

**Justin Coppedge**

Director of Engagement & Operations

Justin joined Texas 2036 in February 2018 and serves as the Director of Engagement & Operations. In this role, Justin manages the organization's communications as well as its ongoing efforts to make state data more accessible and actionable for public policy.

Most recently, Justin served as Deputy Chief of Staff of the Dallas Independent School District, the nation's 16th largest school district. In this role, he led a variety of initiatives, including leadership and professional development for 3,000 central office staff and consolidation of the district's administrative offices involving 1800 staff from 11 facilities. He also served as interim executive of the district's technology, human capital management, and communications divisions. He joined Dallas ISD as Special Assistant to the Superintendent, managing communications and initiatives for the Office of the Superintendent. A Teach for America alum, Justin started his career as a high school science teacher in the Saint Louis Public Schools, where he was selected as the district's high school science teacher of the year. Upon moving to Dallas, he served as the founding Executive Director of Leadership ISD, a non-profit that develops community leaders and advocates for public school student achievement.

Justin graduated magna cum laude with an honors degree in Biology from Austin College and holds a M.Ed. in secondary education from the University of Missouri-St. Louis. He is a Leadership Dallas Class of 2017 alum and serves on the Board of Directors of The Educator Collective. He and his wife, Lauren, live in Dallas and are the proud parents of an especially cute and active daughter, Elliot, and are expecting a son in early 2019. Justin is grateful to be part of an organization working to shape the future Texas that his children will inherit.