

About Teach For America

Teach For America is the national corps of top college graduates and professionals who commit to teach for two years in urban and rural public schools and become lifelong leaders in the effort to expand educational opportunity.

Teach For America's network in the 2011-12 school year will include 9,300 corps members teaching in 43 regions across the country and nearly 24,000 alumni working in education and many other sectors to create the systemic changes that will help end educational inequity.

Teach For America at a Glance: 2011-12 School Year	
Teach For America corps members	9,300
Regions in which corps members teach	43
Students reached	600,000
Students reached since 1990 (charter year)	3 million+
Teach For America alumni	~24,000
Alumni working full-time in education	67%

The Problem of Educational Inequity

In America today, 9-year-olds in low-income communities are already three grade levels behind their peers in high-income communities. Half of them won't graduate from high school. Those who do graduate will read and do math, on average, at the level of eighth graders in high-income communities. This educational inequity is one of our nation's most pressing problems, and Teach For America enlists our most promising future leaders in the movement to solve it. Through the combined efforts of our corps members and alumni, working alongside other members of the communities we serve, we will achieve our vision: One day, all children in this nation will have the opportunity to attain an excellent education.

Corps Recruiting and Admissions

Teach For America recruits top college graduates of all academic majors, career interests, and backgrounds who demonstrate achievement, leadership, perseverance, and a commitment to expanding opportunity for children in low-income areas. Our recruiting efforts are especially focused on individuals who share the racial and/or socioeconomic backgrounds of the students in underserved public schools, many of whom are African-American or Latino/Hispanic.

A record 48,000 individuals applied to Teach For America's 2011 corps, including 12 percent of all seniors at Ivy League schools, 8 percent of the graduating class at the University of Michigan-Ann Arbor, and 5 percent at the University of Texas at Austin. A significant number of seniors from historically black colleges and universities applied, including 1 in 4 at Spelman College and 1 in 10 at Howard University. Nearly one-third of incoming corps members received Pell Grants, and one-third are people of color. Admission to Teach For America is highly selective, with 11 percent of applicants earning acceptance to the 2011 corps.

Corps Training and Placement

With 21 years of experience in preparing corps members to be successful teachers in low-income urban and rural areas, Teach For America is at the forefront of teacher training and professional development. Teach For America trains more teachers for low-income communities than any other organization or institution in the nation.

Pre-Service Training

After approximately 30 hours of independent work and observation of experienced teachers, corps members attend an intensive five-week training institute and a regional orientation to the schools and communities in which they will be teaching. At the institute, corps members teach in summer school programs, receive feedback from veteran

teachers, and complete a regimen of seminars and practice sessions designed to build the capabilities required to advance student achievement. During their regional orientation, corps members complete additional training sessions on establishing clear goals for their students' achievement, planning for instruction, and preparing to use data to inform their approach.

Ongoing Professional Development

Building on its pre-service training, Teach For America works with corps members in a two-year program of support and professional development. Full-time program directors observe corps members at least four times a year and problem-solve with them to improve their practice and accelerate student progress toward goals. Corps members receive toolkits that include sample assessments, standards, and teaching resources customized for their grade level, subject, and district; meet periodically in content-area and grade-level learning teams; and complete coursework toward full teacher certification and a master's degree.

Teach For America places corps members in 43 regions across the country. We choose new placement sites based on several factors: the community's vision of how our presence will help to close student achievement gaps; the existence of a feasible, state-approved alternate route to teacher certification; a district commitment to placing a critical mass of corps members across the range of subject areas and grade levels; and community support that will enable us to fund the site in a sustainable way. In most of our regions, Teach For America provides between 10 and 30 percent of new teachers, though these percentages can shift based on the overall numbers of teachers hired by school districts each year.

2011 Corps at a Glance	
Total members	5,200
Those with college leadership experience	100%
Average undergraduate GPA	3.6
People of color	35%
Pell Grant recipients	31%
First in family to attend college	22%

Corps Impact

A growing body of rigorous research demonstrates that Teach For America corps members are as effective as—and in some cases more effective than—other teachers. Recent studies from Louisiana, North Carolina, and Tennessee found that corps members have a positive impact on student achievement. The Tennessee study identified Teach For America as the most effective of the state's 42 teacher-preparation programs, with corps members demonstrating a greater impact on student achievement than the average new teacher in every evaluated subject area.

A 2009 study from the University of North Carolina found that students taught by corps members did as well as or better than those taught by traditionally prepared UNC graduates. Middle school math students of Teach For America teachers received the equivalent of an extra half-year of learning.

