

CONNECTING *the Community and the Classroom*



Alex



Alex Benitez, Freescale Partners in Math Volunteer, has fun while helping elementary students learn math skills

Austin Partners in Education Annual Report
2007 – 2008 School Year

In a unique collaboration between the Austin Independent School District and Austin Chamber of Commerce, Austin Partners in Education (Partners) has created a nationally-recognized program – a program with proven results in improving student outcomes that has the potential for implementation throughout the district. More than 2,700 students participated in Classroom Coaching programs last year. Of the 1,248 students in math and reading programs, 7-9% more passed TAKS than did their peers. In some instances, between 20-40% more students passed than did a comparable group. Additionally, through Partners' technology programs, more than 400 students received their first home computer.

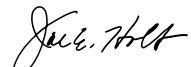
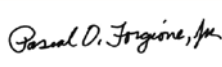
The outpouring of support for Classroom Coaching has been immense. Both AISD and the Chamber have greatly increased their commitment, and through that generosity have helped to ensure the ongoing stability of Austin Partners in Education (Partners) by committing to five years of funding.

Of course, there is always more work to be done! The Classroom Coaching programs have grown rapidly, reaching 2,700 students in 2007 compared with 180 students in 2005. Partners plans to increase that number even more significantly in the next two years – to more than 3,500 students. By 2020, the goal is to serve all 50,000 Title I students. Why is Classroom Coaching so successful? Engaged, small group learning aligns directly with AISD's model for classroom success. Teachers and principals make frequent and passionate requests for the program as a key tool in ensuring that all students succeed.

Partners is able to provide a high level of service because its state-of-the-art volunteer, office and financial systems handle routine administrative functions, allowing staff to focus on building relationships and implementing best practices.

We are grateful to countless community leaders for giving their time and energy to our students through direct interaction or by serving on the Board: Austin City Manager, Marc Ott; AISD Board President, Mark Williams; Austin Mayor Will Wynn; Travis County Judge Sam Biscoe; Former School Board President Doyle Valdez; AISD School Board Member, Annette LoVoi; and many, many more. We invite the Austin community to remember the source of our continued success and to join us building our future by giving back to our students today.

Sincerely,



Charles J. Barnett
President & CEO,
Seton Family of
Hospitals
Chair, Austin Partners
in Education



Kathrin Brewer
Executive Director,
Austin Partners in
Education



Dr. Pascal D. Forgione, Jr.
Superintendent, Austin
Independent School
District
Vice-Chair, Austin
Partners in Education



Joe E. Holt
Chairman,
Austin Region,
JPMorganChase Bank
Board Chair,
Austin Chamber of
Commerce

Mission Statement: Austin Partners in Education (Partners) creates and fosters effective community and school partnerships that provide all AISD students preparation for college and career.

The Challenge

How do we measurably improve student outcomes, and how do we reach enough students to make a substantial difference? By engaging volunteers in direct service to classrooms, the unique Austin Partners in Education Classroom Coaching model delivers proven student success and can scale to serve all students.

During the 2007-2008 school year, Partners served 2,713 students through academic study group programs, and 800 students through mentoring. An additional 800 students were mentored and tutored through 3rd-party organizations.

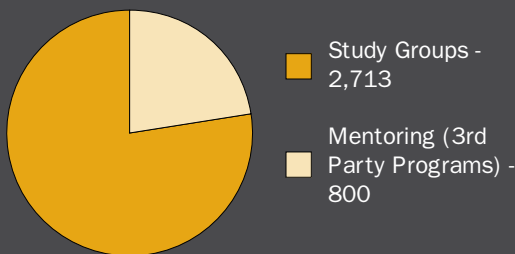
But the need is great. Austin ISD includes 82,000 students and 113 campuses. The student population has changed significantly in the past six years, as Texas experiences a historic economic, political, and demographic watershed. The percentage of qualified economically disadvantaged (ED) students increased from 48% to 62%. Academic achievement tracks with economic status: United States fourth graders in low-income communities are three grade levels behind their high-income peers¹. While much-needed state and federal support diminishes, our need for intervention to support academic success becomes increasingly important for our students.

