StriveTogether®
Every child. Cradle to career.

Learning from
PROOF POINT COMMUNITIES

E3 Alliance *Austin, Texas*

// The opportunity

Across the country, millions of young children start school unprepared for the classroom. Children who enter kindergarten before they're ready are three times less likely to read proficiently in third grade.
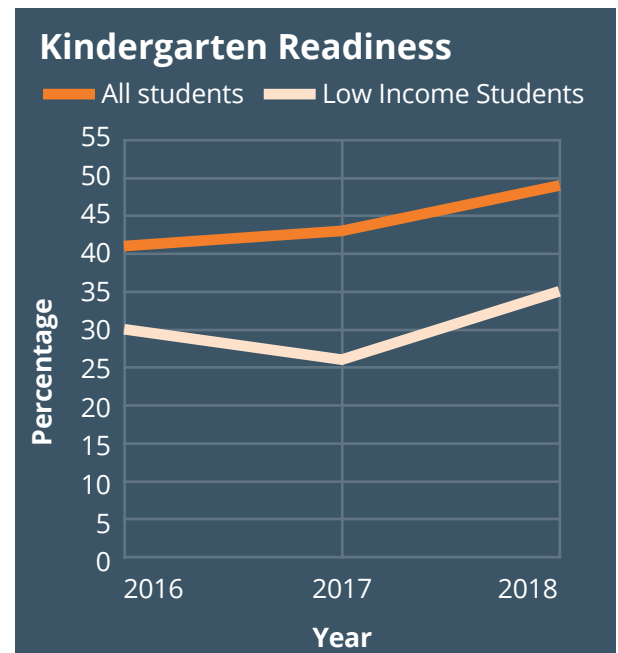
In 2015, the rate of kindergarten readiness among preschoolers in Central Texas plummeted, showing the impact of reductions in state and federal funding.

StriveTogether Cradle to Career Network member E3 Alliance knows the importance of supporting kids to have successful starts. The Austin-based partnership works to improve the lives of the 600,000 children and students living in Central Texas. Read on to learn how this network member worked to get more kids ready for school.

// Working across the community

E3 Alliance and its partner school districts realized they had to work across health and education sectors in new and different ways to address kindergarten readiness. To help health care providers and educators collaborate effectively, E3 Alliance worked with StriveTogether to provide these cross-sector partners with Results Count™ workshops.

Pioneered by the Annie E. Casey Foundation, Results Count™ is a collection of resources and techniques that help professionals adopt a results-oriented, equitable approach to their work. "Results Count™ provided a common framework and set of tools, based on powerful data, to all of these groups who had never worked together before," says Laura Koenig, E3 Alliance's senior director of community solutions.

Kindergarten Readiness

— All students　— Low Income Students

Source: Data reported by E3 Alliance in the 2018 StriveTogether Infrastructure Assessment.

// Using data to get better results

To make a change in kindergarten readiness, E3 Alliance adopted StriveTogether's collaborative improvement approach, which allows organizations to make decisions in real time based on results and evidence. This shift helped E3 Alliance invest resources into the most effective strategies for increasing kindergarten readiness among preschoolers living in poverty, says Susan Dawson, president and executive director of E3 Alliance.

