Connecting the Dots through Data:

Middle School Transformation and 3D Growth

Far too many middle school students are performing below grade level and failing to achieve academic success due to a lack of content literacy and critical thinking skills. To address this key area of need, E3 Alliance launched *RAISE^{up} Texas*: **a targeted, whole-school approach to improving student achievement in middle school.**

RAISE^{up} Texas™ **(Research-Validated Approach to Instruction for Secondary Excellence in Texas)** is a viable, whole-school solution wherein teachers are intensely trained on research-validated tools and strategies to enhance their ability to help all students meet high standards
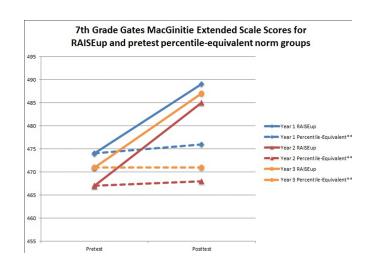
for high school-, college- and career-readiness while targeting struggling learners to help them rapidly catch up.

The *RAISE^{up} Texas* framework includes a set of learning tools that break down every lesson to actively engage every student in a roadmap for conceptual learning. *RAISE^{up} Texas*:

> *"The level of academic achievement that students attain by 8th grade has a larger impact on college and career readiness than anything that happens academically in high school"*
> *- ACT*

- ✓ Builds deep conceptual learning skills
- ✓ Uses powerful instructional tools in every class, for every student
- ✓ Supports in-depth teacher planning to increase rigor
- ✓ Focuses on struggling learners to close achievement gaps

The effective solution is **a whole-school implementation of *RAISE^{up} Texas* where every teacher, in every subject is using research-validated tools and strategies to help ALL students "learn how to learn" and think critically.**

E3 Alliance, ESC Region 13, and targeted schools in six school districts in Central Texas (Austin, Eanes, Hays, Leander, Round Rock, and San Marcos) recently completed a 3 ½ year demonstration project of *RAISE^{up} Texas*. The results are compelling: in every grade over multiple years, struggling learners in *RAISE^{up} Texas* schools gained more than **10 times as many points** on pre-versus-post-tests than their nationally-normed peers across the country.

7th Grade Gates MacGinitie Extended Scale Scores for RAISEup and pretest percentile-equivalent norm groups

Based on these compelling results, and guided by the Greenlights/Innovation+ Accelerator program, E3 is now planning to rapidly scale *RAISE^{up} Texas*. We have already launched *RAISE^{up} Texas* in three Fort Bend schools, and other schools in Lubbock and the Houston area have shown interest. By using a "scatter shot" approach throughout the state we could benefit tens of thousands of students, but would it truly have a strategic impact?
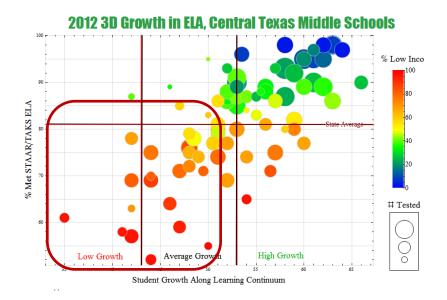
Instead, we decided to use a much more focused approach: leveraging our **3D Growth** data (funded in the Central Texas region by Michael & Susan Dell Foundation) to identify schools:

- With high populations of struggling students
- Showing student academic growth and achievement below the state average
- In a concentrated geographic area.

By targeting enough of these schools – about 16 of the 24 potential target schools in the region – we should be able to close achievement gaps and demonstrate true population-level impact in Central Texas.

2012 3D Growth in ELA, Central Texas Middle Schools

Through the Greenlights/Innovation+ Accelerator program, E3 Alliance is now seeking $3.3M in private investment, to be matched by $2.2M in district investment, to reach these 16 schools of concentrated need over the next five years, and thus show extraordinary economic impact in our region. If instead we choose not to act, and just 1/2 of the struggling learners in those same 16 middle schools drop out, it will cost our taxpayers **2.8 BILLION dollars more** in lost wages and taxes.

$3.3M now -or- $2.8B later

By "connecting the dots" between a data-driven solution to transform middle school teaching and learning – i.e. *RAISE^{up} Texas* – and data-driven decision-making through our 3D Growth tools, we can guide investment now to create unprecedented economic impact for our region's future. As the kids would say: "It's a no-brainer!"

About RAISE^{up} Texas:
"I was reluctant at first – is this just another fad? But all my students are learning at higher levels. Now I'm a total convert."
- Maria Gonzales, *RAISE^{up} Texas* Math Teacher

"Last year and before I made 70s or below in all of my classes, but now I am now making all A's & B's and planning to go to college!"
- 6th grade *RAISE^{up} Texas* Student

About 3D Growth:
"My team was so impressed with the 3D Growth data you shared. They told me it was the most beneficial presentation they had ever seen, because it used pertinent data in a way that shows positives and negatives that should drive decision making in our district. Yea to you and your team!"
- **Mark Eads, Superintendent, San Marcos CISD**