

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

TEACHFORAMERICA

Contact: Taylor Keeney | Teach For America
804.543.7053 | taylor.keeney@teachforamerica.org

Spring Into Summer Fair Helps SAISD Students Avoid “Summer Slide”

Event Features Local Summertime Activities and Learning Opportunities for Low-Income Students K-12

SAN ANTONIO, Texas, May 23, 2014 – Teach For America – San Antonio will host a Spring Into Summer Fair on Wednesday, May 28th for San Antonio Independent School District students and their parents. The fair will feature 17 community organizations and nonprofits offering free or reduced-cost summer activities for children growing up in low-income communities. Students and parents are encouraged to come out and learn about opportunities to keep their children engaged and learning through the summer.

Research shows that a lack of access to summer learning opportunities can result in a loss of academic progress made during the school year, often called the “summer slide.” This disparity can widen the opportunity gap between low-income students and their more affluent peers and have lasting consequences as they progress through school. A study conducted by Johns Hopkins University and [published](#) in the American Sociological Review concluded that students with access to summer learning experiences saw better academic outcomes, compared to minority and low-income youth who did not have access to summer opportunities.

“We are excited to partner with so many great organizations from across San Antonio who offer beneficial programs to our youth,” said Laura Saldivar Luna, executive director of Teach For America – San Antonio. “We know that the San Antonio community has many wonderful opportunities that will enrich the minds and bodies of our students over the summer months. We hope that this fair will help connect students and parents with valuable programs to help address the summer slide and will ultimately put our students on the path to success.”

Information on summer opportunities will be available from Westside YMCA, San Antonio Children’s Museum, Avance, UTSA Interactive Technology Experience Center (iTEC), Café College, Guadalupe Cultural Arts Center, Venture Lab, Girl Scouts, Girls Inc, and Girl Zone. Additionally, information on services from San Antonio Food Bank, San Antonio Immigrant Youth Movement, Baptist Health System, Center for Legal and Social Justice and Family Violence and Prevention Services will be available. Broadway Bank, BBVA Compass Bank and Jefferson Bank will also be present, offering information to parents about how to start a college savings account for their children.

“The importance of students being involved in quality educational opportunities during the summer cannot be stressed enough,” said Melanie Zepeda, principal at J.T. Brackenridge Elementary. “Many students lose academic ground over the summer months unless they find a connection that bridges the end of the academic year to the beginning. Through quality summer programs, students will be more likely to retain and gain knowledge and skills while being challenged and engaged through the arts and social opportunities. I am thrilled to know that our families will be informed about such opportunities through the Spring into Summer Fair at the Guadalupe Center.”

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, 11,000 corps members are teaching in 48 urban and rural regions across the country while 32,000 alumni work 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](#).