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TEACHFORAMERICA

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STUDY FINDS TEACH FOR AMERICA TEACHERS HAVE A POSITIVE IMPACT ON STUDENT LEARNING IN TEXAS

New Research Bolsters Regional and National Findings

AUSTIN, TX, March 4, 2013—Edvance Research, Inc. has published an independent study, commissioned by Teach For America, finding that Teach For America teachers have a positive impact on student learning in Texas. Using TAKS end of year exam data, the study reviewed student learning gains in elementary and middle school math and reading. The results suggest that the students of Teach For America teachers made learning increases in every grade/subject combination analyzed. The findings in many of these comparisons were statistically meaningful. These gains equate to as much as one additional year of learning in the middle school classrooms of Teach For America alumni. Teach For America trains and supports teachers in four Texas regions: Dallas-Fort Worth, Houston, the Rio Grande Valley, and San Antonio.

The Edvance findings, available [here](#), add to the body of research indicating that Teach For America teachers have a positive impact on student achievement in Texas. Prior state-specific research, while showing positive findings, has been less rigorous than the new Edvance study. High-quality national research includes data on Texas students but does not specifically evaluate teacher effectiveness in Texas. In addition to statistical modeling typically used in studies of teacher effectiveness, the Edvance study also used a rigorous matching process to overcome data limitations and create an appropriate sample of students in schools employing Teach For America teachers and in schools that do not.

“For more than 20 years, Teach For America has been contributing to a growing community of great educators here in Texas,” said Houston ISD Superintendent Terry Grier. “Working in close partnership with parents, communities, school leaders, and veteran educators, Teach For America corps members and alumni are helping to open additional doors of opportunity for the children and families in our public schools.”

“We feel fortunate to have this rigorous review of the impact of our teachers to inform our work,” said Brad Leon, Teach For America’s Senior Vice President for Regional Operations in Texas. “As we humbly celebrate the efforts of our teachers and their students, we’re eager to dig deeper into the findings to identify areas of strength and refine our ability to support our teachers in giving their students the world-class education they deserve.”

Teach For America provides a two-year continuum of ongoing training and development for its beginning teachers, known as corps members, in high-need schools. Teach For America also offers continued support for its alumni beyond their initial two-year commitment.

The Edvance findings reached the level of statistical significance in middle school math among the students of corps members and in middle school math and reading among the students of Teach For America alumni. In these grade levels and subjects, Edvance found notable increases in student learning:

- The middle school math students of Teach For America corps members received more than half a year of additional learning than students in the classrooms of other early career teachers.
- The middle school reading students of Teach For America alumni received more than half a year of additional learning than students in other classrooms.
- The middle school math students of Teach For America alumni received almost one year of additional learning than students in other classrooms.

In addition to this new study in Texas, three other states – [Tennessee](#), [Louisiana](#) and [North Carolina](#) – have assessed the effectiveness of teachers from various preparation programs. Each state has found Teach For America to be a provider of effective teachers.

About Teach For America

Teach For America works in partnership with communities to expand educational opportunity for children facing the challenges of poverty. Founded in 1990, Teach For America recruits and develops a diverse corps of outstanding individuals of all academic disciplines to commit two years to teach in high-need schools and become lifelong leaders in the movement to end educational inequity. Today more than 10,000 corps members are teaching in 46 urban and rural regions across the country, while nearly 28,000 alumni are working across sectors to ensure that all children have access to an excellent education. For more information, visit www.teachforamerica.org and follow us on [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#).

About Edvance Research, Inc.

Founded in 2005, Edvance Research, Inc. is a mission-driven, women and minority owned, small business, nationally recognized for innovative and trusted expertise in education. A proven leader, specializing in collaborative research and development, evaluation, project management, assessment, large scale initiatives, marketing, training and building capacity to use research, Edvance is committed to providing exceptional value to clients through outstanding quality and best practices. Edvance leads the national Building State Capacity and Productivity Center for the U.S. Department of Education, and ran the Regional Educational Laboratory – Southwest from 2006-2011. Edvance is headquartered in San Antonio with offices in Austin, Texas. For more information, visit www.EdvanceResearch.com

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