



BIG THOUGHT

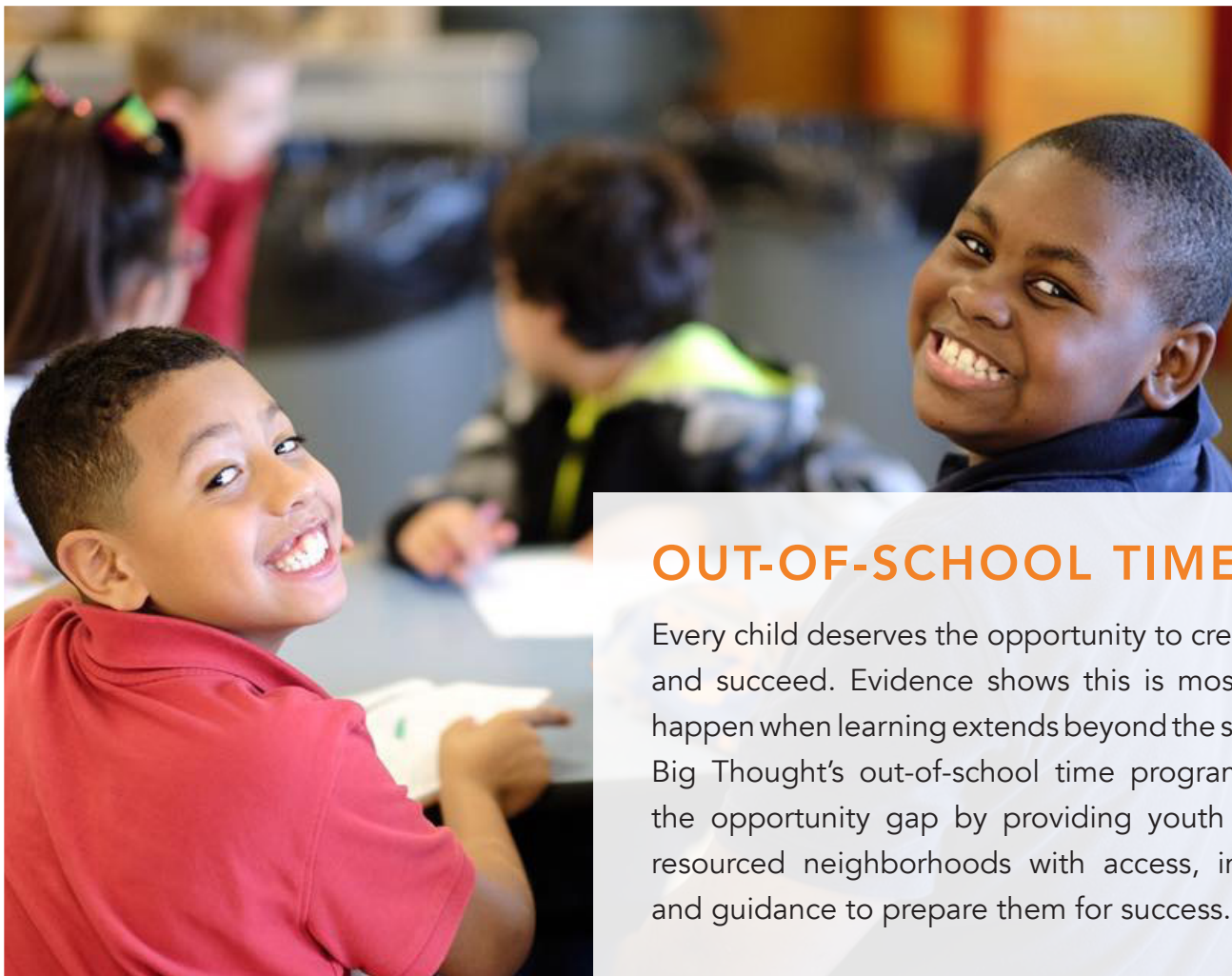
Closing the Opportunity Gap

One in five children in North Texas lives in poverty.¹

Every day is a challenge for many Dallas youth, especially those with limited access to housing, meals, transportation, and technology. Living in poverty affects every facet of daily life. Academics suffer and opportunities for creativity, innovation, and personal expression are limited.

