

education FORUM



 SAN ANTONIO
Report

March 31st @ 11:30am

The new normal:
how student-centered funding is
changing the education landscape.

@TPR 2nd Floor Event Space

education FORUM



2026 • March 31st @ 11:30am

The new normal:
how student-centered funding is
changing the education landscape.

ABOUT THE EDUCATION FORUM

The San Antonio Regional Education Forum was first staged in 2016 to connect educators with civic, business, and nonprofit leaders to address Bexar County's most pressing PK-12 public education challenges and opportunities. The forum is a deliberate effort to push back against false assumptions and stereotypes, and win greater engagement across the community to improve public education outcomes.

A range of education issues and topics have been addressed, including public school finance in Texas; early childhood education; the role of the church community in Pre-K schooling; public schools and public charter school competition and collaboration; nontraditional school partnerships; school board governance; and the immeasurable value teachers have on student lives.

ABOUT THE SAN ANTONIO REPORT

The San Antonio Report is San Antonio's leading online news site. We are nonprofit, nonpartisan, and our content is available at no cost for anyone to access. We cover all that is best about San Antonio: its personalities, neighborhoods, businesses, culture, cuisine, arts and entertainment. We tackle the city's problems and challenges, too, and spotlight innovative solutions.



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2026 EDUCATION FORUM HONOREES

Jeanne Russell

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, CAST SCHOOLS

Jeanne is the founding Executive Director of the Centers for Applied Science and Technology, commonly known as CAST Schools, a network of innovative, career-connected, partnership schools.



Jeanne started her career as a teacher, later tackled educational challenges as an award-winning investigative reporter, and then moved to the public sector to contribute to solving the very concerns she had spotlighted as a journalist. She left city government to help found SA2020, the nonprofit, and later co-founded a consulting practice where she helped design multiple initiatives catalyzing regional economic mobility. Jeanne has been the primary architect of signature San Antonio education initiatives.

Dr. Shari Albright

ADVISOR TO THE CEO, FAIR WINDS MANAGEMENT

Dr. Shari Albright served as President for the Charles Butt Foundation for more than seven years and will become an advisor to the CEO for Fair Winds Management, LLC, the management company for Charles Butt's philanthropic work.



Dr. Albright's leadership has been instrumental in shaping the Foundation's statewide presence and deepening its commitment to Texas educators, students, and communities.

A respected leader in Texas education for more than four decades, Dr. Albright previously served as Chair of the Trinity University Department of Education and continues to serve on multiple boards, including The Holdsworth Center and the Trinity University Board of Trustees.

2026 EDUCATION FORUM PANELS

PANEL 1

What can we learn from those who've gone first?

Our first panel discussion will highlight national education leaders who've already navigated the school voucher issue in states like Arizona, Wisconsin and Utah. We'll dig deep to learn how best to approach the new normal in Texas for the maximum benefit of students and parents. Panelists will share their experiences, opportunities and potential pitfalls.



Dr. Ashley Rogers Berner
Johns Hopkins Institute for Education
Policy Director and Associate Professor



Dr. Patrick Wolf
University Arkansas
Distinguished Professor of Education Policy



Derrell Bradford
50CAN
President



2026 EDUCATION FORUM PANELS

PANEL 2

The local lens on student-centered funding

Local education leaders will discuss a wide range of implications of Texas Education Freedom Accounts, from emerging opportunities in San Antonio and Bexar County to the future of accountability. We'll cover it all!



Dalia Contreras
City Education Partners
CEO



Jason King
St. Mary's University
Beirne Chair and Director



Marisa Perez-Diaz
Texas State Board of Education
Member



Mary Katherine Stout
State of Texas
Education Savings Account Program Director



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2026

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March 31st @ 11:30am

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A limited number of individual tickets may be available at a later date. Please email events@sareport.org for sponsorships or if you would like to be contacted about individual tickets.

2026 EDUCATION FORUM SPONSORS

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