

Transformation Waco Abstract

Project Title: Transformation Waco Community Alliance (TWCA): A Waco-Driven Solution to School Improvement

Goals: The goals of the TWCA proposal include, 1) Support students with integrated wraparound services and opportunities for enriched learning; 2) Provide comprehensive support and rigorous interventions to address chronic absenteeism and prepare students academically; 3) Operate school campuses in collaboration with family and community involvement; and 4) Utilize collaborative leadership to drive Transformation Waco decisions.

Expected Outcomes and Contributions (related to research, policy, and practice): Although some of the current work Transformation Waco has done for their students surrounding coordination of wraparound care is already being used to influence policy at the state level, TW would like to further increase advocacy for coordination of care, specifically in the area of mental health, through the goals and objectives of the TWCA proposal. Focusing long-term, TW would like to channel some of their efforts and resources to sustainability of the coordination of care. Primarily focusing on policy changes that provides LEAs with the option of billing Medicaid for services provided, to ensure that there are no gaps or lags in the care students receive due to financial barriers. Additionally, with the increased efforts of family engagement through this proposal, TW hopes to empower parents/guardians to be policy advocates for the needs of not only their children and families, but their communities.

Population(s) to be Served: Transformation Waco will be providing services across five full-service community schools – Alta Vista Elementary School (PK-5th), Brook Avenue Elementary School (PK-5th), J.H. Hines Elementary School (PK-5th), G.W. Carver Middle School (6th-8th), and Indian Spring Middle School (6th-8th). Services and programming will also include infants to 4-year-olds through two early childhood education programs.

An alarming 100% of students attending TW schools meet the definition of “underserved student” as listed in the Notice Inviting Applications. More specifically, 97% of TW students and their families are economically disadvantaged, 95% are students/families of color, 5% experience homelessness, and 88.8% of students performed below grade level on the 2021 state standardized tests.

Primary Activities: With six consortium partners providing services and/or programming support, the proposal outlines the following expanded, enriched, or new activities/pipeline services that support the four pillars of full-service community schools: 1) Collaborative family engagement groups, 2) a Community Youth Development program providing juvenile delinquency prevention services, 3) Early Childhood Programming for at-risk Latinos, 4) medical and behavioral/mental Telehealth services, 5) an annual Vision Fest, 6) The National Police Athletic/Activities Leagues (PALs) Program in partnership with the Waco Police Department, 7) a School Readiness Initiative, 8) Service-learning Projects, and 9) support to parents and families through UpSkill Employment Training Courses offering skills training, credentials, and job placement.