

## **Questions from Trustees on the IDEA Agreement, December 19, 2011 (Unedited)**

Below are (unedited) responses to questions from Trustees regarding the IDEA in-district charter agreement.

### **What will happen if less than minimum students apply?**

The initial monthly allocation made to IDEA will be based upon the estimated enrollment/ADA. If less students attend, subsequent payments to IDEA will be adjusted to reflect actual enrollment/ADA and weights. In section VI, the proposed contract reads, "Compensation to IDEA for eligible students is based on average-daily-attendance (ADA) allocation received by AISD for students enrolled in the program and actual student attendance....The allotment shall be paid in monthly installments on the 15 day of each month during the term, commencing on September 15, 2012. Payments shall be issued on an average monthly basis, based initially on a projected first-year enrollment of 600 students at an estimated 97.3% attendance rate, an estimated 50% LEP students and an estimated 80% economically disadvantaged over 11 equal periods, provided that the 11th payment may be withheld by AISD to allow for any required adjustments for the reasons stated below. The estimated weights will be adjusted to actual weights for purposes of determining the compensation hereunder and the amount of the 11<sup>th</sup> month payment."

### **How was budget for per student entitlement calculated?**

The per student entitlement was calculated using the State's funding formula methodology used to calculate AISD's funding allocation. It essentially represents what AISD would be entitled to under the State, minus other revenue like Medicaid and special collections. The CFO reviewed the methodology and calculations with Moak and Casey to ensure accuracy.

### **Is the \$554,947 grand total cost to AISD for year 1 only?**

Yes. This is the estimated cost for year 1 only which includes a one-time facilities investment of \$430k. In subsequent years, it is expected that costs to AISD would decrease over time as more grades phase-in.

### **Can state adjustments to formula funding and/or increases go up or down?**

Yes. We intentionally built into language into the contract that allows for the formula to be adjusted based on possible actions from the State. The proposed contract reads, "In subsequent years following the initial year of this agreement, IDEA shall be paid by AISD for state adjustments to formula funding and/or increases approved by the AISD Board of Trustees commensurate with such adjustments as the apply to AISD funding."

### **Is allocation weighted?**

Yes, by ADA for Special Education, Bilingual, Compensatory Education and Gifted & Talented.

**Questions from Trustees on the IDEA Agreement, December 19, 2011 (Unedited)**

**What are we spending today per pupil in AISD?**

For 2011-12, we have budgeted approximately \$8,112 per student (General Fund only). Historically, we spent \$8,068 (unaudited, General Fund) in 2010-11 and \$8,139 (General Fund, AEIS 2010-11) in 2009-10, whereas IDEA spent substantially less at \$7,217 per student.

**What does IDEA get per student now?**

According to the 2010-11 AEIS information which reports 2009-2010 financial data, IDEA spent \$7,217 (General Fund) per student and received \$8,200 (General Fund) per student in revenue. See below for additional district and individual campus comparisons.

<b>Districtwide AEIS 2010-11 Data</b>	<b>GENERAL FUND</b>	<b>ALL FUNDS</b>
IDEA (District) Cost per student	\$ 7,217.00	\$ 10,355.00
IDEA (District) Revenue per student	\$ 8,300.00	\$ 11,460.00
AISD (District) Cost per student	\$ 8,139.00	\$ 12,059.00
AISD (District) Revenue per student	\$ 8,512.00	\$ 11,107.00

<b>2011 Rating district</b>	<b>Organization (Campus) Name</b>	<b>Per Student Expenditure</b>
	<b>IDEA PUBLIC SCHOOLS</b>	
EX	IDEA COLLEGE PREP	\$7,263
EX	IDEA QUEST COLLEGE PREPARATORY	\$6,026
RE	IDEA FRONTIER COLLEGE PREPARATORY	\$6,833
EX	IDEA COLLEGE PREPARATORY MISSION	\$6,514
RE	IDEA COLLEGE PREPARATORY SAN BENITO	\$8,086
EX	IDEA COLLEGE PREPARATORY SAN JUAN	\$10,835
RE	IDEA COLLEGE PREPARATORY ALAMO	N/A
RE	IDEA COLLEGE PREPARATORY PHARR	N/A
	IDEA EDINBURG COLLEGE PREPARATORY	N/A
	IDEA WESLACO COLLEGE PREPARATORY	N/A
RE	IDEA ACADEMY	\$6,575
RE	IDEA QUEST ACADEMY	\$5,536
EX	IDEA FRONTIER ACADEMY	\$5,899
NA	IDEA ACADEMY MISSION	\$6,514
NA	IDEA ACADEMY SAN BENITO	\$6,095
NA	IDEA ACADEMY SAN JUAN	\$12,563
NA	IDEA ACADEMY ALAMO	N/A
NA	IDEA ACADEMY PHARR	N/A
NA	IDEA EDINBURG ACADEMY	N/A
NA	IDEA WESLACO ACADEMY	N/A
District	<b>AUSTIN PUBLIC SCHOOLS</b>	
AA	EASTSIDE MEMORIAL GREEN TECH H S	\$11,805
AU	EASTSIDE MEMORIAL GLOBAL TECH H S	\$14,735
AA	MARTIN M S	\$9,152
AA	ALLAN EL	\$9,156

