



NEWS

For Immediate Release

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W. K. KELLOGG FOUNDATION TO SUPPORT KINDERGARTEN SUCCESS IN CENTRAL TEXAS

Current data indicates only 53% of children are kindergarten ready

Austin, Texas – In Central Texas, **Kindergarten students who attended Pre-K were more than four times as likely to be ready for school**, as found in a recent study that accounted for income and other demographic factors in a logistic regression analysis. Yet of our vulnerable low income children who attended Pre-K, only 42% of them were ready for school, and overall, only 53% of all children are kindergarten ready. **Data indicates that kids who start behind all too often stay behind. They can't read at grade level, struggle in middle school, and in many cases drop out.**

Now a grant of \$298,500 from the W. K. Kellogg Foundation is set to assist in enhancing and expanding a crucial regional initiative to reach and impact more children.

E3 Alliance has been actively facilitating the collaborative work in Central Texas to develop concrete tools for parents and teachers to improve child outcomes, while working on creating an effective way to report student success indicators to the community to enhance community accountability for school readiness. Since 2009, E3 Alliance has led a regional collaboration of experts and practitioners working together to develop the first student-centered, multi-competency standard for school readiness in the state of Texas. The group distilled over 150 success indicators in social emotional learning, language and communication, emerging literacy, cognitive, and physical development into an assessable rubric linked to state standards. The indicators were vertically aligned to developmentally appropriate measures for Pre-K students up to Kindergarten entry. The initiative is called *Ready,Set,K!*

“We are excited the work on *Ready,Set,K!* will be expanding!” said Jenna Tintera, Assistant Principal, NYOS Charter School, “We find the tools so helpful for aligning our Pre-K and K systems.”

With the support from W. K. Kellogg Foundation from March 1, 2014 – June 30, 2016, *Ready,Set,K!* will build out more intervention strategies in multiple languages for struggling learners, enhance the Parent Guide, and refine the professional development training aspect of the initiative to enhance validity of the tool. This would potentially double the number of teachers who would be trained to use the kindergarten assessment in Texas.

“By enhancing and expanding *Ready,Set,K!*,” explained Laura Koenig, E3 Alliance School Readiness Director, “We can scale both practical wisdom and best practice research on what children need to succeed, to better train

teachers, and to implement instructional tools to serve the needs of children in the crucial early years.”

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Education Equals Economics (E3 Alliance), is a regional, data-driven, education collaborative based in Austin, Texas.

We are leading the effort to build the strongest educational pipeline in the country to drive economic prosperity for Central

Texas. We do this by using objective data and focused community collaboration to align our education systems so that all

students can succeed. Together with the Central Texas community, we have created *The Blueprint for Educational Change*,

our region’s strategic plan to build the strongest educational pipeline in the country.

The W.K. Kellogg Foundation (WKKF), founded in 1930 as an independent, private foundation by breakfast cereal

pioneer, Will Keith Kellogg, is among the largest philanthropic foundations in the United States. Guided by the belief

that all children should have an equal opportunity to thrive, WKKF works with communities to create conditions for

vulnerable children so they can realize their full potential in school, work and life.

The Kellogg Foundation is based in Battle Creek, Mich., and works throughout the United States and internationally, as well

as with sovereign tribes. Special emphasis is paid to priority places where there are high concentrations of poverty and where

children face significant barriers to success. WKKF priority places in the U.S. are in Michigan, Mississippi, New Mexico and

New Orleans; and internationally, are in Mexico and Haiti. For more information, visit www.wkkf.org.