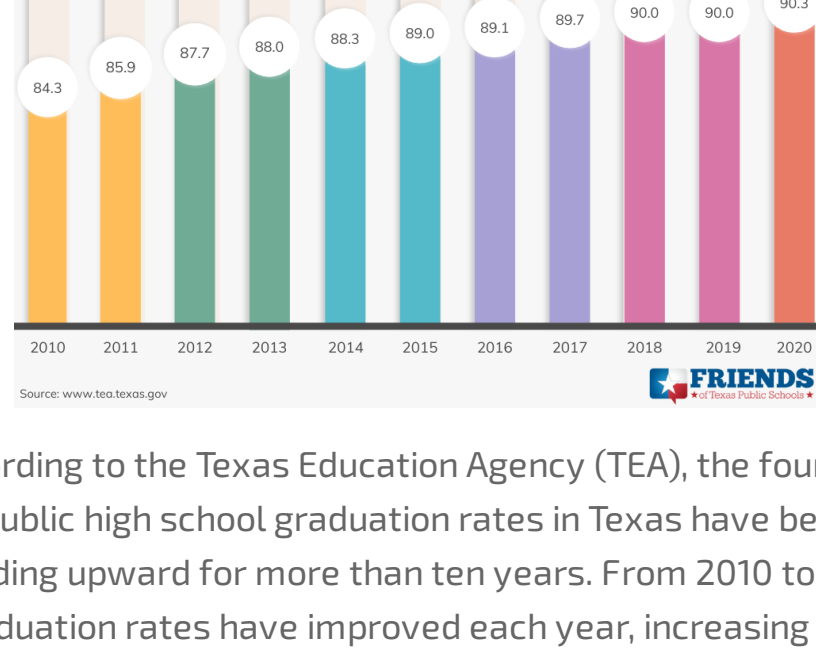




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THE 10-YEAR GRADUATION RATE SHOWS YEAR-OVER-YEAR GAINS, RANKING TEXAS 3RD NATIONALLY



According to the Texas Education Agency (TEA), the four-year public high school graduation rates in Texas have been trending upward for more than ten years. From 2010 to 2020, graduation rates have improved each year, increasing from 84.3% to 90.3%, ranking 3rd nationally.

Sources: TEATexas.gov
USNews.com

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TRUTH ABOUT CHARTERS

In a recent article by Dan Carson of [Chron](#), executives at IDEA Public Schools (publicly-funded private charter schools) okayed a \$15M private jet lease while under investigation for inappropriate spending by the TEA.

"New details published by [the Houston Chronicle's Edward McKinley](#) show board members of Texas' largest private charter school system voted to spend millions of dollars on leasing a private jet for business travel despite an ongoing state investigation into the organization for alleged misuse of public funds.

IDEA has received \$3 billion in state and federal funding since its founding in 2000 for the implementation and maintenance of its charter network, which includes primary and secondary-level schools across Texas and Louisiana. Since 2015, IDEA has seen multiple executive-level staffers resign or exit the company following allegations of improper or reckless use of taxpayer dollars.

Torkel, the company's founder, resigned from his role as CEO in April of 2020. IDEA Public Schools is now headed by CEO JoAnn Gama and is currently facing a federal audit by the U.S. Department of Education as well as a state-level investigation [for inappropriate spending] undertaken by TEA."

Read the full article [here](#).

Source: chron.com



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MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR

Dear Friends –

School is now back in full swing! Every year, Friends of Texas Public Schools mails inspirational posters with a letter of encouragement to 9000+ public school campuses and 1000+ local ISD administrative offices across Texas. The posters will be arriving soon. We hope that educators, students, and parents will enjoy seeing the positive news posted when they enter school buildings.

