



**GLOSSARY**

**of Acronyms and Terms**  
**Used in AISD and in the Field of Education**  
**Including State and Federal Accountability**  
**and State School Finance**

**Compiled by the**  
**Department of Campus and District Accountability**

*Last Revised*  
*September 14, 2016*

Although it represents a sizable compilation of acronyms and terms, this glossary is not intended to be exhaustive. If you have any recommendations for revisions to this glossary, please contact Joey Crumley, AICP, Department of Campus and District Accountability, at 414-9961 or [jcrumley@austinisd.org](mailto:jcrumley@austinisd.org).

To save space, both acronyms and what they stand for are not listed as separate entries – just the acronyms are listed, with what they stand for next to them in parentheses. However, specific words or phrases may be easily found through an automated search of the glossary.

As noted at the bottom of each page, *italicized* acronyms and terms are explained under their own entries, entries in **red** relate to state and federal accountability, and entries in **blue** relate to state school finance.

**AA. (Adjusted Allotment).** See *Tier I*.

**AAABSE. (Austin Area Alliance of Black School Educators).** A nonprofit organization dedicated to improving the educational accomplishments of African American children in the Central Texas area.

**AACC. (Asian American Cultural Center).** Austin organization that provides cultural events and activities, language instruction, and pre-school and after-school programs.

**AACTE. (American Association of Colleges for Teacher Education).** A national voluntary association of colleges and universities with undergraduate and graduate programs that prepare professional educators.

**AADD.** See *Distinctions*.

**AAPSA. (Austin Association of Public School Administrators).** Membership organization that advocates for AISD administrators.

**AAR. (Academic Achievement Record).** An official and permanent record of a student's academic performance during high school and, in some cases, of high school courses completed in middle or junior high school.

**AARO. (Austin Area Research Organization).** A non-profit organization composed of a diverse membership of business and community leaders that serves as a catalyst to ensure the long-term economic and social well-being of the Austin area. AARO has a standing education committee.

**AASA. (American Association of School Administrators).** Since 1865, the mission of AASA is to support and develop effective school system leaders who are dedicated to the highest quality public education for all children.

**AATPE. (Austin Association of Texas Professional Educators).** See *ATPE*.

**ABA. (Adjusted Basic Allotment).** See *Tier I*.

**ABE/ESL. (Adult Basic Education/English as a Second Language).** Collaborative effort of AISD and community partners to deliver basic education services.

**ACC. (Austin Community College).** In several locations, ACC provides services to eight Central Texas counties, and is one of the largest community colleges in the nation. The mission of ACC is to promote student success and improves communities by providing affordable access to higher education and workforce training.

**ACC-AISD Connection.** Collaborative program between ACC and AISD to promote college readiness and to provide ACC enrollment to all AISD graduates.

**ACCESS. (Austin Collaborative of Cultural and Educational Sites and Schools).** Initiative that promotes and facilitates collaboration among Austin area cultural and educational sites and schools to ensure that Austin students and educators have opportunities for experiential learning.

**ACCESS. (Austin Community Collaboration to Enhance Student Success).** A combined effort by AISD and Austin community-based agency staff to integrate and coordinate district and community resources in innovative ways to best serve the students of AISD.

**ACCF. (Austin Creative Classroom Fund).** A special fund of *MINDPOP* to support the development of arts-rich schools in AISD.

**Accommodations.** Support and services for students with special needs to help them achieve learning expectations and to demonstrate their competencies in the curriculum. Accommodations change only the way in which the learning takes place – they do not alter the content of the curriculum or affect the validity or reliability of the tests that assess learning. See *Modifications*.

**Accountability Subset.** Students tested in spring that were also enrolled on the previous October *PEIMS* snapshot date. Used in campus and district ratings.

**ACCUPLACER.** A *College Board* diagnostic and placement system that is used to assess student academic skills in reading, writing and mathematics.

**ACE. (A Community for Education).** See *Literacy First*.

**ACE.** See *Texas ACE*.

**ACET. (Association for Compensatory Educators of Texas).** A state affiliate of *NAFEPA* that helps educators provide programs and services for educationally disadvantaged children in Texas.

**ACF. (Administration for Children and Families).** Part of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services responsible for federal programs that promote the economic and social well-being of families, children, individuals, and communities.

**ACF. (Austin Community Foundation).** A non-profit, charitable organization since 1977 created to connect donors with the causes they care about. ACF makes these funds grow so that they can flow back into the community to support a wide range of charitable efforts, including grants and scholarships. See *Austin Public Education Foundation*.

**Achieve Texas.** Initiative of *TEA* that allows students to achieve excellence by preparing them for secondary and postsecondary opportunities, career preparation and advancement, meaningful work, and active citizenship. The program uses the 16 federally defined Career Clusters, and Programs of Study (*POS*) have been developed for each of the clusters.

**ACP. (Alternative Certification Program).** A non-traditional route to teacher certification. Persons holding at least a bachelor's degree may apply for alternative certification programs.

**ACPTA. (Austin Council of Parent and Teacher Associations).** Umbrella organization that provides a range of supports to Austin PTAs.

**ACT. (American College Test).** A standard college entrance examination produced by ACT, Inc. It is designed to test skill levels in English, math, reading, and science reasoning.

**ACT Aspire.** An *ACT* assessment of student readiness in English, math, reading, science, and writing that connects student growth from grades 3-8 and early high school in the context of college and career readiness. It incorporates multiple question types including constructed response, selected response, and technology-enhanced items to better assess student knowledge and provide more meaningful insights.

**ACTA. (Austin Classroom Teachers Association).** See *TCTA*.

**ADA. (Average Daily Attendance).** A calculated figure used in the formula for distributing funding to Texas public school districts. In simplest terms, ADA equals the number of students in attendance each day of the school year divided by the number of days in the school year. The actual calculation, the "Refined ADA," is somewhat more complex. It equals the number of students in attendance each day of a

six-week period divided by the number of days in the six-week period – the results for all six-week periods in a school year are then summed and divided by six.

**ADA. (Americans with Disabilities Act).** Federal law that recognizes and protects the civil rights of people with disabilities.

**ADD. (Administration on Developmental Disabilities).** Part of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services that oversees implementation of the Developmental Disabilities Assistance and Bill of Rights Act of 2000.

**ADD. (Attention Deficit Disorder).** A condition characterized by the inability to concentrate. Between three and ten percent of U.S. school-age children are thought to have ADD. Children who are also hyperactive or impulsive may be diagnosed with attention deficit/hyperactivity disorder (AD/HD).

**ADHD. (Attention Deficit/Hyperactivity Disorder).** See *ADD*.

**Adjusted Minimum Revenue.** See *Target Revenue*.

**Administrative Employees.** See *AISD Employee Groups*.

**ADVANCE.** See *Project ADVANCE*.

**Ad Valorem Tax.** A tax, as levied by a school district or governmental entity, based on assessed property value.

**Advocacy, Inc.** A non-profit agency protecting and promoting the interests of at-risk children and youth by providing low or no-cost legal advocacy and support services.

**AEA. (Alternative Education Accountability).** Under the state accountability system, AECs have the option to be evaluated under AEA procedures and receive accountability ratings based on different performance standards and indicators/measures than those used for regular campuses.

**AEC. (Alternative Education Campus).** Generally, a campus identified for administering disciplinary alternative education.

**AEIS. (Academic Excellence Indicator System).** Former state accountability and reporting system. Now replaced by *TAPR*.

**AEP. (Alternative Education Program).** A program that offers alternative high school settings, offering options to traditional schooling such as self-pacing, alternative scheduling, accelerated instruction, and computer-based instruction.

**AERA. (American Educational Research Association).** Professional organization concerned with improving the educational process by encouraging scholarly inquiry related to education, and by promoting the dissemination and practical application of research results.

**Aesop. (Automated Educational Substitute Operator).** A substitute and absence management system, now used by AISD, replacing *Subfinder*.

**AFL. (Account for Learning).** An AISD initiative to assist campuses with a high percentage of economically disadvantaged students in improving their reading and mathematics performance.

**AFT. (American Federation of Teachers).** The American Federation of Teachers was founded in 1916 to represent the economic, social and professional interests of classroom teachers.

**AGC. (Access to the General Curriculum).** *IDEA* requires that students with disabilities have access to the general curriculum, be involved in the general curriculum, and progress in the general curriculum.

**AGC. (Any Given Child).** The Kennedy Center's Ensuring the Arts for Any Given Child program, which assists communities in developing and implementing a plan for expanded arts education in their schools, ensuring access and equity for all students in grades K-8. Any Given Child is being implemented in AISD in cooperation with *MINDPOP*.

**AHA Initiative. (Austin Healthy Adolescent).** A grant-funded project within the *ATCHHSD* consisting of a diverse leadership group, a learning community, and several priority projects designed to promote adolescent health.

**AI. (Auditory Impairment).**

**AI/AN. (American Indian/Alaska Native).**

**AIE. (Advancing Improvement in Education).** An annual conference for educators, the mission of which is to connect leaders to inspire accountability, innovate, and make possible school improvement through partnerships and research-based best practices.

**AIEP. (American Indian Education Program).** The mission of the AISD Office of Indian Education is to support the efforts of local educational agencies, Indian tribes and organizations, postsecondary institutions, and other entities to meet the unique educational and culturally related academic needs of American Indians and Alaska Natives. The Central Texas First Nations Education Consortium consists of five school districts, AISD, Bastrop ISD, Leander ISD, Liberty Hill ISD, and Round Rock ISD. Austin ISD is the Lead Education Agency for administering federal funding.

**AIMSweb. (Academic Improvement Measurement System).** Proprietary web-based system that provides a framework for RTI implementations and tiered instruction. It offers multiple assessments for universal screening and progress monitoring, and web-based data management, charting, and reporting. Also provided are screening tools and interventions for behavior and social skills.

**AIP. (Accelerated Instruction Plan).** See *GPC*.

**AIP. (Algebra Intensification Program).** AISD initiative that provides professional development and resources for Algebra I teachers.

**AISD Employee Groups.** AISD has the following employee groups:

- Administrative Employees are on the administrative pay scale. For example, Associate Superintendents, Principals, Assistant Principals, Directors, Assistant Directors, Instructional Coordinators, etc. These employees are usually on contract.
- Professional Employees are on the professional pay scale. For example, Teachers, Librarians, Helping Teachers, Counselors, Associate Psychologists, Attendance Officers, Visiting Teachers, Evaluation Associates, Athletic Trainers, Occupational/Physical Therapists, etc. These employees are usually on contract.
- Classified Employees are on the classified pay scale. For example, Secretaries, Clerks, Teacher Assistants, Management Assistants, Maintenance Employees, Custodians, Bus Drivers, Mechanics, Groundskeepers, etc. These employees are not on contract.

**AISD UpClose.** Initiative to provide detailed information and training to parents and community members on the mission, services, and operations of AISD. Through completion of a series of classes on a number of topics, participants are prepared to convey accurate information on the district to the community and to serve on various district task forces and committees.

**AISD/UT.** School Leadership Academy. A collaborative effort between AISD and the University of Texas to provide an opportunity for outstanding teachers to become school leaders, as assistant principals and principals, while continuing to work in the district.

**AIT. (Agency for Instructional Technology).** A non-profit organization that is one of the largest providers of instructional technology products, including television programs, online instruction, CDs, DVDs, and instructional software.

**AL. (Area Lead).** Referring to teachers who provide guidance and support in specific subject areas.

**ALA. (Austin Learning Academy).** A partnership of parents, teachers, and volunteers providing family-based educational opportunities that allow parents and their children to strengthen themselves and their communities. ALA targets Title I schools and schools in traditionally underserved areas.

**ALAS. (Association of Latino Administrators and Superintendents).** Formed in 2003 as an affiliate of the American Association of School Administrators (AASA) to bring focus to and support for Latino educational leaders and issues.

**ALC. (Alternative Learning Center).** A disciplinary alternative education program for AISD secondary school students.

**Alignment.** In general terms, alignment is the agreement between a set of content standards and an assessment used to measure those standards.

**AMC. (Assessing Math Concepts).** A continuum of *formative assessments* and professional development developed by Math Perspectives to deepen teachers' understanding of critical learning phases and their understanding of the mathematics they teach.

**AMC. (American Mathematics Competitions).** First of a series of competitions in high school mathematics that determines the United States Math Team, which competes in the International Mathematical Olympiad (IMO).

**AmeriCorps.** A network of local, state, and national service programs that connects thousands Americans each year in intensive service to meet critical needs in education, public safety, health, and the environment.

**AMI. (Accelerated Math Instruction).**

**Any Baby Can.** A non-profit Austin organization that improves the lives of children by strengthening them and their families through education, therapy, and family support services. Each year, Any Baby Can brings help and hope to hundreds of the youngest, sickest, and poorest children in the community and their families.

**AP. (Advanced Placement).** Series of college level courses designed by the *College Board* for high school students. Students may receive college credit or placement depending on the university admissions standards.

**AP. (Assistant Principal).**

**APAC. (Accountability Policy Advisory Committee).** TEA advisory body consisting of educators from around the state representing campuses, school districts, ESCs, and higher education, as well as legislative representatives, business and community leaders, and parents of children attending Texas public schools.

**AP Calculus. (Advanced Placement Calculus).** One of two distinct advanced placement courses and examinations offered by the *College Board* – AP Calculus AB, and AP Calculus BC.



**APDT. (Advanced Placement Development Team).**

**APEF. (Austin Public Education Foundation).** A fund of ACF created to support and enhance the work of AISD, governed by an independent board of directors made up of business, community, and education leaders.

**APIE. (Austin Partners in Education).** Collaborative effort of community partners to deliver services such as mentoring, tutoring, instructional technology, and campus beautification.

**APL. (Austin Public Library).**

**APPB. (Activities-, Project-, and Problem-Based).** A curriculum that makes math and science relevant for students. By engaging in hands-on, real-world projects, students understand how the skills they are learning in the classroom can be applied in everyday life. Research shows that schools practicing APPB-learning experience an increase in student motivation, cooperative learning skills, higher-order thinking, and student achievement.

**APSI. (Advanced Placement Summer Institutes).** A series of workshops at the University of Texas designed for high school and middle school teachers to become certified to teach advanced placement classes in their schools.

**Arc.** See *The Arc*.

**ARCIL, Inc. (A Resource Center for Independent Living).** Provides independent living services to persons with disabilities, their families, and communities throughout Travis and surrounding counties.

**ARD. (Admission, Review, and Dismissal).** The ARD committee meets at least annually to develop/review an *IEP* for a student with disabilities in Special Education.

**ARI. (Accelerated Reading Instruction).**

**ARRA. (American Recovery and Reinvestment Act).** Federal legislation of 2009 to provide a comprehensive economic stimulus package, with some funding available to public schools.

**Articulation.** In general terms, articulation refers to coordination and continuity in curriculum and instruction. Horizontal articulation is across courses at the same grade level, while vertical articulation is between grade levels.

**ASAHE. (Additional State Aid for Homestead Exemption).** See *Homestead Exemption and Other Programs*.

**ASAP. (Absent Student Assistance Program).** Collaborative program between AISD and Travis County to contact students who are absent from school. Designed to assist in increasing attendance rates.

**ASATR. (Additional State Aid for Tax Reduction).** See *Target Revenue*.

**ASBO International. (Association of School Business Officials).** Founded in 1910, ASBO International is a professional association that provides programs and services to promote the highest standards of school business management practices, professional growth, and the effective use of educational resources.

**ASCA. (American School Counselor Association).** Membership organization that provides professional development, publications and other resources, research, and advocacy to professional school counselors.



**ASF. (Available School Fund).** A state fund made up of earnings from the Permanent School Fund (PSF) and constitutionally dedicated motor fuel taxes and other miscellaneous revenue sources. A portion of the ASF provides funding for textbooks and technology. But most of the ASF serves to support the Foundation School Program (FSP). Each school district receives an annual “per capita” (per student) “distribution” payment from the ASF, based on its prior year *Refined ADA*. The per capita rate is adopted each year by the State Board of Education. The per capita rate is currently \$388.00.

**ASH. (Austin State Hospital).**

**AskTED.** See *TED*.

**ASL. (American Sign Language).** The dominant sign language of deaf persons in the U.S. and English-speaking parts of Canada. Although the United Kingdom and the U.S. share English as a spoken and written language, British Sign Language (BSL) is quite different from ASL, and the two sign languages are not mutually intelligible. ASL is also used, sometimes alongside indigenous sign languages, in several other countries.

**Aspire.** See *ACT Aspire*.

**ASSET. (Assessment of Skills for Successful Entry and Transfer).** A written placement test of reading, writing, and math skills published and distributed by the ACT program. The ASSET exam is often used by community colleges and technical schools.

**AT. (Assistive Technology).** Any item, piece of equipment, or product system, whether acquired commercially off the shelf, modified, or customized, that is used to increase, maintain, or improve the functional capabilities of a person with a disability.

**ATAC. (Accountability Technical Advisory Committee).** TEA advisory body consisting of educators from around the state representing school districts and ESCs who have detailed knowledge of assessment and accountability systems.

**ATCHHSD. (Austin/Travis County Health and Human Services Department).** Provides public health, social, and environmental health services for Austin and Travis County. The department promotes wellness to protect the community from infectious diseases, environmental hazards, and epidemics.

**ATCIC. (Austin Travis County Integral Care).** ATCIC serves as the Local Authority for Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities in Travis County, administering local, state, and federal funding to a number of entities.

**ATE. (Association of Teacher Educators).** A national individual membership organization with state-level affiliations devoted solely to the improvement of teacher education both for school-based and post secondary teacher educators.

**ATPE. (Association of Texas Professional Educators).** A member-owned, member-governed professional association, ATPE is the leading association for educators in the state, and the largest independent association for public school educators in the nation.

**At Risk.** Designation applied to students who meet state-defined criteria for increased likelihood of dropping out of school. Some of these criteria include: poor academic performance; grade-level retention; alternative education; being a parent or pregnant; expulsion; previous dropout; Limited English Proficiency (LEP); homeless; in care or custody of Department of Protective and Regulatory Services (DPRS). A student with a disability may be defined at risk, but not necessarily.

**Attendance Zone.** The area in which students are assigned to attend a specific school based on their residence.

**ATVS. (Assessment and Testing Validation System).** AISD automated system for storing a variety of student assessment information, including benchmark assessments.

**AU/ASD. (Autism/Autism Spectrum Disorders).** See *Autism*.

**AUP. (Acceptable Use Policy).** A policy that contains provisions for student use of the Internet and district network.

**AusPrEP. (Austin Pre-freshman Engineering Program).** A Texas Pre-freshman Engineering Program (TexPrEP) located at Huston-Tillotson University in Austin. This summer program serves middle and high school students with the potential and interest in becoming scientists and engineers and to reinforce them in the pursuit of these fields.

**AustinCorps.** A partnership of the City of Austin and AISD, a civic education and leadership development program for Austin high school students. AustinCorps combines classroom curriculum on local government with a hands-on experience at City Hall.