As our city attracts an increasing population of global citizens, the number of our English Language Learner (ELL) students has grown to 23,291, 22.5% of all students. Austin ISD has proven that students who graduate from bilingual programming perform better than the district average for all students in all subjects, and we are proud to support this success through 'Compañeros en Lectura' and 'Feria Para Aprender'.

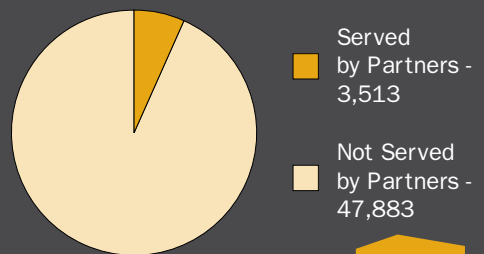
With the current funding and volunteer support trajectory, over 8000 students, or 10% of the population, will be in the Classroom Coaching Program in 2014.

¹ National Assessment of Educational Progress, 2005

Austin Partners in Education Students Served



Economically disadvantaged students in AISD

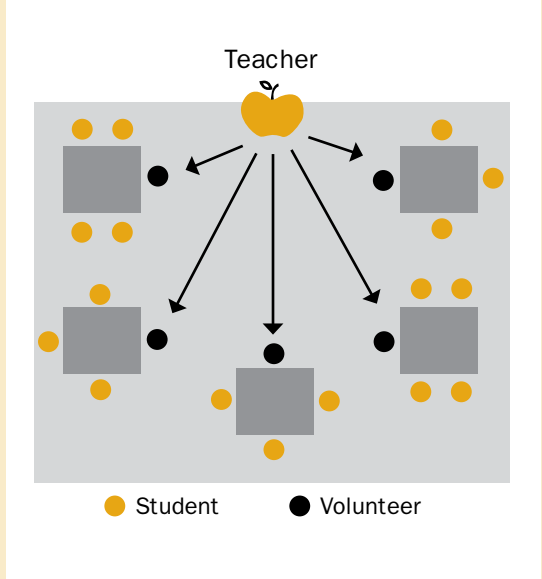


The Classroom Coaching Model

Last year, Partners supported AISD teachers in delivering their curriculum through small-group learning.

Over 700 Classroom Coaches were recruited and trained. Each week they facilitated teams of 3-4 students, engaging every student in the classroom. Through relationships with caring adults, students developed self-esteem and built their capacity to learn.

The result was improved student engagement and academic performance and a proven capacity to go to scale.



Partners in Math

Volunteers use passion and real-world experience to engage small groups of students in solving math problems in class. Last year, Partners in Math expanded from Secondary into Elementary School, serving more than twice as many students each week. Last year, 7% more Partners in Math students passed the TAKS test, as compared to similar non-participating students.

Partners in Math was generously supported by the KDK-Harman Foundation.



SPO Visi in Partners in Math

"I was a terrible math student and I struggled with it all through school. [I learned that] I was not there to teach the kids but to support them. I told them that I had always had trouble with math and that I was there as much to learn as they were. I asked the kids frequently how did you get that answer, or can you explain to me what you're doing? This put the [students] in a teacher type role and allowed them to explain to me their thought process. I feel now that my weakness in math was my greatest strength."

*-SPO Visi, Joshua #4416
Austin Police Department*

College Readiness

Sponsored by the Greater Austin Chamber of Commerce, Partners worked with 652 graduating seniors who had not yet achieved the Texas Success Initiative (TSI) College Ready standard as juniors. The 275 who achieved the standard represent 21% of the non-college ready juniors. College Ready students save valuable time and money

through exemption from developmental college courses.

