



*Birth to Baccalaureate*



# Helping public school students excel from preschool through high school and beyond.

We've partnered with IPSI on several important projects including the expansion of the Teacher Advancement Program (TAP), technical assistance for the teacher performance incentive grant programs and Reading First. The IPSI staff members execute these grants at the highest level possible. We applaud the UT System for creating this division and look forward to partnering with IPSI on other important projects to improve public education in Texas.

**ROBERT SCOTT**  
Commissioner of Education  
Texas Education Agency (TEA)

**At** The University of Texas System, we are widely known for our nationally recognized universities and health institutions. Despite higher education being the endpoint, UT System programs support the education and well-being of students from their earliest years, giving them a solid foundation for future success at the university level and training for a wide variety of highly skilled professions.

The **UT System Institute for Public School Initiatives (IPSI)**, created in 2004, focuses on improving the educational pipeline from birth to baccalaureate so that more students are ready to enter and succeed in college.

## CURRENT LANDSCAPE

Today, only 8% of Texas eighth graders and 17% of current tenth graders are on target to be college ready.\* Sixty-three percent of Hispanic and 71% of African American students require remedial services upon entering college, at a cost to the state of \$300 million per year.

Our state's economic future relies on our ability to help an increasingly diverse and growing student population enroll and succeed in college. Just to remain competitive with the national average, Texas must graduate an additional 20,000 students per year from our colleges and universities — an increase of more than 25 percent.

## WHY IPSI?

IPSI is uniquely positioned to help our students advance and excel. With access to outstanding research centers at the nine UT universities and six UT health institutions, IPSI can identify promising new initiatives and move them into practice in K-12 classrooms across the state.

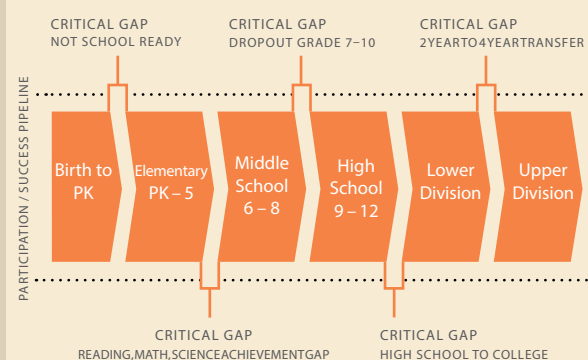
Partnering with state agencies, school districts, community colleges and universities, IPSI invests in reforms that are tested through real-world applications and evaluated for efficacy to ensure they achieve the highest impact on student and educator performance. Our ability to convene academic, business, foundation and government leaders ensures our ability to expand these programs and impact the state at large.

\* ACT®, Inc.

## MEETING THE CHALLENGE

The foundation laid during a child's early years is essential for success in high school and higher education. From prekindergarten through high school, students need to master and build on skills like reading and math that are fundamental to learning for the rest of their lives. But there are gaps in the

educational pipeline. Many students arrive in kindergarten already behind their peers. We see the achievement gap grow throughout middle school. In high school, dropout and low completion rates are a serious problem, and transfer rates between two- and four-year institutions hover at less than 20 percent.



# IPSI improves public education in Texas

by implementing programs and services that address important challenges facing educators today. Dedicated to improving student performance and increasing both high school graduation rates and college enrollment rates, IPSI initiatives are focused in the areas of Academic Foundations, College Readiness, College Access and Educator Quality.

**ACADEMIC FOUNDATIONS** *Leverages resources at UT System institutions in the design and implementation of new instructional methods that deliver results.*

**THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS ELEMENTARY SCHOOL**

A university-sponsored research-based demonstration charter school for prekindergarten through fifth grade students in east Austin.

**ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS AND READING AND SPANISH STANDARDS**

Professional development train-the-trainer modules for the new ELAR/Spanish and Reading Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills (TEKS).

**COLLEGE READINESS** *Provides programs and tools that help students prepare for the next step after high school graduation.*

**TRACK (TAKS READINESS AND CORE KNOWLEDGE)**

Free TAKS readiness tool offered online with hundreds of diagnostics and dynamic learning tutorials in the subject areas tested on the eleventh grade exit-level TAKS test.

