

The Education Trust in Texas advocates for an equitable education for Black and Latino students, and students from low-income backgrounds, who, for far too long, have gone underserved. We believe in centering the voices of Texas students and families, especially those most impacted by educational inequity, as we work alongside them for the better future they deserve.



The Education Trust
IN TEXAS

What We Do

WE BRIDGE POLICY AND COMMUNITY:

We seek to influence policy in Texas by learning from and partnering with youth, families, educators, community-based organizations, civic and business leaders. Our goal is to drive an inclusive conversation about how every Texan can benefit from an education system that better serves students of color and students from low-income backgrounds, pre-K through college and career.

We work with advocates across Texas to:

- Draw attention to inequities that disproportionately impact underserved students across the state
- Equip partners with actionable and accessible tools to advance better educational outcomes and opportunities for underserved students
- Advocate for policies and practices that improve opportunities and outcomes for students of color, linguistically diverse students, students from low-income backgrounds, and students with disabilities
- Learn from and partner with students, families, educators, and communities to build capacity and collective will for educational equity and justice

What We Believe

- **WE BELIEVE** that the equitable allocation and use of resources — people, time, and money — enables all children to reach empowering goals, no matter their race, ZIP code, or income.
- **WE BELIEVE** that all students thrive when they have access to effective and diverse teachers and safe and inclusive learning environments.
- **WE BELIEVE** that high-quality early-learning environments set a critical foundation for children's development and academic success.
- **WE BELIEVE** that a postsecondary degree is essential to achieving social and economic mobility, yet our systems do not equitably prepare and support students to enroll in, afford, and complete college.
- **WE BELIEVE** that school and district accountability systems have the potential to serve as a powerful tool to help close opportunity gaps and achieve equity.

At The Education Trust, we are fierce advocates for the high academic achievement of all students — particularly those of color or living in poverty. We are equity-driven, data-centered, and student-focused.

JONATHAN FEINSTEIN

STATE DIRECTOR FOR TEXAS



Jonathan brings more than 15 years of experience in education as a teacher, organizer, and nonprofit leader. He serves as the State Director for Texas, where he works with and supports partners statewide to advance educational equity for students of color and from low-income backgrounds.

Prior to joining The Education Trust, Jonathan worked at The Commit Partnership, where he led community engagement and local advocacy efforts to bring together a wide range of systems leaders and directly impacted stakeholders to improve cradle-to-career outcomes for students in Dallas County. Before that, Jonathan worked as a middle school and special needs teacher, and continues to engage directly with educators, students, and other leaders to deepen his learning and commitment to racial equity.

A native of Chapel Hill, North Carolina, Jonathan credits his public schooling experience for instilling a deeply held appreciation for diverse educators and peers and for exposing him to the wide, persistent opportunity gaps affecting students of color and students from low-income families. He holds a bachelor's degree in American Studies from Wesleyan University with a concentration in Ethnic Studies.

Issue Expertise / Speaker & Interview Topics

- Public education funding in Texas
- Racial equity and resource inequities in public education
- Role of national, state, and local policy in closing opportunity gaps
- Importance of teacher quality and diversity
- Role of community and family partnerships in supporting students
- Intersection of social-emotional and academic development
- College and career readiness and access
- Impact of and disparities magnified by COVID-19

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