**Questions from Trustees on the IDEA Agreement, December 19, 2011 (Unedited)**

Based upon our historical costs, the proposed partnership with IDEA will reduce the district per pupil spending. Even with the planned allocations and in-kind support that will be provided by the district, the per pupil spend of \$8,919 proposed in the IDEA contractual agreement is projected to be under what the district has historically spent per pupil for Allen at \$9,156.

<b><u>Estimated IDEA Charter Allocations &amp; In-Kind Support</u></b>	
Projected Allocation @ \$7,711	\$4,627,100
Estimated Transportation (Allan & projected enrollment)	\$ 396,703
Projected Title I Entitlement (State)	\$ 81,091
Instructional Materials Allocation (State)	\$ 27,180
<b>Total Allocations to IDEA</b>	<b>\$5,132,074</b>
Food-In-Kind	\$ 236,000
Security In-Kind	\$ 10,653
Project No. Students	\$ 600
Per Student (less Instructional Materials Allotment)	\$ 8,919.25

This finding is consistent with national trends. In general, charter schools nationwide spend about \$1,800 less per student than traditional public schools, according to a report released by the U.S. Department of Education this week. The report shows that median expenditures for traditional public school districts are \$10,977 versus \$9,146 for charter schools.

**What other state funding, if any, will go to IDEA?**

Since IDEA would be assuming the Allan attendance zone, they would be entitled to Federal Title I. Federal rules require that students residing in the Allan attendance zone be served and IDEA would be provided the supplemental funds to serve those students. Additionally, IDEA would also be provided an allocation from the Instructional Materials Allotment, in which, the State provides \$151 per student for textbooks and instructional supplies. Below is a summary of the estimated allocations based on entitlements received this year.

Estimated based on current Allan (K-5) and 6th grade

<b><u>Estimated IDEA Charter Allocations</u></b>	
Projected Allocation @ \$7,711	\$4,627,100
Estimated Transportation (Allan & projected enrollment)	\$ 396,703
Projected Title I Entitlement (State)	\$ 81,091
Instructional Materials Allocation (State)	\$ 27,180
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$5,132,074</b>

IDEA would also be eligible to apply for other competitive State and Federal grants based on qualifications of the grant as they see fit. They have indicated that they plan on applying for the charter school start-up grant from the State as they have been

**Questions from Trustees on the IDEA Agreement, December 19, 2011 (Unedited)**

informed by the State that they would still be eligible for next year's awards. In addition, IDEA is working with the District to obtain \$1.5 million from external funder to support the costs of the program for the first few start-up years.

**Where are offsets for food service and transportation in student allocation?**

Food and transportation are not included in the base allocation. The food program is expected to be cost neutral. In fact, the food program at Allan actually collects more revenue than the costs to run the operation and we expect that to continue. The regular transportation costs are for students currently attending Allan and students expected to attend IDEA from other eastside campuses and costs are projected at \$396,703. The projected cost represents the "worst-case" scenario as actual costs are expected to be much lower once actual students are identified allowing for better route optimization.

Below are estimates for the initial services that have been identified for IDEA to purchase from the district out of its base allocation. The contract includes a provision for IDEA to purchase other goods and services from the District at cost.

<b><u>Buy-Back Services Purchased from Charter Allocation</u></b>	
Utilities	\$ 128,728
Estimated Fixed Assets (computers, projectors, vacuums, etc.)	\$ 386,986
Extended, Saturday, summer transportation	\$ 117,400

**What is the value of the in-kind support that the district is providing?**

Below are the estimated values of the in-kind support that the district is providing.