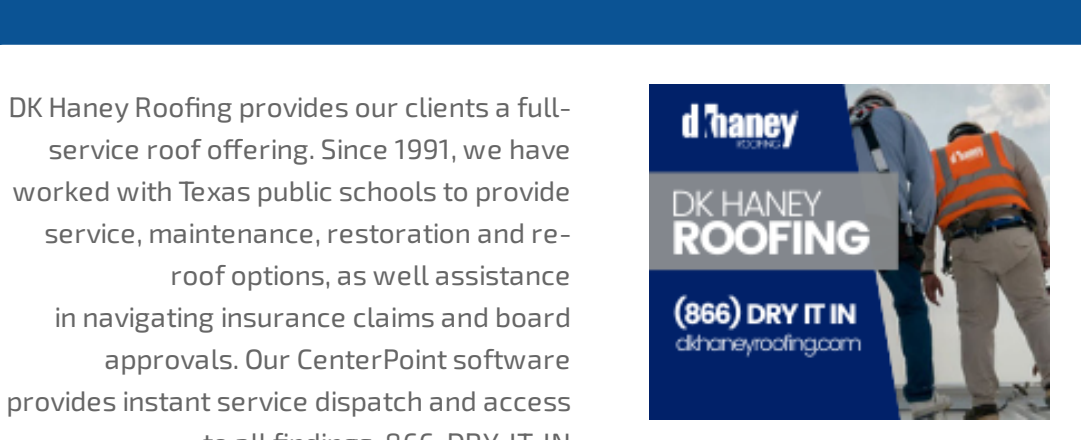
We have a lot to look forward to this fall, including our 18th annual Friend of the Year Awards Dinner honoring Laura Yeager of Texas Educators Vote and Just Fund It; Dr. Shannon Allen, Superintendent at Beaumont ISD; and Dr. Bob Thompson of the Thompson Executive Leadership Program. Tickets are available [here](#).

We are also pleased to announce the 2nd annual Public Education Advocacy Summit for Texas Public Schools, co-hosted with Pastors for Texas Children. The Summit will be held on Thursday, November 10 in Waco. Tickets are [now available](#).

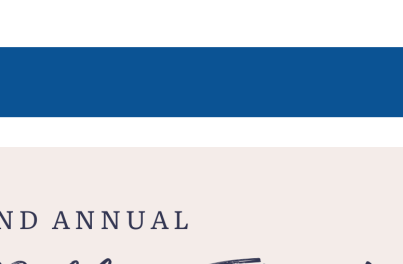
We'd love to see you there!



Jennifer L. Storm
Executive Director



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Wednesday, Nov. 9th
Baylor Club, Waco
Founders Distinguished Service | Dr. Bob Thompson
Ambassador of the Year | Dr. Shannon Allen
Friend of the Year | Laura Subrin Yeager

2ND ANNUAL

Public Education Advocacy Summit

18TH ANNUAL

Friend of the Year Dinner

Thursday, Nov. 10th
Truett Seminary, Waco
Co-hosted with Pastors for Texas Children

[Dinner Tickets](#)

