



September 30, 2020

The Honorable Dan Huberty  
Chairman  
House Committee on Public Education

RE: Interim Charge 2

Chairman Huberty & Members,

On behalf of more than 400,000 youth across Texas, Boys & Girls Clubs fill the gap between school and home. We provide welcoming, positive environments in which kids and teens have fun, participate in life-changing programs and experiences, and build supportive relationships with peers and caring adults.

Every young person deserves to be well prepared for life and career. Boys & Girls Clubs in Texas equip youth with the soft and hard skills they need to succeed in the workforce and create access to partnerships for real life experiences to explore career options. 97% of Club teens expect to graduate high school and 86% expect to complete post-secondary education.

Statistics show that 35% of Club members live in single parent households, 71% qualify for free or reduced-price lunches, and 85% represent minority populations. These are the youth most likely to experience opportunity gaps including insufficient technology and internet access at home, inadequate academic supports, lost academic ground, food insecurity and lack of social supports. In the Greater Austin Area alone, over 60% of Club members reported not having access to online capabilities. We know that this problem is only amplified in rural areas across the state and in families with compromised resources at home. Boys & Girls Clubs in Texas help to fill that need to support youth and teens in their emotional and educational needs.

Boys & Girls Clubs help schools bridge the gap with kids who are struggling to meet academic expectations, Clubs stand ready as a reputable and reliable state partner, to deliver academic enhancement for the children and youth we serve. Boys & Girls Clubs across Texas offer workforce development initiatives, college campus tours, and industry internship opportunities.

Academic enrichment activities include reading small groups, regular STEM activities that include coding & robotics and for older members, regular career and college exploration experiences. Financial literacy education is also available in preparation for life after the Club.

At Boys & Girls Clubs we believe who you are, where you are from, or the circumstances that surround you should not determine your access to experiences or opportunity. Texas' youth need a voice and with your help, we will close the opportunity gap for all youth in Texas.

Thank you,

Mitzi Stoute Faniola  
Executive Director  
Texas Alliance of Boys & Girls Clubs  
Boys & Girls Clubs in Texas