

# Teach For All For Immediate Release

## Enseña por Panamá joins the Teach For All network

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Today **Enseña por Panamá** announced that it has joined the **Teach For All** global network. As an independent nonprofit organization, Enseña por Panamá's mission is to recruit, train, and support exceptional individuals from Panamá to commit to teach for a minimum of two years in underserved schools, and become leaders in the effort to increase educational opportunity throughout Panamá.

Enseña por Panamá joins Teach For All, a global organization dedicated to expanding educational opportunities in countries around the world. Teach For All supports organizations like Enseña por Panamá that recruit and develop diverse individuals from a range of academic disciplines to commit to teach for two years in their nations' high-need classrooms and become lifelong leaders for educational excellence and equity. Each partner organization adapts this approach to their country's context and needs. Enseña por Panamá will join the other Teach For All partner organizations working toward the common goal of expanding educational opportunity for all children around the world.

"I am thrilled to have Enseña por Panamá join the Teach For All network," said Wendy Kopp, CEO and co-founder of Teach For All. "Enseña por Panamá joins as Teach For All's eighth partner in Latin America, entering our global network of locally led, independent organizations that are tapping into the deep desire of the next generation to have an impact in their countries by tackling educational inequity."

The state of education across Panamá needs to be improved. 50% of Panamanian children reach third grade without being able to read. On average, children from indigenous communities only receive 4.1 years of schooling. Over 65% of students in Panamá are within in the bottom two tiers of performers on international assessments in Math and Science. There is a wide gap between the scores of rich students when compared to those from lower socioeconomic households. Enseña por Panamá aims to improve educational opportunities for the children of Panamá by inciting a love of learning and ensuring that each child believes they are capable of attaining an excellent education.

By recruiting young talent and giving them an opportunity to teach in schools, Enseña por Panamá will live up to its ambitious goal of creating unlimited potential for Panamá's future through education. Enseña por Panamá will place teachers in schools serving children in disadvantaged communities across Panamá. By recruiting individuals to commit to teach for a minimum of two years, the organization ensures access to a pool of outstanding talent who can help lead each student towards personal and academic excellence.

**Lorena Valencia**, CEO of Enseña por Panama is encouraged by the promise of Enseña por Panamá. "The entire Enseña por Panamá team is excited to be contributing positively and in an innovative way to Panamá's educational ecosystem," she says. "I strongly believe that the only way of improving the huge inequalities that are present in my country is through education; Panamá's top talent should be focusing on improving quality of education for all, not just a few. It is the first time a program of this nature will be happening and we are grateful to those 30 young Panamanian professionals who will put their heart and soul into not only teaching but becoming role models for their students."

Enseña por Panamá will begin with up to 30 participants in its first cohort of participants. These teachers will work in schools in Panamá City as well as rural communities. Enseña por Panamá will provide these teachers with support and training throughout their initial two-year commitment, including coaching, mentorship, and regular classroom support. Following the two-year commitment, Enseña por Panamá will continue supporting these teachers as active alumni who continue to pursue the organization's mission.

### PRESS CONTACT

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### About Lorena Valencia

Lorena Valencia is a co-founder and CEO of Enseña por Panamá. Prior to starting Enseña por Panamá, Lorena headed Learning Enterprises' Panama chapter, which she founded in 2005. LE Panama focuses on teaching the English language to underdeveloped, rural communities by enlisting the help of US college students to serve as teacher/mentors during their summer breaks. Under her stewardship, Lorena has recruited over 100 teacher/mentors, and has forged a community of over 70 host families and 25 public schools.

In addition to her involvement in LE Panama, Lorena has worked extensively in both the private and social sectors. She has held several important positions within the United Nations, including at UNICEF and UNFPA. She is currently a founding member of the Panama chapter of the World Economic Forum's Global Shapers initiative.

Lorena holds a Bachelor of Arts in Psychology, with a minor in Cognitive Science from Georgetown University. She also holds a Master's Degree in Public Policy from Columbia University. Lorena is avid foodie and traveler, having "eaten her way" through 45 countries. She currently resides in Panama with her husband Billy and with her son Bobby.

### About Teach For All

Teach For All is a global network of over 35 locally led and funded independent partner organizations with a shared vision for expanded educational opportunity in their countries. Each partner recruits and develops diverse leaders to commit two years to teach in their nations' high-need classrooms and to work throughout their lives to increase opportunity for children. For more information, visit [TeachForAll.org](http://TeachForAll.org) and follow us on Twitter @TeachForAll



Lorena Valencia, CEO, Enseña por Panamá



Enseña por Panamá logo

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