A 2008-09 Urban Institute study using seven years of North Carolina high school student exam data found that Teach For America corps members were, on average, more effective than other teachers in all subject areas, especially in math and science. That was true even when Teach For America teachers were compared with experienced, fully certified teachers.

In a 2009 independent survey of principals who employ Teach For America teachers, 94 percent reported that corps members have made a positive impact in their schools and 95 percent rated corps members as effective as or more effective than other beginning teachers, in terms of overall performance.

Alumni Impact

In the 2011-12 school year, nearly 24,000 Teach For America alumni will be working in education and many other sectors to level the playing field for students and families in low-income communities. This force of leaders is armed with experience, insight, and a proven commitment to ensuring an excellent education for all children.

Alumni at a Glance	
Teach For America alumni	~24,000
Working in the field of education*	67%
Serving in school leadership	550+
Holding elected office	50+
*Source: Teach For America Alumni Surveys, 2009, 2010	

Two out of three alumni are working full-time in the field of education, almost half of them as classroom teachers. More than 550 alumni school leaders impact the lives of over 500,000 students each year, while many alumni social entrepreneurs are founding and leading some of our country's most innovative nonprofits. In addition, a growing number of Teach For America alumni are pursuing politics as an avenue for change, including more than 50 who serve in elected office.

Teach For America Alumni Highlights

Cami Anderson (Los Angeles Corps '93), Superintendent, Newark, N.J., Public Schools

Chris Barbic (Houston Corps '92), Superintendent, Achievement School District (Tennessee), and Founder, YES College Prep (Houston)

Furman Brown (Los Angeles Corps '90), Founder and Executive Director, Generation Schools (New York City)

Timothy Daly (Baltimore Corps '99), President, The New Teacher Project (National)

Mike Feinberg (Houston Corps '92), Cofounder and Superintendent, KIPP Schools (National)

JoAnn Gama (Rio Grande Valley Corps '97), Founder and COO, IDEA Public Schools (Rio Grande Valley)

Kaya Henderson (New York Corps '92), Chancellor, D.C. Public Schools

Kevin Huffman (Houston Corps '92), Commissioner, Tennessee Department of Education

Anthony Jewett (New York Corps '03), Founder, President, and CEO, Bardoli Global, a social enterprise dedicated to empowering student leaders of color to embark on international-exchange and study-abroad programs (National)

Michael Johnston (Mississippi Delta Corps '97), Senator, Colorado State Senate District 33

Jason Kamras (D.C. Region Corps '96), 2005 National Teacher of the Year, Director of Human Capital Strategy, D.C. Public Schools

Dave Levin (Houston Corps '92), Cofounder and Superintendent, KIPP Schools (National)

Michelle Rhee (Baltimore Corps '91), Founder, Students First

Hae-Sin Thomas (Bay Area Corps '93), Cofounder and CEO, UrbanEd Solutions, a nonprofit education consulting organization committed to improving academic outcomes for children in historically underserved urban centers (National)

Thomas Torkelson (Rio Grande Valley Corps '97), Founder and CEO, IDEA Public Schools (Rio Grande Valley)

Sarah Usdin (South Louisiana Corps '92), Founder and President, New Schools for New Orleans

Our History

In 1989, Wendy Kopp proposed the creation of a national teacher corps in her senior thesis at Princeton University. Convinced that many accomplished recent college graduates seek work that offers significant responsibility and makes a real difference in the world, the 21-year-old Kopp raised \$2.5 million of start-up funding, hired a skeleton staff, and launched a grassroots recruiting campaign. During Teach For America's first year (1990), 500 corps members taught in six low-income communities. In the 2011-12 school year, 9,300 corps members will be teaching in 43 regions, and Teach For America will be fostering the leadership and advocacy of nearly 24,000 alumni in the movement for educational excellence and equity.

Our Funding

Teach For America secures local contributions from businesses, foundations, government organizations, and individuals in the regions where corps members teach. In addition, we receive national funding from corporations and foundations, individuals, and the federal government. More than 75 percent of our revenue stream is regional, and the remainder is national. Teach For America's projected operating revenue for the 2010 fiscal year is \$189 million.

Funding Fiscal Year 2009	
Operating revenue raised: \$149.5 million	
Funding source	% of total*
Corporations	13
Foundations	32
Individuals	20
Federal Govt.	15
State Govt.	7
Local Govt./School District	10
Special Events (net)	3
*rounded	

Corps members are paid directly by the school districts for which they work and generally receive the same salaries and benefits as other entry-level teachers. Teach For America is a member of AmeriCorps, the national service network, through which corps members are eligible to receive loan forbearance and interest payment on qualified student loans, as well as an education award of \$4,725 at the end of each year of service.