Big Thought is working to change that - one child, one family, one teacher, one life at a time.

Big Thought is an impact education nonprofit that closes the opportunity gap for youth by powering their creativity and fostering social and emotional well-being through out-of-school, in-school, and community partnership programs and systems. We weave social and emotional learning into all of our work.



OUT-OF-SCHOOL TIME

Every child deserves the opportunity to create, learn, and succeed. Evidence shows this is most likely to happen when learning extends beyond the school day. Big Thought's out-of-school time programs narrow the opportunity gap by providing youth in under-resourced neighborhoods with access, inspiration, and guidance to prepare them for success.



By the 6th grade, each limited resource student has already missed out on 6,000 hours of out-of-school time learning compared to more affluent peers.

– ExpandedEDSchools, 2013

Dallas City of Learning

Each year, together with the City of Dallas, Dallas ISD, and more than 500 partners, we harness technology to connect over 40,000 students to the city's most valuable out-of-school time resources. Along the way, we spark imaginations, inspire a drive to learn, and help reverse cumulative learning loss.

Mobile Tech XPerience

We take 21st century learning directly to students in their own neighborhoods — for free. Equipped with 3D printers, mobile hotspots, laptops, and more, the MXP bridges the digital divide with innovative STEM activities like 3D printing, Lego robotics, and computer programming.

Thriving Minds

Our after-school and summer programs offer hands-on experiences that reinforce academic content and instill crucial social and emotional learning skills. From robotics and coding, to sports and fitness, to performing, visual and literary arts, we help students discover their passions and unlock their full potential.

Library Out Loud

Through this emerging program, we partner with all 28 branches of the Dallas Public Library to provide weekly after-school enrichment for all ages, led by professional teaching artists. The free, interactive programs offer creative experiences that incorporate STEM, performing arts, and literacy.

YOUTH DEVELOPMENT

Big Thought's youth development programs offer young adults outlets for creativity, places to express the power of their voices, and opportunities for their intrinsic greatness to emerge. Built on a foundation of social and emotional learning, our programs emphasize peer-to-peer support and character-building experiences that lead to career and college readiness.



Compared with other Texas cities, Dallas has the highest percentage of individuals without a high school diploma and the lowest percentage of residents who hold a college degree.

– U.S. Census Bureau, 2010

Creative Solutions

We partner with the Dallas County Juvenile Department and Southern Methodist University to provide adjudicated youth a safe space and positive creative outlet. Artist-mentors model and reinforce critical life skills while guiding young artists to create original visual and performing works of art.

DaVerse

We work with Journeyman Ink to provide middle and high school students a platform to celebrate their unique voices through after-school clubs and community events. These experiences build literacy skills and embrace creativity, culture, and free expression.

Activism: Art as Activism

Our newest program gives middle and high school students dynamic opportunities to advocate for change and reflect on social and racial justice issues through artwork, poetry, and the performing arts.



IN-SCHOOL

Many schools are offering increasingly less opportunities for hands-on, real-world experiences outside of standard curriculum, especially in the arts, humanities, and sciences. This decrease in exposure contributes to the expanding opportunity gap by limiting youth's access to creative learning experiences.

We believe engaging the imagination helps build confidence and the 21st century skills - such as empathy, leadership, creativity, and critical thinking – that equip students to be successful.



Learning Partners

For 20 years, we have been connecting educators with more than 70 partners who provide thousands of imaginative, dynamic programs and field trips to every Dallas ISD elementary student during the school day. Vetted for quality, Learning Partners' fine arts, humanities, and STEM programs support educators' goals and bring learning to life.

Low-income students who are highly engaged in the arts are more than twice as likely to graduate from college as their peers with no arts education.²

¹ "Beyond ABC" - Children's Health and the University of Texas at Dallas, 2017.

² Doing Well and Doing Good by Doing Art: The Effects of Education in the Visual and Performing Arts on the Achievements and Values of Young Adults.