

AT&T Aspire: Teach for America of Oklahoma

Graduating Students, One Community at a Time



Program Description:

Teach for America Oklahoma's mission is to build the movement to eliminate educational inequity. TFA recruits outstanding leaders to teach in urban and rural areas, become lifelong leaders in pursuing educational excellence and equity, and ensure that low-income students are given the educational opportunities they deserve.

An astounding 100% of students at McLain Mid-High School in Tulsa are eligible for free or reduced-price lunch. The school continues to make insufficient annual progress and students lag far behind in Math and Reading according to the Tulsa Public School District. Teach for America plans to reverse that trend by using AT&T Aspire funding to add a Manager of Teacher Leadership Development (MTLD) to provide five highly trained and supportive corps members (teachers) at McLain so they will be able to make a significant impact on student achievement.



Funding:
\$154,000

Each MTLD will be a model of instructional leadership and be assigned to a group of corps members committed to a two-year term. MTLDs will work directly with corps members helping them to understand the importance of collecting and analyzing data, and monitoring student progress. Additionally, MTLDs will be involved in the following activities: classroom observations, one-on-one meetings with teachers, collaboration with school leaders, analysis of targeted student data and hosting Teaching As Leadership (TAL) seminars.

Students in a corps members' classroom are expected to achieve higher academic outcomes than students in a traditional classroom. Corps members are able to maximize student performance by analyzing collected data and customizing it to meet individual student needs. With early warning signals, MTLDs work alongside the corps members, teachers, and school leaders to ensure the highest at-risk students receive targeted interventions and are prepared to graduate on time, enter college and have a successful career.

- Just three years since its founding, Teach For America - Oklahoma has grown from **75 teachers to over 300** and has already seen dramatic results in classrooms throughout the region.
- TFA Oklahoma's teachers, alumni, and staff have adopted Oklahoma's spirit of partnership, grit, and determination, and are working relentlessly to ensure that students have the opportunities they deserve.

"The meaningful work being done at McLain is critical to showing students that the future is wide open . . . and to help them envision their place in it."

Dr. Keith Ballard, Superintendent, Tulsa Public Schools