



It's time to sign up

Many of our volunteers come to us as individuals. Many come through employers or community organizations where we are seeing an increasing tendency to 'buddy up' and join as groups of co-workers. We place 8 - 12 volunteers in each classroom timeslot. Signing up early will help us place groups together in the same classroom, like our friends at IBM where about 50 employees serve as Classroom Coaches.

Register [here](#) and let us know your preferences to serve together. If you'd like us to help spread the word in your organization, call Audrey Glaser at 512-637-0974.

Sign up today!



U.S. Dept. of Education Recognizes APIE

U.S. Secretary of Education, Arne Duncan's department has recognized Austin Partners in Education as an example of Better Use of Community Resources. The Department of Education has highlighted innovative approaches and best practices for increasing educational productivity. APIE was used as an example of leveraging community resources and local partnerships to support high-quality academic enrichment opportunities. The research suggests school systems align and utilize such resources to maximize opportunities for students and school systems.

[Read the Report](#)

Impact Austin Awards \$108,000 for Reading Stars Program

Impact Austin has named Austin Partners in Education a 2011 Community Partner. The grant award of \$108,400 will allow APIE to empower more than 500 6th grade students to become stronger, more independent readers. [Read more](#) about this grant and the extraordinary women of Impact Austin. (Top: Student presenters Esmeralda, Ana and Mark, with 6th grade Reading Classroom Coaching Manager Jessica Carley, APIE Exec. Director Kathrin Brewer, Asst. Principal Valerie Torres-Solis and Counselor Matthew Sulanke. Bottom: Kathrin Brewer accepting the award from Impact Austin's Val Meddaugh and Lisa Lyons)



In his words....



"I like having the APIE tutors come to my class. I'm excited - because of them I got to learn something new. Everybody deserves the chance to learn something new. Because of them we're probably going to be the best readers in the world." - Mark, 6th grade student in Reading Classroom Coaching

Mark was one of three student speakers at the Impact Austin Grant Ceremony. Everyone commended his statesman-like presence.

The Benefits of Deep Intervention

Preliminary Math TAKS Test Scores - Webb MS

8 th Grade Math TAKS	2009-10	2010-11
Pass Rate	60% passed TAKS	75% passed TAKS
Commended Rate	6.8% commended	22% commended

TAKS 1st Administration

We focused our deepest intervention this year on Webb Middle School, not only in Reading but also in Math and Step-Up. The results are increased TAKS scores, in addition to teacher satisfaction, student confidence and engagement.

"The improvement in the 8th grade Math TAKS pass rate and the increase in students that attained a commended level can be largely attributed to the support we received from Austin Partners in Education's Math Classroom Coaching and Step-Up. These programs provide our middle school students with small-group academic intervention as well as valuable personal support."

- Reynaldo Garcia, Webb Middle School Principal

Michael and Susan Dell Foundation Named Partner of the Year

Over the past decade, the Michael & Susan Dell Foundation has invested more than \$160M in improving educational outcomes for underprivileged children through investments in more than 143 organizations in Central Texas. One of their core strategies is to fund strong, independent non-profit organizations that have demonstrated they can deliver effective services to students during school. Their work in Austin ISD and support of APIE programs made them this year's choice for Partner of the Year. Shirley Heitzman, Austin ISD Executive Director explained, "We couldn't ask for anything more in a partner. The Foundation has been working very closely with us to ensure teachers are successful." [Read more](#) about the Foundation's important work.



Donor Spotlight



Applied Materials, Inc. supports schools in the development of science and math scholars. They also have a broader vision and have partnered with non-profit programs, including Austin Partners in Education (APIE) to increase the quality of education from pre-K through college for underserved youth. They are implementing an extensive Education Initiative to close achievement gaps. [Learn more](#) about their corporate citizenship to improve life for low income communities.

2nd Grade Teachers See Progress from Classroom Coaching

The 2nd grade APIE Classroom Coaching program focuses on differentiated instruction. Depending on their needs, students study either a Spanish or English curriculum, both of which span DRA (Development Reading Assessment) levels from 3 to 34+. Struggling students have individual tutoring or work with coaches in groups of two. Stronger readers generally work in groups of three per coach. The TEKS-aligned curriculum focuses on English language skills, vocabulary, comprehension, and fluency in an array of reading genres. It also covers vocabulary for relevant subjects including Science and Social Studies so that students are familiar with the language as new concepts are presented. Pecan Springs teacher Jennifer Gucker said, "It was my absolute pleasure to have Coaches in my room. Your program is so valuable to my students and to me! You have had a huge impact on their reading progress. I'm glad it went so well for everyone, and look forward to working with you next year."

Salute Ceremony Honors Best in Austin ISD

Salute - the Annual Celebration of Excellence in Austin ISD was hosted by Austin Partners in Education (APIE) May 18th at the Long Center for the Performing Arts with the City of Austin support as the Signature Sponsor. Police Chief Art Acevedo led the event as Master of Ceremonies. The 2011 Teacher of the Year was awarded to Caroline Sweet, a fourth grade bilingual teacher at Metz Elementary. Finalists included David Bellesen, Travis High, and Kim Ross, Dobie Middle School. [Read more](#) about this year's Salute ceremony, our winners and our generous sponsors.