E3 Alliance convened regional stakeholders and child development experts to create the state's first multi-competency school readiness assessment called, Ready, Set, K! This assessment proved transformative in empowering stakeholders to make data-based decisions for increasing kindergarten readiness. For example, school districts use student-level data from Ready, Set, K! to develop support for individual students while the community uses data to understand the factors affecting school readiness.
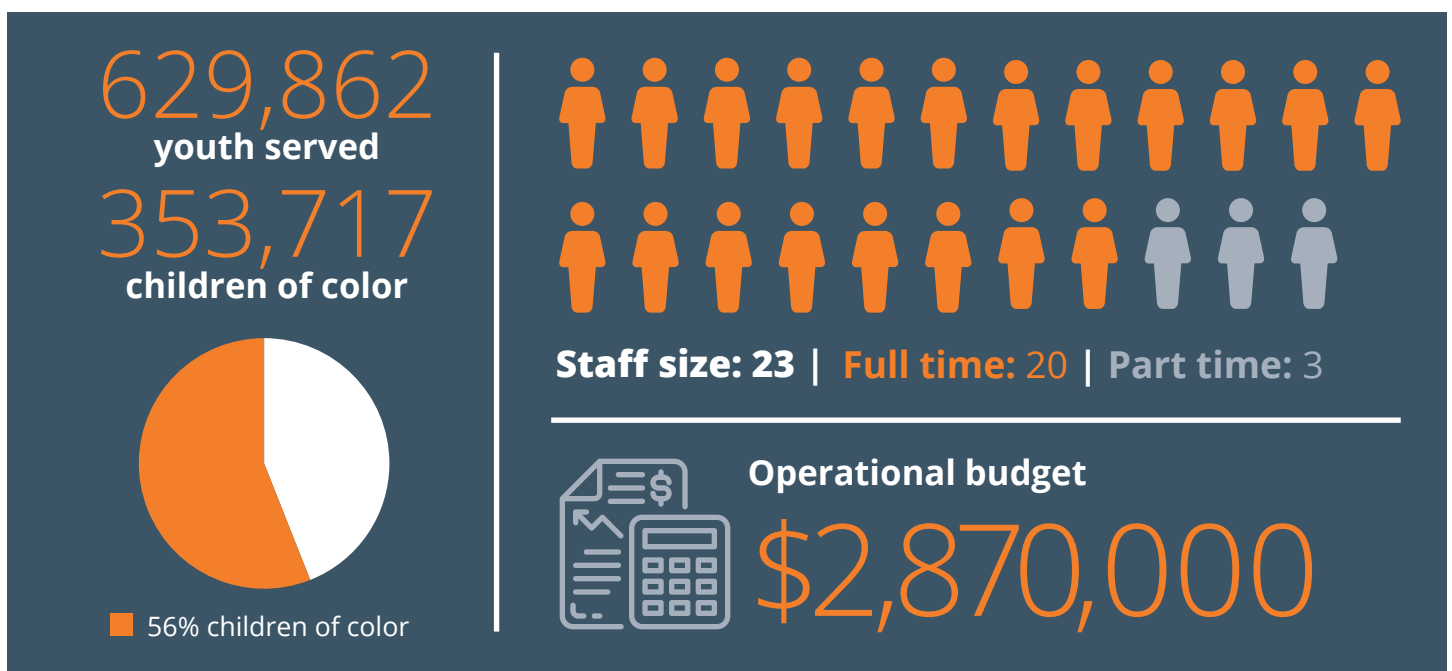
"StriveTogether has adapted some of the most efficient tools from health care and manufacturing that force you to iterate, test, iterate, test, find something that works, start to scale up and iterate again before taking it to a whole school," Dawson says.

// Proof point and beyond

In 2018, E3 Alliance reached Proof Point along the StriveTogether Theory of Action™, a designation reserved for communities that have maintained or improved 60% of cradle-to-career outcome measures. Achieving Proof Point is a critical milestone in the work to get better results for every child, but systems-level change takes time.

"There are no quick fixes when so many young people are caught up in a mesh of systems designed to fail them," says StriveTogether President and CEO Jennifer Blatz. "The Cradle to Career Network brings communities across the country together to build better systems that yield better results for every child."

Learn more about E3 Alliance's journey to Proof Point by visting StriveTogeher online at strivetogether.org.

629,862
youth served

353,717
children of color

■ 56% children of color

Staff size: 23 | Full time: 20 | Part time: 3

Operational budget
$2,870,000

Source: Data reported by E3 Alliance in the 2018 Civic Infrastructure Assessment. Children of color estimated based on the percentages reported in disaggregated population data.