



# IMPACT REPORT

2022 - 2023

## WHO WE ARE

Teach For America is a diverse network of leaders who confront educational inequity by collaborating with unwavering commitment from every sector of society to expand every child's access to resources, opportunities, and school systems equipped to meet their needs. As educators, advocates, entrepreneurs, policymakers, and community members, we fight for the aspirations of students and families to ensure a brighter future for us all.

## AN EDUCATION SYSTEM NOT SET UP FOR ALL KIDS TO SUCCEED

Unequal access to opportunity disproportionately impacts children of color, who are two times more likely to be born into poverty, and the pandemic has only widened these existing gaps.

Estimates show students attending majority-Black schools are **12 months behind** compared to peers in majority-white schools, across the country.

2022 results from National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP) show **two decades** of academic progress erased.

**Nearly 60% of Black and Hispanic students** in Connecticut demonstrated below basic math performance, with both groups falling below the national average

Nationally, there are nearly **600,000 fewer educators** in public schools today than pre-pandemic, and less than half of schools serving majority Black and brown students are fully staffed.



*"I would not be the teacher that I am if I hadn't joined TFA. From day one, their preparation was incredible and I felt confident walking into my first day in the classroom. TFA helps to ensure that you are able to work with your students so that they can achieve their highest potential."*

- Ashley Daley (CT '18) Social Studies Teacher,  
Weaver High School

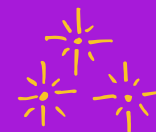


# BUILT TO LEAD: TODAY AND IN THE FUTURE



*"We need to build the right systems to support young people; to have a plan in place for them. No matter their circumstance, they can still rely on the people present within their school community to help get them on a path to be successful."*

**- Dr. Dolores Garcia-Blocker  
Executive Director, TFA CT**



## TALENT IN EDUCATION



We are recruiting and retaining leaders at every level. There are over 900 alumni in our Connecticut network and **500 individuals working in fields connected to education**, including many alumni serving in school leadership positions.

## STUDENT SUCCESS



We are preparing educators to drive positive student outcomes. Studies have shown long-run strategies of hiring TFA teachers increased student achievement equivalent to roughly **23 days of additional learning each year**.\*

## SYSTEMS CHANGE



We are fueling change by working in close partnership with the communities we serve to imagine a fundamentally different education system for students.



Teach For America's nationwide network of nearly **70,000** corps members, alumni, and Ignite tutoring fellows is leading at all levels of the system, driving progress alongside students, families, schools, and communities.

# TALENT IN EDUCATION

## OUR CONNECTICUT NETWORK

17

Corps Members

1,600

Students Served

82%

Identify as BIPOC, have a low-income background, and/or are first generation college students

900

CT alumni, which includes:

245

Classroom Educators

27

School & System Leaders

64%

working in fields that impact education

Read more about our [corps members and alumni!](#)

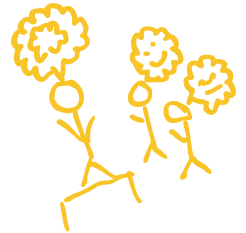
## RETAINING AND DEVELOPING LEADERS

This year, our programming supported second-year corps members and we continued to build development opportunities for alumni teachers and those on their path to educational leadership. We launched a program for alumni to support with local recruitment, an alumni fellowship to support with teacher retention, and an alumni working group to help shape our educator professional development offerings.

## RECRUITING LOCAL TALENT

We have engaged over 250 potential candidates across multiple markets through 40 virtual and in-person recruitment events. Our work has generated a substantial pool of local juniors who have begun applications to Teach For America's early deadline to the 2024 corps..

**Reaching Untapped Talent Markets:** We worked with Hartford Public Schools in collaboration with their Paso a Paso program to expand recruitment efforts in Puerto Rico. We have partnered with seven Puerto Rican universities resulting in several qualified candidates for TFA's corps.



**Sarah Diggs**  
(Philadelphia '04)  
Recruitment and Retention Coordinator  
New Haven Public Schools

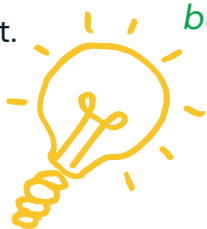


**Syeita Rhey-Fisher**  
(CT '07)  
Literacy Coach  
Hartford Public Schools

Hear from her as she speaks about her journey and the initiatives taking place in New Haven to attract and retain talent in Connecticut.