<b><u>Value/Costs of In-Kind Provisions:</u></b>	
Market leasing Estimate-Allan (\$159,528 per month based on average market value)	\$ 1,914,336
Bldg insurance	\$ 5,815
Security-Allan	\$ 10,653
Security-Eastside at full phase-in	\$ 178,469
Food Allan (Net Revenue)	\$ (14,245)
Food Eastside (Net Revenue)	\$ 126,241
Estimated Value of Furniture	\$ 425,214
Repairs over \$5,000	TBD-unable to forecast at this time
<b>Total Value of In-Kind</b>	<b>\$ 2,646,483</b>

**Will there be a cost for AISD to the shared services agreements?**

No, in fact the converse may be true. The intent of the shared services agreements is to make available opportunities for IDEA to purchase goods and services from AISD based upon a fee schedule for services we already provide. Therefore, it would not require the district to develop any new capacity or materials to provide the service and the district could recoup some of the allocation that is provided to IDEA. We would also extend the pricing arrangements with our contracted vendors so that our combined purchasing power can continue to allow us to get the most advantageous pricing from vendors. In this way, we can continue to receive, and maybe expand upon some of the volume pricing discounts we receive.

**Explain the Shared Services Agreement for health benefits services and how that would work.**

Again, we would extend the opportunity for IDEA to buy into our health plan at cost. They would be responsible for paying the contribution for any members that they enroll into the program as well as associated administrative fees. Currently, IDEA uses the State's health benefit plan which is slightly cheaper than the districts as we have a richer plan design so IDEA would have to decide whether or not they wanted to subscribe considering the increased costs.

**What will IDEA have to submit for a financial audit?**

The charter would be required to conduct an independent financial audit and possibly a single audit if Federal funds exceed required thresholds. The in-district charter would be included in the District's financial audit as a separate component unit.

**What happens to UIL activities and clubs?**

IDEA has stated that they will organize activities and/or clubs based on student interest and funding available. They do not currently participate in UIL.

**What happens to children with disciplinary problems?**

IDEA has stated that they will work with students with discipline issues as any other AISD campus does. They cannot remove a student without review of the superintendent or designee. IDEA has a strong character education program and is well known for building a strong school culture and climate which motivates students.

**Can IDEA deal with large amount of 504/special education children currently enrolled?**

As a public school IDEA will create accommodation plans and IEPs for 504 and special education students enrolled. They are required by law to follow these plans. As an in-district charter they will work with AISD to assure individual student needs are met.

**Will Special Education children be accepted into the school?**

Yes

**What happens to children that don't intend to go to college?**

Our goal is to ensure that all students have the academic foundation to be successful in college. Students along with their parents are the ones who should determine the student's path after high school graduation.

**What happens to current teacher staff?**

All teachers at IDEA will be IDEA employees. Teachers currently at Allan will have the opportunity to interview for the IDEA program or be reassigned within AISD.

**Will children be cherry picked?**

No. Students will be enrolled based on attendance area, followed by lottery as space is available.

**What if IDEA doesn't work? What happens to Allan after this?**

It would be addressed through our new FMP Framework process.

**How long is the IDEA contract?**

7 years

**What is IDEA going to cost TAX PAYERS?**

Projected costs are \$569,192

**Will all current students be accepted into IDEA no matter what education challenges or behavior problems?**

Yes

**What is required of parents that have children in IDEA?**

Parents are asked to support the educational programming and culture of the school.

**Why is IDEA recruiting children from Pickle Elementary?**

We are not aware of students from Pickle being recruited by IDEA. However, some community members are meeting with them.

**What happens to children that are talented in arts and music?**

IDEA is geared to math and science.

Art and music are integrated into the core curriculum by the classroom teachers. Art and music are not taught separately by special area teachers. This will be a program decision point for the parents of students with such talents.

**Why is IDEA out in community actively RECRUITING students if the contract with AISD has not even been signed yet? Has Dr. C already insured contract?**

Dr. Carstarphen cannot assure a contract. Only the Board can vote to approve a contract. It is our understanding that IDEA is holding informational meetings and not recruiting to enroll students at this time. They do collect names if families express interest.

**Will the increased transportation costs for this arrangement affect transportation delivery for other schools?**

No, delivery for other schools will not be impacted.

**Is transportation to receiving schools considering non-negotiable and a permanent promise to affected students?**

Yes, if a student opts out of IDEA at Allan, the student will attend Ortega or Govalle ES with transportation in K-5; Martin with transportation in 6-8; and Travis with transportation in 9-12. As with all schools in Austin, students who live within two miles of their assigned schools do not receive transportation, unless the path to school within the two miles is deemed to be a safety hazard.

