FUTURO
SAN ANTONIO

SY 2025-2026

IMPACT REPORT

Elevating Community Voices. Driving Local Policy Change. Cultivating New Champions for Education Innovation.

Futuro-SA.org



Message from Our Executive Director DAIANA LAMBRECHT

Dear Partner,

Last summer, our canvassers knocked on 14,000 doors across San Antonio. We listened. Families told us the pandemic's damage was still playing out in our schools, most visibly as chronic absenteeism. They also told us they were done waiting. They wanted local leaders, not just state officials and school boards, to own their part in expanding education access. At Futuro, ***we took that urgency and got to work.***

*We believe the people most impacted by policy belong at the center of shaping it. That's why every part of what we do from – research to advocacy to programming—****starts with families*** *and* ***puts students first.***

This year, that meant organizing parents—with ***95% of our family advocacy team representing a charter school in our city.*** *It also meant shaping public opinion on school accountability; championing policy change; and building the next generation of civic leaders. We helped students and families navigate public school options to find the right fit. We guided advocates ready to turn their commitment into leadership and impact. We equipped parent content creators with the tools and coaching to amplify their stories and rewrite the narrative on public education innovation.*

*The numbers ahead tell part of the story. The rest—****the heart, the grit, the relentless commitment of our advocates****—cannot be captured by percentages.*

As Executive Director, I share these wins not to boast, but because they prove ***what's possible when students, families, educators, and leaders from across our city work as one*** *to give every child access to a high-quality public school.*

But make no mistake: with ***more than 63,000 students still in D- or F-rated schools****, the stakes have never been higher. We celebrate what we've built. But we know it's just the start.*

The challenges we're up against don't stop at a district line. ***ISD and charter schools alike are working to serve the same families, against the same headwinds****—and charters, in particular, continue to face political forces determined to* ***disparage*** *or* ***spread misinformation*** *about what they offer students. That is part of the fight. Our commitment is to every public school system in San Antonio, because all families deserve a high-quality public school, and there is no time to waste in making that happen.*

Thank you for standing with us. ***Together, we're building a better future for San Antonio's students****.*

In partnership,



Daiana Lambrecht

OUR THEORY OF CHANGE

AT FUTURO, WE BELIEVE CHANGE IS POSSIBLE BY:

1.) **Activating Family Power.** Through our Futuro Family Advocacy Team, we train, organize, and uplift the voices of families, including charter families, who are directly impacted by educational inequities, ensuring they are at the forefront of local policy decision-making.

2.) **Building a Civic Leadership Pipeline.** Future Leaders Academy is a transformative program that prepares education equity-minded and community-rooted civic leaders to run for office or lead political campaigns.

3.) **Coalescing High-Impact Community Leaders.** By leveraging data from our research and canvassing efforts and developing strong partnerships with local community organizations, including charter leaders, we then work with local leaders and elected officials to create and implement effective education policy.

DURING THE 2025-2026 SCHOOL YEAR, FUTURO SAN ANTONIO...

BUILT PARENT AND COMMUNITY POWER



On June 6, 2026, we celebrated the newest cohort of **Future Leaders Academy** graduates, and listened as each of our **15 graduates** detailed their next steps on their civic leadership journey. With **67% committed to running for office or supporting an election campaign,** we know that big changes are coming to our city's civic landscape.

This past year, Futuro built a core leadership team of **48 committed parent and youth leaders, 95% of whom are affiliated with a public charter school,** plus a total universe of **850** individuals.

Parent leaders, with children in traditional ISD, in-district charter, and public charter schools, led **20 direct engagements with local elected officials and candidates,** putting education equity and quality schools front and center in policymaking.

WE'RE HERE FOR THE CHARTER COMMUNITY!

- On October 16, 2025, we **organized public charter school students, alumni, and teachers** to testify at City Hall when District 6 Councilman Ric Galvan disparaged charter schools. In less than a week, we mobilized **over 250 advocates across District 6** to make phone calls and send emails to the Councilman's office demanding fair treatment and opportunity rather than shaming families' choices and limiting options.

