

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 24,000 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.

Teach For America at a Glance

Teach For America corps members, 2009-10 school year	7,300
Regions in which corps members teach	35
Schools nationwide where corps members are placed	2,500
Students taught, 2009-10 school year	450,000+
Students taught since 1990 (charter year)	3 million+
Teach For America alumni	17,000

Expanding Educational Opportunities to Overcome the Challenges of Poverty

Today in the United States, nine-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 recent college graduates of all academic majors, career interests, and backgrounds with track records of achievement, demonstrated leadership, and the commitment to expanding opportunity for children in low-income areas. We make special efforts to recruit people who share the racial and socioeconomic backgrounds of the students we serve, more than 90 percent of whom are African-American, Hispanic, or Latino, and nearly all of whom are growing up in low-income communities.

Teach For America received more than 35,000 applications for the 2009 corps, a new record, marking an increase of 42 percent over last year. Applicants to the 2009 corps included 11 percent of all seniors at Ivy League universities, including nearly 20 percent of African-American, Latino, and Hispanic seniors at these universities. Teach For America is the number one employer of graduating seniors at more than 20 schools, including Georgetown University, Spelman College, and the University of Chicago, and is one of the top ten most desirable places to start a career, according to *Business Week*.

2009 Corps at a Glance

Total members	more than 4,000
Those with college leadership experience	89%
Average undergraduate GPA	3.6
People of color	30%
Pell Grant recipients*	25%

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

Corps Training and Professional Development

With 19 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.

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

Nearly 17,000 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. Approximately 90 percent of corps members complete their two years, and many remain in education long after, as veteran teachers, instructional coaches, principals, district leaders, and superintendents. A growing number of alumni are working to expand educational opportunity in other fields including politics, policy and advocacy, and social entrepreneurship.

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.

Our Funding

While schools and school districts hire corps members at regular beginning teacher salaries, Teach For America covers the costs of recruiting, selecting, training, supporting and developing them throughout their two-year corps commitment and beyond. We have built a highly diversified base of public and private funding to cover our annual expenses of approximately \$20,000 per corps member. In fiscal year 2008, nearly 75 percent of Teach For America’s revenue stream came from the regions where we place corps members. Additionally, national corporations, foundations, and federal government agencies make generous contributions to help ensure we grow our impact.

Alumni at a Glance	
Remain in the field of education*	63%
Work as school leaders	387
Elected officials	23
Work in government, politics, and/or advocacy	500+
*Source: Teach For America Alumni Survey, 2008	

Funding Sources	
FY09 operating revenue goal: \$189 million	
Funding source	% of total*
Foundations	32
Individuals	20
Federal Govt.	14
Corporations	13
Local Govt./School Districts	10
State Govt.	7
Special Events (net)	3
*Actual breakdown from FY09; percentages are rounded and do not add up to 100 percent.	