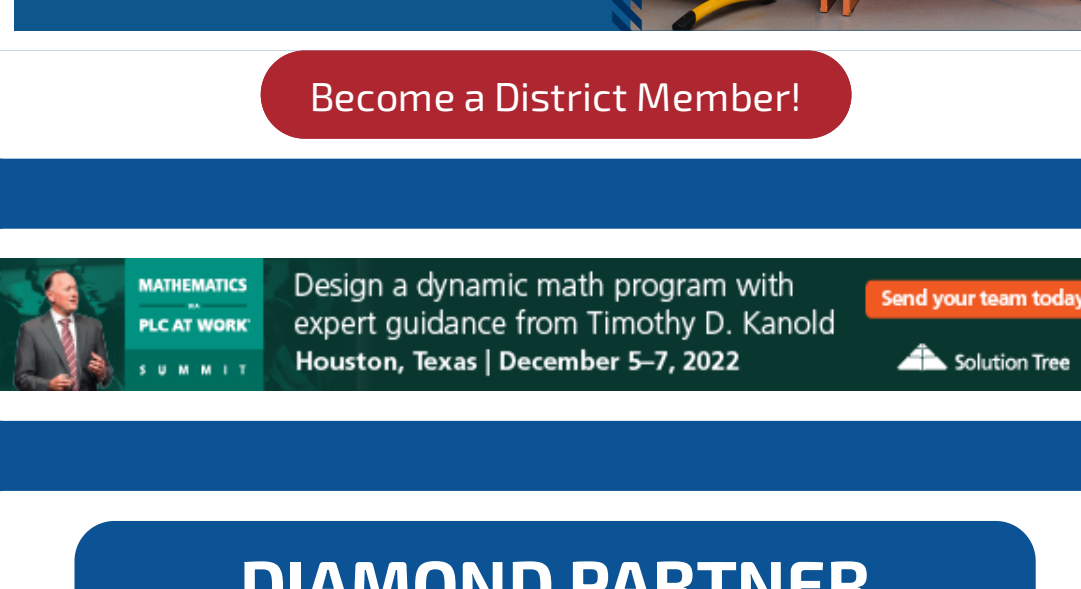
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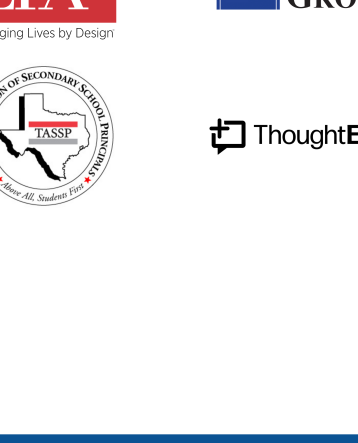
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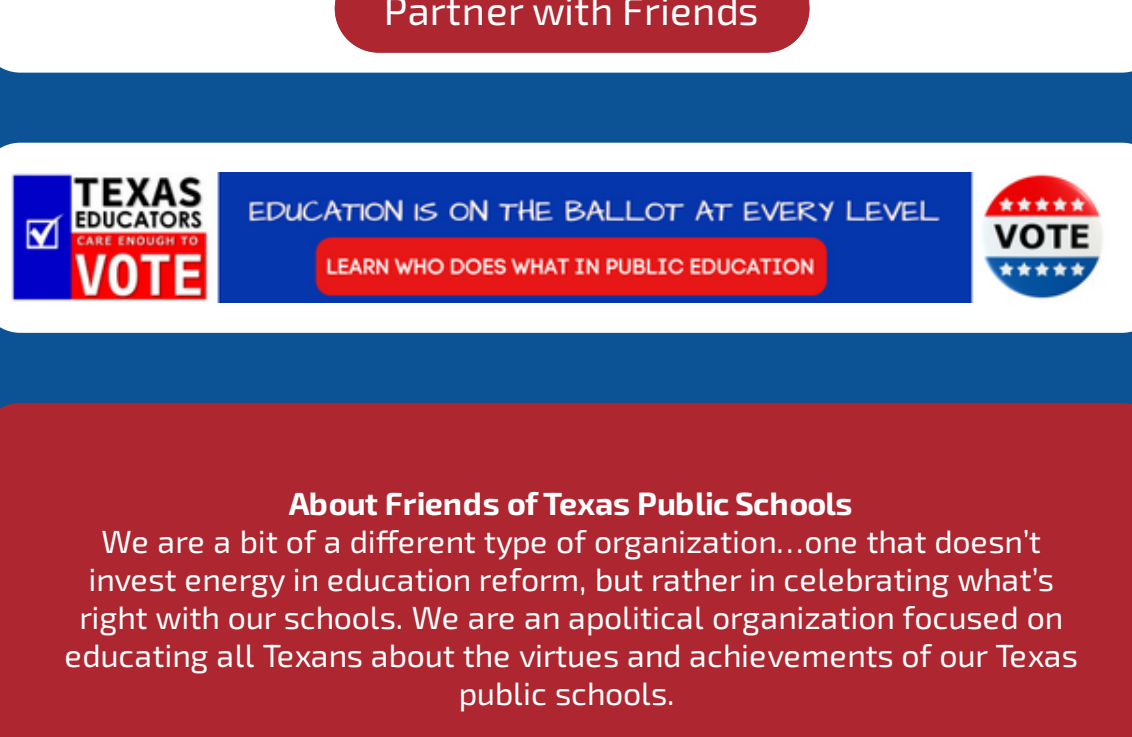
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About Friends of Texas Public Schools
We are a bit of a different type of organization...one that doesn't invest energy in education reform, but rather in celebrating what's right with our schools. We are an apolitical organization focused on educating all Texans about the virtues and achievements of our Texas public schools.



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