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**TEN SCHOOL/DISTRICT GRANT FINALISTS ANNOUNCED  
FOR \$5 MILLION RAISE YOUR HAND TEXAS  
BLENDED LEARNING INITIATIVE**

*- Five winners to each receive \$500,000 and technical support over three years -*

**AUSTIN, TX (January 11, 2016)** – [Raise Your Hand Texas](#) today revealed the 10 finalist schools and districts – winnowed from 75 semifinalists – who remain under consideration for the \$5 million [Raising Blended Learners demonstration initiative](#).

*The ten finalists include:*

*Birdville ISD  
Cisco ISD  
Cypress-Fairbanks ISD  
Georgetown ISD  
Grand Prairie Young Women's Leadership Academy  
KIPP Houston  
Pasadena ISD  
Point Isabel ISD  
Tulia ISD  
Ysleta ISD*

Teams representing these 10 finalists will attend a workshop in February to receive professional assistance in further refining their blended learning plans. Five winners, to be announced as demonstration sites in April, will each receive up to \$500,000 in grants and technical implementation support for three years. All semifinalists will have access to blended learning resources to refine and implement plans if they move forward with their own programs without grant funding, as several confirmed they intend to do.

Raise Your Hand Texas is investing in third-party research evaluation and will publicly report on grantee implementation, beginning in the 2016-17 school year, to drive broader statewide adoption of blended learning approaches.

As defined by the Christensen Institute, [blended learning](#) is a blend of online learning and brick-and-mortar schooling that takes place when students learn at least in part online, with some student control over the time, place, path, and/or pace of their learning. This is a departure from the broader trend of simply equipping classrooms with devices and software and different from full-time virtual education, which does not include peer engagement and in-person student-teacher interactions.

“We are thrilled with the enthusiasm, among both finalists and the schools and districts not selected, surrounding the potential of blended learning to personalize instruction for Texas students,” said Dr. David Anthony, CEO of Raise Your Hand Texas. “More than 90 percent of all semifinalists said they planned to move forward with their own blended learning programs, regardless of whether they were selected, and we look forward to supporting their efforts, in addition to the five winners chosen to serve as demonstration sites for the state.”

For general background about blended learning, the initiative, and the initial application process, download the [Raising Blended Learners grant summary](#). Downloadable Raising Blended Learners images and embeddable videos are available in the media kit section of the Raise Your Hand Texas [online newsroom](#).

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#### **About Raise Your Hand Texas**

*Raise Your Hand Texas is a non-profit, non-partisan organization advancing public education by igniting fiercely innovative leadership and advocacy for our state’s 5 million+ students. We invest in best-in-class programs to develop an innovative new breed of leaders for Texas public schools, and lead research-driven public policy advocacy that elevates the quality of Texas public education, ensuring that our economy remains strong and Texas’ future remains bright. Visit [RaiseYourHandTexas.org](http://RaiseYourHandTexas.org) to learn more.*

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