




Annual Report 2023 Texas


99.8%
College
Matriculation



125
Tuition-Free
Public Schools



17 Years
of 100% College
Acceptance



77,000
Students Served

“Great Place to Work”

IDEA has been recognized as a “Great Place to Work” and received national rankings on *U.S. News & World Report’s* Top High Schools lists and Jay Mathews Challenge Index High School Rankings formerly known as America’s Most Challenging High Schools published in *The Washington Post*.

Dear Team & Family,

As we reflect on the past year, we are filled with excitement and hope for what is to come. Together, we have navigated unprecedented challenges, broken down barriers, and paved the way for a brighter future for each of our scholars. We are grateful for the resiliency and determination of the organization's students, teachers, leaders, and families. 2023 was a year defined by successes, achievements, and a cohesive effort to live out our mission of providing access to college for ALL children.

As we look back, we are reminded of the moments that made us smile, laugh, and cheer and of the many outstanding accomplishments of our schools, including:

- IDEA welcomed over 80,000 students and more than 10,700 staff for the first day of school across eleven regions in 4 states.
- Class of 2023 included 1,961 seniors, 10,812 acceptances to colleges and universities, and \$157 million in grants and scholarships.
- 80% of 2023 seniors are first-generation college students
- 19 IDEA high schools, 55 middle schools, and 47 IDEA Elementary schools are ranked among the best in the nation by U.S. News and World Report

- IDEA has achieved 10,000 alumni and met the college matriculation goal for the 10th consecutive year
- IDEA announced new leadership: Jeff Cottrill, CEO and Superintendent; Cody Grindle, President; Ernesto Cantu, Chief Schools Officer; Marlon Shears, Chief Information Officer; Andrea Fernandez, Area Superintendent; and Dr. Dionel Waters, Area Superintendent

Looking ahead, we are filled with joy and optimism and remain deeply committed to our mission, vision, and values. As a Team & Family, we will continue to build upon our academic successes, student achievements, and innovative learning experiences while nurturing a collaborative and thriving community working toward a single mission of college for all.

Let us embrace the possibilities that lie ahead. Thank you for being a vital part of this community.

Sincerely,

Jeff Cottrill
CEO & Superintendent

Collin Sewell
Chair, Board of Directors

14
Ivy League college-bound students



Meet the Class of 2023



3,609
Accepted into the nation's top colleges (top tier 1 or 2).

1,584
First-generation college students

\$157M
in grants & scholarships earned by students



El Paso

IDEA schools in El Paso currently serve over 5,100 students, providing personalized learning through collaboration and daily access to technology. The region has also experienced great successes in athletics, earning state finishes in cross country, football, and soccer.



Greater Austin

With over 9,300 students, IDEA Austin continues to pursue a legacy of success. Austin's graduating class of 2023 consisted of 94% of first-generation college students, with 39 seniors earning a full scholarship to pursue higher education at their respective universities.



Greater Houston

The Greater Houston region continues to grow and see strong results, with total enrollment at just over 3,000 students across 6 schools.

IDEA Lake Houston earned an "A" rating based on the robust data provided by the TEA.



Permian Basin

IDEA Travis received the Wesley Becker Excellent School Award, a national recognition for the difference they've made in education performance. IDEA Yukon Academy, after only two years of operation, has enrolled 733 students and was named a 2023 Imagine Nation School of Excellence. All four IDEA schools in the region ranked among the healthiest in the nation.



Tarrant County

Six out of eight schools in Tarrant County earned the distinction of being among the best in the nation. Alongside this, IDEA Rise scored 2nd in the district as among the highest achieving in academics. As a whole, the region surpassed its enrollment targets by 1.89%, welcoming 5,824 students to the campuses on the first day of school!



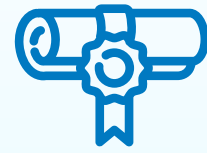
Rio Grande Valley

The class of 2023 graduated 1,247 seniors who submitted a total of 12,742 college applications. 73% of scholars earned admittance into the nation's most selective colleges and universities (Tier 1 or Tier 2). In addition, two campuses, IDEA Frontier and IDEA College Preparatory McAllen, ranked among the top 20 high schools in Texas.



San Antonio

Sixty-four percent of San Antonio's class of 2023 earned admittance into tier 1, tier 2, and ivy league schools. These seniors amassed over \$70 million in college scholarships. Further, IDEA Judson and IDEA Mays graduated their first senior classes in 2023. Impressively, this class included 7 Quest Bridge Scholars.