**How will school Administration be handled at ESMH during co-location years? Will the campus be operated by both IDEA and ESMH rules and policies during the co-location?**

Yes, separate schools will co-locate within their documented rules and policies with separate administrations. Campus administrators will collaborate on policies regarding joint use of facilities such as cafeteria, gym, and athletic fields. We do this now between International HS and Eastside Memorial HS, and LASA HS and LBJ HS.

**How will expenses not expressly outlined in the contract be handled? This question is a reflection of my lack of understanding about how funds flow under this arrangement. State pays AISD then AISD pays IDEA? Along this line, does IDEA expect to be more profitable with its in-district operation in Austin where food, transportation, facilities, books, etc. are provided by the district? I fully understand that IDEA is a not for profit entity.**

Expenses not expressly outlined in the contract will be borne by IDEA, unless “bought back” by IDEA from the District at the District’s actual cost, or under this arrangement the district will create a fee schedule for such goods and services and IDEA would either pay directly or the District would discount its monthly allocation to the school. As you stated, IDEA is not a for profit entity, and therefore do not expect to be more profitable. We do know their initial proposal was for \$8,000. We have negotiated less at \$7,700 per student. IDEA has committed to raise \$1.5 million in funds through their development office to offset expenses.

**Is it possible that ESMH will be closed by TEA before IDEA students matriculate to ESMH given the fragility of its current gains and the two and a half year timeline for matriculation of IDEA students to ESMH?**

The answer to this unknown, since it is the Commissioner of Education who will make this decision. We are confident that in naming IDEA as a partnering entity that the Commissioner will delay any decision regarding closure. That might otherwise be imminent.

**In this case, will IDEA remain in partnership with AISD?**

We have discussed IDEA becoming our partnering entity within the Reconstitution Plan.

**If ESMH is rated academically unacceptable during the time IDEA students are co-located at ESMH with non-IDEA students, will the partnership with IDEA be terminated?**

No

**Do parents/students with a high level grievance with IDEA resolve those grievances with AISD or with IDEA?**

With IDEA.

**If a grievance must be resolved with IDEA, will IDEA operate a board in the Austin area? If so, please include Board information in your response.**

I expect, IDEA will want to resolve. If they are not able to resolve, then AISD will work with them to resolve. If resolution is still not possible, the grievance would be heard by IDEA in Austin. Please know that IDEA has no authority to unilaterally remove or expel a student or deny a student admission.

**Can you provide an example of when IDEA may not be an appropriate education setting for an AISD student?**

There would be no examples that would be different than would be applicable to other AISD campuses. Parents will be able to opt out if they prefer a different option for their child.

**Does the Administration anticipate growth would follow the same model, with existing campuses being turned over to an in-district charter?**

The IDEA In-District charter partnership was intended to add to our portfolio of options while addressing achievement issues in East Austin. This plan is in no way intent on displacing families or communities. As in-district charter the IDEA campuses remain a part of AISD. We are contracting with IDEA for specific program design to expand our options for families interested in an IDEA model of a college going culture. At this time, we have not planned for expansion, but will watch enrollment and waiting lists carefully and respond to the community's interest in the program as appropriate.

**Would the declaration of financial exigency affect The Agreement in any way?**

No

**How is co-location handled with IDEA having exclusive license to occupy ESMH beginning in the 2013-2014 school year?**

Space as appropriate and reasonable within ESMHS is what we have agreed to, not the school.

**Can you provide a copy of the IDEA security policy?**

The IDEA emergency management plan used in their Valley schools has been requested. We will forward once received. IDEA has requested to work with AISD in the development of an emergency management plan, which would include current plans used at Allan and Eastside.

**Will IDEA accept any student, should space become available, at any point in the school year?**

Yes. (For example, if a student exits the program, the next student on the waiting list will gain admission to the program. This is an important operational parity to other schools in the vertical team and reflects an apples to apples acceptance of the challenges of operating in an area with high student mobility.)

**Can students that do not attend IDEA feeder grades enroll in IDEA at any time? For example, can a 5<sup>th</sup> grader attend IDEA without having attended any previous grades at IDEA?**

Yes, based on space available. Allan attendance zone students will have first preference in grades K-5, followed by students in the ESMVT (Martin attendance area), followed by a district lottery.

