

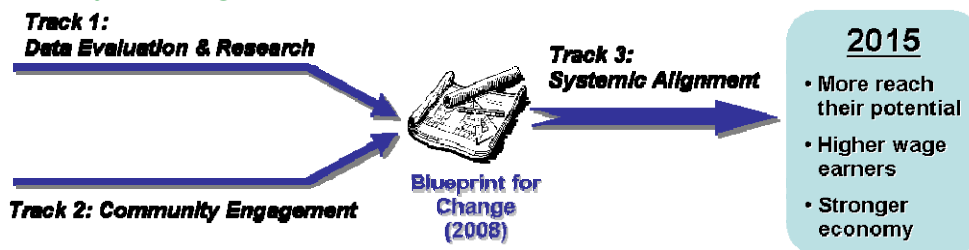


Driving Systemic Change in Education for a Strong Economic Future

What is the E³ Alliance?

The E³ Alliance is a regional collaborative dedicated to developing *a comprehensive, data-driven view of our education landscape* to better align educational systems and practices to drive higher outcomes for students and ensure a more efficient allocation of resources, thereby increasing our competitiveness as a region. Founded in 2006 by partners the Austin Area Research Organization, The University of Texas at Austin and Austin Community College District; the E³ Alliance *acts as a catalyst for change* and is the P-16 Council for the Central Texas region.

What is our Model for Change?



TRACK 1: DATA EVALUATION AND RESEARCH – *Using objective information to drive action*

An objective performance framework, based in academic research but applicable in the real world, that demonstrates where the best leverage exists in allocation of time, money, resources and practices

TRACK 2: COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT – *Building community will for change*

Working both top-down and bottom-up to build the community will to drive change – a “tipping point” in all major sectors of the community (business/government/education/non-profit/students & families)

*The Blueprint for Educational Change*TM – *The Strategic Plan*

The Blueprint for Educational Change is Central Texas’ commitment to building the most successful educational pipeline in the country. It is an **unprecedented, comprehensive strategic plan** defining partnerships, indicators, and action strategies for the region across a framework of four strategic goals.

TRACK 3: SYSTEMIC ALIGNMENT - *Bridging disconnects; Overcoming barriers; Aligning resources and practices*

Effective alignment of institutions and activities to act as a coordinated system rather than individual parts or great programs acting independently of – and sometimes competing with – one another

What is an example of this model in practice?

One of the four strategic goals of our **Blueprint** is that Children Enter Kindergarten School Ready.

However, no common definition of “school ready” currently exists. The E³ Alliance facilitated a regional School Readiness Taskforce consisting of experts from ten school districts, agencies, and leading early childhood researchers. This Taskforce is linking state guidelines, elementary curriculum standards, assessment tools, and the creation of rubrics to develop the *first ever school readiness standard in the history of the state*. This standard will allow our schools to address the needs of our youngest learners, and support parents and private providers in preparing young children for success in school.

What is the behavior we want to change?

- A culture and assumptions about accountability that allow for low expectations (especially for some student populations) and student outcomes to be someone else's problem
- Silo'd thinking and action in existing institutional structures
- Lack of coordinated community action for driving student success
- The presumption that progress can be measured through single variables out of context rather than the system as a whole

What is different about this effort?

1. We are **data-driven for positive change**
 - Compiling never-before-available, objective longitudinal information and sharing it transparently enables communities and institutions to work together toward common goals
2. We believe a **regional** strategy is the most effective platform for scalable change
 - A regional footprint is large enough to gain economies of scale and leverage strengths, but small enough to be entrepreneurial and engender understanding and will of the public
 - A regional model can be intentionally replicated across the state and beyond, with versatility to allow for regional differences
2. **Alignment across the continuum** from early childhood to workforce success is required
 - The traditional vertical separation of various "levels" of education creates huge barriers for students – even those who are succeeding
 - Localized structures tend to promote inefficient "not invented here" approaches to solving problems. Together, we can overcome institutional and policy barriers, and align our resources and practices to optimize educational outcomes.
3. We will capitalize on regional precedents for effective **public-private partnership**
 - We can build on the national reputation our region has in public-private partnerships for other critical infrastructure issues that span artificial geographical boundaries
 - History tells us that true education reform is most often driven by business need

Who is part of it?

The board of directors consists of business CEO's, college presidents, K-12 education and community leaders who are able to maintain long-term strategic focus on the work of the E³ Alliance.

St. David's CEO Earl Maxwell	Winstead PC Founding Partner Pete Winstead	CommuniCard CEO Sylvia Acevedo	TX State Univ. President Denise Trauth	ACC President Stephen Kinslow	UT Austin Vice President Gregory Vincent
United Way President & CPO David Balch	Region XIII ESC Executive Director David Balch	RRISD Superintendent Jesus Chavez	E ³ Alliance President Susan Dawson	AARO Higher Ed Chair Ed Sharpe	UT System - IPSI Executive Director Marina Walne

In addition, 48 business, community, and education leaders from across the region act as Change Champions, meeting regularly to lead the strategic execution of goals associated with our strategic plan. We work regularly with the leaders and staff of all seven colleges and universities in the region, eight partner school districts, literally dozens of business and community service organizations, and hundreds of community volunteers and grass-roots leaders.

The E³ Alliance will act as the catalyst for systemic change in education in Central Texas to increase our global competitiveness, economic vitality, and overall quality of life in our region.