



## Blueprint for Change Overview

### ***Why do we need a Blueprint for Change in education?***

Education across the region is improving. Yet huge gaps between different demographic groups remain. Too few students in the region graduate high school or college ready to succeed in the 21<sup>st</sup> century economy. Each class-year of drop outs costs our region \$425 Million. The cumulative cost of not Closing the Gaps to college success will be \$50B to Central Texas by 2030. Meanwhile, those who have traditionally struggled most – economically disadvantaged students and English Language Learners – are growing at 2 to 3 times the rate of the overall student population. No single institution or program can solve these problems alone. We need systemic change, across the interdependent economic region. *No one can do it alone.*

### ***What is the Blueprint for Change?***

The Central Texas Blueprint for Change is our community's strategic plan to build the most successful educational pipeline in the country. It defines critical leverage points that enable systemic alignment in education from early childhood to workforce prosperity. The E<sup>3</sup> Alliance “pulled together” the Blueprint from a combination of extensive research, thousands of one-on-one conversations with community members across the region, and extensive planning from education, community and business leaders.

### ***How will it help me and my organization?***

No single organization has the capacity to undertake the systemic education reform required to ensure our students are ready for the 21<sup>st</sup> century. With a common strategic plan, we can move past incremental change to harness the enormous reservoir of resources in the region to generate systemic change. Participating organizations will be able to use objective data to drive student and institution performance, have access to a greater pool of volunteers, use resources better, build stronger community and political support, and have ready access to best practices to improve outcomes. We will close the disconnects across the continuum from early childhood to economic prosperity so we don't let students “fall through the cracks” at critical transition points.

### ***Why is it regional?***

The needs of our students aren't defined by the artificial boundaries of community program, college, or school district. By better sharing best practices, optimizing our resources and interventions, and making the best investments in ways that span these boundaries, we can have greater impact to achieve the potential of every student, and be more efficient in doing it.

### ***Who set the Strategic Goals?***

The E<sup>3</sup> Alliance engaged in a multi-phased process that drew from extensive research and input from community members from across the Central Texas region. This feedback was presented to 150 regional business leaders, college presidents, superintendents, community and political leaders, who set four strategic priorities at a Summit in January 2008.

### ***How will we know we're getting there?***

Each goal includes a set of indicators and targets developed based on input from a coalition of partners and area experts. To help achieve each goal, these targets are matched to a set of prioritized action steps and key stakeholders who are in a position “move the needle” for these priorities. As we progress toward our goals, the focus and tenor of these targets will shift to accommodate lessons learned. The “Blueprint” is not set in stone; it is a structural outline that will be filled in and solidified over time by coalition partners. *We can only do it together.*

### ***What are the next steps?***

A coalition of regional champions has been formed to *articulate* the need, *align* resources, and *accelerate* change. To see the Blueprint or to get involved, go to [www.e3alliance.org](http://www.e3alliance.org).