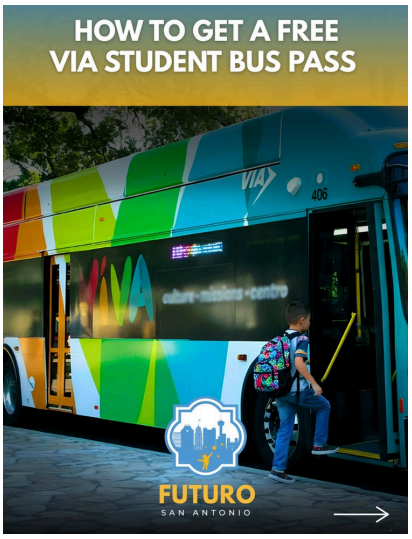


- On May 19, 2026, **more than 30 public charter school leaders, teachers, and students** attended the CoSA Educational Opportunities Committee meeting to ensure and request that ALL public education perspectives, including charters, be considered when making any policy recommendations. Our aim is to ensure that **no anti-charter recommendations** leave that committee room.

CHAMPIONED LOCAL EDUCATION POLICY WINS

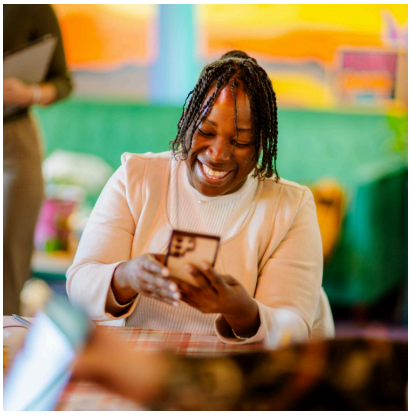


- In December 2026, we **mobilized parents, students, and community leaders** (including Communities in Schools and the Hispanic Chamber of Commerce) to **testify at City Hall** on behalf of the **District 7 and VIA Free Student Bus Pass Initiative. Chronic absenteeism** is driven in part by a **transportation gap** that hits **charter school students** especially hard, since many charters lack the budget to operate their own bus fleets. That's why **we pursued a policy solution** that addresses both issues at once: a free VIA bus pass for students ages 12–18 to get to and from school, and anywhere else they need to go, 24/7.



- Once approved by a **unanimous City Council vote,** we launched a **comprehensive, multifaceted communications and outreach campaign** designed to **maximize awareness.** This included information sessions for charter leaders, a school administrator communications toolkit, social media ads, partnerships with social media influencers, street banners, and more.
- By the end of the school year, **more than 1,000 student bus passes had been issued with about a third given to charter school students.** Now, District 7 Councilwoman Marina Alderete Gavito and VIA have announced they will offer the passes again for the entire 2026-2027 school year!

RESHAPED THE PUBLIC EDUCATION NARRATIVE



We successfully launched the first-of-its-kind **Digital Advocacy bootcamp** and fellowship in partnership with Goodbeat, resulting in:

- **10 content creator partnerships** reaching more than **10,000 San Antonians.**
- An extensive, ongoing digital advocacy library with over **38 social media content pieces in both English and Spanish.** This content pushes back on narratives that place blame on charter schools for district school closures, adds nuance to the charter vs. ISD debate, and **amplifies the real experiences of charter students and families who benefit** from having access to public school options.

We amplified what families and the data have been telling us: **Our city and our highest-need communities want, and deserve, more high-quality public school options, including charter schools.**



- **Op-Ed:** "San Antonio kids aren't showing up to school. We must show up for them." by Daiana Lambrecht in the San Antonio Report.
- **Op-Ed:** "San Antonio must put student success before political battles in education" by Daiana Lambrecht in the SA Express-News.
- **On the Air:** "Fewer students, tighter budgets push Texas districts to shutter schools" Daiana Lambrecht, featured speaker, on TPR's *The Source*.

- **Digital Campaign:** In partnership with Red Edge, we launched an **8-week pro-charter messaging campaign,** which included digital ads on Meta and YouTube as well as text messages and an e-mail drip campaign to build a network of supporters. After just 1 month, we had reached **335,721** individuals and had **91 people** sign up for our newsletter.