**Is admittance preference given each year to students that have previously attended IDEA?**

If a student previously attended IDEA, but thereafter left the program, the student would be required to follow the same enrollment procedures as all other students. Exceptions to this would include migrant students or students dealing with custody issues.

**Are siblings given priority enrollment or are they subject to lottery admission?**

In an effort to keep families together, IDEA gives siblings priority in enrollment pending space available at the requested grade.

**Is it required that IDEA serve 504/Dyslexia, ELL and special education students at a rate comparable to other schools in the ESMH vertical team?**

As a public school, IDEA is required to serve all students enrolled who qualify for 504/Dyslexia, ELL, and special education services. The ELL students will be served by an early exit model in elementary, while AISD comparable schools will be served by a dual language model in PK-2 and late exit in 3-5 in 2012-13.

**Target students for recruitment who are ELLs?**

IDEA will be discussing and sharing information regarding their program with all students and parents, including ELL students and parents.

**How will the partnership outlined in the ESMH reconstitution plan be implemented before IDEA has a full presence at the school?**

Implementing IDEA's academic design in schools within the Eastside Memorial Vertical Team will inform the current implementation of the tenets that are included in the reconstitution plan as well as the "Plan to Strengthen the Travis and Eastside Memorial Vertical Teams" which was presented to the Board on April 25.

**How is measurement of a four year graduation rate possible given the 7 year term of the contract with IDEA first cohort entering 6<sup>th</sup> grade in the 2012-2013 school year?**

The first graduating cohort would be the class of 2019, the last year of the contract. However, drop out data for high school students is a major component of the graduation rate. The first high school class would enter in 2015-2016.

**What is the acceptable percentage of students completing core courses? What are the core courses?**

Core courses include English/reading, mathematics, social studies, and science. At the high school level, this would include the courses aligned to the 12 end-of-course exam requirements: English I-III, Algebra I and II, Geometry, Biology, Physics, Chemistry, World Geography, World History, and American History. Currently, the district core course passing rates for English, Math, Science, and Social Studies are as follows:

	Elementary	Secondary
English	97.3	85.0
Math	97.6	84.8
Science	99.0	85.7
Social Studies	99.7	87.1

***What is the acceptable percentage of students passing EOC exams? By how many points will IDEA be expected to exceed AISD's performance?***

Performance data for the state end-of-course exams will not be available until February 2012. IDEA schools would be expected to meet or exceed the district percentages.

**What are the satisfactory percentages for ADA at each school level?**

IDEA will target 97.5% ADA for all levels. Their elementary level obtained 98% and met 97.5% target at secondary last school year.

**Is STAAR the appropriate assessment? What is the satisfactory percentage of students passing the appropriate state assessment? For the 2012-2013 school year does this standard applies only to grade 6?**

STAAR is the appropriate test. The state will not set performance standards for the STAAR until October 2012. IDEA schools would be expected to meet or exceed the district percentages. For the 2012-2013 school year, this standard applies only to grade 6.

**Must the campuses meet or exceed the minimum academically acceptable accountability level?**

At a minimum, the campuses must meet the state's academically acceptable accountability (AA) level.

**Bus services are free to IDEA, no?**

Yes, bus services for regular school day are provided by AISD.

Bus services as provided to AISD students will be provided to IDEA at no additional cost. The transportation of IDEA students beyond that which is afforded to AISD students (e.g., transportation routes beyond standard services), will be provided to IDEA at AISD's actual cost.

To provide clarification, the following sentence has been added to Section VI.2: "This allotment will be further discounted for the provision of other goods and services such as, but not limited to, transportation routes beyond standard services, utilities, maintenance, security, or other like mutually agreed upon "buy-back" goods or services."

**In exploring opportunities for growth, does IDEA have growth/development targets for student enrollment? Will IDEA be considered for other vertical teams such as Anderson or Austin? Does the Administration believe an IDEA in-district charter is appropriate for implementation outside of East Austin vertical teams?**

Student enrollment targets for elementary are 112 to 125 per grade level and 112 to 225 per grade level in secondary. We have not discussed IDEA in all other vertical teams at this time. We will monitor performance and gauge parent interest district-wide.

**Please explain how IDEA could cure designation as academically unacceptable in a 30, 60 or 90-day period?**

It is highly unlikely that they could, and thus the consequence would be termination.

