

**Global Leadership Academy**  
**Terrell Independent School District**  
**305 W. College Street, Terrell, Texas 75160**  
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**Global Leadership Academy Schools Transforming Learning Application**

**Nominated by Dr. Tracie Pritchett**  
**972-551-5796**

**Video Link:** <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FCQPHFDKH7c>

## **Overview and Background**

The Global Leadership Academy (GLA) is a K-5 elementary campus established to provide students and families an option where students can explore their gifts and talents beyond the traditional curriculum. We are one of four elementary campuses within the Terrell Independent School District in Terrell, Texas. Our demographics include 241 students made up of 39% gifted and talented students, 37% economically disadvantaged students, and 24% at risk students. GLA students are expected to learn and grow at an accelerated rate in academics and leadership skills. According to 2021-2022 survey data parents and teachers rank GLA in the 90<sup>th</sup> percentile of schools to work and learn. GLA third-fifth grade student perception rank the school lower than the 10<sup>th</sup> percentile. Our goal is to positively increase student sense of belonging and learning through making connections and building relationships.

## **Focus Areas**

Responding to 2021-2022 third-fifth grade student perception data, the GLA Director and staff set goals for positive change with a focus on student voice and choice in their learning. Article V of the Visioning Document states, "Excellence emanates from shared commitment to values and standards, high levels of engagement, and strong leadership at levels functioning within an accountability system that inspires." Further it states, "The voice of students should be respected, and their feedback should be solicited regarding their learning and their response to the tasks they are assigned."

## **Work**

The most important resource in the classroom is the teacher; however, the most important resource of our future is the student. Feedback from families and students stated the natural competitiveness of the academy made it difficult for students to learn cooperatively. Year one focus on student voice includes ensuring students make connections with staff and each other. With aligned understanding of student social emotional needs, GLA established multiple avenues for student voice to be heard. At the beginning of the year students were encouraged to write a school song that reflects the values and beliefs of the GLA family. Students were also encouraged to submit art designs for the campus spirit wear. Further, students and staff had a shared voice in setting core values and establishing how to demonstrate each value for learning. The established House System added regular house meetings where students and house leaders take charge in school and community projects. To ensure a collection of ongoing student voice, ambassadors from each classroom were established. There is more to come in year two.

## **Results**

There are now many avenues where students can express their voice and impact learning and leadership. The collective work in establishing student voice is empowering to students, staff and GLA families. Students have become published authors, designers, and leaders.

Several groups of students worked together with the campus music teacher to become lyricist. Students wrote and performed their submissions of a school song. The winning lyricists were

recognized by our school board and superintendent. Our school song, "We Are GLA," can be heard sung in our classrooms throughout our campus and school events.

Students across all grade levels submitted various forms of artwork in our school spirit shirt design contest. The winning shirt designers captured the words of the school song while displaying campus pride. Each morning staff and students yell our campus call back "Terrell Proud, Tiger Strong" before starting the learning day.

To enhance leadership and skills, staff and students established and implemented our core values based on research. GLA core values include being proactive by taking ownership of learning; beginning with the end in mind by creating an independent learning plan; putting first things first by prioritizing tasks from most important to least; and thinking win-win by focusing on the process not the product. Students are provided choice boards in every classroom that follow the blended learning station rotation model of learning. Teachers have implemented depth and complexity thinking tools to enhance critical thinking and problem solving. Most importantly, academic results show high achievement and growth according to various district data points. Middle of year academic achievement scores are as high as 94% in math and 87% in reading K-5. Student performance in high achievement and high growth results show 101 (42%) students in reading and 97 (41%) in math. Student sense of belonging is observed in our increased attendance +2% to 96%. Anecdotal data from ambassador meetings, texts, emails, and social media posts show a positive increase in student perception and connectedness with staff and each other.

Student voice in social and emotional learning resulted in establishing a principal panel known as GLA Student Ambassadors. GLA's student ambassadors collect student opinions during Wellness Wednesday and meet once a month to plan next steps. Thus far, ambassadors have collected student perceptions of what makes GLA the best place to learn and what we should do different. This is the first year GLA has had a campus library. Student voice has resulted in the types of books creating our campus library. Teachers have added various choice boards and ways of showing work based off student perception data collected by ambassadors. Student ambassadors have led campus tours to greet and welcome visitors to the campus and classrooms. Student ambassadors also participate in teacher interviews providing input for new teacher hires from the student perspective.



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**Superintendent Endorsement**

I endorse and support the nomination of Global Leadership Academy  
as a School Transforming Learning.

Superintendent's Signature: Georgianne Warnock

Date: 3/7/23