**Austin Prime Time.** Collaborative after school program offering various classes and activities sponsored by AISD and community partners.

**Austin Works.** AISD's *Supported Employment* team, which develops opportunities for students with disabilities to be successfully employed.

**Austin Yield.** See *Tier II*.

**Autism.** A complex developmental disability that typically appears during the first three years of life and affects the ability to communicate and interact with others. Autism is defined by a certain set of behaviors and is a "spectrum disorder" that affects individuals differently and to varying degrees. There is no known single cause for autism.

**AVANCE.** Since 1973, AVANCE (ah-VAHN-say) has continued to provide innovative education and family support services to predominantly Hispanic families in low-income, at-risk communities.

**AVID. (Advancement Via Individual Determination).** The goal of this program is to provide support for "students in the middle," so they can be successful in honors and advanced placement courses.

**AYD. (Academic Youth Development).** *Charles A. Dana Center* initiative that supports the successful transition of students from middle school to high school.

**AYP (Adequate Yearly Progress).** Academic incremental performance improvement requirement under the former *NCLB*, eliminated in *ESSA*.

- B -
-------

**BA. (Basic Allotment).** See *Tier I*.

**BAC. (Boundary Advisory Committee).** An advisory body of AISD charged with making recommendations on school attendance zone boundaries.

**BAFRs. (Biennial Academic and Facilities Recommendations).** Planning and budgeting recommendations developed by the AISD administration with input from stakeholders, and submitted to the Board of Trustees for approval. BAFRs combine the district's academic mission with its operational needs.

**Balanced Literacy.** A framework designed to help all students learn to read and write effectively. The balance between reading and writing allows students to receive the teaching needed in order to reach grade level status, while allowing students to work at a level that is not frustrating for them. Balanced Literacy utilizes the “Daily 5,” a series of literacy tasks (read to self, read to someone, listen to reading, writing, and word work) that students complete each day while the teacher engages in small group instruction.

**Balanced Scorecard.** A set of performance indicators representing a balance of organizational perspectives but centered on the organizational mission. Balanced scorecards are often associated with strategic planning.

**Baldrige National Quality Program.** Administered by the U.S. Department of Commerce, providing outstanding achievement awards in several categories including education.

**BARS. (Bus Accident Reporting System).** Automated system in Texas for all school districts to report bus accidents.

**Battelle.** An industrial research and development organization working to advance scientific discovery and application, including support for public-private partnerships in *STEM* education.

**BCIS. (Basic Computer Information Systems).**

**BCIS. (Basic Computer Integration Skills).**

**BE. (Bilingual Education).** Involves teaching academic content in two languages – in a native and secondary language – with varying amounts of each language used in accordance with the program model.

**Beacon Centers.** Programs that function as community centers on the campuses of public schools in disenfranchised neighborhoods. Beacon Centers are founded on the themes of family strengthening and community building. They are hubs for community development, offering assistance to families with a host of available services.

**BEEMS. (Bilingual Educators Emphasizing Multicultural Settings).** A conference conducted by the University of Texas at El Paso since 1993. The conference was originally regional in scope but now attracts national participation.

**BEI. (Behavior Event Interview).** In a BEI, candidates for a leadership position, such as a principal, are asked to describe their detailed actions and thinking in past work events. Knowing what candidates have done to achieve success at work is a strong predictor of how they will seek success at work in the future.

**Benchmark Tests.** Tests that serve as a baseline in order to measure subsequent progress over time.

**BEST.** An AISD academic initiative, which stands for **B**elief in Our Students, **E**ffort Creates Ability, **S**upporting Families, and **T**argeting College. BEST schools foster success by supporting students, teachers, parents, and the entire school community.

**BFAC. (Budget and Finance Advisory Committee).** AISD advisory body assigned to provide recommendations on all areas related to budget and finance.

**BGCA. (Boys and Girls Clubs of America.)** Youth centers throughout the country that ensure young people know that someone cares about them. Programs and services promote and enhance the development of boys and girls by instilling a sense of competence, usefulness, belonging, and influence. Boys and Girls Clubs are safe places to learn and grow, all while having fun.

**BGCAA. (Boys and Girls Clubs of the Austin Area).** See BGCA.

**BGP. (Bond Guarantee Program).** Allows for bonds that are properly issued by a school district to be fully guaranteed by the Permanent School Fund (PSF), on approval by the Commissioner of Education. The guarantee has received AAA ratings from the major bond rating services and replaces the need for private bond insurance.

**Bilingually Certified/Endorsed Teacher (BIL).** A teacher authorized to assume primary responsibility for instruction of bilingual students in two languages.

**BIP. (Behavior Intervention Plan).** A plan developed to deal with persistent and/or recurring misbehavior that can include positive strategies, programs, curricular modifications, and supplementary aids and supports required to address the behaviors of concern.

**Block Scheduling.** Instead of traditional periods of 40 to 50 minutes, block scheduling allows for periods of an hour or more so that teachers can accomplish more during a class session. It may also allow for teamwork across subject areas.

**Bloom's Taxonomy.** A classification of educational objectives developed in the 1950s by a group of researchers headed by Benjamin Bloom of the University of Chicago. Commonly refers to the objectives for the cognitive domain, which range from knowledge and comprehension (lowest) to synthesis and evaluation (highest). The taxonomy has been widely used by teachers to determine the focus of their instruction and is probably the original reference of the term higher-order thinking.

**Blue Ribbon Schools.** Federal program administered by *USDE* honoring public and private K-12 schools that are either academically superior in their states or that demonstrate dramatic gains in student achievement.

**BMI. (Body Mass Index).** A health measurement based on the relationship between weight and height.

**BOLT. (Business Operations for Learning and Teaching).** A bond-funded ERP implemented by AISD to better integrate the district's financial and human resources systems. BOLT is powered by *Ciber* and *Infor*, and replaces the district's previous *IFAS* and *Workforce* systems.

**Bond.** See *Municipal Bond*.

**Bonded Debt.** Also "bonded indebtedness" or "funded debt," the part of overall debt comprised of outstanding bonds.

**Bond Tax Rate.** A school district's current year *I&S* tax rate applicable to the payment of bonds.

**BOY. (Beginning of Year).**

**Boys and Girls Clubs.** See *BGCA*.

**BP. (Best Practice).**

**BPA. (Business Professionals of America).** A national organization for secondary and college students preparing for careers in business, office administration, information technology, and other related fields.

**BPR. (Business Process Review, or Business Process Re-engineering).** Assessment of organizational business processes and systems for strengths and areas for improvement.

**Broad Foundation.** Eli Broad (brōd) and his family established the Broad Foundation in 1999 to focus on educational issues, and to dramatically improve K-12 urban public education through better governance, management, and labor relations.

**BTB. (Building the Base).** An in-depth introduction to *QTEL*.

**BTIM. (Beginning Teacher Induction and Mentoring).** The purpose of the BTIM program is to increase the success and retention of beginning teachers. Public schools in Texas may assign a qualified mentor teacher to each classroom teacher who has less than two years of teaching experience in a subject area or grade level.

**BTO. (Basic Table of Organization).** Local campus budget.

**Budget Balanced District.** See *Tier I*.

- C -

**CAC. (Carruth Administration Center).** AISD administrative complex.

**CAC. (Campus Advisory Council).** A campus-level advisory body required by state law that addresses the concerns of school communities. The purpose of this council is to ensure that the goals and plans of the campus are focused on student learning and have been established with the involvement of parents, community and staff and are reviewed and evaluated annually to improve the performance of students.

**CADRE. (Consortium for Appropriate Dispute Resolution in Special Education).** An organization that encourages and supports parents, educators, and administrators in the use of mediation and other collaborative strategies to resolve disagreements about special education and early intervention programs.

**CAI. (Computer Assisted Instruction).** Software that makes the computer an instructional tool for drill and practice, tutorials, simulations, or educational games.

**CAL. (Center for Applied Linguistics).** A private, nonprofit organization working to improve communication through better understanding of language and culture. Established in 1959, CAL is headquartered in Washington, DC.

**CALT. (Certified Academic Language Therapist).**

**CAMP. (Children and Mentors at Play).** A time-limited day enrichment program that operates during scheduled school breaks. Day Camp incorporates a wide range of structured group recreation and leisure activities designed to assist participants in developing positive self-expression and self-esteem.

**CAN. (Community Action Network).** A partnership of several major community organizations, including AISD, providing a forum for creative and collaborative problem solving, inclusive community participation, and community consensus building. CAN provides tools for effectively leveraging resources to meet evolving community challenges.

**CAP. (Comprehensive Academic Program).**

**CAP. (Corrective Action Plan).** Part of *PBMAS*.

**CAPCOG. (Capital Area Council of Governments).** One of the 24 COGs in Texas, CAPCOG comprises a ten-county region around Austin. AISD is a member of CAPCOG.

**Capital Assets.** See *Fixed Assets*.

**Cap Metro. (Capital Metropolitan Transportation Authority).** Austin-area taxing authority providing a range of public transportation services, including bus, rail, and ride-sharing.

**CAPR. (Campus Administrator Performance Review).** An AISD process developed in response to state appraisal standards for principals.

**CAPTURE.** A built-in problem-solving process in the eCST tool to assist teams as they work to develop and document the student support plan. (**C**ollecting data, **A**nalyzing data, **P**lanning goals and interventions and services, **T**hinking through the details, **U**pside stakeholders, **R**esponding to challenges, and **E**valuating the plan.)

**CARE. (Comprehensive Advocacy Resources and Empowerment).** Program that provides medical case management, support, crisis assistance, mental health counseling, and advocacy for families of children ages birth through 21 years that have special health care needs. Parents and children receive emotional support, learn coping skills, and are connected to community resources.

**Career Pathway.** A coherent sequence of courses leading to an occupational concentration.

**Caritas Austin.** An Austin organization providing various assistance to the impoverished and homeless and to refugees.

**Carl D. Perkins Vocational and Technical Education Act of 1998.** Provides federal funding for vocational and technical education for school districts and community colleges.

**CARY. (Council on At-Risk Youth.)** A *Section 501(c)(3)* not-for-profit organization in the Austin area dedicated to helping youth prevent violence, drug abuse, and delinquency through public information, training, and management of youth violence prevention programs.

**CAS. (Creative, Action, and Service).** Student activities that are part of the *IB* program.

**CASA. (Court Appointed Special Advocates).** CASA of Travis County speaks up for children who have been abused or neglected by empowering the community to volunteer as advocates for them in the court system.

**CaSE. (Community and Student Engagement).** See *HB5 and Domains*.

**CASEL. (Collaborative for Academic, Social, and Emotional Learning).** A not-for-profit organization that works to advance the science and evidence-based practice of social and emotional learning (*SEL*).

**CATCH. (Coordinated Approach to Child Health).** An evidence-based, coordinated school health program designed to promote physical activity and healthy food choices, and prevent tobacco use in children from preschool through 8<sup>th</sup> grade.

**CBA. (Community Based Alternatives).** *TDADS* program that provides home- and community-based services to people who are over age 21 with disabilities as a cost-effective alternative to living in a nursing home.

**CBA. (Cumulative Benchmark Assessment).**

**CBA. (Curriculum-Based Assessment).** Measurement that uses direct observation and recording of a student's performance in the local curriculum as a basis for gathering information to make instructional decisions. Also referred to as direct assessment of academic skills.

**CBAM. (Concerns-Based Adoption Model).** A conceptual framework that describes, explains, and predicts probable teacher concerns and behaviors throughout the process of a school undergoing change.



**CBE. (Credit by Examination).** Education credits earned by successfully completing a specified examination. Many colleges permit students to demonstrate college-level proficiency and earn credit for introductory courses that would repeat material covered in high school courses and independent studies.

**CBM. (Curriculum-Based Measurement).** Method used by teachers to determine how students are progressing in basic academic areas.

**CBM-ORF.** See *ORF*.

**CBO. (Community Based Organization).** Typically a nonprofit organization with goals of improving the community in some way.

**CBOC. (Community Bond Oversight Committee).** AISD advisory committee assigned to ensure that bond projects remain faithful to the scope of work approved by Austin voters.

**CCC. (Core Content Coaching or Curriculum Content Coaching).**

**CCDBG. (Child Care and Development Block Grant).** Provides states child care assistance to help low-income working families become and remain independent. Specifically, CCDBG helps defray the costs of child care by providing eligible low-income families with subsidies.

**CCPP. (College and Career Preparatory Program).** Series of courses in several career cluster areas that provide academic and work-based learning opportunities for students.

**CCR. (College and Career Readiness).**

**CCRS. (College and Career Readiness Standards).**

**CCSSO. (Council of Chief State School Officers).** A nonpartisan, nationwide, nonprofit organization of public officials who head departments of elementary and secondary education. CCSSO provides leadership, advocacy, and technical assistance on major educational issues.

**CCTC. (Community Technology Training Center).** Program of *Skillpoint Alliance* to strengthen a school's technology capacity and offer free evening computer training to adults who otherwise could not afford it.

**CCTL. (Cultural Connections to Teaching and Learning).** A focus on the refinement and delivery of culturally relevant pedagogy and professional development that will enhance teaching and learning for all children.

**CDBG. (Community Development Block Grant).** A flexible program of *HUD* that provides communities with resources to address a wide range of unique community development needs. Public schools and school children may benefit from CDBG funded efforts.

**CDF. (Children's Defense Fund).** A nonprofit child advocacy organization that champions policies and programs that lift children out of poverty, protect them from abuse and neglect, and ensure their access to health care and a quality education.

**CDN. (County-District Number).** A unique numerical code established for each school district by TEA, consisting of county and district components.

**CDS. (Career Development School).**

**CEHI. (Compensatory Education Home Instruction).** Academic services provided at home or hospital bedside to students being served under the Pregnancy Related Services program. Students receiving



CEHI are counted present for *FSP* purposes based on the amount of service they receive at home each week by a certified teacher.

**CEI. (Cost of Education Index).** See *Tier I*.

**CEIS. (Coordinated Early Intervening Services).** *IDEA* funds to provide services to students who are not currently identified as needing special education or related services. These students need additional academic or behavior support to succeed in the general education program, with emphasis on students in the early grades.

**Central Texas First Nations Education Consortium.** See *AIEP*.

**CEP. (Community Eligibility Provision).** A federal program that allows qualifying high-poverty districts and schools to offer breakfast and lunch at no cost to students without requiring families to complete an annual household application.

**CFO. (Chief Financial Officer).** AISD senior staff position.

**CFR. (Code of Federal Regulations).**

**CGI. (Cognitively Guided Instruction).** An approach to teaching mathematics at the elementary level in which teachers utilize what they know about their student's understanding of mathematics to select problems, pose those problems, question students, and facilitate discussion and sharing.

**CGCS. (Council of Great City Schools).** Coalition of the nation's largest urban public school systems, working to promote urban education. AISD is a member of CGCS.

**CHADD. (Children and Adults with Attention-Deficit/Hyperactivity Disorder).** The nation's leading non-profit organization serving individuals with *AD/HD* and their families. Local chapters offer support for individuals, parents, teachers, professionals, and others.

**Chapter 41.** Part of the *TEC* requiring certain *M&O* tax revenues from "property rich" school districts to be "recaptured" and redistributed to "property poor" districts (often referred to as the "Robin Hood" plan). A district is considered property rich when its previous year District Property Value (DPV) divided by its current year *WADA* exceeds a threshold set by the state each year, referred to as an Equalized Wealth Level (EWL).

There are two EWLs in effect. One applies to a district's *CTR* revenue and is currently \$514,000. If a district's previous year DPV divided by its current year *WADA* is greater than \$514,000, it will have *CTR* revenue recaptured at a proportionate rate. For example, if a district's previous year DPV divided by its current year *WADA* equals \$700,000, then the district retains 73.4% of its current year *CTR* revenue and gives the other 26.6% to the state as recapture. [There are certain formulaic adjustments or "discounts" that may lower the recapture payment.]

Tax efforts beyond the *CTR* are referred to as "enrichment" (see *Tier II*). The first six pennies of tax effort beyond the *CTR* are referred to as "*Golden Pennies*" or *L1* and are not subject to recapture. Any additional pennies of tax effort beyond the first six – referred to as "*Copper Pennies*" or *L2* – are subject to another EWL, which is currently \$319,500. If a district's previous year DPV divided by its current year *WADA* is greater than \$319,500, it will have *L2* revenue recaptured at a proportionate rate. For example, if a district's previous year DPV divided by its current year *WADA* equals \$700,000, then the district retains 45.6% of its current year enrichment revenue and gives the other 54.4% to the state as recapture. [Again, there are certain formulaic adjustments or "discounts" that may lower the recapture payment.]

**Charles A. Dana Center.** Located at the University of Texas, the center provides education leaders with pertinent information about teaching, and provides support to teachers working to implement high academic standards for all students.

**Charrette.** An intense period of facilitated discussion and activities for the purpose of planning, design, or problem-solving.

**Charter Schools.** Under the *TEC*, a public school subject to fewer state laws than other public schools with the idea of ensuring fiscal and academic accountability without undue regulation of instructional methods or pedagogical innovation. Like school districts, charter schools are monitored and accredited under the statewide testing and accountability system. The admissions policy is based on what was approved in the charter. However, with few exceptions (such as a history of disciplinary problems), all students within the approved geographic boundaries and in the grade levels the charter is approved to serve are eligible for admission. The admissions policy must prohibit discrimination and, in most cases, must describe a lottery process to be used when the school is oversubscribed.

**CHAT. (Children's Hearing Aid Texas).** Now under *Any Baby Can*, CHAT provides auditory services and hearing aids for children in Central Texas with audiological needs who have no financial alternatives to meet those needs.

**CHCO. (Chief Human Capital Officer).** AISD senior staff position.

**Child, Inc.** A nonprofit organization directed by a Parent Policy Council serving as the federal *Head Start* and Early Head Start Program for Travis County. Child, Inc. is committed to initiatives regarding collaboration of services for school readiness, strengthening families, fatherhood, child support, healthy marriages, and faith-based initiatives.

**CHIP. (Children's Health Insurance Program).** A federal insurance program administered by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services that provides matching funds to states. It is designed for families that earn too much money to qualify for Medicaid health care, yet cannot afford to buy private insurance. In Texas, CHIP is part of *TexCare*.

**CHIPRA. (Children's Health Insurance Program Reauthorization Act).** See *CHIP*.

**CHS. (Comprehensive Health Services).**

**C&I. (Curriculum and Instruction).**

**Ciber.** A private company specializing in information technology solutions. See *BOLT*.

**CIFMS and CIMP. (Continuous Improvement and Focused Monitoring System and Continuous Improvement Monitoring Process).** Accountability measures developed and implemented by the U.S. Department of Education, Office of Special Education Programs to monitor *IDEA* compliance in each state and ultimately drive and support improved results for infants, toddlers, children, and youth with disabilities.

**CIM. (Continuous Improvement Model).** A continuous process in which data analysis determines classroom instruction.

**CINCA. (Children in Nature Collaborative of Austin).** A public-private partnership, non-profit organization dedicated to creating social change so that children in Central Texas have easy and frequent connections to the natural world.