**Please provide percentages or specific measures for academic performance. These measures should line up with the District's goals set forth in the District's Strategic Plan and they should exceed same-level performance for similar students.**

The state will not set performance standards for the end-of-course exams until February 2012. The state will not set performance standards for the STAAR until October 2012. For spring 2013, the AISD Strategic Plan targets will require revisions that are aligned to the new state assessments and standards. IDEA schools would be expected to meet or exceed the district percentages for each student group (i.e., similar students).

**Other than the obvious advantages from incorporating under Delaware code, do we have any information as to why they chose to incorporate in Delaware rather than Texas?**

IDEA was incorporated as a Texas domestic non-profit corporation in January 2000.

**Under the contract, is it true that IDEA is not obligated to take special needs students in proportion to special needs students currently enrolled in Eastside, Martin and Allen? How many special needs students are they obligated to take under the contract?**

No. As a public school, IDEA will create accommodation plans and IEPs for 504 and special education students enrolled. They are required by law to follow these plans. As an in-district charter, they will work with AISD, if needed, to assure individual student needs are met.

**Under the contract, is it true that IDEA is not obligated to treat students with disciplinary problems in the same manner as Eastside, Martin and Allen?**

No. IDEA has stated that they will work with students with discipline issues as any other AISD campus does. They cannot remove a student without the approval of the superintendent or designee. IDEA has a strong character education program and is well known for building a strong school culture and climate which motivates students.

**Under the contract, is it true that IDEA students must buy a set of uniforms to attend this school? How much does each set of uniforms cost? Am I correct in assuming that students will need more than one set of uniforms? How many sets of uniforms will a student need? Is it true that if a student's family and guardians cannot buy these uniforms those students will be ineligible to attend the school?**

No. IDEA will follow the same processes and procedures for uniforms as The Ann Richards School. The Ann Richards School also has a uniform component.

**Is it true that the IDEA superintendent earns \$317,000? What is his salary and the salaries of the top ten most highly compensated IDEA executives and employees?**

No. The 2009 IRS 990 form lists the 2009 compensation of IDEA Officers, Directors, Trustees, and Key Employees, Highest Compensated Employees and Independent Contractors. According to Mr. Torkelson, his 2011 salary is \$236,000, and the salaries of his top five staff range from \$125,000 to \$170,000.

**Is it true that IDEA will be paying teachers less than our teachers?**

No. It appears that an IDEA teacher's salary would be as much or more than an AISD teacher's salary. The IDEA teacher salary ranges between \$40,000 and \$70,000, based on an individual's professional profile and classroom performance. Salaries are determined for each teacher on an annual, individual basis. Also IDEA does not pay into social security, which will increase the amount of staff take home pay.

**Is there anything in the contract under which AISD is sponsoring IDEA that prohibits IDEA from opening schools in our district and taking additional students and additional funding away from our district?**

Yes, there is a non-compete clause in the agreement.

"SECTION VIII: NON-COMPETE - At anytime during the term of this agreement, IDEA shall not engage, directly or indirectly, in any practices, projects, or other activities including but not limited to the operation of any schools under its State Charter or other charter, which have the effect of competing against AISD in the provision of educational services within the jurisdiction of the District."

**Is there anything in the contract that ties IDEA funding to improvement in student performance? If so, what?**

No. There is no tie to funding, but there is a tie to continuation/termination in the agreement. The district will evaluate the performance of IDEA every year and take action as appropriate.

**Questions from Trustees on the IDEA Agreement, December 19, 2011 (Unedited)**

**Provide a comparison between IDEA EII and special needs students with Allen, Martin and Eastside.**

Campus comparisons:

*2010-11 (AEIS Report)*

	IDEA Averages	Allan	Martin	Eastside Global	Eastside Green
Special Ed	<b>5%</b>	<b>11.3%</b>	<b>18.4%</b>	<b>16.2%</b>	<b>17.8%</b>
LEP	43.8% K-5  20.4% K-12	<b>56%</b>	<b>27.7%</b>	<b>20%</b>	<b>22%</b>

Comparative differences between AISD and IDEA are due to program models. IDEA has an early exit model for LEP students who qualify for bilingual services. Whereas, AISD has a late exit model and is moving to a dual language model. IDEA also has a strong early intervention model using a direct instruction approach to limit placement of students in special education, and has a strong inclusion model, similar to AISD. As a public school, IDEA is required to address all special needs students and ensures that the ARD process provides for a free and appropriate public education for students with disabilities.

