

Recruit, Support and Retain Teachers and Principals



Houston ISD

GROW YOUR OWN



For the 2020-21 school year, Texas public schools hired 40,724 teachers.¹¹ Attracting that many talented people to the teaching profession is a large task and involves numerous actions. One key action schools are taking is to intentionally grow their own supply of teachers. Current high school students and paraprofessionals who are properly supported can become accomplished teachers. The Texas Legislature appropriates funds to bolster Grow Your Own (GYO) activity across the state. Those funds are getting results.



Student to Teacher



Denton ISD

Being a teacher is something that Arika Jones always knew she wanted to be. From 2015 to 2017, Arika was a student in the Education and Training Program at **Denton High School**. As a student, she was placed at Newton Rayzor Elementary in a second-grade classroom where the mentor teacher allowed her to be a full part of the teaching experience, which included lesson planning, classroom management, and other aspects of the profession. Years later, she graduated from the University of North Texas, and she is now teaching at Paloma Creek Elementary in Denton ISD.



Assistant to Teacher

“Reflecting on my Grow Your Own journey, I would do it a thousand times over.”

Tania Amador’s journey to becoming an educator was quite different from her peers’ experiences. As a paraprofessional in **Grand Prairie ISD**, she entered the TechTeach Across Texas 2+1 program. Through this Grow Your Own effort, she developed best practices through her experiences as an educational assistant, which she uses in the classroom today. The program “changed her life” and now she gets to do the same for her students.

