



Education Energized

E²: Powered by GPISD and Uplift Education

Charter - District Compact

BACKGROUND

In 2014, Grand Prairie ISD (GPISD) and Uplift Education came together to form Education Energized with the vision of creating a bolder impact on the 43,000 students served by both organizations as well as setting an example of positive district/charter partnership and collaboration for North Texas.

The reform-minded and innovative work in place at GPISD, as an open-enrollment and choice portfolio district positioned the organization well for a charter-district partnership. The vision of the GPISD as a choice model began in 2010. Since then GPISD has grown the district portfolio to include 19 schools of choice and 13 programs, offering a broad and diverse menu including single-gender schools, leadership, fine arts, STEAM and language academies. Innovation continues to be a key driver within the district.



Meanwhile at Uplift Education, the charter-management organization was continuing to expand across the Dallas-Fort Worth metroplex. GPISD was in search of a high-performing charter school that could continue to diversify their district portfolio. The entrepreneurial culture of both organizations laid a strong foundation for growth together as a charter-district partnership.

The partnership was unanimously approved by the Board of Directors for both organizations, seeing the benefit of working together for the betterment of the entire community. In winter of 2014, the Boards were brought together for the first time, each expressing excitement and encouragement for the work ahead to add an Uplift school within the GPISD district portfolio. By March of 2015, the Board of Directors at both organizations unanimously approved the contract to open Uplift Lee Preparatory at GPISD Lee Elementary School for the 2015-16 school year.

Throughout this process, the partnership planning and vision was supported by the Meadows Foundation and Educate Texas, organizations who shared our belief that together we can do more for our children.

THE PARTNERSHIP SCHOOL: LEE ELEMENTARY

Uplift Lee Preparatory opened at Lee Elementary school in August 2015. Parents have the choice to choose two different programs on a single campus.

Lee Elementary School

Uplift Lee Preparatory School

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Established neighborhood GPISD school Dual language offered to qualifying ELL students Grades K-5 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> New GPISD charter school academically operated by Uplift Education International Baccalaureate (IB) programming College Focus Opened with grades K-2
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Families and students at Uplift Lee Preparatory are provided the full Uplift academic program and curriculum centered about IB, while also being able to access student services from GPISD such as special education, counseling, health services, etc. Principals for both schools have collaborated to create a vision for the partnership campus and have already begun successful collaborations which include:

- Creation of a social contract between school leadership teams and teachers
- Shared front office staff serving all families
- Unified PTA for the campus
- Collaboration to offer numerous and diverse after-school clubs
- Integrated campus footprint by integrating Uplift Lee classrooms into existing grade level hallways, share one staff workroom and break room
- Shared SPED services, with GPISD SPED teachers and staff serving Uplift Lee students
- Collaboration on design and implementation of RTI processes
- Shared counseling services, with GPISD counselors serving Uplift Lee students



FUTURE COLLABORATION

Education Energized will continue to evolve and pull best practices from both organizations, seeking to expand the impact of the partnership beyond the Lee campus. Leadership teams have identified the following areas as high impact initiatives for the partnership:

- 1. Continuation of Uplift Lee Preparatory at Lee Elementary**
 - Sharing of instructional practices and professional development
 - Fostering organic teacher and staff interaction
 - Integrated footprint with intermingling of Uplift and GPISD Lee classrooms
 - Expanding Uplift Lee to serves Grades K-5
- 2. College Readiness and Counseling Partnership**
 - Share programmatic details of Uplift's signature Road to College Program
 - Share best practices from GPISD Counseling and CTE departments
 - Develop plan for a pilot program at GPISD and Uplift
- 3. IB Implementation and Programming Partnership**
 - Share best practices and strategies to develop the International Baccalaureate® program
- 4. Pre-K Partnership**
 - Offer GPISD Pre-K program at existing Uplift Education campus
- 5. Middle School Partnership**
 - Create charter-district partnership school for Grades 6-8

BACKGROUND ON GRAND PRAIRIE ISD AND UPLIFT EDUCATION

Grand Prairie ISD is the 16th largest school district in the State of Texas with more than 27,800 students. The GPISD educational model is grounded in the belief that students should have the ability to choose the school they attend. The District is an open-enrollment portfolio district since year 2010 and have 19 schools of choice and 13 programs of choice, among 39 total schools in the district. GPISD offers numerous traditional schools, school of choice and programs of choice at all grade levels in areas such as fine arts, STEM, World Language, and various career pathways programs. The District has a diverse student population with 63.1 percent Hispanic students, 17.6 percent black students, 15.1 percent white students, 3.7 percent Asian students, and 5 percent American Indian students and a 56% college-going rate among the graduating seniors.



Uplift Education is the largest network of high performing public charter schools in North Texas serving almost 14,000 students across its 34 schools. Uplift's educational model is grounded in building a college-going mindset in all students, a culture that balances joy and high expectations for staff and students, a rigorous academic model grounded in the International Baccalaureate philosophy and the use of data to personalize learning, and a commitment to working alongside parents and community stakeholders. A high fidelity to the execution of this model has resulted in 100% of Uplift graduates being accepted into college, 80% current enrollment, and over \$68 million in scholarships for last year's 422 seniors.

Uplift currently serves nearly 14,000 scholars with nearly that many on the waiting list. Seventy-four percent of the Uplift student population is low income and 94% are ethnic minority. Our students are located in Arlington, Dallas, Grand Prairie, Irving and Fort Worth. Our student population represents approximately 50/50 male/female ratio and are age 5-18.

Timeline for Future Efforts

October 2015	Set vision for Uplift Road to College and GPISD Counseling Department partnership and set monthly planning meetings
December 2015	Draft Construction plan of Pre-K facility at Uplift Grand Preparatory
May 2016	Develop training model and pilot program for Uplift Road to College and GPISD Counseling Department partnership
August 2016	Begin convening working groups for Pre-K partnership school
July 2017	Present Pre-K Partnership contract for Board approval
August 2017	Begin convening working groups for middle school partnership school and launch Road to College/Counseling partnership pilot program
July 2018	Present Middle School Partnership contract for Board approval
August 2018	Pre-K operated by GPISD opens at Uplift Grand Preparatory
August 2019	Middle School Partnership school opens