

TEACH FOR AMERICA



TEACH FOR AMERICA IS A COLLECTIVE FORCE OF EDUCATORS AND LEADERS WHO ARE EXPANDING OPPORTUNITY FOR ALL CHILDREN. WE ARE COMMITTED TO CREATING AN EDUCATION SYSTEM THAT LETS EVERY CHILD REACH THEIR POTENTIAL. BUT WHERE DO WE START? WE START WHEN A NEW TEACHER WALKS INTO A CLASSROOM. LET'S SAY THAT TEACHER IS YOU. YOU ARE ANXIOUS. THIS MAY BE THE HARDEST THING YOU'VE EVER DONE. BUT YOU KNOW THIS: EDUCATION IS PERHAPS THE GREATEST PURPOSE THERE IS, BECAUSE EVERYTHING ELSE—OPPORTUNITY, PROGRESS, FREEDOM—BEGINS WITH EDUCATION. YOU KNOW THAT EVERY CHILD IN THAT CLASSROOM IS GOING TO COME TO YOU WITH DIFFERENT NEEDS AND GIFTS AND OBSTACLES. AND WHETHER YOU TEACH TEN OR THIRTY OR ONE HUNDRED TWENTY CHILDREN, IT'S YOUR JOB TO DO RIGHT BY ALL YOUR STUDENTS, EVERY SINGLE DAY, FOR TWO FULL YEARS. AND AS YOU MOVE THROUGH THOSE YEARS, YOU'RE LEARNING FROM YOUR PEERS AND LISTENING TO PARENTS. CELEBRATING MILESTONES. MOURNING TRAGEDIES. IT'S QUINCEAÑERAS AND SWEET SIXTEENS, CHORUS, AFTER-SCHOOL SPORTS AND STUDENT COUNCIL ELECTIONS. AND, WITH HARD WORK, YOUR STUDENTS ARE SUCCEEDING ACADEMICALLY. THEY'RE DEVELOPING AS LEARNERS, LEADERS AND ADVOCATES FOR THEMSELVES IN PURSUIT OF THEIR GOALS. AND AT THE END OF TWO YEARS, YOU ARE ALSO VERY, VERY DIFFERENT. NOW, YOU'RE WONDERING HOW YOU CAN CONTINUE TO MAKE AN IMPACT ON YOUR STUDENTS' LIVES. YOU KEEP TEACHING, GET A GRADUATE DEGREE, TAKE ON A ROLE IN THE ADMINISTRATION OF YOUR SCHOOL. YOU SERVE ON THE SCHOOL BOARD, FOR THE DISTRICT, THEN THE STATE. AND YOUR IMPACT GROWS BECAUSE YOU KEEP DRAWING ON WHAT YOU LEARNED IN THAT FIRST CLASSROOM. FAST-FORWARD OVER SEVERAL DECADES. LOOK AROUND AT THE COMMUNITY YOU BECAME A PART OF. SOME OF YOU ARE EDUCATORS, INNOVATORS, STATE CHIEFS OF EDUCATION, REIMAGINING SCHOOLS AND SCHOOL SYSTEMS TO DELIVER EDUCATIONAL EXCELLENCE FOR ALL KIDS. SOME OF YOU ARE CULTURE-MAKERS. LEADERS IN LOCAL, STATE AND FEDERAL GOVERNMENT, DOCTORS, LAWYERS AND OTHER PROFESSIONALS WHO VOTE, ADVOCATE, AND ORGANIZE FOR MORE EQUITABLE POLICIES. YOU FORM A NETWORK THAT COLLECTIVELY TOUCHES EVERY DIMENSION OF THE EDUCATIONAL EXPERIENCE OF CHILDREN IN YOUR