**COLLEGE ACCESS** *Bridges the information divide for students and parents in communities with low college attendance rates.*

**CAFÉ CON LECHE**

Critical information about the college application process in communities with low college attendance rates; provides \$166,000 in scholarships for first-generation college students.

**COLLEGE FOR ALL TEXANS**

Supports the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board in its redesign and integration of statewide college access information and technology. [www.collegeforalltexas.com](http://www.collegeforalltexas.com)

**EDUCATOR QUALITY** *Focuses on improving instruction in public schools by preparing, recruiting, retaining and rewarding exceptional educators.*

**TEACHER ADVANCEMENT PROGRAM (TAP)**

Managed in partnership with the National Institute for Excellence in Teaching (NIET) and TEA, TAP provides multiple career pathways, ongoing applied professional growth, instructionally focused accountability and performance-based compensation to Texas teachers.

**TEACHER INCENTIVE FUND (TIF)**

A grant of approximately \$25.5 million from the U.S. Department of Education to scale-up the Teacher Advancement Program across the state.

**TEXAS READING FIRST INITIATIVE**

Provides on-site technical assistance and professional development using research-based strategies to improve reading instruction in 700 Texas schools.

**EARLY COLLEGE HIGH SCHOOLS**

Blends high school and college into one coherent program allowing students to achieve two years of college credit while they earn a high school diploma.

**VOLUNTEER CORPS FOR COLLEGE**

More than 200 UT volunteers provide college-going support in high-need high schools and communities.

**ONLINE FINANCIAL AID ESTIMATES**

Development of the College Cost Calculator for the Voluntary System of Accountability, providing cost and total aid estimates for 300 U.S. public colleges and universities. Modeled after [www.TexasCollegeMoney.org](http://www.TexasCollegeMoney.org), calculating financial aid for any UT campus.

**TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE PROJECT**

In partnership with TEA, provides Texas school districts and charter schools with guidance in the development and implementation of strategic educator performance compensation.

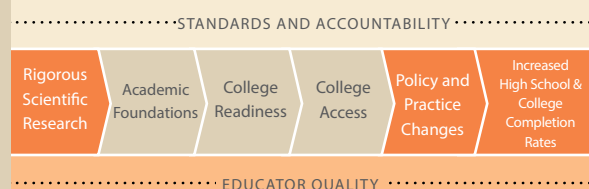
**UTEACH EXPANSION**

Supporting the expansion of UTeach within UT institutions as a national model for recruiting and training math and science teachers.

IPSI addresses the root causes of these gaps with programs and initiatives organized along the education continuum — academic foundations, college readiness and college access — with educator quality strengthening each area. Building upon rigorous scientific research implemented in innovative programs, we seek to be

a catalyst for change, refining policies and practices to increase high school and college completion rates. IPSI's ultimate goal is aligned to *Closing the Gaps*, the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board's plan to ensure 630,000 more Texas students enroll in postsecondary institutions by 2015.

STRATEGY TO MEET THE CHALLENGE



Since its inception, IPSI initiatives have served nearly **300** school districts, **840** schools, close to **two million** students and more than **20,000** teachers and principals.

### IPSI Structure and Support

IPSI is an outreach arm of The University of Texas System to UT institutions, state agencies and other organizations dedicated to improving public schools. IPSI's Executive Director reports to the UT System Chancellor. An advisory council comprised of university, business, foundation, education and community leaders provides IPSI with advice and support. Funding for IPSI projects is possible through generous support of several private foundations and public agencies and does not include appropriated funds from the state. IPSI has received approximately \$75 million in grants since June 2004. Forty-four percent of this funding is dedicated to external partners including universities, school districts and nonprofit organizations. For more details about the Institute for Public School Initiatives, please visit [www.utsystem.edu/ipsi](http://www.utsystem.edu/ipsi).

“As a result of being a Texas Reading First school district, student scores in every student group are now above 90% in reading. What we have learned about scientific research and instruction can now be applied to other grade levels and disciplines.”

DR. SHARON SHIELDS  
*Assistant Superintendent*  
La Vega ISD

“I used to be afraid of college because of the financial cost. The whole process is intimidating, but the people I talked with explained things in an understandable way.”

NORTH DALLAS HS SENIOR  
*Class of '08*  
Dallas, TX



Institute for Public School Initiatives  
*BIRTH TO BACCALAUREATE*

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