

WHAT IS START SMART TEXAS?

Reading and math proficiency by third grade are critical predictors of high school graduation and career success. Research shows that reading by the end of third grade enables students to shift from learning to read to reading to learn. This is also a critical time for learning key math concepts that begin to scaffold and expand after third grade.

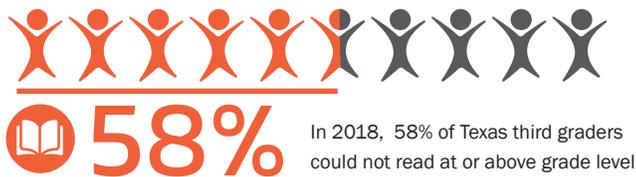
Start Smart Texas is a public/private partnership between state agencies established to address student success. Underlying this effort is the belief that we ALL can play a role in reaching these critical milestones. Start Smart Texas helps community partners and families with school readiness, reading and math proficiency and summer learning loss. This initiative engages and empowers families and caregivers in expanding childrens' development.

Parents, schools, and community partners — such as nonprofits and foundations — can help kids reach their full potential, if we ALL work together. City-by-city, across our state, we can create a movement with a goal of ultimately increasing reading and math outcomes for ALL Texas students.



WHY JOIN START SMART TEXAS?

**PARTNER WITH US TO IMPROVE
THIRD-GRADE SUCCESS**



Join our campaign to receive:

- Best practices
- Peer-to-peer advice
- Membership to the National Campaign for Grade-Level Reading
- Opportunity to receive Pacesetter Honor
- Opportunity to receive All-American City Award
- Valuable technical assistance
- Support from staff, consultants, and funders

**CURRENT
COMMUNITIES**





Join Us! Start Smart Texas is a network of community-level collaboratives, each bringing together leaders and organizations in their own cities to help students achieve academic success, in particular third-grade reading and math proficiency. Become part of the Start Smart Texas movement to ensure that more children are reading on grade level. Join us to access best practices and strategies that you can implement in your communities to support student success.

TWO STEPS TO BECOME A START SMART TEXAS COMMUNITY

1

Convene a cross-sector coalition with a designated leader, or designate an existing coalition as a Start Smart Texas community.

Note: Start Smart Texas collaboratives/communities do not have to take the name “Start Smart” to be part of our network.

2

Submit a a cover letter, community overview AND plan of action (five pages maximum) that includes:



Contact information for lead and secondary organizations/staff



Baseline data, or a plan to obtain baseline data, used by cross-sector coalition focused on school readiness, family engagement, third grade reading, and math proficiency or other data



Targeted geographic area



Description of how you developed your plan-of-action and describe your collaborative’s work – both prior and future plans – focused on improving school readiness, family engagement, chronic absences, summer learning and reading and math proficiency, as well as any other indicators your community collaborative may target.



Cross-sector collaboration members such as school, nonprofit, philanthropic, civic, faith-based, and other community leaders

For more information, contact:

Email: info@startsmarttexas.org

Visit: startsmarttexas.org

Facebook: [@startsmarttexas](https://www.facebook.com/startsmarttexas)

Twitter: [@StartSmartTX](https://twitter.com/StartSmartTX)

