiences, languages, and cultural traditions held by their pupils."



—Teach Plus Policy Fellow Eddie Garcia, Monterey Park, California.

MASSACHUSETTS

Teach Plus Teacher Leaders advocated for additional funding to meet the needs of low-income students, English language learners, and special education students. Teacher Leaders conducted a survey on school funding of 300 educators to determine how best to shape investments in Massachusetts' public education. The teachers kept a drumbeat of advocacy, meeting with the Joint Education Committee, writing to all members of the Massachusetts House and Senate, publishing op-eds, and working closely with coalition partners. The \$1.5 billion Student Opportunity Act, signed into law in November 2019 after a three-year effort, authorizes investment in schools across the state with a focus on the highest-need students and districts.