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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Michael and Susan Dell Foundation, JPMorgan Chase, and the Applied Materials Foundation Commit \$495,000 in Funding for Austin Partners in Education Classroom Coaching

City of Austin calls for 1,200 volunteers to support Serve Austin Schools Initiative

As Austin schools embark on a challenging new school year, three foundations have stepped up to support student success through a promising **Austin Partners in Education (APIE)** initiative. Under APIE's Step-Up and Classroom Coaching programs, volunteers and interns will provide weekly tutoring to entire grade levels at 17 participating schools, and daily tutoring to students with more challenging needs. The Funding from the Michael and Susan Dell Foundation, JPMorgan Chase, and the Applied Materials Foundation will be used to recruit, train and deploy more than 1,000 volunteer tutors in the month of September. Tutors work with class curriculum in small groups of 1-3 students throughout the school year providing individualized instruction.

To recruit the required 1,200 volunteers, APIE has joined with the City of Austin to launch the *Serve Austin Schools* campaign. The City, Austin's largest source of school volunteers, has made education a key focus area in its community-wide *Serve Austin* volunteerism plan, with Mayor Lee Leffingwell issuing a call for community support.

The funding includes \$350,000 from Michael and Susan Dell Foundation, \$100,000 from JPMorgan Chase, and \$45,000 from the Applied Materials Foundation. "This funding is particularly meaningful since each of these long-term partners have matched or increased their support in these tough economic times," said APIE Executive Director Kathrin Brewer. "This funding supports individualized instruction so that students can master subjects and build confidence working in small groups with caring adult role models and tutors in our schools throughout the year."

"Our Foundation uses education to transform the lives of children living in urban poverty," said Kevin Byrne, Michael and Susan Dell Foundation's Education Portfolio Director. "Austin Partners has demonstrated to us, both quantitatively and qualitatively, that they can deliver effective services to students during school, improving performance and creating a college-going pipeline."

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APIE creates and fosters effective community and school partnerships that provide all AISD students preparation for college and career

In-class tutoring sessions meet weekly on campuses across Austin ISD serving more than 90 percent economically disadvantaged students. The program's potential for success was evidenced by a pilot project at Webb Middle School that resulted in the following achievements last year:

- 83% of 8th grade students passed the math TAKS test
- The number of commended 8th grade math students tripled
- 22% more students passed the 6th grade English Language Arts (ELA) TAKS test than did last year

"It's important to remember," Mayor Leffingwell said, "that our schools require the help of a mobilized community of committed volunteers. I'm calling on all Austinites to go to the APIE website now and register for this school year. We're counting on our citizens to serve Austin schools."

Volunteers can choose their preferred time and location at www.austinpartners.org/volunteer. Learn more about the programs, the funders, and the volunteer experience at www.austinpartners.org, or email apie@austinpartners.org. To learn more about the Mayor's Serve Austin program see <http://serveatx.org> or contact Andy Mormon at (512) 974-2292.

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[Austin Partners in Education](#) (APIE) delivers innovative reading and math programs that raise student academic performance. By recruiting, training and deploying a diverse cadre of volunteers serving as tutor-mentors in small group (1 – 3 students per adult) tutoring sessions, students receive the individualized support that can help them achieve and build future success. APIE programs serve students and teachers in elementary reading (Spanish and English), middle school reading and math, and college readiness. In addition, struggling middle school learners are supported through APIE's Step-Up program, a data-driven, high-frequency tutoring model.

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