

Effective Teaching

A Student-Centered and Data-Driven Approach

The Education Committee of the Senate of
the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania

June 8, 2011

TEACHFORAMERICA

Teach For America Overview

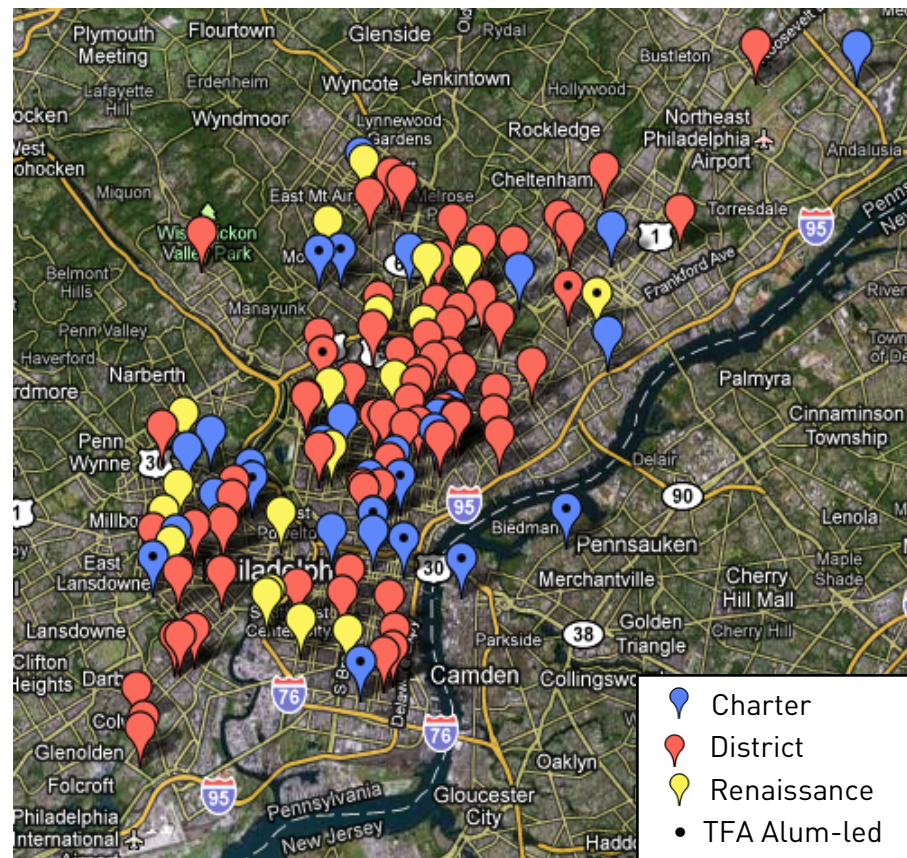
Teach For America is the national corps of outstanding recent college graduates who commit two years to teach in low-income communities and become life-long leaders for expanding educational opportunity.

Impact on Greater Philadelphia

- **366** teachers impacting **30,000+** students in **130 schools** across Greater Philadelphia in 2010-2011
- Placement: **42%** teach math or science; **31%** in charter schools; spread almost evenly across elementary, middle, and high schools; all serving students from low income communities
- Hundreds of proof points of increased student achievement
- **770+** Alumni across the region. Approximately **60%** remain in Education.

