

Teach For America is the national corps of top recent college graduates of all academic majors who commit two years to teach in urban and rural public schools and become lifelong leaders in the effort to expand educational opportunity.

Since 1990, Teach For America has grown to include more than 33,000 corps members (teachers) and alumni. We are now one of the nation's largest providers of teachers for low-income communities and at the same time we are building an ever-expanding force of leaders who work from inside and outside of the education system to ensure that all of our nation's children have the opportunities they deserve.

Expanding Educational Opportunities to Overcome the Challenges of Poverty

Today in the United States, 9-year-olds in low-income communities are, on average, three grade levels behind their peers in high-income communities. Half of them won't graduate from high school. Those who do graduate will read and do math, on average, at the level of eighth graders in high-income communities. This academic achievement gap that exists between children growing up in low-income communities and their more affluent peers does not reflect the potential of the students; it is perpetuated by the extra challenges that kids growing up in low-income communities face and the lack of resources available to address their additional needs.

Teach For America enlists our nation's most promising future leaders in the effort to solve this problem. Our corps members and alumni, working alongside other committed individuals in communities across the country, improve academic outcomes for children as teachers, principals, district leaders, and superintendents, and contribute to the broader fight to ensure educational opportunity for all children.

Corps Recruiting and Admissions

Teach For America recruits top college graduates of all academic majors, career interests, and back-grounds who demonstrate achievement, leadership, perseverance, and a commitment to expanding opportunity for children in low-income areas. Our recruiting efforts are especially focused on individuals who share the racial and/or socioeconomic backgrounds of the students in underserved public schools, many of whom are African American or Latino.

A record 48,000 individuals applied to Teach For America's 2011 corps, including 12 percent of all seniors at Ivy League schools, 8 percent of the graduating class at the University of Michigan-Ann Arbor, and 5 percent at the University of Texas at Austin. A significant number of seniors from historically black colleges and universities applied, including 1 in 4 at Spelman College and 1 in 10 at Howard University. Nearly one-third of incoming corps members received Pell Grants, and one-third are people of color. Admission to Teach For America is highly selective, with 14 percent of applicants earning acceptance to the 2011 corps.

Corps Training and Professional Development

With 20 years of experience in preparing and supporting corps members to be successful teachers in low-income urban and rural areas, Teach For America is at the forefront of teacher training and professional development.

Teach For America at a Glance

Teach For America corps members, 2011 -12 school year	9,000+
Regions in which corps members teach	43
Schools nationwide where corps members are placed	2,600*
Students taught, 2011-12 school year	600,000
Students taught since 1990 (charter year)	3 million+
Teach For America alumni	24,000

*2010 -11 school year statistic

2011 Corps at a Glance

Total members	5,100
Average undergraduate GPA	3.6
People of color	35%
Pell Grant recipients*	31%

*Teach For America uses the receipt of Pell Grants as a measure of economic diversity among our corps.

Pre-Service Training

After approximately 30 hours of independent work and observation of experienced teachers, corps members attend an intensive five-week training institute and a regional orientation to the schools and communities in which they will be teaching. At the institute, corps members teach in summer school programs, receive feedback from veteran teachers, and complete a regimen of seminars and practice sessions designed to build the capabilities required to advance student achievement.

Ongoing Professional Development

Full-time instructional coaches on Teach For America's staff observe corps members and engage in joint problem-solving to improve their practice and accelerate student progress toward goals. Corps members receive toolkits that include sample assessments, standards, and teaching resources customized for their grade level, subject, and district; meet periodically in content-area and grade-level learning teams; have access to TFANet, our corps member and alumni website that hosts a resource exchange and knowledge sharing communities; and complete coursework toward full teacher certification and often a master's degree.

The most rigorous independent studies demonstrate that corps members have a significantly positive effect on the academic achievement of their students, even when compared to veteran and traditionally certified teachers in their schools.**

**To read the research, please visit: www.teachforamerica.org/research

Alumni Network

Approximately 24,000 Teach For America alumni form an unparalleled leadership pipeline for change in education, working from within education and from many other sectors to improve outcomes and opportunities for all students. Many of our alumni remain in education as veteran teachers, instructional coaches, principals, district leaders, and superintendents.

Many alumni, shaped by their corps experience, will do incredible things without any additional support from Teach For America; nevertheless, we work to accelerate and support ongoing leadership of our alumni through our Career and Leadership Center; graduate school and employer partnerships; and special initiatives in school and teacher leadership, political leadership, social entrepreneurship, and policy and advocacy

Alumni at a Glance	
Remain in the field of education*	67%
Work as school leaders	550+
Elected officials	50+
Engaged in volunteerism, philanthropy, and/or advocacy	85%
*Source: Teach For America Alumni Survey, 2010	