**Re: uniforms. The IDEA charter would be taking over a neighborhood school. These parents are not volunteering to travel and buy uniforms as with Ann Richards students who apply.**

Uniforms consist of an IDEA polo shirt and khaki pants. IDEA students traditionally purchase 1 to 5 shirts dependent on economic status. IDEA shirts range in price from \$7.00 to \$10.00. Students are not required to buy uniforms if they cannot afford uniforms. They will be supported as described below.

- Parents can opt out of IDEA if they are opposed to uniforms.
- IDEA provides free uniforms for the neediest families, just as students who need assistance with the cost of uniforms at Ann Richards are provided assistance.

Additional assistance is provided in a number of ways including a supply of clean clothes for student use on campus, access to non-profits who provide clothing for needy students, contributions from private funders and alumni for cost of uniforms for needy students.

**Will Title 1 funds be used to pay the salaries of any IDEA executives under the current plan? If so how much for each employee? I have been told that the IDEA CEO rec'd a \$94,000 raise last year; is this true?**

No. Title I funds will not be used to pay the salaries of any IDEA executives.

No, the IDEA CEO did not receive a \$94,000 raise last year. The 2009 990 states that his 2009 salary was \$185,724. According to Mr. Torkelson, his 2010-11 salary was \$234,000 and his 2011-12 salary was \$236,000. From 2009 to 2011-12 the difference is \$50,276.

**As I understand it, your stated reason for this contract is to improve student achievement and the vendor has represented that they will provide improved student achievement. Shouldn't the contract tie payment to your stated goal and the promises made by the company? What are your reasons for not tying improved student achievement to payment?**

IDEA is an open enrollment public school charter. The district has tied stated performance goals to continuation of the contract. Payment is based on ADA and state and federal allocations that directly supports the day-to-day education of students. If performance measures are not met, the Board would have the authority to end the contract,, which in turn would end payments. Based on IDEA current performance, we are expecting significantly better student performance.

**Is there anything we can do contractually to ensure IDEA supports and retains students that have persistent performance challenges?**

IDEA has stated that they will work with students with discipline or performance issues as any other AISD campus does. They cannot remove a student without the approval of the superintendent or designee. IDEA has a strong character education program and is well known for building a strong school culture and climate which motivates students.

**How many campuses does IDEA operate? How is each rated by the TEA (Acceptable, Recognized, etc.)? Which IDEA campuses are not rated? Why are some campuses not rated?**

In October 2010, IDEA has 16 schools with enrolled students and 4 schools in planning stages. See the ratings of these schools below. All 11 rated schools were Exemplary or Recognized; five schools were Exemplary and six schools were Recognized. Five schools were not rated as 2010 as they did not enroll students in grades tested for accountability purposes. Accountability testing begins in the 3rd grade. Four schools were not rated because they were still in the planning process and no students were enrolled in 2010.

As of October 2010.

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Table 1: IDEA Public Charter Schools – Special Populations Served

<b>2011 Rating</b>	<b>Organization Name</b>	<b>Site City</b>	<b>Grade Range</b>	<b>Enrollment Oct. 2010</b>	<b>SPE D</b>	<b>LEP</b>	<b>Econ. Dis.</b>
EX	IDEA COLLEGE PREP	DONNA	06-12	785	5.2%	11.0%	87.4%
EX	IDEA QUEST COLLEGE PREPARATORY	MCALLEN	06-12	678	3.7%	5.6%	64.3%
RE	IDEA FRONTIER COLLEGE PREPARATORY	BROWNSVILLE	06-12	636	5.2%	9.0%	85.8%
EX	IDEA COLLEGE PREPARATORY MISSION	MISSION	06-10	479	2.7%	9.0%	86.2%
RE	IDEA COLLEGE PREP SAN BENITO	SAN BENITO	06-10	482	5.8%	4.6%	65.8%
EX	IDEA COLLEGE PREPARATORY SAN JUAN	SAN JUAN	06-10	468	4.3%	4.1%	83.8%
RE	IDEA COLLEGE PREPARATORY ALAMO	ALAMO	06 & 09	230	2.6%	26.5%	85.7%
RE	IDEA COLLEGE PREPARATORY PHARR	PHARR	06 & 09	213	3.3%	11.3%	91.1%
	IDEA EDINBURG COLLEGE PREPARATORY	EDINBURG	06	0			
	IDEA WESLACO COLLEGE PREPARATORY	WESLACO	06	0			
RE	IDEA ACADEMY	DONNA	KG-05	626	4.8%	36.1%	85.8%
RE	IDEA QUEST ACADEMY	WESLACO	KG-05	627	3.2%	26.8%	65.1%