Class of 2023 included **1,961 seniors**, **10,812 acceptances** to colleges and universities, and **\$157M in grants and scholarships.**



19 High Schools Ranked Among the Best in the Nation in 2023

- #16 IDEA Frontier
- #20 IDEA McAllen
- #25 IDEA Carver
- #26 IDEA Quest
- #33 IDEA Edinburg
- #38 IDEA Brownsville
- #44 IDEA Weslaco Pike
- #48 IDEA San Juan
- #49 IDEA Montopolis
- #59 IDEA Mission
- #66 IDEA Toros
- #81 IDEA Weslaco
- #85 IDEA Donna
- #107 IDEA South Flores
- #109 IDEA San Benito
- #118 IDEA Monterrey Park
- #375 IDEA Walzem
- #719 IDEA Alamo
- #868 IDEA Pharr



18 IDEA seniors were selected as QuestBridge National College Match program finalists



IDEA's Child Nutrition Program farms have produced over 120,000 pounds of produce for our students and have provided hands-on educational experiences at campuses.

The U.S. Department of Education awarded IDEA Carver Academy the prestigious Blue Ribbon Award for being an exemplary achievement gap-closing school. These schools are among the state's highest performing in closing achievement gaps between a school's student groups and all students.



133 IDEA Schools Recognized Among the Healthiest in the Nation

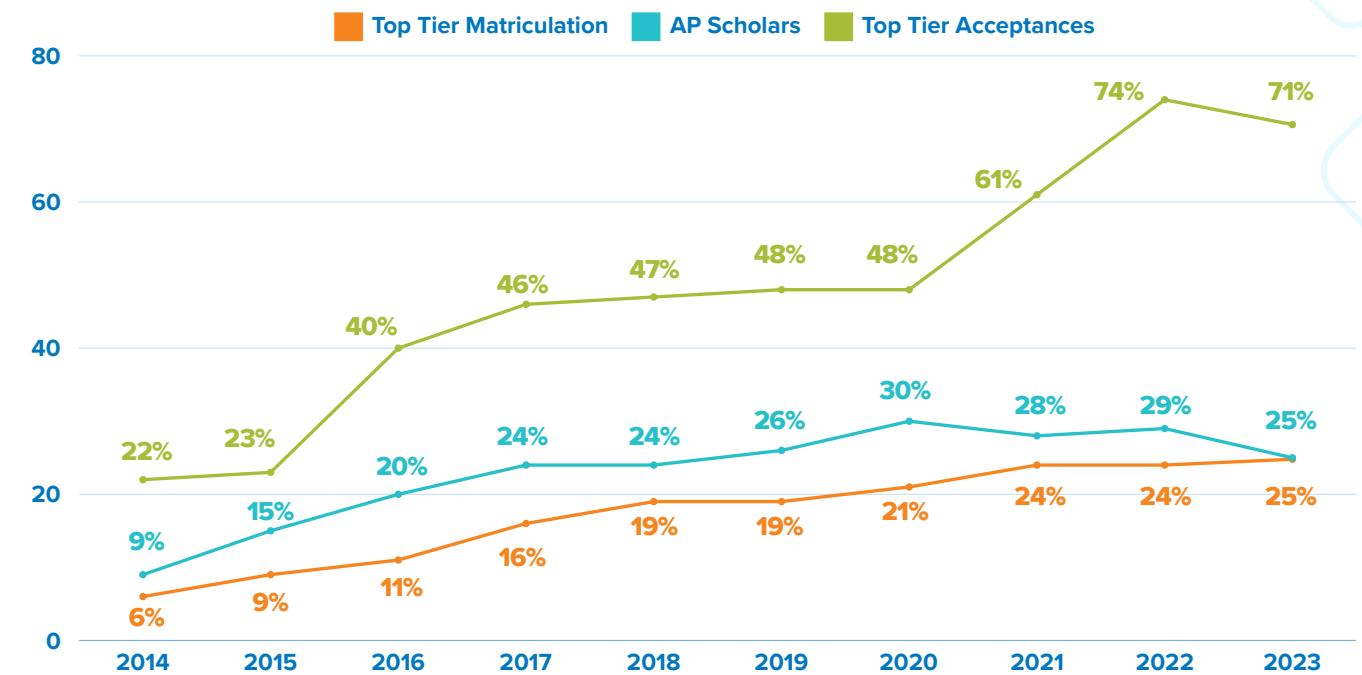
IDEA is excited to announce that 120 schools across the nation are among the top schools nationwide to earn a spot on the [Alliance for a Healthier Generation](#) 2022 list of “America’s Healthiest Schools” for their commitment to promoting quality nutrition, regular physical activity, and strong wellness policies. Each school met at least four of the following categories:

- Ensuring Family & Community Engagement
- Nutrition & Food Access
- Local School Wellness Policy
- Health Education
- Physical Education & Activity
- Social Emotional Health
- Staff Well-Being
- Tobacco-Free Schools
- School Health Services

This distinction is a major accomplishment thanks to IDEA’s Healthy Kids Here program. Launched in 2014, Healthy Kids Here is an initiative aimed at making IDEA one of the healthiest school districts in America with three main areas of focus including food, fitness, and instilling healthy habits for the future. With an emphasis on helping students gain a strong foundation of healthy habits, Healthy Kids Here provides students with healthy meals and snacks each day, five campus farm programs that keep schools supplied with delicious, locally grown, organic produce, physical fitness programs to keep scholars healthy and strong, while educating students and families about the importance of proper hygiene and healthy living. Health Aides lead the Healthy Kids Here work on each campus, partnering with the Child Nutrition Program and PE coaches throughout the year to deliver health programming and education.