CONVENED GRASSTOP LEADERS TO BRAINSTORM SOLUTIONS



On September 17, 2025, we hosted the **Voices for Education Forum** at the San Antonio Botanical Garden where we revealed our **Voices for Education Report** containing results from our Summer 2025 deep-canvassing effort where we knocked on *14,000-doors.*

- The panel discussion was moderated by **TX Tribune K-12 Education Reporter Jaden Edison.** The panelists included: **District 1 Councilwoman Dr. Sukh Kaur, Jubilee Superintendent Dr. Atikah Shemshack, Futuro Parent Advocate Janet Garcia, and SAISD Board President Alicia Sebastian.** In the room were **75 of our city's most influential education and political leaders,** including former Mayor Ron Nirenberg, former First Lady Erika Prosper, and D7 Councilwoman Marina Alderete Gavito. Panelists and parents shared insights on the state of education in San Antonio, **amplifying the perspectives of charter leaders and the lived experiences of charter families,** with the goal of bringing decision makers together to collaboratively pursue solutions that best serve students and families.

On May 20, 2026, we shared the results in our **Students First Report** by hosting another education forum at The Monarch San Antonio. The most compelling data point: **Nearly 64%** say **families should have broad choice across all public options,** especially when neighborhood schools underperform.



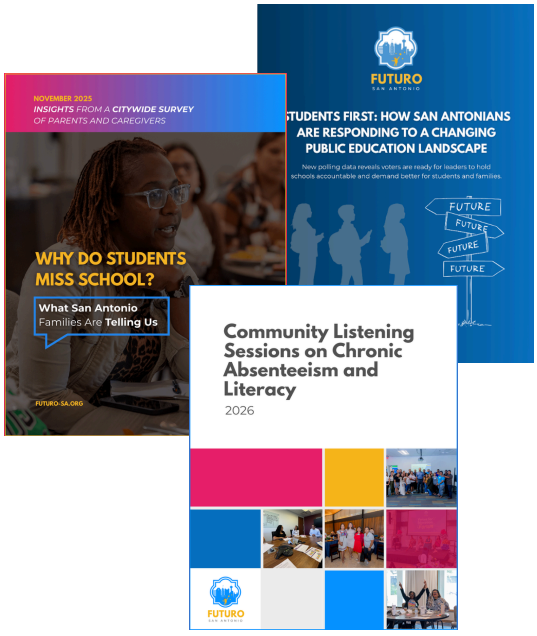
- The **"Students First: Navigating Change, Demanding Better"** event featured a panel discussion moderated by **Texas Tribune K-12 Education Reporter Jaden Edison**. The panelists were **South San ISD Superintendent Dr. Saul Hinojosa, State Board of Education Member Dr. Marisa Perez-Diaz, and The 74 Senior Writer Kevin Mahnken.** More than **70 elected, business, and educational leaders** attended, including *State Senator Jose Menendez, State Representative Liz Campos, D7 Councilwoman Marina Alderete Gavito, D3 Councilwoman Phyllis Viagran, and School Board Trustees from SAISD and South San ISD.*
- All were there to learn how education systems-level change can and must put students' well-being and achievement first.

AMPLIFIED COMPELLING DATA

In November 2025, we surveyed **505 parents and caregivers of PK-12 students citywide** to learn the reasons why students miss school. The findings were published in our data report and used to shed light on the urgent need for transportation solutions, like the District 7 Free VIA Bus Pass initiative.

- During that time, we also hosted four parent- and youth-led **Community Listening Sessions** across the Westside, Southside, Eastside, and Downtown San Antonio. **More than 80 families, caregivers, and youth** participated, sharing lived experiences related to chronic absenteeism and literacy. Their insights were included in a **report** we published in early 2026.

In March 2026, we surveyed **439 Bexar County residents** to understand how San Antonians feel about the state of public education, what they want for their children, and what they believe leaders must do next. The findings were published in our data report, **"Students First: How San Antonians Are Responding to a Changing Public Education Landscape."**



WE'RE JUST GETTING STARTED.

As we enter year three as an organization, Futuro San Antonio will continue to relentlessly activate family and student power, strengthen the political leadership pipeline, and coalesce community leaders and elected officials in order to advance education access, equity, and accountability for every child in our city.

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ABOUT US

We are a coalition of education advocates dedicated to ensuring all San Antonio children have access to an excellent public education and greater prosperity for their futuro (future). By harnessing the power of community, we will promote civic engagement, invest in leadership capacity, and organize a grassroots movement. To learn more, please visit:

Futuro-SA.org