**CIP. (Campus Improvement Plan).** Annual plans for improving student achievement required for every campus in a school district by state law.

**CIP. (Continuous Improvement Plan).** A cohesive, integrated plan geared toward improved results for students with disabilities and which includes planned corrections for any instances of non-compliance identified. The CIP is analysis-driven and results-based.

**CIPA. (Children's Internet Protection Act).** Federal law addressing concerns about access to offensive content over the Internet on school and library computers. CIPA imposes certain types of requirements on any school or library that receives funding support for Internet access or internal connections from the *E-Rate* program, which makes certain technology more affordable for eligible schools and libraries.

**CIRCLE. (Center for Improving Readiness of Children for Learning and Education).** A non-profit organization based in the Division of Developmental Pediatrics at the University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston, widely recognized as one of the leading research and professional development providers in early education. CIRCLE was designated to serve as the State Center for Early Childhood Development (*SCECD*) required by the State Legislature.

**CIS. (Communities in Schools).** A national, school-based dropout prevention network of volunteers and other community resources helping children to be successful in school and life.

**CISD. (Consolidated Independent School District).**

**CIT. (Campus Intervention Team).** A team of experts in school reform and student achievement required as part of state accountability and the *NCLB Waiver* for low-performing schools. The CIT includes the *PSP* and *DCSI*. See *CLT*.

**CLASP. (Center for Law and Social Policy).** A national non-profit organization that works to improve the lives of low-income people. Its mission is to improve the economic security, educational and workforce prospects, and family stability of low-income parents, children, and youth and to secure equal justice for all.

**CLASS. (Community Living Assistance and Support Services).** *TDADS* program providing home- and community-based services to people with related conditions as a cost-effective alternative to placement in an intermediate care facility for persons with mental retardation or a related condition. A related condition is a disability, other than mental retardation, that originated before age 22 and that affects the ability to function in daily life.

**Classified Employees.** See *AISD Employee Groups*.

**CLC. (Community Learning Center).** See *21st Century Schools*.

**CLDC. (Coaching and Leadership Development Center).** A service of *TCDSS*.

**CLEP. (College-Level Examination Program).** Administered by the *College Board*, CLEP gives students the opportunity to receive college credit for what they already know by earning qualifying scores on any of several examinations.

**CLI. (Children's Learning Institute).** Located at the University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston, CLI combines data and studies from the fields of psychology, neurodevelopment, education and child development to provide proven learning solutions derived from, and supported by, documented research.

**CLI. (Creative Learning Initiative).** CLI seeks to provide a quality arts-rich education for every child in AISD, as well as professional development and ongoing support for teachers in arts-based instruction strategies. CLI is a collaborative effort of AISD, the City of Austin, *MINDPOP*, local artists, businesses, and philanthropic organizations.

**CLT. (Campus Leadership Team).** Key campus leaders responsible for development, implementation, and monitoring of *TIPs*, monitoring student performance, and determination of student interventions and support services. See *CIT*.

**CMO. (Charter Management Organization).** A nonprofit entity that manages charter schools. CMOs often provide back office functions for charter schools to take advantage of economies of scale, but some also provide a wider range of services, including hiring, professional development, data analysis, public relations, and advocacy. (See *EMO*.)

**CNPIMS. (Child Nutrition Program Information Management System).** *TEA* data collection system designed to meet the administrative data requirements of the National School Lunch (*NSLP*) and School Breakfast reimbursement programs.

**COA. (City of Austin).**

**COG. (Council of Governments).** One of 24 regional agencies established by state law for providing planning and various other services to *local governments*, including school districts.

**COH. (Children's Optimal Health).** A collective leadership initiative that unites the efforts of Central Texas organizations in promoting community change to help children reach a brighter future. COH strives to give agencies and communities access to proprietary data by using *G/S* mapping to illuminate issues involving Central Texas children. By layering data from many sources, COH can help communities visualize the health of their neighborhoods, identify assets and needs, and unearth opportunities for collaborative change.

**Coherent Sequence.** A prescribed series of career and technology courses that build skills in a coherent and progressive fashion: simple to complex and general to specific. The end result of a coherent sequence of courses should be skills that enable a student to enter a career field in an entry-level job.

**Cohort.** A specific group of students established for monitoring purposes, particularly over time.

**COIN Career Community. (Coordinated Occupational Information Network.)** A web-based program of *EBSCO Information Services*. Students may use it to complete career interest assessments, to learn about careers and post-secondary education, and to plan their high school courses.

**College Board.** A not-for-profit membership association that was formed in 1900. It is composed of numerous schools, colleges, universities, and other educational organizations. It produces standardized tests such as the *SAT* and *PSAT/NMSQT*.

**College Connection.** See *ACC-AISD College Connection*.

**Comadres.** See *Las Comadres*.

**Common Core State Standards Initiative.** Frequently referred to simply as Common Core, a set of academic standards in math and *ELA* outlining what a student should know and be able to do at the end of each grade. The standards were created to ensure that all students graduate from high school with the skills and knowledge necessary to succeed in college, career, and life, regardless of where they live. *ESSA* allows states to adopt Common Core, but does not require it. A number of states have adopted Common Core, but it has sparked controversy.

**Community School.** A community school is both a place and a set of partnerships between a school and other community resources. Its integrated focus on academics, health and social services, youth and community development, and community engagement leads to improved student learning, stronger families, and healthier communities. Community schools offer a personalized curriculum that emphasizes real-world learning and community problem-solving. Schools become centers of the community and are open to everyone – all day, every day, evenings, and weekends.

**COMPASS. (Computerized Adaptive Placement Assessment and Support System).** A computer-based, adaptive series of placement tests in reading, writing, and math.

**Compensatory Education.** See *SCE*.

**Completion Rate.** Calculation of graduation success of a cohort of students over a four-year period. Used by the state to rate high schools and districts.

**Co-op. (Cooperative Education).** A structured method of instruction whereby students alternate or coordinate their high school or post-secondary studies with a job in a field related to their academic or occupational objectives. Students and participating businesses develop written training and evaluation plans to guide instruction, and students receive course credit for both their classroom and work experiences.

**Copper Pennies.** See *Tier II*.

**Core Curriculum.** Basic subject areas, in K-12 usually including Language Arts, Mathematics, Science, and Social Studies.

**CoSN. (Consortium for School Networking).** A professional association for school district technology leaders, committed to providing the leadership, community, and advocacy tools essential for the success of these leaders.

**COTA. (Certified Occupational Therapy Assistant).**

**COW. (Computer on Wheels).**

**CPALS. (Carleton Papers in Applied Language Studies).** An annual journal of working papers examining the underlying theoretical principles of language teaching, learning, and research.

**C-PALLS. (Circle Phonological Awareness Language and Literacy Screener).** A pre-K assessment tool designed to measure young children's literacy and language skills (vocabulary, letter identification, and phonological awareness). It also includes scales for mathematical skills (numbers, counting shapes, and operations) and social-emotional skills.

**CPC. (Campus PEIMS Coordinator).** See *PEIMS*.

**CPI. (Crisis Prevention Intervention).** An international training organization committed to best practices and safe behavior management methods that focus on prevention.

**CPI. (Child Protective Investigation).** Response to a claim or reported incidence of child abuse or neglect.

**CPI. (Continuous Performance Improvement).**

**CP&I. (Cultural Proficiency and Inclusiveness).** An AISD initiative. Cultural proficiency is the understanding of adults that their personal culture and background impact the students they work with. Inclusiveness is a way of being that shows respect, understanding, and acceptance, and that values diversity as an asset within the AISD community.

**CPTD. (Comptroller's Property Tax Division).** Department responsible for conducting the annual property value study that determines the taxable wealth of each Texas school district to be used to allocate state aid.

**CRA. (Criterion-Referenced Assessment).** See *CRT*.

**CREATE. (Center for Research on the Educational Achievement and Teaching of English Language Learners).** A program designed to enhance the empirical research base for readers in grades

4-8 by investigating, developing, and testing effective instruction and learning, interventions, and professional development.

**CRI. (College Readiness Initiative).** AISD program that serves students and their families by seeking the equitable and successful enrollment of all students in a post-secondary educational program.

**CRI. (Culturally Responsive Instruction).**

**CRM. (Curriculum Road Map).** Tool utilized in AISD to indicate for a specific curriculum area established goals, what students will know, and what students will be able to do.

**CRPE. (Center on Reinventing Public Education).** Research and policy analysis organization that seeks ways to make public education more effective, especially for disadvantaged students. CRPE is affiliated with the University of Washington, and is funded through private philanthropic dollars, federal grants, and contracts.

**CRT. (Criterion-Referenced Test).** Name given to a host of tests which have in common that their main purpose is not to measure students relative to one another. The principle aim of a CRT is to determine whether a student has reached a specific criterion. (Compare to *NRT*.)

**CRT. (Culturally Responsive Teaching).**

**CSCOPE.** A curriculum support system developed by *TESCCC*. Lessons are aligned with state assessments and meet high standards of rigor and relevance.

**CSEM. (Conditional Standard Error of Measurement).** See *SEM*.

**CSESER. (Comprehensive Special Education Self-Evaluation Review).** A method used to determine the Special Education Compliance Status (*SpECS*) of each school district and charter school in the state on an annual basis.

**CSF. (Critical Success Factor).** One of seven components in the *Texas Turnaround Framework*, including Academic Performance, Quality Data to Drive Instruction, Leadership Effectiveness, Increased Learning Time, Family and Community Engagement, School Climate, and Teacher Quality.

**CSH.** See *CSHP*.

**CSHCN. (Children with Special Health Care Needs).** *TDSHS* program providing case management and supporting family-centered, community-based strategies for improving the quality of life for children with special health care needs.

**CSHP. (Coordinated School Health Program).** A systemic approach of advancing student academic performance by promoting, practicing, and coordinating school health education and services for the benefit and well-being of students in establishing healthy behaviors designed to last for a lifetime.

**CSPD. (Comprehensive System of Personnel Development).** Serves to improve the quality of educational services and programs for students with disabilities through recruitment, preparation and retention of highly qualified special education teachers and personnel.

**CSR. (Confidential Student Report).** *TEA* annually generates a CSR for each student taking *STAAR* assessments, explaining to parents the assessments and the performance of the student.

**CSS. (Child Study System).** A multi-tiered framework to provide for the needs of the whole child through preventative systems and strategic interventions for the entire campus, targeted groups, and individual students. See *CST*.



**CSSF. (Child Study System Facilitator).** See MTSS Coach.

**CSST. (Child Study Support Team).** Consists of the *Graduation Coach*, *MTSS Coach*, and *Licensed Mental Health Professional*. The team provides training and support to ensure that the *CSS* and *CST* are functioning effectively.

**CST. (Child Study Team).** A campus-based problem-solving team that meets regularly to discuss students needing intensive support for academics, behavior, and/or attendance. See *CSS*.

**CSTS. (Charter Schools Tracking System.)** Designed to collect and report information related to charter schools, CSTS is used by *TEA* to respond to inquiries, maintain and update information, generate accurate and up-to-date reports, and share information with other applications.

**CTE. (Career and Technical Education).**

**CTEAC. (Career and Technical Education Advisory Committee).** AISD advisory body assigned to provide assistance to and promote the development of *CTE* programs to meet the needs of students, business and industry, and the community.

**CTF. (Calendar Task Force).** AISD advisory committee that meets periodically to develop options and recommendations on annual academic calendars.

**CTLT. (Campus Technology Leadership Team).**

**CTOSH. (Collaboration Technologies for Organizations Serving the Homeless).** An innovative collaboration between academia and local health and human service organizations, specifically the Department of Communication Studies at the University of Texas and approximately 30 organizations that serve persons in homeless situations in Austin.

**CTR. (Compressed Tax Rate).** See *Target Revenue*.

**CTTC. (Community Technology Training Centers).** Offering of *Skillpoint Alliance* providing participants with basic computer training as well as clear career pathways into several emerging industries.

**Cultural Proficiency.** See *CP&I*.

**Curriculum Transfer.** See *Transfer*.

**CWC. (Curriculum Writers Cadre).** A group of teachers within AISD who annually convene to prepare and enhance district curriculum.

**CYD. (Community Youth Development).** An approach that combines the natural instincts of young people as they desire to create change in their surrounding environments by developing partnerships between youth-related organizations and community development agencies to create new opportunities for youth to serve their communities while developing their personal abilities.

- D -

**DAC (District Advisory Council).** A district-wide advisory committee required by state law that addresses the concerns of school communities. The purpose of the DAC is to ensure that the goals and plans of the district are focused on student learning and have been established with the involvement of parents, community, business and staff and are reviewed and evaluated annually to improve the performance of students.

**DADS.** See *TDADS*.



**DAEP. (Disciplinary Alternative Education Program).** Established under the Safe Schools Act to serve students who have committed disciplinary offenses. A DAEP provides for the educational and behavioral needs of students in a setting other than a student's regular classroom, either on- or off-campus.

**Daily 5.** See *Balanced Literacy*.

**DAM. (Digital Asset Management).** Tool that can be applied for centralizing and cataloging curriculum resources.

**Dana Center.** See *Charles A. Dana Center*.

**DARS.** See *TDARS*.

**Dashboards (or Dashboard Metrics).** A concise set of key indicators visually displayed and used by management to regularly assess organizational performance and improvement.

**DATE. (District Awards for Teacher Excellence).** In 2006, the Texas Legislature established DATE to allow districts to create or continue a system of awards for educators who demonstrate success in improving student achievement. The grant program helps districts to create a local award plan or to implement the Teacher Advancement Program (*TAP*).

**Date SMART.** See *SMART Moves*.

**DB. (Deaf-Blindness).**

**DBMD. (Deaf Blind with Multiple Disabilities).** *TDADS* program that provides home and community-based services to people over age 18 who are deaf-blind with multiple disabilities as a cost-effective alternative to institutional placement. The program focuses on increasing opportunities for consumers to communicate and interact with their environment.

**DCCE. (Department of Communications and Community Engagement).** An AISD department.

**DCR. (District Compressed Rate).** See *Target Revenue*.

**DCSI. (District Coordinator of School Improvement).** A district-level employee who is in a leadership position in school improvement, curriculum and instruction, or another position with responsibility for student performance. The DCSI ensures district support for the academic achievement of the campus, and is part of the *CIT*.

**DDDM. (Data-Driven Decision Making).** Process of collecting student data to assess student learning and to improve administrative and instructional systems.

**DEC. (District Executive Committee).** Committees composed of representatives from each school in a *UIL* district. DEC's: arrange contest schedules and certify district representatives for the next level of competition; administer and enforce rules and settle disputes within a district; and have original jurisdiction over all eligibility questions within the district.

**Dedicated Fund.** See *Special Revenue Fund*.

**DEEDS. (Disciplinary Electronic Educational Documentation System).** Software used to record and report student discipline data.

**Delphi Technique.** Communication technique used to manipulate a diverse group toward a consensus position through circulating information for comment in several rounds synthesizing the responses until all

agree. If a participant's view cannot be synthesized with the groups after repeated rounds, then the premise must be declared invalid and abandoned.

**DELTA. (Diversified Education through Leadership, Technology, and Academics).** A dropout recovery and prevention program in place at AISD high schools. The program offers: alternative instruction for credit recovery; opportunity for credit acceleration; help with scheduling conflicts; individualized learning; and option for learning outside of the regular school day.

**Design Capacity.** The maximum number of students a school can accommodate in its permanently built areas that are specifically dedicated for students (i.e., classrooms, libraries, gyms, cafeterias). (Compare to *Functional Capacity*.)

**Development.** A term commonly used in many public and private organizations referring to the identification and securing of outside funding sources.

**DI. (Differentiated Instruction).** Also referred to as "individualized" or "customized" instruction. The curriculum offers several different learning experiences within one lesson to meet varied student needs or learning styles (e.g., different teaching methods for students with learning disabilities).

**Diagnostic Tool.** An assessment used to determine individual needs of students identified by the *Universal Screener*. Used to pinpoint student's specific academic and behavioral gaps and to guide decisions about instruction and intervention.

**DIP. (District Improvement Plan).** Annual district-level plan for improving student achievement required by state law. AISD uses the DIP to annually detail how key action steps of the district strategic plan will be implemented.

**Distance Learning.** Delivery of instruction via any source remote from the classroom.

**Distinctions.** Academic Achievement Distinction Designations (AADD) are awarded to campuses and districts for outstanding performance related to specific STAAR areas and indicators. To be eligible for distinctions, a campus or district must receive a *Met Standard* rating.

**District of Innovation.** HB 1842 was passed by the 84th Texas Legislature and provides public school districts the opportunity to operate more like charter schools. Districts of Innovation are allowed more local control and may be exempt from certain state requirements (e.g., class-size ratios, site-based decision-making processes, and use of planning and preparation periods).

**Diversity Choice.** See *Transfer*.

**DL. (Disciplinary Literacy).** Secondary instructional approach developed by IFL with the premise that students can develop deep conceptual knowledge in a discipline only by using the habits of reading, writing, talking, and thinking.

**DL. (Dual Language).** See *One-Way Dual Language* and *Two-Way Dual Language*.

**DMAC. (Data Management for Assessment and Curriculum).** DMAC offers a variety of proprietary tools and services to Texas educators. DMAC Solutions is a suite of web-based applications to assist educators with assessment and curriculum needs.

**DNC. (Developing Number Concepts).** A K-2 curriculum for number operations designed by Math Perspectives to help young children develop important foundational mathematics concepts.

**Domains.** HB 2804, passed by the 84<sup>th</sup> Texas Legislature in 2015, replaces the current four *Performance Indexes* related to STAAR with five Domains, beginning in the 2017-2018 school year. Domain 1 deals with STAAR scores, Domain 2 deals with STAAR annual improvement, Domain 3 deals with STAAR

achievement gap reductions, Domain 4 deals with multiple indicators related to academic attainment (such as graduation and dropout rates, *endorsements*, CTE completion, attendance, etc.), and Domain 5 deals with community and student engagement. Based on standards and methods established by the state, districts and campuses will be assigned letter grade ratings (A, B, C, D, and F) for each Domain, as well as overall letter grade ratings.

**Down Syndrome.** Also called Trisomy 21, a genetic disorder caused by the presence of all or part of a third copy of chromosome 21. It is typically associated with a delay in cognitive ability and physical growth and a particular set of facial and other physical characteristics, and may be associated with health problems. But every person with Down syndrome is unique and may possess these traits to different degrees. About 1 in every 700 babies born in the United States has Down syndrome.

**DPS. (Dropout Prevention Specialist).** See Graduation Coach.

**DPV. (District Property Value).** See *Tier I*.

**DRA/EDL. (Developmental Reading Assessment/Evaluación del Desarrollo de Lectura).** A series of leveled books and teacher observation recording sheets designed to allow teachers to determine the reading accuracy, fluency, and comprehension levels of students in English and in Spanish.