With AISD's Project ADVANCE and Austin Community College, Partners identified graduating seniors who were not college ready, communicated their status and its potential impact on their education, supplied a custom study plan, and provided tutoring.

College Readiness is generously supported by the Austin Chamber of Commerce.

"Because of college readiness efforts at this campus, for the first time ever, this school can take a "proactive" approach to the college readiness issue rather than a "reactive" one... By taking advantage of this service, every senior... will be that much better prepared to demonstrate their college readiness by taking and passing the test on the first try."

-Jim Adamko, Project ADVANCE, Austin High School

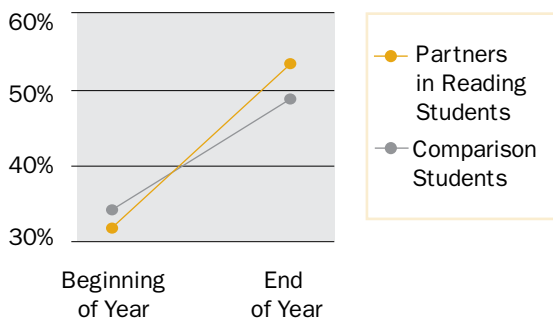


Partners in Reading/ Compañeros en Lectura

Parent and community volunteers helped second grade students develop a love of reading while building fluency in English or Spanish. The highly structured curriculum supported a wide range of reading abilities, and made reading fun. Last year, the number of second-graders participating in the program doubled to over 744 students. An independent evaluation found that 7% more students read at or above grade level than did similar, non-participating students.

Partners in Reading was generously supported by the Housing Authority of the City of Austin

Percentage of Students Reading at Grade Level



"Four of us Senate staffers volunteered in the Compañeros en Lectura program. Riding together to school each Thursday was fun and sharing the joy of working with our cute 2nd graders brought us closer together as friends and colleagues. Seeing their progress throughout the year was so rewarding. Getting smiles and hugs from our students each time we walked in the classroom was priceless." -Edna Butts, General Counsel & Senior Policy Advisor to Senator Kirk Watson

Partners in Literature

Participants read and discussed texts ranging from poetry and short stories to current events and contemporary speeches. Discussions on these texts open up dialogue on subjects relevant to students and create the opportunity for strong mentoring relationships.



"As volunteers, we have accepted the call to help students face and overcome many of the challenges they face. Perhaps one of the most significant problems I've observed students being faced with is a lack of confidence. Through [the] PIL program, I have witnessed the confidence levels of many students soar to the point of them possessing an eagerness to learn."

-Kimberly Pemberton, Partners in Literature Volunteer

Partners in Technology

Dell TechKnow: In this 40-hour after-school program, 476 students learned hardware, software, and trouble-shooting skills and took home their family's first home computer!

Student Help Desk: At 5 schools, 105 students learned technical support assistants for their campus technologist.

Computer Refurbishment Pilot: Partners launched a student-staffed computer refurbishment lab with Burnet Middle School, providing over 450 computers to school families. Participants learned the refurbishment process and had the opportunity to earn a pre-professional IC3 certification.

Generous support from the Andy Roddick Foundation, A Glimmer of Hope Foundation, Grande Communications, Intel Corporation, and 3M help make Partners in Technology successful.

● "In 2000, shortly after
● welcoming our first residen-
● tial customers in Austin,
● Grande Communications made
● being an active community
● technology partner a top
● priority. We have supported
● programs like Partners in
● Technology by donating free
● Internet access to low-
● income students and their
● families. Only when access
● to the limitless educational
● resources of the Internet is
● available in every home where
● students can experience the
● value of technology as an
● integral part of their every day
● lives can we as a community
● truly bridge the Digital Divide."
● -Libby Malone, Director,
● Community Relations, Grande
● Communications

"I know first hand the importance of mentors and volunteers within the education system. Many years ago, somebody took an interest in me and opened my eyes to the many wonderful opportunities life offers. Through APIE, I have been fortunate to "pay it forward" by forging relationships with two young boys with extremely bright futures. APIE provides me an opportunity to make a positive difference in the lives of these young boys by simply spending a little time with them."

