

YES Prep Partnership Search FAQ

Does YES Prep have elementary schools?

Not at this time. We are exploring options to open an elementary school for the 2020-2021 school year. This partnership search is intended for a middle and high school partner. Our partnership would begin with a 6th grade year in August of 2019 and grow from there.

Why does YES Prep only open one grade at a time?

We believe that growing our schools one grade per year allows the campus to establish a strong culture, invest heavily in the development of a founding class, and sets the tone for years of success.

Would YES Prep be open to full school turnaround or transformation?

Not at this time. Our partnership would begin with a 6th grade year in August of 2019 and grow from there.

Who is on the Board of Directors for YES Prep?

A list of our Board of Directors can be found here: <http://www.yesprep.org/board-leadership>

Is this type of partnership approved by TEA?

Our existing partnerships with two school districts are contract-based and require board approval from both parties. The partnership did not require TEA approval. If a district is in Improvement Required status and intends to partner with a charter school per SB 1882, TEA approval will be required.

Does YES Prep backfill if students exit YES Prep?

Yes, YES Prep does backfill for grades 6-9. School Directors (campus-level) and Heads of Schools (system-level) collaborate on this effort to make the best decision for every student and campus.

Does YES Prep have admissions requirements?

No. Students apply to YES Prep through a lottery. Priority is given to siblings of current YES Prep students, children of YES Prep employees, and students who live within a school's zoned boundary. Any additional admissions requirements would be outlined in the partnership Memorandum of Understanding.

Is YES Prep's discipline system different than a district's?

In order to best learn and thrive, we believe students need a caring and structured environment. To achieve this, YES Prep has designed a school-wide discipline system so that expectations and consequences are predictable and consistent in all classrooms. For our middle school students, they receive 'marks' for inappropriate behaviors and earn consequences for excessive marks in any given week. In high school, students are given more freedom and transition to a simplified consequence system where the primary consequence is after-school detention. There are also a variety of ways to earn positive rewards for positive behaviors. It is also important to note that YES Prep has made significant efforts to align its suspension and expulsion practices with Chapter 37 of the Texas Education Code, even those that do not necessarily apply to charter schools.

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How much per pupil does YES Prep receive from TEA for students it serves?

YES Prep receives a base allotment of \$6,518 per pupil from TEA. However, the contracted rate for students at a partnership school is negotiated between the district partner and YES Prep.

How is the partnership funded?

Contract rates are negotiated between the district partner and YES Prep. We would also be eager to collaborate with our chosen partnership to jointly apply for private grants or contributions to support start-up costs associated with a new partnership, and believe that there is significant interest in supporting these types of collaboration.

How does student accountability with TEA work for partnerships?

Students who attend a YES Prep partnership school remain in that partner's district from TEA's perspective. The district reports YES Prep partnership students as they would any other district student.

Would this partnership qualify for SB 1882 incentives?

SB 1882 sets conditions that encourage cooperation between districts and charter schools, including sharing facilities and other educational resources. SB 1882 incentivizes partnership in two ways: First, the school district receives the higher of the maintenance and operations (M&O) funding amount that the district or charter school would be entitled to for each student in the partnership. Second, the district or charter in the partnership will receive a two year reprieve in the accountability system, still receiving individual domain scores but pausing the intervention clock. This bill is specifically intended for charter takeovers, not a school within a school as we propose, but TEA has expressed some flexibility about this. TEA has not yet implemented anything under the law, so it is unclear whether this would apply.

Who is the employer for the YES Prep partnership school staff?

YES Prep is the employer and provides all training required for its staff.

Who is responsible for ensuring that our partnership complies with state and federal standards?

YES Prep is subject to the same rules and regulations from TEA, FERPA, etc. as any other districts. We will work together to ensure that we maintain compliance in all of these aspects.

What curriculum do students use? Is it different than a district?

YES Prep curriculum is TEKS aligned and students still take STAAR exams. YES Prep students are also required to take at least one AP class before graduation as well as entrance exams for college admission.