**DRE. (Department of Research and Evaluation).** Department within AISD.

**DSACT. (Down Syndrome Association of Central Texas).** Regional organization that provides support and resources to families of individuals with *Down syndrome*.

**DSHS.** See *TDSHS*.

**Dropout Rate.** Annual rate of prior year students who are accounted for, not graduated, and not enrolled the following year.

**DTR. (District Enrichment Tax Rate).** See *Tier II*.

**Dual Credit.** Courses that earn both high school graduation and college-level credit.

**Dual Enrollment.** Concurrent enrollment at two educational institutions; e.g. high school, community college, or university.

**DVM. (Data Validation Monitoring).** *PBMAS* includes annual data validation analyses that examine districts' leaver and dropout records, discipline data, and student assessment data to ensure the data submitted to TEA is accurate and reliable. If concerns are identified, school districts are required to take actions to address these concerns.

**DWSD. (District-Wide Staff Development).**

**Dyslexia.** A reading impairment that affects up to 10% of the nation's school children. Traits of dyslexia include transposing letters, difficulty recognizing letters or numbers, and poor handwriting.

- E -

**E<sup>3</sup> Alliance. (Education Equals Economics).** A Central Texas regional collaborative dedicated to developing a comprehensive, data-driven view of the education landscape to better align educational systems and practices to drive higher outcomes for students, and ensure a more efficient allocation of resources, thereby increasing the competitiveness of the region.

**Early Head Start.** See *Head Start*.

**Early Start.** A state initiative to expand preschool learning by providing curriculum materials to help prepare children for school.

**EBD. (Emotional and Behavioral Difficulties).** Label or term used to describe children and young people considered to require additional help because of concerns about their social, emotional, and behavioral development.

**EbD. (Engineering by Design).** A standards-based K-12 model for delivering technological literacy.

**EBSCO Information Services. (Elton B. Stephens Company).** A division of EBSCO Industries. One of its many services is developing technologies to connect libraries and classrooms and providing content to support teachers and engage students. EBSCO is also the developer of *COIN Career Community*.

**EC. (Early Childhood).**

**eCampus.** See *AISD e-Campus*.

**ECE. (Early Childhood Education).**

**ECHS. (Early College High School).** A program that blends high school and college in a rigorous yet supportive program, compressing the time it takes to complete a high school diploma and the first two years of college.

**ECI. (Early Childhood Intervention).** Services to infants and toddlers provided under Part C of *IDEA*. ECI is a federal grant program that assists states in operating a comprehensive statewide program of early intervention services for infants and toddlers with disabilities, aged birth through age 2 years, and their families. Early intervention services include multidisciplinary evaluation of needs of children and family-directed identification of the needs of each family as set out in an Individualized Family Service Plan (*IFSP*).

**E-CIRCLE.** See *CIRCLE*.

**Economically Disadvantaged.** Referring to students who are eligible for free or reduced-price lunch or eligible for other public assistance.

**ECS. (Early College Start).** A program of Austin Community College in which high school juniors and seniors can start earning college credit before graduating from high school.

**ECS. (Education Commission of the States).** An interstate compact for improving education by facilitating the exchange of information, ideas, and experiences among state policymakers and educational leaders.

**eCST. (Electronic Child Study Team).** An advanced case management tool that allows staff to document academic, behavioral, and attendance interventions, monitor progress, track services, and enter notes related to student support. The system pulls relevant data from other AISD platforms and facilitates easy access to necessary information. See *CST* and *CSS*.

**ECT. (Envision Central Texas).** A non-profit organization composed of a diverse group of citizens, including neighborhood, environmental, educational, and business leaders and policy makers, who share the common goal of addressing growth sensibly with the interests of the region's citizens in mind.

**ED. (Emotional Disturbance).**

**EDA. (Existing Debt Allotment).** A component of the *FSP* that provides equalized funding (a guaranteed yield) to school districts for debt service payments on eligible bonded debt.

**EDAEP. (Elementary Disciplinary Alternative Education Program).** AISD district-wide elementary *DAEP* facility collocated with Becker Elementary School.

**Ed. Austin.** See *Education Austin*.

**Ed. Diag. (Educational Diagnostician).**

**EDEN. (Education Data Exchange Network).** A product of *PBDMI* to provide *SEAs* and the federal government the capacity to transfer and analyze information about educational programs.

**EDGAR. (Education Department General Administrative Regulations).** Federal regulations including the administration of grants and contracts.

**EDL.** See *DRA/EDL*.

**EdLabs.** An education research and development laboratory at Harvard University devoted to closing the racial achievement gap. EdLabs is a collection of scientists, educators, and implementers with diverse backgrounds and experience, generating ideas and testing experiments that have the potential to transform education.

**Ed Specs. (Educational Specifications).** Educational facility physical design specifications that are linked to an academic mission or desired academic outcomes.

**Education Austin.** Consultation agent for AISD teachers and classified employees.

**Education Innovation Laboratory.** See *EdLabs*.

**EduJobs.** Federal legislation of 2010 making funding available to support jobs in public education.

**EEO. (Equal Educational Opportunity).** The Equal Educational Opportunity Act of 1974 prohibits specific discriminatory conduct, including segregating students on the basis of race, color, or national origin, and discrimination against faculty and staff. The act also requires school districts to take action to overcome students' language barriers that impede equal participation in educational programs.

**EFC. (Expected Family Contribution).** Monetary amount used in determining eligibility for federal student aid. See *FAFSA*.

**Effective Tax Rate.** The *M&O* tax rate that would provide a school district with approximately the same amount of revenue per *WADA* it received the year before, on properties taxed in both years. If property values rise, the effective tax rate goes down, and vice versa.

**E504.** A district-developed electronic case management system used by AISD campuses for all 504 students.

**EiE. (Engineering is Elementary).** A project of the National Center for Technological Literacy at the Museum of Science, Boston, that addresses *STEM* education through curriculum, professional development, and research and evaluation.

**EIS. (Early Intervening Services).** See *CEIS*.

**EL. (Elementary or Elementary Level).**

**ELA. (English Language Arts).**

**ELAR. (English Language Arts and Reading).**

**ELDA. (English Language Development Assessment).** An assessment designed to measure student progress in attaining English proficiency. The ELDA consists of four tests designed to measure academic and social language proficiency in the domains of speaking, listening, reading, and writing.

**ELEVAR. (English Learners and Educators Versed in Academic Rigor).** AISD program for raising the achievement levels of *ELLs* district-wide. (*Elevar* is the Spanish word for elevate.)

**ELL. (English Language Learner).** A person who is in the process of acquiring English and has a first language other than English.

**ELLA. (English Language Learning Academy).** Intensive academic instruction for first year immigrant middle school students in AISD.

**ELLAC. (English Language Learners Advisory Committee).** An AISD advisory body assigned to provide recommendations on serving *ELL* students.

**ELOA. (Early Learning Opportunities Act).** Federal legislation authorizing discretionary grant funding under *ACF* for programs that are likely to produce sustained gains in early learning for young children.

**ELP. (English Language Proficiency).**

**ELPS. (English Language Proficiency Standards).** English language proficiency level descriptors and student expectations for *ELLs*. Texas school districts are required to implement ELPS as an integral part of each subject in the required curriculum.

**EMAT. (Educational Materials and Textbooks).** *TEA* automated system for ordering educational materials and textbooks online.

**EMO. (Education Management Organization).** A for-profit entity that manages charter schools and performs similar functions as a *CMO*.

**Employee Groups.** See *AISD Employee Groups*.

**EMR. (Electronic Medical Record).** Refers to the systematized collection of patient and population electronically-stored health information in a digital format. These records can be shared across different health care settings.

**Endorsement.** See *HB5*.

**Enrichment.** Programs that supplement the regular curriculum to provide a broader, and often more appealing, educational experience to students.

**Enrichment Funding.** See *Tier II*.

**Ensuring the Arts for Any Given Child.** See *AGC*.

**Environmental Scan.** A comprehensive review of external elements and trends, particularly as they relate to organizational viability and growth, conducted as part of a strategic planning process.

**EOC. (End-of-Course).** See *HB5*.

**EOE. (Explanation of Expenditures).** Used in documenting use of federal *Title program* funding.

**EOY. (End of Year).**



**EQ. (Emotional Intelligence).** See *SEL*.

**EQ. (Educator Quality).**

**E-Rate.** Support mechanism of *USAC* that provides discounts to assist most schools and libraries in the U.S. to obtain affordable telecommunications and Internet access.

**ERC. (Education Research Center).** In 2006, the Texas Legislature created three ERCs to conduct research that benefits education in Texas. Research can occur on state and federal education programs, the performance of educator preparation programs, public school finance, best practices in classroom instruction, bilingual education programs, special language programs, and school district business practices.

**ERIC. (Educational Resources Information Center).** Online database of educational literature sponsored by the Institute of Education Sciences (*IES*) of the U.S. Department of Education.

**ERP. (Enterprise Resource Planning).** Software that can comprehensively manage the needs of a major enterprise resource area, such as money or people.

**ERS. (Education Resource Strategies).** A non-profit organization dedicated to transforming how urban school systems organize resources – people, time, technology, and money – so that every school succeeds for every student.

**ES. (Elementary School).**

**ESAC. (Environmental Stewardship Advisory Committee).** AISD advisory body assigned to assist the district in being a recognized example of environmental education, stewardship, and sustainability.

**ESC. (Education Service Center).** One of 20 centers established by the Texas Legislature in 1967 to provide school districts with professional development training and technical assistance that support statewide educational goals. AISD is included in ESC Region 13.

**ESEA. (Elementary and Secondary Education Act).** First enacted in 1965 as part of President Johnson's War on Poverty, ESEA is the principal federal law affecting K-12 education, addressing funding, equal access to education, and high standards for student achievement. Currently *ESSA*, and previously *NCLB*, are reauthorizations of ESEA.

**ESF. (Education Stabilization Fund).** See *SFSF*.

**ESL. (English as a Second Language).** Instruction in English listening, speaking, reading, and composition for teaching English to primary speakers of other languages. Although the teacher is an important model, English is also acquired through peer interaction, the media, and the general environment.

**ESL/Certified/Endorsed Teacher.** A teacher who is authorized to assume primary responsibility for instruction of students who speak a language other than English.

**ESOL. (English for Speakers of Other Languages).** English course designed to assist speakers of other languages in the development of their English.

**ESR. (Educators for Social Responsibility).** Founded in 1982, ESR works directly with educators to implement systemic practices that create safe, caring, and equitable schools so that all young people succeed in school and life, and help shape a safe, democratic, and just world.

**ESS. (Earth and Space Science).**



**ESSA. (Every Student Succeeds Act).** The 2015 reauthorization of *ESEA*, replacing the former *NCLB*. ESSA retains annual standard testing requirements, but shifts many accountability responsibilities and details to the states.

**ESY. (Extended School Year).** Educational programming beyond the traditional school year for eligible students with disabilities as outlined by *IDEA*.

**ETC. (Educator Technology Competencies).** AISD program for increasing teacher proficiency in effectively applying technology in the classroom.

**ETG. (Eliminating the Gap).**

**ETS. (Educational Testing Service).** A private, nonprofit organization focused on educational measurement and research, primarily through testing.

**EVI. (Educational Material for the Visually Impaired).** Part of *EMAT*. Districts are able to order Braille, large type, or audio copies of adopted instructional material.

**EWL. (Equalized Wealth Level.)** See *Chapter 41*.

**EXPLORE.** A preparatory test for the *ACT*, usually administered to 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> graders.

**Extend-A-Care for Kids.** An after-school child care at elementary schools in Austin for the convenience of working parents.

- F -

**FABPAC. (Facilities and Bond Planning Advisory Committee).** An advisory body of AISD charged with making recommendations related to the *FMP* and potential future bond programs.

**FAFSA. (Free Application for Federal Student Aid).** A form that can be filled out annually for determining eligibility for federal student financial aid.

**Family Engagement in Education.** See *Title IV*.

**Family Support Cooperative.** Group that provides monthly meetings for AISD special education parents on a wide variety of topics and support issues. See *FASST*.

**Family Village.** A web site for children and adults with disabilities, their families, and their friends and allies. Family Village brings together thousands of online resources in an organized, easy-to-use directory.

**FAPE. (Free Appropriate Public Education).** Provision of *IDEA* that mandates all school districts to provide Special Education and related services at no cost to students or their parents.

**FASRG. (Financial Accountability System Resource Guide).** Describes the rules for financial accounting for school districts, charter schools, and *ESCs*.

**FAST. (Financial Allocation Study for Texas).** State Comptroller product that measures how spending in every Texas public school district and campus translates to student academic progress.

**FASST. (Family and School Support Team).** A team that works with any family of a student in special education, providing: resource information for funding, supports and services; advice on school issues and referrals to AISD special education staff; information and support meetings for parents (*Family*

*Support Cooperative*), and planning with schools and families on transition into adulthood for individual students.

**FBA. (Functional Behavior Assessment).** A process for addressing student problem behavior that relies on a variety of techniques and strategies to identify the reasons of specific behavior and to help *IEP* teams select appropriate interventions.

**FCI. (Facility Condition Index).** Rating system used in facilities planning to assess maintenance and construction needs.

**FCRC. (Family/Community Resource Center).** A school collaborative with parents, youth, neighborhood organizations, and businesses.

**FDA. (Focused Data Analysis).**

**Federal Student Groups.** See *Student Groups*.

**Feria Para Aprender.** Often referred to simply as La Feria, an annual community event in which AISD participates to provide information and services to Spanish-speaking families.

**FERPA. (Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act).** Federal law that protects the privacy of student records.

**FFY. (Federal Fiscal Year).** Begins October 1.

**FHSP. (Foundation High School Program).** See *HB5*.

**FIIE. (Full and Individual Initial Evaluation).** Once a special education referral is made, an FIIE is conducted to determine: (1) if a physical, mental or emotional disability exists; (2) if a significant educational deficit exists; and (3) the student's specific learning competencies.

**FIRST. (Financial Integrity Rating System of Texas).** The primary goal of "School FIRST" is to improve the management of financial resources by school districts. Every district is required to hold a public meeting and distribute a financial management report that explains the district's performance under each of several indicators and the district's rating.

**FIRST.** See *Texas Project FIRST*.

**Fitness Now.** See *Texas Fitness Now*.

**Fitnessgram.** A fitness assessment and reporting program for youth that includes a variety of health-related physical fitness tests to assess aerobic capacity, muscular strength, muscular endurance, flexibility, and body composition.

**501(c)(3).** See *Section 501(c)(3)*.

**504.** See *Section 504*.

**Fixed Assets.** Land, facilities, or equipment that the school district intends to hold or continue to use for a relatively long period of time ("capital assets").

**FLES. (Foreign Language in the Elementary School).** Provides instruction in a second language to help students reach functional proficiency in all content areas in the targeted language. Listening and speaking the language is somewhat more emphasized than reading and writing. The program emphasizes the learning of the 5 C's: Communication, Cultures, Connections, Comparisons, and Communities.

**Flesch-Kincaid.** Readability tests designed to indicate how difficult a reading passage in English is to understand. There are two tests, the Flesch Reading Ease, and the Flesch-Kincaid Grade Level. Although they use the same core measures (word length and sentence length), they have different weighting factors. The results of the two tests correlate approximately inversely: a text with a comparatively high score on the Reading Ease test should have a lower score on the Grade Level test.

**FLEX. (Foreign Language Experience, or Foreign Language Exploratory).** A world languages enrichment program in which elementary school children are introduced to a language through stories, games, interactive instruction, cultural activities, and music. The emphasis is on spoken language and learning about other cultures.

**Flippen.** Company providing educator training and leadership development programs and services.

**FLS. (Functional Life Skills).**

**FLUSA. (Financial Literacy USA.)** An on-line high school curriculum of *Junior Achievement* aligned to financial literacy standards.

**FMNV. (Food of Minimal Nutritional Value).** Defined by the U.S. Dept. of Agriculture as a food that possesses minimal or no nutritional value. Examples are, but not limited to, carbonated beverages, hard candy, gums, candy-coated popcorn, etc.

**FMP. (Foundations Mentoring Program).** A program of Goodwill establishing mentor relationships with youth that will offer positive interactions with a role model, empower youth to make better choices, and increase awareness of career opportunities, higher education, and job skills training.

**FMP. (Facilities Master Plan).** A long-range plan to address needs for new facilities as well as maintenance and repairs of existing facilities. AISD has committed to developing and implementing an FMP.

**Focus School.** See *NCLB Waiver*.

**FOIA. (Freedom of Information Act).** Federal law that allows any citizen to obtain the non-confidential records of public agencies.

**Formative Assessment.** An assessment used by an educator to evaluate student knowledge and understanding of particular content, and then to adjust instructional practices accordingly toward improving student achievement in that area. (Compare to *Summative Assessment*.)

**Formulas.** Also referred to as formula funding. See *Tier I, Tier II, and Other Programs*.

**FPCO. (Family Policy Compliance Office).** An office within the U.S. Department of Education that implements *FERPA* and *PRPA*.

**FRC. (Family Resource Center).** A dedicated space within a school for providing parents with information, assistance, and opportunities for engagement.

**FREE. (Federal Resources for Educational Excellence).** A website that provides links to many federally supported teaching and learning resources.

**F/RPM. (Free/Reduced-Price Meals).** See *NSLP* and *SBP*.

**FSA. (Federal Student Aid).** An office of *USDE* that ensures all eligible individuals benefit from federal financial assistance (grants, loans, and work-study programs) for education beyond high school. See *FAFSA*.

**FSF. (Foundation School Fund).** State fund supporting the Foundation School Program (*FSP*), with revenues coming from taxes related to natural resource production and utilities, the state lottery, and *Chapter 41* “recapture.”

**FSP. (Foundation School Program).** Establishes the amount of funding (state aid) provided to school districts under the Texas school finance system. Sources of funding for the FSP include the *FSF* and *ASF*.

One component of the FSP is related to the *M&O* tax effort, and includes *Tier I*, *Tier II*, and *Other Programs*. To calculate state aid under this component, a base is established which is the greater of (a) the *Tier I* state share, or (b) the sum of the *ASF* payment, *NIFA*, and the *High School Allotment* (the latter is the case for AISD). To (a) or (b) above is added *Tier II* yields, and funding from *Other Programs*. Then, the *ASF* payment is subtracted, and the remaining amount is total FSP operations funding. This amount is added back to the *ASF* payment for total state aid related to the *M&O* tax effort. For districts that have their base as (a), the *ASF* payment is used essentially to pay for part of the *Tier I* state share. For properly rich districts such as AISD, the *ASF* payment is now the principal source of state aid.

Another component of the FSP is related to the *I&S* tax effort, and includes *IFA* and *EDA*. However, AISD does not receive any state aid under this component.

**FTE. (Full-Time Equivalent Employee).** For human resource management and budgeting purposes, the equivalent of one full-time employee position. The work done by one person may account for one FTE or a portion of an FTE.

**FTE. (Full-Time Equivalent Student).** In the Texas school finance system, an FTE is defined as 30 contact hours per week between a student participating in a particular program (e.g., Special Education) and applicable program personnel.

