

About Teach For America

Teach For America is the national corps of top recent college graduates of all academic majors 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 includes 6,200 corps members teaching in 29 regions across the country and 14,400 alumni working from within education and many other sectors to create the systemic changes that will help end educational inequity.

Teach For America at a Glance

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| Teach For America corps members, 2008-09 school year | 6,200 |
| Regions in which corps members teach | 29 |
| Schools nationwide where corps members are placed | 1,000+ |
| Students reached, 2008-09 school year | 430,000+ |
| Students reached since 1990 (charter year) | nearly 3 million |
| Teach For America alumni | 14,400 |
| Alumni supporting Teach For America's mission through career, philanthropy, volunteer work, or graduate study | 93% |

The Problem of Educational Inequity

Today in the United States, 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, 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.

Admission to Teach For America is highly selective, with 20 percent of the more than 24,700 applicants earning acceptance to the 2008 corps. Among these applicants were more than 5 percent of the senior classes at over 90 colleges and universities, including 16 percent of graduating seniors at Spelman College, 11 percent at Morehouse College and Yale University, 10 percent at Georgetown University, 9 percent at Harvard University, and 7 percent at the University of Michigan.

Corps Training and Placement

With 18 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 29 regions across the country, providing 10 to 30 percent of new teachers in these regions. We choose sites based on the need for corps members and their potential impact on student achievement in the region, both immediately and as alumni working for systemic change.

2008 Corps at a Glance

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| Total members | 3,700 |
| Those with college leadership experience | 95% |
| Average undergraduate GPA | 3.6 |
| People of color | 29% |
| Pell Grant recipients | 26% |

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.

A 2008 Urban Institute study of Teach For America in high schools found that corps members have a positive impact on student achievement relative to other teachers, including those who are fully certified in their subject areas. The incremental impact of having a Teach For America corps member was three times that of having a teacher with three or more years of experience.

A 2004 independent study by Mathematica Policy Research found that students of Teach For America corps members make 10 percent more progress in a year in math than is typically expected and slightly exceed the normal expectation for annual progress in reading.

In a 2007 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 or more effective than other beginning teachers, in terms of overall performance.

Alumni Impact

More than 14,000 Teach For America alumni are working from within 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.

Two-thirds of alumni are working or studying full-time in the field of education, almost half of them as classroom teachers. Nearly 300 alumni principals

Alumni at a Glance

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| Total Teach For America alumni | 14,400 |
| Working or studying full-time in the field of education* | 66% |
| Supporting Teach For America's mission through career, philanthropy, volunteer work, or graduate study.* | 93% |
| Serving as school leaders | 315+ |
| Working on Capitol Hill (in government or advocacy) | 200 |

*Source: Teach For America Alumni Survey, 2007

impact the lives of more than 130,000 students each year, while some 21 alumni social entrepreneurs have founded and continue to lead 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 500 who work in government, politics, and/or advocacy, and 15 who serve as elected officials.

Teach For America Alumni Highlights

Cami Anderson (Los Angeles Corps '93), Superintendent of District 79, Alternative Schools and Programs, New York City Department of Education

Chris Barbic (Houston Corps '92), Founder and Head of Schools, 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)

Anthony Jewett (New York City 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)

Jason Kamras (Metro D.C. 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), Chancellor, D.C. Public Schools

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 Director, 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. Today, Teach For America places teachers in 29 regions, and our network includes over 20,000 corps members and alumni.

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. Approximately 75 percent of our revenue stream is regional, and the remainder is national. Teach For America's projected operating budget for the 2008 fiscal year is \$119.5 million.

| Funding Fiscal Year 2007 | |
|-----------------------------------|-------------|
| Operating budget: \$75.06 million | |
| Funding source | % of total* |
| Corporation | 17.1 |
| Foundation | 25.8 |
| Individual | 18.4 |
| Federal Govt. | 12.7 |
| State Govt. | 9.2 |
| Local Govt./School District | 10.4 |
| Special Events (net) | 6.3 |

*rounded to the nearest tenth

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.