For nearly 16 years, Alliance for a Healthier Generation’s annual recognition program has honored schools that are implementing best practices that support children’s learning and development, including meeting or exceeding federal standards for nutritious school meals and providing regular opportunities for students and staff to be active throughout the school day. It remains one of the country’s longest-running, nationwide recognition programs honoring schools for achievements in nutrition, physical activity, and wellness policies.

Excellence Through the Years



Top tier matriculation data for 2023 not available at this time.

IDEA Texas Financial Highlights

Statement of Financial Position

Assets	
Cash	\$294,045,918
Receivables	\$258,138,707
Investments	\$32,099,053
Pre-paid Items	\$4,224,814
Other	\$850,165
Net Property & Equipment	\$1,295,805,806
Total	\$1,885,164,463

Liabilities & Net Assets

Current Liabilities	\$244,511,324
Payroll Liabilities	--
Long-term Liabilities	\$1,272,017,377
Net Assets	\$368,635,762
Total	\$1,885,164,463

Statement of Activities

Revenues	
State Funding	\$783,602,726
Federal Funding	\$193,767,129
Grants & Gifts	\$796,286
Other	\$23,667,189
Total	1,001,833,330

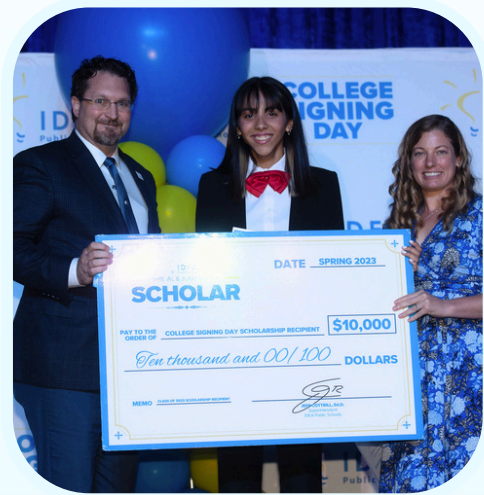
Expenses

Instructional & School Leadership	\$639,016,210
Operations	\$256,120,344
Administration	\$67,011,084
Fundraising	\$2,293,298
Debt Service	--
Support & Ancillary Services	\$1,454,691
Total	\$965,895,627



THE AL & JUDY LOPEZ SCHOLAR

Congratulations to our 2023 Scholarship recipients!



Sofia Mosquera Zarraga
IDEA Carver - San Antonio, TX



Aida Sandrez
IDEA Montopolis - Austin, TX



Ashley Olvera
IDEA Frontier - Rio Grande Valley, TX

Jimena Guzman
IDEA Alamo - Rio Grande Valley, TX

Ely Chaparro de la Garza
IDEA McAllen - Rio Grande Valley, TX

[Click here to learn more about The Al & Judy Lopez Scholarship Endowment or to make a contribution.](#)

President Profile

Cody Grindle

I believe in the power of education and its ability to transform lives. Together with our dedicated teachers, staff, students, and parents, we will continue to build upon the strong foundation that IDEA has established to create lifelong learners. I am excited about IDEA's immense potential for innovation and growth. We will embrace new technologies, methodologies, and best practices to ensure that our students are prepared to go to and through college."

Cody's nearly 14-year tenure with IDEA started in the classroom as an English teacher at IDEA Mission and evolved into technology roles on IDEA's Information Services Team. Two years ago, he became IDEA's first Chief Information Officer, leading the transformational work to turn data into information and empower all areas of IDEA with the tools to create value for our students and communities. Cody's keen insights and creative solutions have influenced nearly every aspect of IDEA's operations, from students' daily attendance to family recruitment and our COVID-19 pandemic response.

Previously, Cody was named one of the Top 30 Technologists, Transformers, & Trailblazers by the Center for Digital Education. Cody earned his B.A. in Political Science, Economics, & German at Wittenberg University in Springfield, Ohio, earning distinctions for work abroad in Moscow, Russia, and Freiburg im Breisgau, Germany.

As President, Cody oversees chiefs and teams supporting IDEA's operations, including Information Technology; Advancement; Human Assets; and Operations. A native of Cleveland, Ohio, Cody currently lives in Austin with his wife, Megan, three dogs, and three chickens.