**FTF. (First Things First).** Developed by *IRRE*, First Things First is a framework for school reform to help students at all academic levels gain the skills to succeed in post-secondary education and good jobs. Changes are achieved using three strategies: small learning communities; the family advocate system; and instructional improvement.

**Functional Capacity.** A school’s design capacity plus any portable classrooms or areas not originally intended for student instruction, such as media rooms, conference rooms, etc. (Compare to *Design Capacity*.)

**Fund Balance.** The difference between assets and liabilities. A positive fund balance equates to a cash reserve.

**Futrix.** A proprietary interactive data query tool.

**FY.** Fiscal Year.

- G -

**GAAP. (Generally Accepted Accounting Principles).** Guidelines for financial accounting used by various public and private entities in the United States, generally known as accounting standards or standard accounting practice.

**GAATN. (Greater Austin Area Telecommunications Network).** A fiber optic network that joins all AISD campuses and other governmental entities.

**GACC. (Greater Austin Chamber of Commerce).** The GACC strives to underscore the importance of education and college readiness, and annually produces Educational Progress Reports on select indicators for school districts in the greater Austin area.

**Gap Analysis.** An assessment of where an organization is and where it wants to be, based on quantitative and qualitative data, often used in strategic planning.

**Gardner-Betts Juvenile Justice Center.** Facility that houses the Travis County Juvenile Court, as well as juvenile detention, probation, and other related services.

**GC. (General Counsel).** AISD senior staff position.

**G&C. (Guidance and Counseling).**

**GEAR UP. (Gaining Early Awareness and Readiness for Undergraduate Programs).** A federal initiative designed to increase early college awareness and readiness in traditionally underrepresented groups.

**GED. (General Educational Development).** Testing and certification associated with high school equivalency.

**GEH. (General Education Homebound).** Students provided services under this instructional setting receive services at home or hospital bedside from a certified teacher and are counted present for *FSP* purposes based on the amount of service they receive at home or hospital bedside each week. Students served under this setting do not qualify for special education eligibility, must be confined for medical reasons only, and are expected to be confined for a minimum of four consecutive weeks.

**GEM. (Gateway to Educational Materials).** An initiative of the U.S. Department of Education that expands the capability of educators to access web-based lesson plans, instructional units, and other educational materials.

**GenAustin.** Local nonprofit organization dedicated to helping adolescent girls by providing programs that enhance healthy self-esteem by educating them and their parents and teachers.

**General Fund.** An account for revenues to finance day-to-day operations of the school district not otherwise specified for or dedicated to particular activities or programs.

**General Transfer.** See *Transfer*.

**GLAD.** See *Project GLAD*.

**GO Bond. (General Obligation Bond).** See *Municipal Bond*.

**GO Project. (Greater Opportunities).** Provides expanded opportunities in adult life for Special Education students served by AISD who are 19 and older.

**Golden Pennies.** See *Tier II*.

**GPA. (Grade Point Average).**

**GPC. (Grade Placement Committee).** If a student does not perform satisfactorily on a standard assessment, a GPC composed of the principal or principal's designee, the teacher in the subject tested, and the parent or guardian, is formed to develop an Accelerated Instruction Plan (AIP) and make promotion decisions for the student.

**GPR. (Grade Point Ratio).**

**GPS. (Grading Period Snapshot).** Tool utilized in AISD to indicate for a specific grading period student expectations, what students do, what teachers do, expected outcomes, and assessment evidence.

**Grade Speed.** AISD automated system that can be accessed from any computer with Internet access. Parents can view assignments, current grades, and attendance of students in grades 3-12. Parents of students in kindergarten through grade 2 may view attendance records and report cards. Parents may also request an email notification of their child's attendance or grades drop to a specific threshold.

**Graduation Coach.** A member of the CSST, working with campus staff to make data-based decisions about students with attendance issues and to establish effective interventions.

**GREAT. (Gang Resistance Education and Training).** A gang and violence prevention program originated by the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, and Firearms (ATF). GREAT is built around school-based, law enforcement officer-instructed classroom curricula.

**GSF. (Government Services Fund).** See *SFSF*.

**G/T. (Gifted/Talented).** Refers to services provided to students who are identified as needing differentiated services to appropriately challenge them.

**Guided Reading.** An instructional reading strategy during which a teacher works with small groups of children who have similar reading processes and needs.

**GYA. (Guaranteed Yield Amount).** See *Tier II*.

- H -
-------

**Harvard Education Innovation Laboratory.** See *EdLabs*.

**HB. (House Bill).**

**HB5. (House Bill 5).** HB5 is an omnibus educational bill passed by the 83rd Texas Legislature in 2013. Following are some of the main requirements of HB5:

- Students must pass five end-of-course (EOC) exams in order to graduate – Algebra I, English I, English II, Biology, and U.S., History. (See *IGC*.) Student performance on EOC exams may not be used in determining class rank or top 10% of class.
- A school district may not administer more than two benchmark assessments to prepare for a corresponding state-mandated assessment.
- School districts must offer, at no cost to students, accelerated instruction before the next administration to students who fail an EOC exam. The instruction may require participation outside of normal school hours.
- The Foundation High School Program (FHSP) replaces the previous graduation programs of Minimum, Recommended, and Distinguished Achievement. The FHSP includes 17 required credits and five elective credits. Under the FHSP, a student may earn a Distinguished Level of Achievement by completing additional credits, including Algebra II.
- Under the FHSP, students must earn at least one endorsement – a coherent set of courses in a specific area. Endorsement areas include *STEM*, business and industry, public services, arts and humanities, and multidisciplinary studies. A student may graduate without an endorsement if the student and parent are advised by a school counselor of the benefits of graduating with an endorsement and the parent provides written permission on a *TEA* form.
- School districts, with the input of their district-level committees (in the case of AISD, the *DAC*), must develop systems to rate each campus and the district as a whole in relation to community and student engagement efforts. Districts must annually report their ratings to *TEA*.

- Beginning with the 2016-2017 school year, the *TEA* Commissioner must assign each school district a performance rating of A, B, C, D, or F, setting rules to determine the criteria for each rating. The Commissioner will also assign each campus a rating of Exemplary, Recognized, Acceptable, or Unacceptable. A district may not receive an “A” if it has any Unacceptable campus.

**HCP. (Human Capital Platform).** An AISD Cloud-based system for managing professional development, training, and appraisal.

**HCS. (Home and Community-Based Services).** *TDADS* program that provides individualized services and supports to persons with intellectual and developmental disabilities who are living with their family, in their own home, or in other community settings, such as small group homes.

**HCZ. (Harlem Children’s Zone).** A non-profit organization for poverty-stricken children and families living in Harlem, providing free support in the form of parenting workshops, a pre-school program, three public charter schools, and child-oriented health programs. HCZ is aimed at breaking the cycle of generational poverty for the many children and families it serves, and to keep children on track through college and into the job market.

**HDT. (High-Dosage Tutoring).**

**Head Start.** Head Start and Early Head Start are comprehensive federal child development programs under *ACF* that serve children from birth to age 5, pregnant women, and their families. They are child-focused programs and have the overall goal of increasing the school readiness of young children in low-income families.

**HEAT. (Helpdesk Expert Automation Tool).** A commercial help desk management software suite utilized by AISD.

**HECB.** See *THECB*.

**HED. (Health Education).**

**HELP.** See *Project HELP*.

**HEP.** See *TEXSHEP*.

**HFTC. (Healthy Families Travis County).** A voluntary, home-visiting program for overburdened parents and their families. The primary objectives of the program are to promote healthy parent-child relationships, support appropriate child development, prevent child abuse and neglect, and enhance family functioning.

**HHSC.** See *THHSC*.

**HHSD.** See *ATCHHSD*.

**High-Performing Schools.** See *Reward Schools*.

**High-Progress Schools.** See *Reward Schools*.

**High School Allotment.** An allotment under *Tier I* that provides a set amount of funding for each student in ADA in a school district in grades 9 through 12.

**High-Stakes Testing.** See *Standardized Testing*.



**HIPPA. (Health Insurance Portability and Privacy Act).** The first comprehensive federal law to protect the privacy of personal health information (PHI).

**HLM. (Hierarchical Linear Model).** Also referred to as Multilevel Modeling, a regression analysis that accounts for clustering or nesting of populations with shared similarities, such as teachers within a certain school.

**HLS. (Home Language Survey).** A one-time survey conducted in English and Spanish to determine the language normally used in the home and the language used by the student.

**HMIS. (Homeless Management Information System).** A software application, typically web-based, designed to record and store client-level information on the characteristics and service needs of homeless persons.

**Homestead Exemption.** A Texas constitutional amendment was passed in 2015 requiring an increased homestead exemption in school district property taxes. To make up for lost revenue, the Legislature entitled school districts to additional state aid in the *FSP*, in the form of Additional State Aid for Homestead Exemption (ASAHE). Hold harmless payments for lost M&O revenues are included under *Other Programs* (i.e., lost collections that are not compensated through increased state aid in Tier I, Tier II, and ASATR or in reduced recapture).

**HOPE Foundation. (Harnessing Optimism and Potential through Education).** Since 1989, the HOPE Foundation has expanded the application of professional learning communities into a district-wide approach outlined in the award-winning publication *Failure Is Not an Option: Six Principles That Guide Student Achievement in High-Performing Schools*. This school reform methodology has been proven to turn around low-performing schools, close achievement gaps within and between schools district-wide, and sustain overall success.

**Horizontal Articulation.** See *Articulation*.

**House Bill 5.** See *HB5*.

**HousingWorks Austin.** A non-profit organization endeavoring to keeping homes affordable for Austinites through research, education and public policy change. HousingWorks Austin unites community leaders from diverse backgrounds to promote the community value that home affordability is central to the success of Austin employers, schools, and neighborhoods over the coming decades as growth continues.

**HQ. (Highly Qualified).** The former *NCLB* required all teachers to be highly qualified – namely, teachers must have at least a bachelor's degree, full state certification or licensure, and prove that they know each subject they teach. Beginning with the 2016-2017 school year, teachers will only need to meet state requirements for certification; the federal term of “highly qualified teacher status” will no longer apply.

**HRA. (Health Risk Assessment).**

**HS. (High School).**

**HSEP. (High School Equivalency Program).** Also known as the In-School GED Program, this program prepares eligible students to take a high school equivalency examination (*GED*).

**HSTE. (Health Science Technology Education).** Secondary career education program for students interested in pursuing a career in health care.

**HTWP. (Heart of Texas Writing Project).** University of Texas program for improving the teaching of writing and the authorship of students. HTWP is a branch of the congressionally funded National Writing Project.

**HUB. (Historically Underutilized Business.)**

**HUD. (Housing and Urban Development).** Federal agency, the mission of which is to create strong, sustainable, inclusive communities and quality affordable homes for all.

- I -

**I<sup>3</sup>. (Invention, Innovation, and Inquiry).** A project to provide professional support for teachers interested in technological literacy, particularly in the elementary curriculum.

**IACP. (Individual Academic/Career Plan).** A six-year educational plan that is designed to prepare students to enter a chosen career field upon graduation or enter a college of their choice with the knowledge of a career pathway to pursue. The IACP includes elective courses that lead students through a coherent sequence aimed at career awareness and competency in addition to all courses that are required for graduation.

**IAES. (Interim Alternative Educational Setting).** A setting other than the student's current placement that enables the student to continue to receive educational services according to his or her *IEP*. The IAES must enable the student to continue to participate in the general education curriculum, although in another setting, and progress toward meeting the goals set out in the *IEP*. Students in an IAES should also receive, as appropriate, a functional behavioral assessment, behavioral intervention services and modifications that are designed to address the behavior violation so that it does not happen again. The particular IAES is determined by the student's *IEP* team.

**IAP2. (International Association for Public Participation).** As an international leader in public participation, IAP2 has developed the "Core Values for Public Participation" for use in the development and implementation of public participation processes.

**IB. (International Baccalaureate).** A program that is internationally recognized for a curriculum that offers 11th and 12th grade students an opportunity to earn an IB Diploma, recognized by universities worldwide.

**IB/MYP. (International Baccalaureate Middle Years Programme).** An *IB* program designed for students approximately 11-16 years of age.

**IBT. (Internet-Based Test).**

**IDEA. (Individuals with Disabilities Education Act).** Federal law which requires that a free appropriate public education (*FAPE*) is available for all students with disabilities.

**IDRA. (Intercultural Development Research Association).** An independent, nonprofit organization that advocates the right of every child to a quality education.

**IEE. (Independent Educational Evaluation).** Refers to an evaluation conducted by a qualified examiner who is not employed by the district responsible for the education of the child being evaluated. It is of no cost to the parent, and is conducted in accordance with district criteria. Parents have a right to request an IEE when they disagree with an evaluation conducted or obtained by the district.

**IEP. (Individual Education Plan).** Outlines the measurable goals and objectives, instructional modifications, behavioral strategies, and related services needed for a student with disabilities.

**IES. (Institute of Education Sciences).** Established by the Education Sciences Reform Act of 2002, IES is the research arm of the U.S. Department of Education. Its mission is to expand knowledge and to provide information on the condition of education, practices that improve academic achievement, and the effectiveness of federal and other education programs.

**IFA. (Instructional Facilities Allotment).** A component of the *FSP* that provides equalization funding (a guaranteed yield) to eligible school districts for debt service payments on debt associated with the purchase, construction, renovation, and expansion of instructional facilities.

**IFAS. (Integrated Financial and Administrative Solution).** Software used for financial, budget, payroll, and human resources applications, particularly by governmental, educational, and not-for-profit entities. Formerly used by AISD along with *Workforce*, now replaced by *BOLT*.

**IFSP. (Individualized Family Service Plan).** Documents and guides the early intervention process for children with disabilities and their families in accordance with Part C of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (*IDEA*). It contains information about the services necessary to facilitate a child's development and enhance the family's capacity to facilitate the child's development. Through the IFSP process, family members and service providers work as a team to plan, implement, and evaluate services tailored to the family's unique concerns, priorities, and resources.

**IFL. (Institute for Learning).** The IFL of the University of Pittsburgh and AISD are partners in implementing the Principles of Learning (*POL*).

**IGC. (Individual Graduation Committee).** Senate Bill 149, passed by the 84th Texas Legislature in 2015, revised the state's assessment graduation requirements for students enrolled in the 11th or 12th grade for the 2014-2015, 2015-2016, or 2016-2017 school years. A student who has failed the end-of-course assessment graduation requirements for no more than two courses may receive a Texas high school diploma if the student has qualified to graduate by means of an IGC determination. (See *HB5*.)

**IGS. (Integrated Grading Scale).** A three-tiered grading system utilized by AISD.

**IHCP. (Individual Health Care Plan).** A student health management and treatment plan developed at the request of a parent or guardian, for health care services received at school or during school related activities.

**IHE. (Institution of Higher Education).**

**IHS. (International High School).** AISD high school for immigrant students requiring intensive assistance in English language skills and socialization.

**ILP. (Individual Learning Plan).** Plan to transition a student in a disciplinary setting back into the classroom.

**IMA. (Instructional Materials Allotment).** The 82nd Texas Legislature passed Senate Bill 6 to create the Instructional Materials Allotment (IMA). This allotment is designed to provide funds for districts to purchase instructional materials. The bill combined the funds that had been set aside for technology in the Technology Allotment with the funds that had been set aside for textbooks.

**Immersion.** Situation wherein subject matter is taught in the student's second language (i.e., English, for *ESL* students); all instruction is in the student's second language except for Language Arts which is taught in the student's primary language.

**IMO. (International Mathematical Olympiad).** See *AMC*.

**IMS. (Instructional Management System).** A Web application that allows instructors to support a number of common course management activities.

**Inclusion.** Inclusion is not a legal term; by definition, it is the opposite of exclusion. Integration with other students is seen as a right, rather than a privilege to be earned. It implies that Special Education

students are only removed from regular education settings if they cannot succeed there with supports and services.

**Indexes.** See *Performance Indexes*.

**Infor.** Private company specializing in enterprise software. See *BOLT*.

**Innovation Station.** A networked, multimedia cart that delivers instructional media from streamed sources as well as traditional DVD, with push-button controls, an integrated sound system, and mounted projector.

**Innovation Zone.** A school structure that allows more flexibility/autonomy in providing innovative approaches to education and resource management.

**INOVA.** A data analysis system that gives a detailed look at individual student progress over time, used to target at-risk students and improve performance on standardized testing.

**Instructional Arrangements/Settings.** Instructional Arrangements/Settings are based on the individual needs and *IEPs* of eligible students receiving special education services, and include the following: homebound, hospital class, speech therapy, resource room, self-contained (mild, moderate, and severe), off home campus, vocational adjustment class, state schools, nonpublic contracts, residential care and treatment, and mainstream. Instructional Arrangements/Settings are also assigned multiplier weights in the formulas for *Tier I* funding.

**Insure-a-Kid.** Centralized program in Texas to assist parents in applications for low-cost or free health insurance for their children. See *TexCare*.

**Interlocal.** Refers to conditions or agreements between two or more *local governments*.

**INVEST/Positive Families.** Short-term interventions that allow students who have been removed to AISD's Alternative Learning Center (for either persistent misbehavior or for first time misdemeanor drug or alcohol use or possession offenses) and their families to improve skills in problem solving, anger management, and communication.

**IP. (Improvement Plan).**

**IPC. (Integrated Physics and Chemistry).**

**IPG. (Instructional Planning Guide).** Part of the AISD written curriculum providing instructional guidance on pacing of instruction, research-based best practices including the Principles of Learning, methodologies, instructional resources, assessment strategies, descriptions of student work, and discipline-specific and course-specific teacher notes.

**IR. (Improvement Required).** Campus or district rating under the state accountability system. (See *Performance Indexes*.)

**IRA. (International Reading Association).** Since 1956, IRA has been a nonprofit, global network of individuals and institutions committed to worldwide literacy. IRA supports literacy professionals through a wide range of resources, advocacy efforts, volunteerism, and professional development activities.

**IRRE. (Institute for Research and Reform in Education).** National non-profit organization that partners with school districts and schools to help all students develop the academic strengths they need for good jobs and post-secondary education.

**I&S. (Interest and Sinking).** Tax revenues, collected from an applied I&S tax rate, that pay for bonded indebtedness, facilities, and other capital needs of a school district. Under the *FSP*, *IFA* and *EDA* calculations are tied to the I&S tax rate.

**ISAM. (Intervention Stage and Activity Manager).** A feature of *TEASE* related to accountability.

**ISD. (Independent School District).**

**ISIP.** See *IStation*.

**ISP. (Intensive Summer Program).** Summer academic program to promote postsecondary success for middle and high school students identified as being *at risk* of dropping out of school.

**ISS. (In-School Suspension).** A student is removed from the regular education setting to an alternative setting (not *DAEP*). As long as the student continues to come to school, the attendance in the program may be counted in computing the district's *ADA*. See *OSS*.

