

# Effective Teaching and Leadership: *Teach for America*

December 12, 2011

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**What You've Heard.....**

# **Vision 2016**

**demands a strategy that  
is dramatically different**

# THREE POINTS TO REMEMBER

1. Nothing matters more than effective teaching!
2. CCSD's #1 Priority - An effective teacher in front of every student across the district.
3. Teach for America (TFA) is one of several ways we can move towards an effective teacher in every classroom.

# Who is Teach for America?

- ▶ **Vision:** One day, all children in this nation will have the opportunity to attain an excellent education
- ▶ **Experience:** Over 20 years recruiting outstanding individuals to teach for 2-years in low-income communities across the US (43 regions)
- ▶ **Impact:** Teaching model trains more teachers for low-income communities than any other organization including institutions of higher education

# TFA Corps Members

- ▶ **TFA** is incredibly selective:
  - Must demonstrate leadership and perseverance
  - Top college graduates in ALL majors
  
- ▶ **2011 Corps Members**
  - 48,000 applied, only 11% accepted
  - Average GPA is 3.6
  - 35% identified as People of Color
  - 31% received Pell Grants

# TFA's Results

- ▶ Students of TFA teachers made **more progress in reading and math** (per year) than would be typically expected (Mathematica Policy Research, 2004)
- ▶ The effectiveness of TFA teachers is **far more like that of certified veteran teachers than like that of new teachers** (LA Practitioner Teacher Project, 2009)

# TFA's Results

## State of Tennessee's **2011 Report Card on the Effectiveness of 43 Teacher Training Programs**

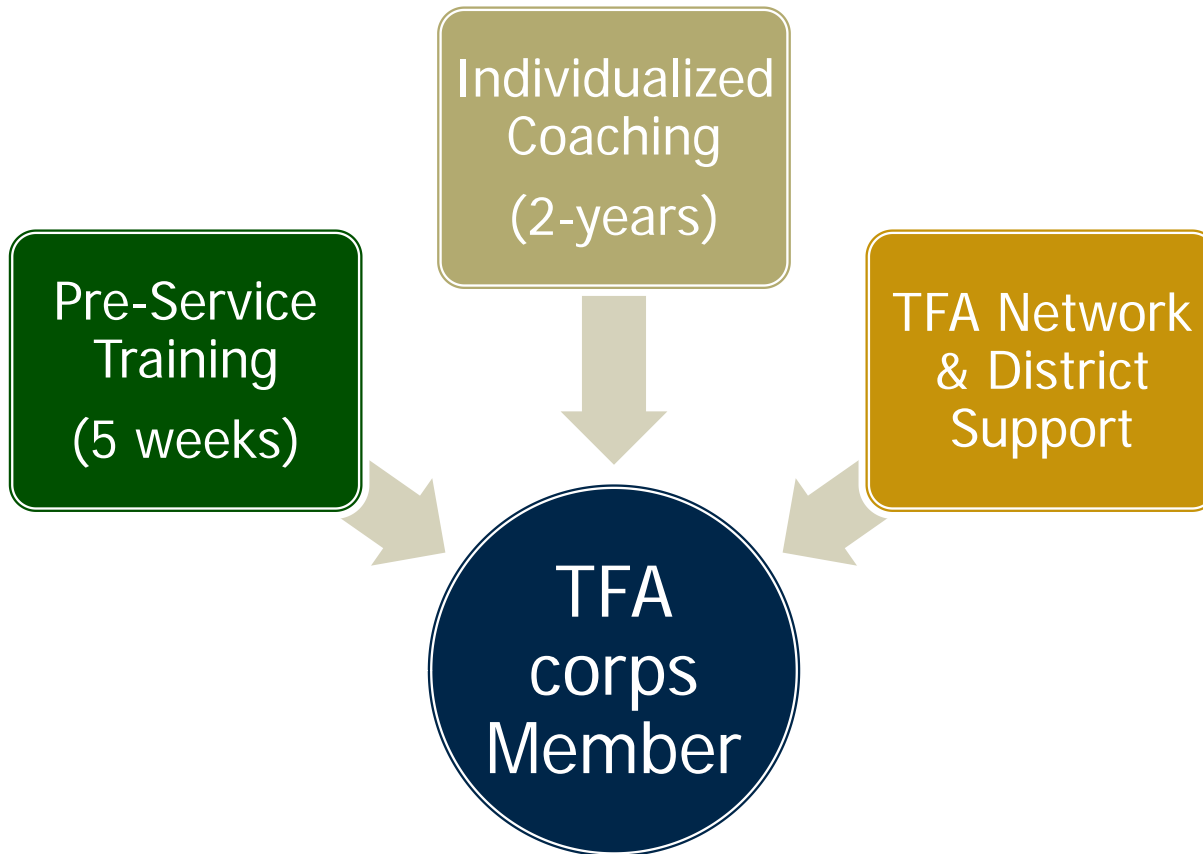
- Key Findings for *Teach for America Tennessee*:
  - Top teacher preparation program based on value-added student achievement
  - Largest share of teachers performing in the top 20% of all teachers statewide
  - Greater impact than the average new 4<sup>th</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup> grade teacher in all subject areas and grade levels

# CCSD Teacher's Perspective

## ► Ms. Heather McEldowney

- English Teacher at North Charleston High School
- Graduate of Miami University (OH)
- 2009 Corps Member, Washington DC

# TFA's Teaching Model



# Why TFA in Charleston?

- ▶ Shared vision of doing things *differently* to ensure excellence for every child
- ▶ Proven strategic model w/a commitment to a continued partnership
- ▶ Our **#1 intervention** is an effective teacher

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## ***ANY QUESTIONS?***

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