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## Alliance generates blueprint to improve education in Central Texas

Austin Business Journal

The E3 Alliance, a regional education think tank, is unveiling a strategic plan to put more young people in Central Texas on a path to academic success.

Government, higher education and secondary education leaders from across Central Texas collaborated to develop The Blueprint.

"The Blueprint offers an unparalleled opportunity to improve our education pipeline to power a world-class economy," says State Sen. Kirk Watson. "Our students and our schools are showing higher outcomes than ever before, but the globally competitive economy around us is changing even faster. Our efforts to continue thriving as a region absolutely depend on having a well-educated, globally competitive employee base."

The Blueprint outlines strategic goals, action strategies and processes for measuring performance.

The plan's four main goals are:

1. Prepare children to enter school
2. Eliminate the achievement gap and improve overall student performance
3. Students graduate college-and-career ready
4. Enlist region/community to prepare children to succeed

Susan Dawson, executive director of the E3 Alliance, says the collection of data and development of the plan over several years was the first phase in a long-range plan.

"Over the next several months, we'll convene 'Champion Teams' to drive the action strategies, and work with education and community stakeholders to set targets for improvement based on the foundation of The Blueprint," she says.

The unveiling of The Blueprint also marks the launch of a public campaign with the tag line: Graduates Are Made. Not Born.

E3 Alliance was founded in 2006 by the Austin Area Research Organization, The University of Texas at Austin and Austin Community College District.

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