**IStation. (Imagination Station).** A proprietary e-learning program to help students through Grade 8 achieve academic growth. *IStation* Indicators of Progress (*ISIP*) is an assessment tool that provides on/off grade level information in addition to detailed reports and instructional tools for teachers.

**ISTE. (International Society for Technology in Education).** Membership association for educators and education leaders engaged in improving teaching and learning by advancing the effective use of technology in PK-12 and teacher education.

**ISWAG. (International Society for Wealth after Graduation).** Non-profit organization that motivates and equips at-risk youth for college and career success in today's global society.

**ITBS. (Iowa Test of Basic Skills).** A nationally norm-referenced test (*NRT*) used to compare the achievement of students to that of a representative national sample of students.

**ITEEA. (International Technology and Engineering Educators Association).** Professional organization for technology, innovation, design, and engineering educators.

**ITF. (Information Task Force).** Advisory body to *TEA* providing technical reviews of proposed changes to *PEIMS* data standards.

**ITP. (Individual Transition Plan).** A written document created separate from the *IEP* that addresses services the student needs to move successfully from school to post-school activities.

**IWB. (Interactive Whiteboard).** See *Promethean Board*.

**IWC. (International Welcome Center).** AISD newcomer service providing assistance and answers for immigrant students and their families who are new to the country.

- J -

**JA.** See *Junior Achievement*.

**JFF. (Jobs for the Future).** A national nonprofit organization that works to improve career pathways for underserved youth.

**JFTK. (Just for the Kids).** A program furthering academic standards and student learning, sponsored by *NCEA*, providing school data, best practices, and training.

**JJAEP. (Juvenile Justice Alternative Education Program).** Alternative education program operated by the Juvenile Board of Travis County to serve youth that have been expelled or adjudicated.

**Joint Subcommittees.** Subcommittees of the AISD Board of Trustees, Austin City Council, and Travis County Commissioners Court who meet jointly on a periodic basis to consider issues of mutual interest and concern.

**JrVASE.** See *TAEA*.

**Junior Achievement.** Worldwide organization that helps prepare young people for the real world by showing them how to generate wealth and effectively manage it, how to create jobs which make their communities more robust, and how to apply entrepreneurial thinking to the workplace. Volunteers from the community deliver the curriculum while sharing their experiences with students.

**Junior Achievement FLUSA.** See *FLUSA*.

**Junior Achievement NEFE.** See *NEFE*.

- K -

**K-12.** Referring to kindergarten through grade 12.

**K-16.** Referring to kindergarten through undergraduate college.

**Kagan.** Private firm that provides educator training based on structures for cooperative learning strategies to meet the needs of adolescent learners, and to help provide a framework for engaging student groups.

**KAS. (Key Action Step).**

**KEET. (Key Elements of Early Transition).** A guide and checklist to assist with planning, implementing, and evaluating a smooth transition for children with disabilities from *ECI* to preschool programs.

**Kilgo.** Private firm that provides training to improve educator understanding of Texas state curriculum and assessments, and to improve student performance.

**KIPP. (Knowledge Is Power Program).** A network of public *charter schools*.

**KPI. (Key Performance Indicator).**

**K&S. (Knowledge and Skills).**

**KWL.** An instructional technique in which teachers activate the prior knowledge of students by asking them what they already **K**now; then students set goals specifying what they **W**ant to learn; and after reading students discuss what they have **L**earned.

- L -

**L1 and L2.** See *Tier II*.

**LA. (Language Arts).**

**La Feria.** See *Feria Para Aprender*.



**LASA. (Liberal Arts and Science Academy).** AISD specialized high school program collocated with LBJ High School.

**Las Comadres.** Las Comadres Para Las Americas is a *Section 501(c)(3)* organization that is an informal internet-based group that meets monthly in many U.S. cities to build connections and community among Latinas.

**LAT. (Linguistically Accommodated Testing).** Test administration for students with Limited English Proficiency.

**LBB. (Legislative Budget Board).** A permanent joint committee of the Texas Legislature that develops budget and policy recommendations for legislative appropriations for all agencies of state government, as well as completes fiscal analyses for proposed legislation. The LBB also conducts evaluations and reviews for the purpose of identifying and recommending changes that improve the efficiency and performance of state and local operations and finances.

**LC. Learning Community.** A group of teachers and students with common academic interests. Participants in a LC develop a deeper understanding of subject matter while they build relationships and learn together.

**LD. (Learning Disorder or Learning Disability).** A condition that affects the way a person receives, processes, or expresses information, and impacts ability to learn the basic skills of reading, writing, or math.

**LDS. (Leadership Development School).** A school that not only delivers a high-quality education to its students, but also researches cutting-edge teaching, organizational, and administrative preparation strategies, and develops the leadership abilities of its principal and administrative interns.

**LEA. (Local Education Agency).** The entity that has legal authority, control and responsibility for public education in a city, county, town (or combination of these), or other subdivision of a state. In Texas, LEA is synonymous with Independent School District.

**LEAD. (Leveraging Excellence to Achieve the Dream).** AISD program that brings national speakers who are experts in the field of educational leadership to the district to promote dialogue by principals, aspiring principals and administrative interns on effective leadership issues and practices.

**lead4ward.** Consulting and professional development services focusing on **L**earning about *STAAR*, **E**nergizing educators, **A**cting to achieve success, and **D**eveloping educational tools.

**Learning Forward.** Nonprofit association of educators with studies for professional learning.

**Leaver Record.** In the fall of each year, districts report all 7th through 12th grade students who were enrolled or in attendance at any point during the prior year but who did not re-enroll the following fall. This group of "leavers" includes students who graduated or received a *GED*, moved to another district, state, or country, died, or dropped out. This information is sent to *TEA* in Submission 1 of the annual *PEIMS* data collection.

**LEP. (Limited English Proficiency).** The term usually used in elementary and secondary education for students whose English language skills are insufficient for them to succeed in the regular curriculum. This classification is based on a combination of criteria including a Home Language Survey, language dominance test scores, and English achievement test scores.

**LETRS. (Language Essentials for Teachers of Reading and Spelling).** Professional development program that helps K-12 teachers gain in-depth, useful instructional information for complementing their everyday teaching practices.

**Letter Grade Ratings.** See *Domains*.

**Lexile Framework for Reading.** An educational tool that uses a measure called a Lexile to match readers with books, articles, and other leveled reading resources. Readers and books are assigned a score on the Lexile scale, in which lower scores reflect easier readability for books and lower reading ability for readers.

**LFA. (Local Fund Assignment).** See *Tier I*.

**Licensed Mental Health Professional.** A licensed counselor or social worker primarily responsible for linking students and families with the most intensive needs to available services and resources. A member of the CSST.

**LifeWorks.** An Austin non-profit organization that provides a continuum of services to youth and families. The goals of LifeWorks are to: help homeless youth achieve self-sufficiency; provide children and youth in at-risk situations with support, knowledge, and skills; and strengthen families dealing with crisis, emotional distress, and violence.

**Literacy First.** Formerly *ACE*, an early childhood literacy program of the Charles A. Dana Center, providing low-income schools with highly trained *AmeriCorps* tutors to ensure that children advance to grade level in reading before third grade.

**Liveable City.** An inclusive network of individuals working together to create a community consensus to promote policies that address the long-term social, environmental, and economic needs of the people of Austin.

**LMC. (Library Media Center).** AISD center that includes a professional library, a teacher production lab, a media center and a processing center for AISD acquisitions, cataloging, and processing.

**LMS. (Library Media Services).** Department within AISD.

**LMTC. (Lead Mentor Teacher Contact).** A teacher trained to mentor other teachers who in turn trains other teachers at his or her home campus.

**LOA. (Letter of Agreement).**

**Local Government.** Local governments usually refer to cities and counties, but may also include school districts and other special districts or authorities.

**Looping.** An informal term for assigning students to the same teacher for more than one school year. Rather than teaching a new group of students at the same grade level each year, teachers stay with the same group of students as they move from grade to grade.

**LOTE. (Languages Other Than English).** Division of *TEA* that coordinates the development of *TEKS* and all instructional activities in foreign language programs.

**LPAC. (Language Proficiency Assessment Committee).** A committee composed of members including, but not limited to, a campus administrator, one appropriately certified teacher assigned to the Bilingual Education program, one appropriately certified teacher assigned to an *ESL* program, and the parent of a Limited English Proficiency student.

**LR. (Local Revenue).** See *Tier II*.

**LRE. (Least Restrictive Environment).** The place in which the *ARD* committee determines the IEP can be implemented. The school the student would attend, if non-disabled, and the regular education classrooms are the least restrictive environments for all students. The ARD committee must first consider these placements for *IEP* implementation prior to determining a non-home school or "pull-out" services.

**LRPT. (Long Range Plan for Technology).** *TEA* plan, the fundamental goal of which is to enhance students' acquisition of knowledge through technology.

**LSC. (Learning Support Center).** A program to meet academic, behavioral, social and transitional needs of students who have been temporarily assigned to an on-campus center due to inappropriate behavioral choices.

**LSS. (Learning Support Services.)** An office within AISD.

**LSSP. (Licensed Specialist in School Psychology).**

**LST. (Local Support Team).** Campus group that meets to review challenges faced by students, suggest possible interventions, and monitor progress.

**LTF. (Laying the Foundation).** A non-profit organization dedicated to providing quality teacher training, rigorous classroom materials, and web-based resources to improve the quality of English, mathematics, and science instruction. LTF believes that training, mentoring, and empowering the teacher corps will lead to high standards of academic excellence for all students.

**LUCHA. (Language Learners at the University of Texas Center for Hispanic Achievement).** Initiative of the K-16 Education Center that helps Spanish-speaking *ELLs* transition into public schools, thereby helping them to achieve success in school, college, and life.

**LULAC. (League of United Latin American Citizens.)** The largest and oldest Hispanic organization in the U.S., LULAC advances the economic condition, educational attainment, political influence, health and civil rights of Hispanic Americans through community-based programs operating numerous councils nationwide.

- M -

**MAC. (Mentoring Advisory Council).** An advisory committee created jointly by AISD, the City of Austin, and Travis County. The MAC membership consists of representatives of public agencies and community organizations that are supportive of providing mentorship to Austin students.

**MAC Texas. (Municipal Advisory Council of Texas).** Promotes effective and efficient practices related to *municipal bonds* by collecting, maintaining, and distributing related information to issuing entities.

**MADRES. (Mothers Against Discriminatory Racism in Education and in Society).** A non-profit organization that seeks to guarantee Hispanic and Native American children their rights to an equal and quality education.

**Maestro en Casa. (Teacher at Home).** AISD and MATT collaborative effort to enroll Spanish-speaking parents in an English-language immersion and immigrant integration program. The home study, life skills program is aimed at helping AISD parents with basic English language vocabulary and also improving the family's understanding of the public education system.

**Magnet School.** Generally, a school that offers a specialized curriculum capable of attracting a substantial number of students district-wide. The AISD magnet programs offer students advanced academic studies in an environment built on collegial relationships, individual growth, and intellectual

rigor. Admission to AISD magnet programs is selective and by application. AISD magnets are located at Fulmore and Kealing middle schools and *LASA*.

**Majority-to-Minority Transfer.** See *Transfer*.

**Making Healthy Choices.** AISD comprehensive health curriculum for all grades. Awareness, responsible decision-making, and abstinence are the cornerstones of prevention in this curriculum.

**MALDEF. (Mexican American Legal Defense and Educational Fund).** A national nonprofit civil rights organization formed in 1968 to protect the rights of Latinos.

**Manipulatives.** Learning materials designed to help students understand abstract ideas by handling physical objects.

**Masking.** The hiding or “graying out” of particularly small numbers or percentages in a datasets or report to protect individuals from possibly being identified.

**MATT. (Mexicans and Americans Thinking Together).** A bi-national nonprofit organization seeking to build bridges of understanding between Mexico and the United States. MATT promotes the design and implementation of initiatives for economic development, cultural interaction, education, and social outreach by working with government sectors, private organizations, academic institutions and other civil organizations.

**McBeth Recreation Center.** The Danny G. McBeth Recreation Center and Annex is a City of Austin facility located in Zilker Park, providing programs and recreation participation opportunities for children, teens, and adults who have developmental and/or physical challenges.

**McKinney-Vento Act.** Primary piece of federal legislation dealing with the education of children and youth experiencing homelessness in public schools. See *SRQ*.

**MD. (Multiple Disabilities).**

**MDCP. (Medically Dependent Children Program).** *TDADS* program that provides services to support families caring for children who are medically dependent and to encourage de-institutionalization of children in nursing facilities.

**MDR. (Manifestation Determination Review).** A review of the relationship between a student's disability and behavior that is the subject of disciplinary action.

**Mentor.** A volunteer who provides guidance and companionship to students, particularly those who are underachieving or at-risk. Also, an experienced, trained teacher who provides guidance to beginning teachers.

**Met Standard.** Campus or district rating under the state accountability system. See *Performance Indexes*.

**Military Allotment.** See *SCE*.

**MINDPOP.** An Austin coordinating body that facilitates collaboration between educators, arts organizations, funders, and schools, to expand creative learning opportunities for all students. MINDPOP is coordinating with AISD to implement the *Any Given Child* program.

**MIS. (Management Information Systems).** Part of the AISD Office of Information Systems that provides applications programming and applications support and reporting services for the district.

**Mizuni.** A proprietary, data-driven decision-making solution for educational real-time data (e.g., *dashboards*).

**M&O. (Maintenance and Operations).** Tax revenues, collected from an applied M&O tax rate, that pay for day-to-day administrative and operational costs of a school district. Under the *FSP*, *Tier I* and *Tier II* calculations are tied to the M&O tax rate.

**Modifications.** Unlike *accommodations*, modifications change the level of instruction provided or tested. Modifications create a different standard for the student receiving them. The most common modifications are those made to the general education curriculum for a student with a cognitive disability. Curriculum modifications should be in the student's *IEP*.

**MOU. (Memorandum of Understanding).**

**MOY. (Middle of Year).**

**MPC. (Materials Processing Center).** A department within the Library Media Center (*LMC*) where AISD library and other instructional materials are purchased, catalogued, and processed.

**MR. (Mental Retardation).**

**MRT. (Master Reading Teacher.)** Master Reading Teachers instruct in reading and mentor other teachers as they meet the diverse reading needs of their students.

**MS. (Middle School).**

**MSA. (Metropolitan Statistical Area).** A U.S. Census designation covering a specified metropolitan area. The Austin-San Marcos MSA includes Travis, Williamson, Hays, Bastrop, and Caldwell counties.

**MSDF. (Michael and Susan Dell Foundation).**

**MSR. (Minimum Size Requirement).** Minimum values for numerators and denominators in calculations related to accountability performance indicators for *student groups*.

**MSS. (Minimum Salary Schedule).** Minimum salaries required by state statute for classroom teachers and full-time school nurses, counselors, and librarians.

**MSTAR. (Middle School Students in Texas: Algebra Ready).** A pilot program to implement strategies designed to increase the preparedness of middle school students to meet the standards and pass assessments in Algebra I.

**(Multi-Tiered System of Support).** A structure that addresses the academic, behavioral, and attendance needs of the whole child through a supportive, integrated, and strengths-based lens. It includes *SEL* and Comprehensive Student Health supports, through the *CSS*.

**MTSS Coach.** *MTSS* Coaches oversee the effective delivery of *CSST* services through assisting campuses in implementing *CSTs*, ensuring that staff understand how to use the *eCST* tool, and providing training on the *MTSS* model of support.

**Multilevel Modeling.** See *HLM*.

**MUMS. (Mothers United for Moral Support).** National parent-to-parent network providing information and emotional support to parents whose children have rare disorders.

**Municipal Bond.** Often called a “muni” bond, a debt security issued by school districts and other *local governments* to fund projects. The bond is a promise to pay back a principal sum (the face value of the

bond) by a specified time (the maturity date) plus interest (paid periodically). "General obligation" or "GO" bonds are backed by the issuer's authority to collect taxes. "Revenue" bonds are backed by a project's ability to generate its own revenues (such as a sports stadium).

- N -

**NA. (Needs Assessment).**

**NABE. (National Association of Bilingual Education).** Nonprofit professional development and advocacy membership association working to ensure excellence and equity in bilingual education.

**NACAC. (National Association for College Admission Counseling.)** Founded in 1937, an organization of secondary school counselors, independent counselors, college admission and financial aid officers, enrollment managers, and organizations who guide students through the transition process of secondary to higher education.

**NAEP. (National Assessment of Educational Progress).** Also known as "the Nation's Report Card," NAEP is conducted by *NCES* and reports information for the nation and specific geographic regions of the country, and includes students drawn from both public and private schools and reports results for student achievement at grades 4, 8, and 12.

**NAEP/TUDA.** See *TUDA*.

**NAESP. (National Association of Elementary School Principals).** Membership organization that promotes excellence in elementary school leadership through research-based professional development, resources, and advocacy.

**NAEYC. (National Association for the Education of Young Children).** Organization dedicated to improving the well-being of all young children, with particular focus on the quality of educational and developmental services for all children from birth through age 8. Founded in 1926, NAEYC is the world's largest organization working on behalf of young children with a national network of local, state, and regional affiliates.

**NAFEPA. (National Association of Federal Education Program Administrators).** A support organization for educators who work with federally funded programs in their local school districts and in their states.

**NAMI. (National Alliance on Mental Illness).** Organization with state and local chapters that provides support, education, and advocacy to those with mental illness and their families.

**NASB. (National School Boards Association).** A not-for-profit organization representing state associations of school boards and their member districts across the nation.

**NASBE. (National Association of State Boards of Education).** A non-profit organization founded in 1958 to strengthen state leadership in educational policymaking.

**NASDE. (National Association of State Directors of Special Education).** Organization of State special education directors who are committed to a standards-based education system responsive to the needs of all children, especially those with disabilities.

**NASN. (National Association of School Nurses).** NASN supports the health and educational success of children and youth by developing and providing leadership to advance school nursing practice by specialized registered nurses.



**NASP. (National Association of School Psychologists.)** Membership organization that represents school psychology and supports school psychologists to enhance the learning and mental health of all children and youth.

**NASSP. (National Association of Secondary School Principals).** Membership organization that promotes excellence in middle level and high school leadership through research-based professional development, resources, and advocacy.

**National Writing Project.** A congressionally funded program for improving the teaching and learning of reading and writing, and for developing literacy.

**Naviance.** A web-based service designed especially for students and their parents to help in making decisions about colleges and careers.

**NBC. (National Board Certified).** See *NBPTS*.

**NBPTS. (National Board of Professional Teaching Standards).** An independent, nonprofit organization whose mission is to advance the quality of teaching and learning by: maintaining high and rigorous standards for what accomplished teachers should know and be able to do; providing a national voluntary system certifying teachers who meet these standards; and advocating related education reforms to integrate National Board Certification in American education and to capitalize on the expertise of *NBC* teachers.

**NCBI. (National Coalition Building Institute).** A nonprofit leadership training organization that works to eliminate racism and all other forms of prejudice and discrimination throughout the world.

