

EDUCATE FIR\$T

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REQUEST FOR MEDIA COVERAGE

For immediate release: 01/18/17

Event: Press Conference - Educate Fir\$t New White Paper Release

Date/Time: Thursday, January 26, 2017. 10:00 am – 11:00 am

Venue: Dr. Jose Cardenas Early Childhood Center,
3300 Ruiz St., San Antonio, TX 78228

Presented by: Educate Fir\$t

We respectfully request your presence to cover this important community event.

Educate Fir\$t will hold a press conference to announce the release of a new white paper, *Why Investing in Education Fuels the Texas Economy*, addressing the education crisis Texas faces. The study analyzes the impact of education on business interests and provides vital information ensuring that Texas will be able to sustain its future economic growth and financial stability.

Educate Fir\$t is a collaboration of individuals from the fields of business, academia, and education who share a concern for the economic future of Texas. These members contribute their time and effort due to their strong belief in the increased awareness of just how crucial education is to the future economic vitality of our state and nation.

Press release attached.

FOR RELEASE JANUARY 18, 2017

Educate Fir\$T - Why Investing in Education Fuels the Texas Economy

San Antonio, TX, January 26, 2017 – Educate Fir\$T today announced the release of a new white paper, addressing the education crisis Texas is facing. The study analyzes the impact of education on business interests and provides information that is vital to ensure that our state will be able to sustain its future economic growth and financial stability.

Texas' education system is currently inadequate to meet the state's future needs for millions of young Texans. There is much at stake for the state's business and economic interests if public education remains at status quo. Texas must change the way it is currently educating children, because the consequences will be devastating to both the state and the nation's economy.

"Texas' economic engine is directly tied to educational outcomes," says John Gonzalez, founder of JDG Associates Inc. and Co-Director of Educate Fir\$T. "The business community can no longer be satisfied with the status quo when faced with the potential for a vast labor pool of undereducated and unskilled men and women." He continues, "Any proposed solution to an undereducated Texas must be comprehensive; it must be a partnership between private and public entities because education powers all aspects of the Texas economic engine."

Between 2000 and 2014, nearly 90 percent of child population growth in the United States came from Texas.

Texas has seen an increase in job creation requiring a post-secondary degree.

According to Education Commissioner Mike Morath, an average student in Texas enters kindergarten 12 to 18 months academically behind. Being behind academically has consequences that can range from repeating a grade to dropping out of school, and subsequently facing higher unemployment and incarceration rates.

The Educate Fir\$T white paper offers solutions of investing in education early, starting with Pre-K, as well as providing increased assistance for post-secondary schools. The return on investment will bolster the future Texas economy.

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