*"We need to create a variety of ways for individuals to enter the teaching profession and build their instructional and leadership capacity, so they stay."*

Read Syeita's [letter to the editor](#) to hear her thoughts on the changes needed to fill critical teacher vacancies such as addressing certification challenges and how to support current educators.



# STUDENT SUCCESS



## SOCIAL EMOTIONAL LEARNING

We continue to focus on supporting whole, healthy teachers with emphasis on mental health so that educators can foster healthy classrooms and see teaching as a sustainable career choice. We are supporting our teachers to attend to their students' social-emotional needs, as it impacts ability to focus on academics and is [linked to long-term success](#). Read what our students have to say about the ways in which their teachers show up for them!



*"How can you ever be down when he's right next to you cheering you on? He's very warm to be around. You can't feel bad to be around him."*

**David Campbell (CT '21)**  
Bassick High School



*"She thinks about the kids before she thinks about herself. She knows that we respect her and she wants to give that same respect back to us."*



**Darbo Camara (CT '21)**  
Wilbur Cross

*"I like how she tries to connect with others and makes you feel like you're a part of the classroom. That you're all together, you're not in it alone."*



**Charlotte Osborn (CT '21)**  
Wilbur Cross

## UNFINISHED LEARNING



This year, we laid the groundwork to launch [The Ignite Tutoring Fellowship](#) in the 2023-2024 school year, a high-dosage tutoring program to address learning loss and the social emotional health crisis faced by our students. Ignite has seen successful results driving student achievement and engagement in the past two years across New York and New Jersey. We hope to see those same results in Connecticut.

We are partnering with 3 schools in New Haven with 60 tutor fellows. TFA is also an approved vendor for Connecticut's High-Dosage Tutoring Program, so we expect several additional partnerships. [Read more here!](#)

# SYSTEMS CHANGE

## IT'S GOING TO TAKE ALL OF US

We are fueling our leaders to transform systems working side-by-side with partners in their communities, so that all students are charting their own path to their greatest potential. Our network comes together on multiple levels to create pathways to new possibilities.



## NETWORK SPOTLIGHT

We launched the R.I.D.E Fellowship to support alumni and fellow educators in deepening their community engagement.

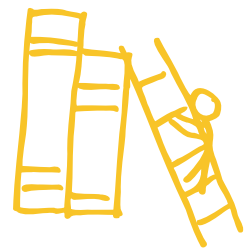
*"To create community and to better serve our students, there needs to be transparency and intentional involvement of all stakeholders. Through the Fellowship, stakeholders voiced their opinions about the educational system and the imperative changes to ensure a quality education is possible for current and future students."*



- Stephanie Leon (CT '20)  
Teacher, Hartford  
Public Schools

## TFA'S 2030 GOAL

We have a once in a lifetime opportunity – and obligation – to put equity and the needs of our children at the center of education. Across the country, TFA is driving toward our 2030 Goal in partnership with local communities to double student achievement outcomes so they are set-up for long-term success.



## CONNECTICUT'S GOAL

By 2030, twice as many children in Hartford and New Haven will reach key educational milestones in 3rd grade reading and 8th grade math, indicating they are on a path to economic mobility and co-creating a future filled with possibility.



*"Building a solid foundation of excellence in learning during a child's developmental years, entices them to excel as lifelong learners. TFA is leading the way by making early investments in Connecticut's young and emerging workforce, and in return, will orient our state's labor market toward the future of work. "*

- Austin "Hutch" Hutchinson  
(South Louisiana '14)  
Director, IT Workforce Strategy  
Social Venture Partners Connecticut



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\*TFA alum

## TFA's The Forecast Finance Event



(Left to Right) Ken Kencel, Jose Minaya, Sherrese Clarke Soares, Joe Amato, Matt Iversen

*"I know how far kids can go and how much they can achieve when they have dedicated teachers and mentors. Teach For America has a 30-year track record of training diverse and talented teachers."*

**- Ken Kencel  
TFA CT Advisory Board Member**

# GET INVOLVED



## CONTACT US

For any inquiries, please reach out to TFA CT's Executive Director by email at [Dolores.Garcia-Blocker@teachforamerica.org](mailto:Dolores.Garcia-Blocker@teachforamerica.org).

Visit our [website!](#)

## READ MORE

Find out more about the work Teach For America does in CT, [here](#).

Find out more about TFA's high-dosage Ignite tutoring program, [here](#).

## DONATE

When you support TFA you expand opportunities for the next generation of leaders and ensure that every child receives the excellent education they deserve. Click [here](#) to donate today!

## STAY CONNECTED