**NCCRES. (National Center for Culturally Responsive Educational Systems).** Funded by the U.S. Department of Education's Office of Special Education Programs, NCCRES provides technical assistance and professional development to close the achievement gap between students from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds and their peers, and to reduce inappropriate referrals to special education.

**NCEA. (National Center for Educational Accountability).** A collaborative effort of *ECS* and the University of Texas, which sponsors "Just for the Kids."

**NCEA. (National Center for Educational Achievement).** A non-profit, non-partisan organization whose mission is to help K-12 students reach college and career readiness. NCEA carries out data analysis, research, advocacy, and program development to promote high academic standards and student achievement.

**NCEC. (Non-Categorical Early Childhood).** Refers to a child who may be eligible to receive special education and related services under a non-specific disability category.

**NCES. (National Center for Education Statistics).** Part of the U.S. Department of Education, having primary federal responsibility for collecting and analyzing data related to education in the U.S. and other nations.

**NCHS. (National Center for Health Statistics).** Federal agency responsible for the collection and dissemination of the Nation's vital and health statistics.

**NCLB. (No Child Left Behind).** A 2001 reauthorization of *ESEA* that reorganized several programs and added a layer of federal accountability for schools and districts. NCLB was replaced by *ESSA* in 2015.

**NCLB Waiver.** In 2013, Texas secured a conditional waiver for flexibility in meeting the *AYP* requirements of *NCLB*. Under the conditions of the waiver, 5% of *Title I* schools in the state were designated as Priority Schools. These schools include a combination of *TTIPS*, *Title I* schools with

graduation rates below 60%, and the lowest-performing *Title I* schools based on achievement results on reading and math *safeguards* at the All Student level. Ten percent of *Title I* schools in the state – not otherwise designated as a Priority Schools – were designated as Focus Schools. These schools include campuses with the widest gaps between reading and math performance of the federal *student groups* and *safeguard* targets of 75%. To exit Priority or Focus status, a school must make significant progress for two consecutive years following interventions and no longer fit the criteria to be identified as a Priority or Focus school. Priority and Focus schools are required to engage in *TAIS* and develop a *TIP*. Priority and Focus school designations and associated requirements will continue through the 2016-2017 school year.

**NCSEAM. (National Center for Special Education Accountability Monitoring).** Also known as the National Monitoring Center, NCSEAM is federally funded by the Office of Special Education Programs (OSEP) of the U.S. Department of Education to assist states, local agencies, and OSEP in the implementation of focused monitoring and evidenced-based decision-making about compliance with federal law so that improved results are achieved for children with disabilities and their families.

**NCTM. (National Council of Teachers of Mathematics).** A public voice of mathematics education supporting teachers to ensure equitable mathematics learning of the highest quality for all students through vision, leadership, professional development, and research.

**NCUEA. (National Council of Urban Education Associations).** A caucus of local affiliates of the NEA.

**NDE. (NAEP Data Explorer).** An online *NAEP* data analysis tool created by NCES.

**NDPC. (National Dropout Prevention Center).** The National Dropout Prevention Center for Students with Disabilities (NDPC-SD) supports the national implementation of provisions of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (*IDEA*) to provide successful school outcomes for students with disabilities. The National Dropout Prevention Center/Network (NDPC/N) serves as a clearinghouse on issues related to dropout prevention and to offer strategies designed to increase the graduation rate in America's schools.

**NDSS. (National Down Syndrome Society).** Membership organization that advocates for the value, acceptance, and inclusion of people with Down syndrome.

**NEA. (National Education Association).** National membership organization for promoting the cause of public education.

**NECTAC. (National Early Childhood Technical Assistance Center).** Supports the implementation of the early childhood provisions of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (*IDEA*). Its mission is to strengthen service systems to ensure that children with disabilities (birth through five) and their families receive and benefit from high quality, culturally appropriate, and family-centered supports and services.

**NEFE. (National Endowment for Financial Education).** Private nonprofit organization dedicated to inspiring empowered financial decision-making for individuals and families. With *Junior Achievement*, NEFE provides a financial planning program for high school students.

**NETP. (National Educational Technology Plan).** U.S. Department of Education long-range plan for enhancing educational technology.

**NETS. (National Educational Technology Standards).** Standards for students, teachers, and administrators, prepared by *ISTE*.

**NHI. (National Hispanic Institute).** National organization training high-ability Latino youth for leadership readiness.

**NHR. (National Honor Roll.)** An organization that recognizes high school and middle school students for exceptional academic success. To be included, students must provide detailed information about their accomplishments and extracurricular activities.

**NHS. (National Honor Society).** The National Honor Society and National Junior Honor Society (NJHS) are national organizations established to recognize academic achievement, leadership, service, and character in high school and middle level students.

**NICHD. (Eunice Kennedy Shriver National Institute of Child Health and Human Development).** Established by Congress in 1962, the institute conducts and supports research on all stages of human development, from preconception to adulthood, to better understand the health of children, adults, families, and communities.

**NIDRR. (National Institute on Disability and Rehabilitation Research).** Part of the U.S. Department of Education's *OSERS* that provides leadership and support for a comprehensive program of research related to the rehabilitation of individuals with disabilities.

**NIFA. (New Instructional Facility Allotment).** Under *Tier I*, school districts may receive an allotment for each student in *ADA* at a new campus in its first year of operation, and for each additional student in *ADA* at a campus in its second year of operation.

**9 Box.** A form consisting of nine blocks used for aligning curriculum, instruction, and assessment.

**NJHS. (National Junior Honor Society).** See *NHS*.

**NMSC. (National Merit Scholarship Corporation).** Established in 1955, an independent, not-for-profit organization that conducts the National Merit Scholarship Program and the National Achievement Scholarship Program, which are annual competitions for recognition and college undergraduate scholarships.

**NMSQT.** See *PSAT/NMSQT*.

**NOD. (Notice of Decision).** A school district must provide a special education parent (or adult student) with prior written notice when it proposes or refuses to initiate or change the student's identification, evaluation, placement, or services.

**Non-Priority Transfer.** See *Transfer*.

**NRA. (Norm-Referenced Assessment).** See *NRT*.

**NRT. (Norm-Referenced Test).** An assessment that compares a student's skills to others in his or her age group. NRTs are developed by creating the test items and then administering the test to a group of students that will be used as the basis of comparison. (Compare to *CRT*.)

**NSC. (National Student Clearinghouse).** A non-profit organization that provides data on college student enrollment and completion.

**NSF. (National Science Foundation).** An independent federal agency created by Congress in 1950 to promote the progress of science. NSF conducts the Presidential Award for Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching program.

**NSLP. (National School Lunch Program).** Administered by the U.S. Department of Agriculture to provide nutritionally balanced, low-cost or free lunches to low-income children each school day.

**NSPRA. (National School Public Relations Association).** National membership organization since 1935 that provides school communication training and services to school leaders.

**Numeracy.** The ability to reason and apply quantitative concepts.

**NYOS. (Not Your Ordinary School).** A network of public *charter schools*.

- O -

**Occupational Cluster.** Grouping of occupations from one or more industries that share common skill requirements. Occupational clusters form the basis for developing national skill standards, organizing instruction in all aspects of an industry, establishing career academies, and creating career pathways or majors as part of school-to-work programs.

**OCD. (Obsessive Compulsive Disorder).**

**OCR. (Office for Civil Rights).** Part of the U.S. Department of Education that ensures equal access to education and promotes educational excellence throughout the nation through vigorous enforcement of civil rights. Enforces *Section 504* of the Rehabilitation Act, and looks into complaints about discrimination based on disability.

**OEYP. (Optional Extended Year Program).** Instructional services for students in kindergarten through grade 11 who are identified as likely not to be promoted to the next grade level for the succeeding school year, or in grade 12 who are identified as likely not to graduate before the beginning of the succeeding school year. The purpose of the OEYP is to provide students with additional time to master state content standards and student performance standards.

**OFSDP. (Optional Flexible School Day Program).** A program that Texas school districts may offer to provide flexible hours and days of attendance for students in any grade who have dropped out of school, are at risk of dropping out, are participating in an approved early college high school plan, or are attending a campus implementing an approved innovative redesign.

**OFYP. (Optional Flexible Year Program).** A program that Texas school districts may offer to modify the instructional calendar to provide a flexible year program to meet student educational needs, including providing intensive instructional services. An approved school district may reduce the number of instructional days for certain students.

**OHI. (Other Health Impairment).** Special education services category.

**OI. (Orthopedically Impaired or Orthopedic Impairment).**

**OID. (Office of Innovation and Development).** AISD office that includes grants management and identification of other funding sources.

**O&M. (Orientation and Mobility).** Rehabilitative training in which the student learns all of the skills necessary for independent travel and safe movement within various environments.

**One-Way Dual Language.** A program that supports one language group, such as students whose primary language is Spanish, in becoming bilingual and bi-literate. (Compare to *Two-Way Dual Language*.)

**Open Records Request.** A written request to a governmental body under the Public Information Act (*PIA*). The request must ask for records or information already in existence. The act does not require a governmental body to create new information, to do legal research, or to answer questions.

**ORF. (Oral Reading Fluency).** A *CBM* to track reading speed in which a student is given a grade-appropriate passage and asked to read aloud for one minute. The examiner notes any words that the

student misreads or hesitates on for three seconds or longer. The passage is then scored for Correctly Read Words (CRW). Although the test is simple in format and quick to administer, its results are sensitive to short-term student gains in reading skills, and predictive of long-term reading success.

**OSEP. (Office of Special Education Programs).** Part of the U.S. Department of Education's *OSERS* dedicated to improving results for persons with disabilities from birth through age 21, and providing leadership and financial support to assist states and local agencies.

**OSERS. (Office of Special Education and Rehabilitative Services).** An office within the U.S. Department of Education committed to improving results and outcomes for people with disabilities of all ages, providing a wide array of supports to individuals, parents, local agencies, and states in the areas of special education, vocational rehabilitation, and research.

**OSS. (Out-of-School Suspension).** Disciplinary action requiring a student to remain away from school for a specified period of time, counted as an absence. See *ISS*.

**OT. (Occupational Therapy).**

**Other Programs.** Part of *FSP* state aid that includes *ASATR*, the *Staff Allotment*, and *ASAHE*, minus shared costs for students in the Texas School for the Deaf and Texas School for the Blind and Visually Impaired (current year total tax collections divided by previous year ADA, multiplied by district students in the state schools).

- P -
-------

**P<sup>3</sup>.** See *PPP*.

**P-12.** Referring to pre-kindergarten through grade 12.

**P-16.** Referring to pre-kindergarten through undergraduate college.

**PA. (Physical Activity).**

**PAC. (Performing Arts Center).** An AISD district-wide facility being constructed in the Mueller development.

**PACER. (Parent Advocacy Coalition for Educational Rights).** National center dedicated to expanding opportunities and enhancing the quality of life of children and young adults with disabilities and their families.

**PACT. (Public Access Community Television).**

**PAIR. (Protection and Advocacy of Individual Rights).** A federal program that supports protection and advocacy systems for individuals with disabilities in each state.

**PALS. (Peer Assistance Leadership and Service).** A youth empowerment and cross-age peer mentoring program that has served thousands of AISD students since it was founded in 1980. High school students are trained to be mentors to younger students at feeder schools. It is approved by *TEA* as an elective course.

**PAPA. (Parenting and Paternal Awareness).** State high school health curriculum requirement for all Texas school districts. The purpose of the program is to teach students about the rights and responsibilities of parenting. The PAPA curriculum focuses on the importance of father involvement, the value of paternity establishment, and the legal criteria of child support.

**ParentConnection.** A web-based program implemented by AISD to enable parents to access information on their students.

**PBB. (Performance-Based Budgeting).** A budgetary system in which resources are allocated based on the successful accomplishment of stated performance objectives, as in a strategic plan.

**PBDMI. (Performance Based Data Management Initiative).** A collaborative effort between the U.S. Department of Education, state education agencies (SEAs), and industry partners to improve the quality and timeliness of educational information. This initiative will produce an Education Data Exchange Network (EDEN), providing SEAs and the federal government the capacity to transfer and analyze information about educational programs.

**PBE. (Performance Based Empowerment).** The practice of empowering individual campuses that have shown success in student performance.

**PBIS. (Positive Behavior Interventions and Supports).** School-wide system that provides students with the belief that all children can be academically and socially successful. See *PBS*.

**PBL. (Problem-Based Learning).** A student-centered instructional strategy in which students collaboratively solve problems and reflect on their experiences.

**PBM. (Performance Based Monitoring).** A statistically sound, meaningful set of performance indicators for evaluating student performance, program effectiveness, and data integrity.

**PBMAS. (Performance-Based Monitoring Analysis System).** A TEA automated data system that reports annually on the performance of school districts and charter schools in selected program areas (bilingual education/English as a second language, career and technical education, special education, and certain Title programs under ESSA).

**PBS. (Positive Behavior Supports).** A broad range of systemic and individualized strategies with emphasis on proactive interventions for promoting, teaching, reinforcing, and monitoring positive student behaviors by all adults on campus while preventing problem behavior with all students. See *PBIS*.

**PCPEI. (Policy Committee on Public Education Information).** Advisory body to TEA concerning data collection policies and strategies, reviewing all major changes to PEIMS requirements.

**PD. (Professional Development).**

**PDAP. (Palmer Drug Abuse Program).** A non-sectarian fellowship of Austin young people and parents who share their experiences to solve common problems and help them recover from the effects of mind-changing chemicals.

**PDAS. (Professional Development and Appraisal System).** State-approved teacher appraisal system.

**PDC. (Professional Development Center).** AISD service center for staff professional development.

**PDC. (Professional Development Center).**

**PDU. (Professional Development Unit).** Credit awarded to participants who effectively engaged with a group of colleagues in study and reflection for an area of need, and who implement strategies to improve practice and student achievement

**Pearson.** An education publishing and assessment service to schools and corporations, as well as directly to students. Pearson has international and North American branches, and owns several leading educational media brands.



**PEG. (Public Education Grant).** Under the PEG program, a student is eligible for an intra-district or inter-district transfer if (1) 50% or more of the students in the current school failed the required state tests in any two of the past three years, or (2) the current school was rated *Improvement Required* at any time in the past three years. Although relatively few students participate in the PEG program annually, school districts receive “weighted” funding for PEG students under *Tier I*.

**PEG. (Public, Education, and Government).** Refers to certain television channels.

**PEIMS. (Public Education Information Management System).** Encompasses all data requested and received by *TEA* regarding public education, including student demographic and academic performance data, as well as personnel, financial, and other organizational information.

**PEMIS EDIT+.** Resource for districts and campuses to submit their *PEIMS* data to *TEA* via the Internet.

**Pell Grant.** A type of post-secondary, federal educational grant program sponsored by the U.S. Department of Education. It is named after U.S. Senator Claiborne Pell and originally known as the Basic Educational Opportunity Grant program. Grants are awarded based on a “financial need” formula determined by Congress using criteria submitted through the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (*FAFSA*).

**PELP. (Public Education Leadership Project).** In 2003, faculty members from Harvard Business School and Harvard Graduate School of Education launched PELP to create and disseminate knowledge about how to manage urban school districts. The PELP team strives to identify effective leadership and management practices to support large-scale organizational change in urban school districts with the ultimate hope of improving teaching and learning for all students.

**PEP. (Personal Education Plan).** Individualized educational goals for a student.

**PEP. (Pregnancy Education and Parenting).**

**PEP. (Principal Excellence Program).** See *TxPEP*.

**PE/PA. (Physical Education/Physical Activity).**

**PER. (Program Effectiveness Review).** Part of *PBMAS*.

**Per Capita Rate.** See *ASF*.

**Performance Indexes.** STAAR performance framework built on four indexes: Index 1, Student Achievement; Index 2, Student Progress; Index 3, Closing Performance Gaps; Index 4, Postsecondary Readiness. To earn a Met Standard rating requires meeting Index 3, Index 4, and either of Index 1 or Index 2. Otherwise, an Improvement Required (IR) rating is earned. (See *Domains*.)

**Perkins Grant.** See *Carl D. Perkins Vocational and Technical Education Act of 1998*.

**Person First Language.** Puts the person before the disability, and describes what a person has, not who a person is. It recognizes that individuals with disabilities are first and foremost people. It emphasizes each person’s value, individuality, dignity, and capabilities. (For example, “She has autism,” rather than “She is autistic.”)

**PET. (PID Enrollment Tracking).** An extension to *PID* offering an efficient and reliable way to dynamically track public school student enrollments and withdrawals.

**Pew Research Center.** A non-profit, non-partisan “fact tank” that provides information on the issues, attitudes, and trends shaping America and the world. It does so by conducting public opinion polling and social science research, analyzing news coverage, and holding forums and briefings.

**PFAl. (Physical Fitness Assessment Initiative).** Program designed to gather physical fitness data of Texas students for analysis in order to determine if there is any correlation between student academic achievement, attendance, obesity, disciplinary problems, and school meal programs.

**PGA. (Perkins Grant Application).** See *Carl D. Perkins Vocational and Technical Education Act of 1998*.

**PGC. (Progress in the General Curriculum).** See *AGC*.

**PGP. (Personal Graduation Plan).** An individualized plan developed for each student in middle or high school who does not perform satisfactorily on an assessment instrument administered under *TEC* Chapter 39, Subchapter B, or who is not likely to receive a high school diploma before the fifth school year following enrollment in the ninth grade.

**PHI. (Protected Health Information).** Protected information covered under *HIPPA*.

**PIA. (Public Information Act).** State law that gives the public the right to access government information. See *Open Records Request*.

**Phoenix Academy.** A safe educational environment where chemically dependent students can develop a drug and alcohol-free lifestyle, make significant academic progress, identify and address emotional issues, and make sound career and vocational decisions in a highly structured and closely supervised setting.

**PI. (Parental Involvement).**

**PID. (Person Identification System).** Used by *TEA* to manage and store identifying information on individuals who are reported through *PEIMS*.

**Pipeline Services.** A continuum of coordinated supports, services, and opportunities for children from birth through entry into and success in postsecondary education and career attainment.

**PK.** See *Pre-K*.

**PKG. (Pre-Kindergarten Guidelines).** TEA guidelines aligned with *TEKS*, sequenced to follow child development and give teaching strategies. The guidelines offer educators the information and support to prepare all children for success in kindergarten.

**PL. (Performance Level).** Used in *PBMAS*.

**PLAAFP. (Present Levels of Academic Achievement and Functional Performance).** Information that informs the discussions and decisions made by members of an *IEP* team.

**Platicas.** Spanish for “chats”. Informal conversation circles with parents of children with special needs in AISD schools. They are facilitated by a social service specialist from the Family and School Support Team (*FASST*).

**PLC. (Professional Learning Community).** Integral to redesign efforts, a collegial group of administrators and school staff who are united in their commitment to student learning. They share a vision, work and learn collaboratively, visit and review other classrooms, and participate in decision-making. The benefits to the staff and students include a reduced isolation of teachers, better informed and committed teachers, and academic gains for students.