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EX	IDEA FRONTIER ACADEMY	BROWNSVILLE	KG-05	580	4.3%	44.9%	86.2%
NA	IDEA ACADEMY MISSION	MISSION	KG-02	333	2.7%	38.1%	84.7%
NA	IDEA ACADEMY SAN BENITO	SAN BENITO	KG-02	308	2.3%	18.5%	72.4%
NA	IDEA ACADEMY SAN JUAN	SAN JUAN	KG-01	202	2.0%	34.7%	80.2%
NA	IDEA ACADEMY ALAMO	ALAMO	KG-01	105	1.0%	57.1%	88.6%
NA	IDEA ACADEMY PHARR	PHARR	KG	103	1.0%	76.7%	96.1%
NA	IDEA EDINBURG ACADEMY	EDINBURG	KG-02	0			
NA	IDEA WESLACO ACADEMY	WESLACO	KG-02	0			

**Did the Administration rely on any 3rd party research to evaluate student performance at IDEA before presenting Board discussions began? What is that research?**

After the district's in-district charter policy (EL Local) was passed by the Board of Trustees in January 2011, the administration did research the highest performing charter organizations in the state and was given a consistent recommendation from the Texas High School Project and Texas State Charter Association regarding IDEA Public Schools as one of the highest performing public schools, as well as a charter organization, in Texas. The CAO reviewed AEIS reports on IDEA Public Schools' campuses and contacted the Texas Education Agency's charter division to confirm data. After a review of IDEA's core instructional approach a review of the research on direct instruction and the National Institute for Direct Instruction was done. This information can be referenced at [www.nifdi.org](http://www.nifdi.org). An outside higher education researcher was not engaged by the Administration until after Board discussions began.

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**Value of the facilities that will be made available to IDEA.**

Because this is a school it is difficult to compare its lease value to other comparable leased facilities in the area. Local office rental rates are \$12 per square foot. Using that rate, and the actual square footage of the building, the lease value would be \$267,140 per month based on average market value of \$3,205,680.

(Provided 12/10/11)

<b><u>Value/Costs of In-Kind Provisions:</u></b>	
Market leasing Estimate-Allen (\$159,528 per month based on average market value)	\$ 1,914,336
Bldg insurance	\$ 5,815
Security-Allan	\$ 10,653
Security-Eastside at full phase-in	\$ 178,469
Food Allan (Net Revenue)	\$ (14,245)
Food Eastside (Net Revenue)	\$ 126,241
Estimated Value of Furniture	\$ 425,214
Repairs over \$5,000	TBD-unable to forecast at this time
<b>Total Value of In-Kind</b>	<b>\$ 2,646,483</b>

**Update on the amount of money they district will pay per student to IDEA given that the figure mentioned in the discussion a couple of weeks ago was only state ADA/WADA money and did not include Title 1 or grant money.**

Since IDEA would be assuming the Allan attendance zone, they would be entitled to Federal Title I. Federal rules require that students residing in the Allan attendance zone be served and IDEA would be provided the supplemental funds to serve those students. Additionally, IDEA would also be provided an allocation from the Instructional Materials Allotment, in which, the State provides \$151 per student for textbooks and instructional supplies. Below is a summary of the estimated allocations based on entitlements received this year. [Actual federal entitlements have not been awarded by the US Department of Education, but we anticipate that the federal allotment may be reduced for SY 2012-13.

Estimated based on current Allan (K-5) and 6th grade

<b><u>Estimated IDEA Charter Allocations</u></b>	
Projected Allocation @ \$7,711	\$4,627,100
Estimated Transportation (Allan & projected enrollment)	\$ 396,703
Projected Title I Entitlement (State)	\$ 81,091
Instructional Materials Allocation (State)	\$ 27,180
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$5,132,074</b>

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IDEA would also be eligible to apply for other competitive State and Federal grants based on qualifications of the grant as they see fit. They have indicated that they plan on applying for the charter school start-up grant from the State as they have been informed by the State that they would still be eligible for next year's awards. In addition, IDEA is working with the District to obtain \$1.5 million from external funder to support the costs of the program for the first few start-up years.

### **Where is IDEA incorporated?**

Texas. Since early 2000, IDEA has been incorporated as a Texas Domestic Non-Profit.