

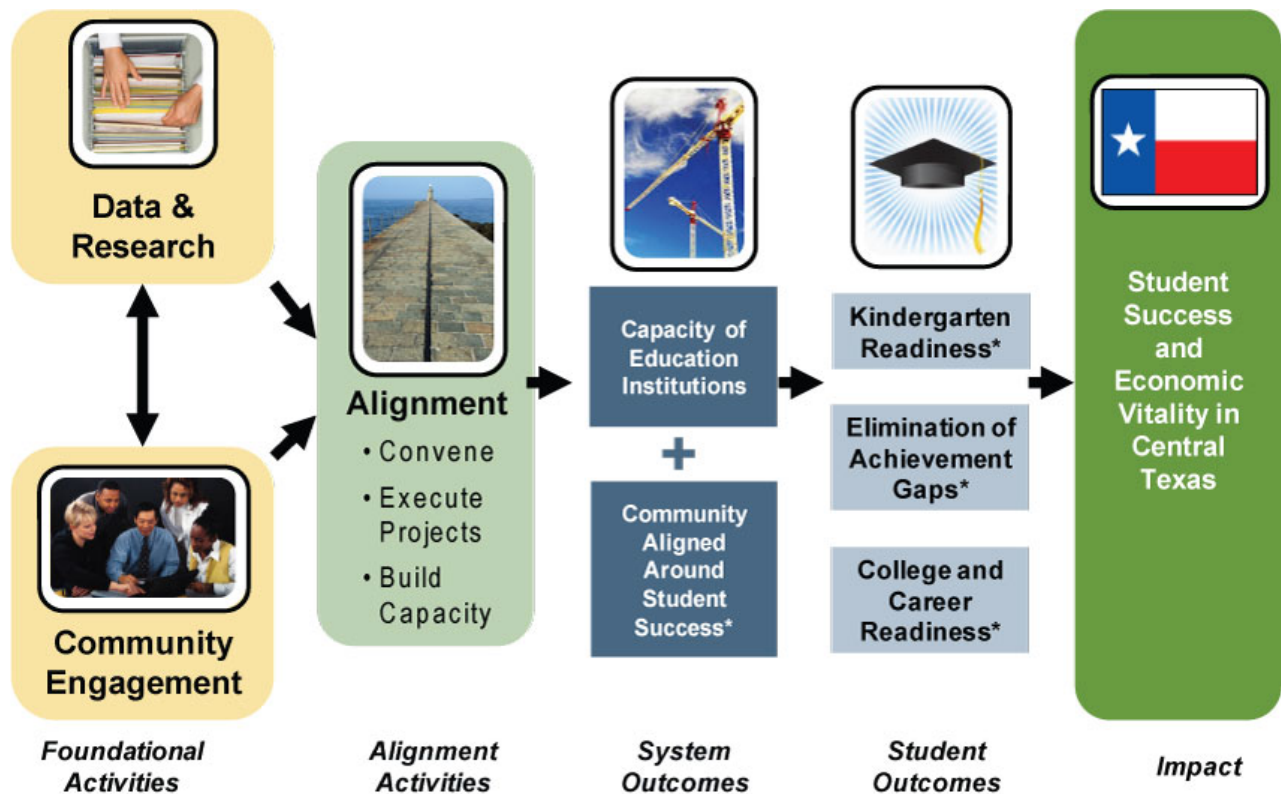
## **Driving Systemic Change in Education for a Strong Economic Future**

### **What is the E<sup>3</sup> Alliance?**

**Mission:** E<sup>3</sup> Alliance uses objective data and focused community collaboration to align our education systems so all students succeed and lead Central Texas to economic prosperity

The E<sup>3</sup> Alliance is a regional collaborative dedicated to developing a *comprehensive, data-driven view of our education landscape* to better align educational systems and practices to drive higher outcomes for students and ensure a more efficient allocation of resources, thereby increasing our competitiveness as a region. Founded in 2006 by partners the Austin Area Research Organization, The University of Texas at Austin and Austin Community College District; the E<sup>3</sup> Alliance acts as a *catalyst for change* and is the P-16 Council for the Central Texas region.

### **What is our Model for Change?**



### **The Blueprint for Educational Change™**

The *Blueprint for Educational Change* is Central Texas' commitment to building the most successful educational pipeline in the country. It is an **unprecedented, comprehensive strategic plan** defining partnerships, indicators, and action strategies for the region across a framework of four strategic goals.

### **What is an example of this model in practice?**

One of the four strategic goals of our **Blueprint** is that **Children Enter Kindergarten School Ready**. However, no common definition of what makes a student "school ready" currently exists. The E<sup>3</sup> Alliance facilitated a regional School Readiness Taskforce consisting of experts from ten school districts, agencies, and leading early childhood researchers. This Taskforce has linked state guidelines, elementary curriculum standards, assessment tools, and the creation of rubrics to develop the *first ever student School Readiness Standard in the history of the state*. This standard will allow our schools to address the needs of our youngest learners, and support parents and private providers in preparing young children for success in school.



### What is the behavior we want to change?

- A culture and assumptions about accountability that allow for low expectations (especially for some student populations) and student outcomes to be someone else's problem
- Silo'ed thinking and action in existing institutional structures
- Lack of coordinated community action for driving student success
- The presumption that progress can be measured through single variables out of context rather than the system as a whole

### What is different about this effort?

1. We are **data-driven for positive change**
  - Compiling never-before-available, objective longitudinal information and sharing it transparently enables communities and institutions to work together toward common goals
2. We believe a **regional** strategy is the most effective platform for scalable change
  - A regional footprint is large enough to gain economies of scale and leverage strengths, but small enough to be entrepreneurial and engender understanding and will of the public
  - A regional model can be intentionally replicated across the state and beyond, with versatility to allow for regional differences
3. **Alignment across the continuum** from early childhood to workforce success is required
  - The traditional vertical separation of various "levels" of education creates huge barriers for students – even those who are succeeding
  - Localized structures tend to promote inefficient "not invented here" approaches to solving problems. Together, we can overcome institutional and policy barriers, and align our resources and practices to optimize educational outcomes
4. We will capitalize on regional precedents for effective **public-private partnership**
  - We can build on the national reputation our region has in public-private partnerships for other critical infrastructure issues that span artificial geographical boundaries
  - History tells us that true education reform is most often driven by business need

### Who is part of it?

The board of directors consists of business CEO's, college presidents, K-12 education and community leaders who are able to maintain long-term strategic focus on the work of the E<sup>3</sup> Alliance.



In addition, 48 business, community, and education leaders from across the region act as Change Champions, meeting regularly to lead the strategic execution of goals associated with our strategic plan.

We work regularly with the leaders and staff of all seven colleges and universities in the region, ten partner school districts, literally dozens of business and community service organizations, and hundreds of community volunteers and leaders.