Chair's Award – Dr. Leonard Moore

Community advocate, Pastor, and UT Assoc. VP and Professor, Dr. Leonard N. Moore was presented the Chair's Award at Salute this May. Dr. Moore hosted several volunteer

Volunteer Spotlight



Meet Ricardo Mastroleo. Volunteering every week for six years as a Classroom Coach, Ricardo helps students understand that they can do the math if they take the right path. “That is the most rewarding and most important thing we can do,” explains the Brazilian-born physicist. [Read more.](#)

opportunity presentations at his church and in his classrooms, and acted as an advocate in the greater community. His support enabled APIE to reach a long desired goal of having a volunteer population that is representative of the African American population in Austin.

[Read more ...](#)

Hall of Fame - Mark Williams

We thank Austin ISD Board of Trustees President Mark Williams and his family for his commitment to our students and schools. In his six years as a Trustee, he has guided countless late night Board meetings, spent hours of preparation, and also devoted weekends and evenings to community involvement and student recognition events.



[Read more...](#)

Hall of Fame – Bernardo Martinez



During his 12 years at Wooten Elementary, Parent Support Specialist and PIE Coordinator Bernardo Martinez (*Pictured with APIE Executive Director Kathrin Brewer*) has created a model of parent and community engagement

for others to follow. He partnered with Jill Ramirez of the AISD Dual Language Department to ensure the success of Spanish-speaking parents in literacy parenting through her *Promesas* program. Ms. Ramirez said of him, “I had the opportunity to witness Bernardo providing leadership to parents and students. Parents who had been reluctant to get involved joined the PTA because of his support.”

[Read more...](#)

Teacher Feedback

“My second grade class and I are very appreciative of the APIE program and their volunteers. The individuals’ commitment and efforts have made a tremendous change in my scholars. One hundred percent of my scholars have improved their reading abilities. Also, their attitudes about reading and academics in general have made wide strides. The scholars always looked forward to Wednesdays because they loved to read and share with their partners. They developed true and caring relationships.” *Ms. Torres, Teacher, Blanton Elementary, 2nd grade Reading Classroom Coaching.*

Volunteer Appreciation Event Attended by more than 300 Coaches, Mentors and Friends!

With the Webb Middle School Band playing, good times and good friends filled the For the City Center for this year’s Volunteer Appreciation Event. We honored our long-time volunteers including Ricardo Mastroleo (six years Classroom Coaching) who is in this issue’s Volunteer Spotlight.

Everybody got free T-shirts and a chance to meet and mingle. Many took a few minutes to tell us about their experience.



We thank several local vendors including Tiffs Treats, Yoga Yoga, Jimmy Johns, The Pit (Barbecue) and HEB for providing raffle prizes and food.

(Pictured are three Compañeros en Lectura Coaches – Maria, Dalit and Gisela.)

Hear what Michael Embesi had to say by visiting our [YouTube channel](#).

The Call for Volunteers is Open! Individuals or Groups Welcomed.

By giving as little as one hour a week, you can create positive change in the lives of Austin students. Reading and Math opportunities are available in more than 20 schools. There's a time and a place that fits every schedule. Sessions occur once weekly for 45 minutes during the school day. Register now at austinpartners.org/volunteer. Choose the program that interests you most. Then, in late August, we will send schedules and you can choose the school and time that works best for you.

Want to join with a group of friends or co-workers? Early registration allows us to place you as a team. IBM is a great example of this. A few years ago Andrew Holle and a few other IBM employees volunteered. They shared their experience with Hal Chase. Hal joined and recruited others. Today about 50 IBM employees are Classroom Coaches! Their internal goal is to reach 100 volunteers this year. They've been focused

on Math, but realizing that many students struggle with Science and other subjects simply due to a lack of reading skills, the group will also be coaching Reading this Fall. If you would like to build a team in your organization, call us and let us help you get started. Contact Audrey Glaser at aglaser@austinpartners.org or call **512-637-0974**.

Sign up now. Thank you!

"Volunteering is the ultimate exercise in democracy. You vote in elections once a year, but when you volunteer, you vote every day about the kind of community you want to live in." - Marjorie Moore.

Thanks to our Donors!

Austin Independent School District, Greater Austin Chamber of Commerce, Andy Roddick Foundation, Anonymous Foundation, Impact Austin, Michael & Susan Dell Foundation, JPMorgan Chase Foundation, Intel Foundation, KDK-Harman Foundation, Wells Fargo Bank, A Glimmer of Hope Foundation, Applied Materials Foundation, Junior League of Austin, United Way Capital Area, 3M Foundation, City of Austin – Grants for Technology Opportunities Program - GTOPs, Mueller Foundation, The Housing Authority of the City of Austin, Rattlesville Lake Foundation, St. David's Community Health Foundation, American Constructors, The Farm Credit Bank of Texas, Freescale Semiconductor, IBM Corporation, Seawell Elam Foundation, Tokyo Electron, The African Queens, Austin Ventures Management, Cambridge Systematics, Give Realty, Greater Mt. Zion Baptist Church, Jim Whitten Roof Consultants, The Meyer Foundation, The Pape Foundation, People for Educational Equality, and Wildflower Church.

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