Impact on Nation

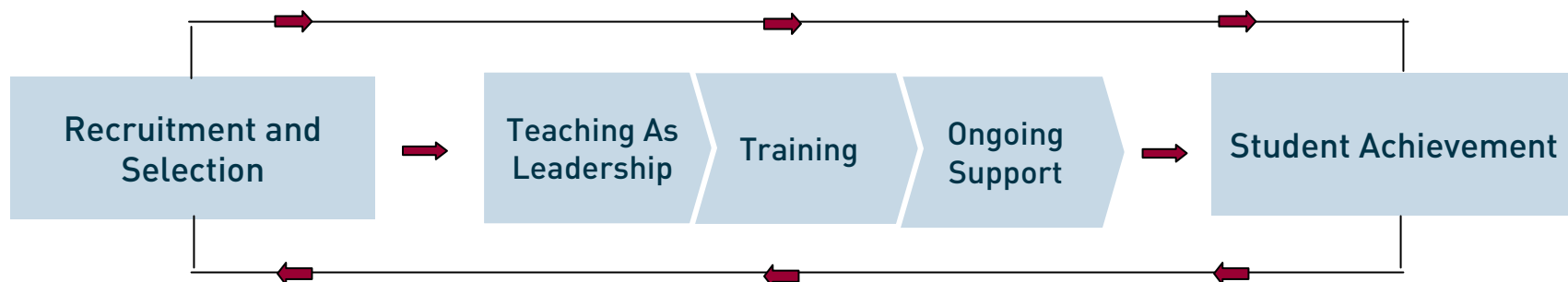
- TFA is the **top new-teacher preparation program** in Tennessee, based on student achievement data, according to Tennessee State Board of Education and Tennessee Higher Ed. Commission



We use student achievement as the key indicator of effective teaching

Studies repeatedly show that effective teaching is the key determinant in student outcomes – especially for those students who the defy socio-economic odds.

- **Alliance for Excellent Education** says: *“The evidence is clear that teaching is one of the most important factors in student achievement, and that improving teacher effectiveness can raise overall student achievement levels.”*
- **The New Teacher Project** says: *“The differentiation of teacher effectiveness should be a priority for school administrators and one for which they are accountable.”*
- **McKinsey and Company** says: *“Research has shown that of all of the controllable factors in an education system, the most important by far is the effectiveness of a classroom teacher.”*



Our Impact: Closing the Achievement Gap in the Classroom

A growing body of research shows that Teach For America teachers have a positive impact on student achievement.

National Outcomes

- TFA teachers are **more effective** compared with other teachers, especially in math and science, in North Carolina.- The Urban Institute
- TFA teachers achieved **greater academic outcomes** in math than traditional teachers in Chicago, Los Angeles, Houston, New Orleans and the Mississippi Delta. -Mathematica Policy Research, Inc.
- TFA teachers are **more effective** than traditionally certified teachers in improving student learning in math in New York City.- 2004 CALDER Study*

Greater Philadelphia Outcomes

- **31%** improvement in math proficiency scores and **37%** improvement in reading proficiency scores in Rhodes High School, in which 19 out of 44 teachers were TFA teachers or alumni
- **16** awarded prestigious Lindback Foundation Distinguished Teaching Award in the last three years
- **92%** of School Leaders rate Teach For America teachers as effective in terms of impact on student achievement
- **88%** of Principals report Teach For America teachers have a positive impact on their schools

*All referenced studies may be found on www.TeachForAmerica.org

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The most effective teachers approach their work as leaders in any field would

We've sought capture the approach common to outstanding Teach For America corps members and teachers from other backgrounds over the past twenty years in our Teaching as Leadership Framework.



Teacher Level: Great teachers do the things great leaders do:

- ✓ Set big, quantifiable visions and goals
- ✓ Invest in students and their families
- ✓ Plan purposefully
- ✓ Execute effectively
- ✓ Continuously increase effectiveness
- ✓ Work relentlessly

Student Level: Students begin to approach learning differently and a culture of achievement is created in the classroom

Outcomes Students experience a transformational classroom experience.

Transformational change in the classroom is often the key ingredient in transformational school and district leaders

Twenty Teach For America alumni lead some of the highest performing schools in Philadelphia serving students from low-income backgrounds and hundreds more around the country.

TFA school leaders

- **Two-thirds** of Alumni remain in education.
- **357** Alumni serve as school principals across the nation. **20** serve as principals in Philadelphia.
- **5** Alumni serve or have serve as superintendents/chancellors of public school districts
- **40** Alumni in US Department of Education or working in Congress

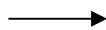
High-Performing Charter Schools with a critical mass of Teach For America alumni



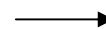
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