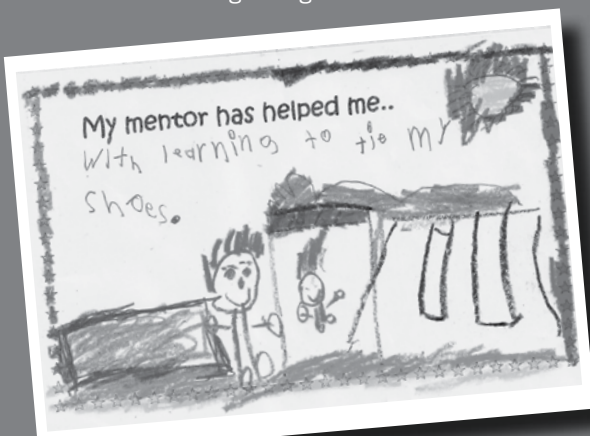
-Marc Ott, Austin City Manager

800 Students and Volunteers, 100 Schools

Mentoring

Last year, Partners referred over 800 mentors to Best Practice School-Based Mentor programs in Austin Schools. These caring adult mentors met with students in Austin schools once every week at lunch time.

Youth who meet regularly with mentors are shown statistically to have fewer absences in school, better attitudes towards school, less drug and alcohol use, more confidence about school work, and a better likelihood of attending college.



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SALUTE 2008

Salute 2008 honored the teachers, staff, volunteers, and partners who made generous contributions to education in Austin ISD.



Tommy Cowan, Kathrin Brewer, Dr. Pat Forgione, and Doyle Valdez enjoy Salute 2008



Eric Cruz accepts the 2008 Teacher of the Year Award from 2007 Teacher of the Year, Michael Perkins

Salute 2008 Sponsors

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City of Austin

Financials

Statement of Revenue, Support

Revenue

Austin ISD	\$406,180
Austin Chamber of Commerce	\$225,000
Grants/Donations	\$890,738
Reserves	\$120,865
Total Revenue	\$1,642,783

Expenses

Program Services	\$1,188,715
Supporting Services	\$211,868
Total Expenses	\$1,400,583

Net Revenue over Expenses \$114,648

Statement of Financial Position

Assets

Cash and Cash Equivalents	\$230,241
Accounts Receivable	\$80,665
Property and Equipment	\$34,593
Total Assets	\$345,499

Liabilities

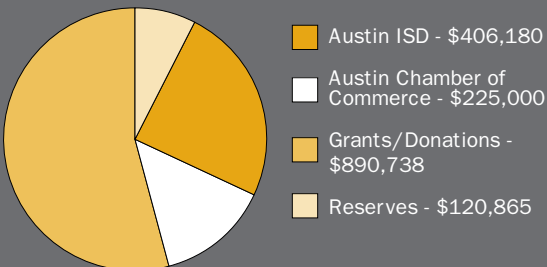
Accounts Payable	\$52,118
Accrued Expenses	\$32,181
Total Liabilities	\$84,299

Net Assets

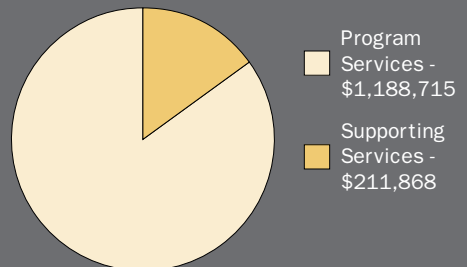
Net Assets \$261,200

Total Liabilities and Net Assets \$345,499

2007 – 2008 Revenue



2007 – 2008 Expenses



**Join us in helping Austin students succeed!
VOLUNTEER.**

For more information, visit
www.austinpartners.org or call 637-0900.



**Partners In
Education**

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