**PLD. (Proficiency Level Descriptor).** PLDs provide a snapshot of students' academic characteristics based on performance on a given STAAR assessment. PLDs are statements that describe the specific knowledge and skills students typically demonstrate at each performance level.

**PLTW. (Project Lead the Way).** Program that prepares students to be the most innovative and productive leaders in science, technology, engineering, and math (*STEM*), and to make meaningful, pioneering contributions. PLTW partners with middle schools and high schools to provide a rigorous, relevant *STEM* education.

**PM. (Progress Monitoring).**

**PM. (Project Management.)** A group of established processes for managing projects, including scoping (feasibility), planning, implementation, and monitoring.

**PMI. (Program Monitoring and Interventions).** TEA Division that reviews, evaluates, monitors, and intervenes with campuses and their districts, as related to state and federal accountability and data validation.

**PNL. (Parent Notification Letter).**

**PODER. (People Organized in the Defense of Earth and her Resources.)** Activist organization formed in 1991 to increase the participation of Austin residents in corporate and government decisions related to economic development, environmental hazards, and the impact on neighborhoods. ("Poder" is the Spanish word for power.)

**POL. (Principles of Learning).** Nine tenets that form the foundation for improving teaching and learning in AISD. Developed by the Institute for Learning (*IFL*).

**Policy Governance.** A school district governance system wherein the Board establishes policy and other high-level direction, and the Superintendent is charged with conducting the operations and management of the district.

**Portfolio.** A purposeful organization of learner-selected evidence of school and non-school accomplishments.

**POS. (Program of Study).**

**POS. (Point of Service).** Location where certain services are provided. POS often refers to customer satisfaction surveys.

**PPCD. (Pre-School Program for Children with Disabilities).** Special education services for children with disabilities ages three through five.

**PPfT. (Professional Pathways for Teachers).** Teacher appraisal and compensation program that replaces AISD REACH, the district's previous strategic compensation program. The appraisal piece of PPfT looks at instructional practice, professional growth and responsibilities, student learning objectives, and school-wide value-added. The compensation piece looks at appraisal results, professional development units, and leadership pathways. Base salary can be increased through earning a certain number of points (compared to the previous "steps and ladders" approach).

**PPI. (Protected Personal Information).**

**PPP. (Parent Participation Program).**

**PPP. (Public-Private Partnership).** A collaborative arrangement between public- and private-sector entities. Also referred to as P<sup>3</sup>.

**PPVT. (Peabody Picture Vocabulary Test).** A multiple-choice test, suitable for young children, designed to measure the respondent's receptive vocabulary, generally interpreted as verbal intelligence. Administration of the test requires no reading by the respondent. The examiner reads aloud a series of stimulus words, and in each case the respondent selects a picture corresponding to the word from a set of four alternatives, the words being arranged within the test in ascending order of difficulty.

**Pre-AP. Pre-Advanced Placement.** Coursework designed to teach students the skills necessary to be successful in *AP* courses.

**Pre-K. (Pre-Kindergarten).** State-funded, program for students who are four years of age by September 1 of the school year and who qualify as low-income, according to the *F/RPM* program, or are *LEP*.

**Prime Time.** See *Austin Prime Time*.

**Priority School.** See *NCLB Waiver*.

**Priority Transfer.** See *Transfer*

**PRN. (Partners Resource Network).** A nonprofit agency that operates the Texas network of *PTI* centers. In addition, PRN serves as an *OSEP* Regional Parent Technical Assistance Center (RPTAC).

**Professional Employees.** See *AISD Employee Groups*.

**Program Allotments.** See *Tier I*.

**Project ADVANCE. (Assess, Decide, Visit, Apply Now for College Education).** AISD initiative to increase college enrollment among high school graduates. A special facilitator is located at each high school campus.

**Project GLAD. (Guided Language Acquisition Design).** Project GLAD is a model of professional development in the area of language acquisition and literacy. The strategies promote English language acquisition, academic achievement, and cross-cultural skills.

**Project HELP. (Homeless Education and Learning Project).** AISD initiative to remove barriers in providing services to homeless youth.

**Project SEARCH. (Students Exploring Alternative Resources at Children's Hospital).** Originated in 1996 at Cincinnati Children's Hospital, Project SEARCH offers an innovative and comprehensive approach to employment for individuals with intellectual disabilities through real world work experience in an internship setting and on-going, long-term support in job retention and career advancement. The program has provided a model worldwide, and is used by Seton in Austin.

**Project SMART. (Science, Math, and Reading Tutorials).** AISD initiative to provide tutoring by certified teachers in core subject areas to under-performing students.

**Promethean Board.** A product developed by Promethean for projecting anything that can be seen or done on a computer screen onto an interactive whiteboard (IWB), to engage students with vivid images, video, and audio.

**Promise Neighborhoods.** Federal grant program under *Title IV* of *ESSA* for non-profit and other entities to benefit children in distressed communities through the design of comprehensive community programs. The programs must have the specific goal of preparing students for success in college and careers. As part of the planning process, applicants must focus their efforts on schools in the neighborhood and build services for students in those schools.

**Promise Zones.** Federal grant program administered by *HUD* targeting high-poverty urban, rural, and tribal communities. The federal government will partner with and invest in communities to create jobs, leverage private investment, increase economic activity, expand educational opportunities, and reduce violent crime.

**Property Tax Relief Fund.** See *Target Revenue*.

**Protecting You/Protecting Me.** A program of Mothers Against Drunk Driving (MADD) in which high school students teach elementary students about the brain, how it works, and how alcohol affects it.

**PRPA. (Protection of Pupil Rights Amendment).** Law that protects students under the age of 18 from unwanted participation in federally-funded surveys or other data-gathering activities in which personal information may be revealed.

**PRS. (Pregnancy Related Services).** Support services provided to pregnant students during the pregnancy and postpartum periods which qualify them for the special weight assigned to pregnancy in the formula used to calculate the total State Compensatory Education (SCE) Allotment in *Tier I*. These services are provided to assist the student in adjusting to her pregnancy, thereby increasing her chances of staying in school.

**PRTI. (Pre-Response to Intervention).** Model designed to assist struggling Pre-K students close the gap in a preventative manner.

**PSAT/NMSQT. (Preliminary SAT/National Merit Scholars Qualifying Test).** Helps students prepare for the SAT, and to enter the competition for scholarships from the National Merit Scholarship Corporation (NMSC).

**PSF. (Permanent School Fund).** A perpetual trust fund created by the Texas Constitution. PSF earnings go into the ASF. PSF investments include U.S. Treasury bonds, Texas municipal bonds, school district building bonds, and securities.

**PSP. (Professional Service Provider).** An experienced educator (former principal, superintendent, or district administrator) who provides technical assistance to campuses and districts in the state and/or federal school improvement process. The PSP is part of the *CIT*.

**PSS. (Parent Support Specialist).** An AISD employee providing a range of services to parents and families on campuses.

**PT. (Physical Therapy).**

**PTA. (Parent and Teacher Association).**

**PTAD. (Property Tax Assistance Division).** A division of the Texas Comptroller of Public Accounts. The PTAD determines school district property values for use in the state school finance system.

**PTI. (Parent Training and Information).** PTI centers are funded by OSEP to help meet the needs of parents of children with disabilities, providing training, education, information, referral, emotional support, and individual assistance in obtaining appropriate services. See *PRN*.

**PTR (Pupil-Teacher Ratio).** Number of students per teacher per classroom. This is not the average class size; typically, the average class size is higher than the PTR.

**PTSA. (Parent, Teacher, and Student Association).**

**PVI. (Post-Visit Intervention).** Part of *PBMAS*.

**QIR. (Quarterly Implementation Report).** Used by *TEA* to monitor the implementation of the *TTIPS* grant program.

**QSCB. (Qualified School Construction Bond).** QSCBs are bonds that school districts and charter schools can use to save money in financing school construction, land acquisition, and renovation projects. QSCB is a federal program designed to provide to bond holders tax credits that are approximately equal to the interest that states and communities would ordinarily pay the holders of taxable bonds.

**QTEL. (Quality Teaching for English Learners).** A program designed by WestEd and used by AISD in provide professional development to improve teacher effectiveness with respect to the abilities of *ELL* students to read, write, and discuss academic texts in English for rigorous academic courses.

**QZAB. (Qualified Zone Academy Bond).** The federal Taxpayer Relief Act of 1997 allows for certain schools, known as Education Zone Academies, to finance the equipping and/or renovating of school facilities on an interest-free basis through the allocation of tax credits.

**RACR. (Revenue at Compressed Tax Rate).** See *Target Revenue*.

**RAVE. (Recognizing All Valuable Employees).** AISD employee recognition program for outstanding customer service.

**RBP. (Roster-Based Program).** Created in *eCST* to address a needed intervention for a group of students. It includes progress monitoring information.

**READcess.** A grade-specific literacy program involving literature that has received the Caldecott and Newbery awards. More generally, a specific time set aside during the school day for students to read.

**Reading First.** Federal program focusing on putting proven methods of early reading instruction in classrooms. States and districts receive support to apply scientifically based reading research, and the proven instructional and assessment tools consistent with this research, to ensure that all children learn to read well by the end of third grade.

**Read 180.** AISD middle school initiative providing an intensive opportunity for the acceleration of language and reading skills that serves the largest number of *ELLs*.

**Reading Recovery Council of North America.** The goal of Reading Recovery is to dramatically reduce the number of first-grade students who have extreme difficulty learning to read and write through short-term intervention of one-to-one tutoring, and to reduce the cost of these learners to educational systems.

**Ready by 21.** Developed by the Forum for Youth Investment, strategies for a comprehensive system of services and supports to help communities improve the odds that all children and youth will be ready for college, work and life. In Austin/Travis County, the Ready by 21 Coalition is a collaborative group of youth service providers, educators, government agency representatives, and other community members, and the initiative connects to several other youth-focused coalitions.

**Recapture.** See *Chapter 41*.

**Reconstitution.** An accountability sanction requiring the removal or reassignment of some or all campus administrative and/or instructional personnel, and the implementation of a campus redesign. Reconstitution Plans have now been replaced by *Turnaround Plans*.



**REAL. (Risk-reduction Education for Adolescent Life).** Program aimed at reaching adolescents with age-appropriate, abstinence-based sex health education programs.

**REED. (Review of Existing Evaluation Data).** Process of looking at a special education student's existing data to determine if additional data are needed for an initial evaluation (if appropriate) or as part of a reevaluation.

**Refined ADA.** See *ADA*.

**Region 13.** See *ESC*.

**Regular Program Allotment.** See *Tier I*.

**RES. (Responsive Education Solutions).** A network of public *charter schools*.

**Revenue Bond.** See *Municipal Bond*.

**Reward Schools.** Reward Schools include High-Performing Schools and High-Progress Schools. A High-Performing School is a *Title I* school with *distinctions* based on reading and math performance; and, at the high school level, the highest graduation rates. A High-Progress School is a *Title I* school in the top 25% in annual improvement; and/or a school in the top 25% of those demonstrating ability to close performance gaps based on system *safeguards*.

**RF. (Residential Facility).**

**RFP. (Request for Proposals).**

**RFQ. (Request for Qualifications).**

**RIF. (Reading is Fundamental).** The largest children's literacy nonprofit organization in the United States, RIF prepares and motivates children to read by delivering free books and literacy resources to those children and families who need them most.

**RIPP. (Respond in Peaceful and Positive Ways.)** A conflict resolution and violence prevention program aimed at middle school students.

**RISE. (Rigor in Spanish and English).** AISD elementary school initiative to provide all *ELLs* equal access to the standard curriculum while providing coherent programs in bilingual education or English as a Second Language.

**"Robin Hood" Plan.** See *Chapter 41*.

**Rollback Election / Rollback Tax Rate.** See *TRE*.

**ROPES. (Reality Oriented Physical Experiential Session).** An AISD student leadership development program that provides opportunities for students to learn leadership and decision making skills and to foster cooperative group problem solving.

**ROR. (Reach Out and Read).** An evidence-based, non-profit organization that promotes early literacy and school readiness in pediatric exam rooms nationwide by giving new books to children and advice to parents about the importance of reading aloud.

**Rosenwald Schools.** A rural school building program that was a major effort to improve the quality of public education for African Americans in the early twentieth-century South. Seed money was provided by the Julius Rosenwald Foundation.

**RPTE. (Reading Proficiency Test in English).** See *TELPAS*.

**RSA. (Rehabilitation Services Administration).** Part of the U.S. Department of Education's *OSERS* that oversees grant programs that assist individuals with physical or mental disabilities to obtain employment and live more independently through the provision of such supports as counseling, medical and psychological services, job training, and other individualized services.

**RTI. (Response to Intervention).** A multi-tiered structure of increasingly intensive and focused instruction and intervention for serving the needs of students with academic or behavioral concerns. RTI is an instructional service delivery model founded on two key premises: all children can learn when provided with appropriate, effective instruction; and most academic difficulties can be prevented with early identification of need followed by immediate intervention.

**RTTT. (Race to the Top).** An education reform grant fund made available by the U.S. Department of Education as part of *ARRA*. Through RTTT, states are challenged to create comprehensive strategies for addressing central areas of reform that will drive school improvement.

**Rubric.** Specific criteria or guidelines linked to learning objectives used to evaluate a student's work.

- S -

**SACS. (Southern Association of Colleges and Schools).** Accredits more than 12,000 public and private educational institutions, from pre-kindergarten through university level, in 11 southern states and in Latin America.

**SADD. (Students Against Destructive Decisions).** Originally Students Against Drunk Driving, SADD is committed to saving lives by empowering teens to stand strong against destructive decisions. SADD supports a national network by equipping its chapters with scientific-based, peer-to-peer educational trainings, programs and events, awareness campaigns, and leadership development opportunities.

**SAFE. (Sequenced, Active, Focused, and Explicit).** Evidence-based *SEL* skills instruction.

**Safeguards.** In the state accountability system, and under the *NCLB Waiver*, the required disaggregation of campus and district data into specific student groups. The purpose of safeguards is to look beyond aggregated data to ensure that substandard performance in one area or one student group is not disguised by acceptable performance in other areas or other student groups.

**SafePlace.** An Austin advocacy, prevention, and education group for victims of sexual and domestic violence.

**SAI. (Special Accreditation Investigation).** TEA action in response to a conflict between members of a board of trustees or between the board and district administration. The investigation is warranted if the Commissioner of Education if it appears that the conflict involves a violation of the statutory duties of the involved parties.

**Salute.** An annual event co-hosted by AISD and *APIE* to recognize outstanding teachers, principals, and other district employees for their continued dedication to the excellence of students and schools.

**SAR. (Student Aggregate Report).**

**SAR. (Student Aid Report).** Summarizes all the information provided on a *FAFSA*.

**SARA. (School Assignment by Residential Address).** AISD automated system for associating a specific address with an assigned school, available on the district website.

**SAS.** Major producer of statistical analysis software. (Originally Statistical Analysis System but, according to the producer, SAS is no longer an acronym.)

**SAT. (Scholastic Aptitude Test).** A standard college entrance examination, produced by the *College Board*. It is designed to test skill levels in math, vocabulary, and reading comprehension.

**SB. (Senate Bill.)**

**SBDM. (Site-Based Decision-Making).**

**SBEC. (State Board for Educator Certification).** Oversees all aspects of teacher certification, continuing education, and standards of conduct.

**SBF. (Student-Based Funding).** Student-based allocation models (also known as weighted student funding) provide as a more equitable way to distribute funding, create transparency, allow flexibility in resource use, and enable portability with student choice. Student-based allocation puts students at the center of the funding formula by allocating funds to schools on the basis of students and needs, instead of allocating staff or funding programs.

**SBOE. (State Board of Education).** Elected board that oversees the public education system in Texas in accordance with the *TEC*.

**SBP. (School Breakfast Program).** Administered by the U.S. Department of Agriculture to provide nutritionally balanced, low-cost or free breakfasts to low-income children each school day.

**SB6.** See *Success By Six*.

**SBS. (Social Behavioral Services).**

**SBS. (Social Behavioral Skills.)**

**SCA. (Short Cycle Assessment).** A *Formative Assessment* given periodically, designed to help the teacher shape instruction.

**Scaffolding.** An instructional technique in which the teacher breaks a complex task into smaller tasks, models the desired learning strategy or task, provides support as students learn to do the task, and then gradually shifts responsibility to the students. In this manner, a teacher enables students to accomplish as much of a task as possible without adult assistance.

**SCE. (State Compensatory Education).** State funding source associated with students who are identified as *at-risk* of dropping out of school, included in *Tier I*. The total SCE Allotment consists of three components: the SEC Allotment, the Pregnancy-Related Services (*PRS*) Allotment, and the Military Allotment. The SEC Allotment for a district is determined by averaging the highest six months of student enrollment in the *F/RPM* program, then multiplying this average by the district's *ABA* and an assigned multiplier, or "weight." The *PRS* Allotment for a district is determined by multiplying the *PRS* students (*FTEs*) by the district's *ABA* and an assigned weight. For the Military Allotment, districts receive a set amount of funding for each student (*ADA*) who has a parent or guardian serving on active duty either in a combat zone or as assigned to another military base due to a base closure. [For districts to be able to receive the Military Allotment, funds must be specifically appropriated by the Legislature or excess *FSP* funds must be available, neither of which has ever been the case.]

**SCECD. (State Center for Early Childhood Development).** The Texas Legislature directed the formation of an SCECD to explore how to better integrate the delivery of early childhood education for three- and four-year-old children at risk for school failure. See *CIRCLE*.

**SCHIP. (State Children's Health Insurance Program).** See *CHIP*.

**Schoolnet.** Proprietary education software that provides a unified solution to: align student assessment, curriculum, and instruction; guide collaborative, data-informed discussion; and enable targeted instruction for every student.

**SCL. (School-to-Community Liaison).** Formerly referred to as a Visiting Teacher, an AISD employee with certification as a teacher, counselor, or social worker who provides assistance to designated campuses in communications and relations with students and parents, particularly in problem or crisis situations.

**SCORES. (Social Communication Resources and Services).** An AISD instructional resource and service that supports students with Autism Spectrum Disorders and/or other disabilities who demonstrate impairment in social, communicative, and behavioral functioning.

**SD.** See *SWD*.

**SDFS. (Safe and Drug Free Schools).** Former federal program under *NCLB*, replaced by the Student Support and Academic Enrichment program under *Title IV* of *ESSA*.

**SDIU. (Special Data Inquiry Unit).** Investigative arm of *TEA*.

**SE. (Student Expectations).**

**SEA. (State Education Agency).** A general term used to designate a state-level education agency.

**SEAC. (Special Education Advisory Committee).** AISD advisory group composed of local professionals and parents of students who receive special education services.

**Section 501(c)(3).** Part of the federal Internal Revenue Code pertaining to tax-exempt nonprofit status.

**Section 504.** Part of the federal Rehabilitation Act, containing broad provisions for eliminating barriers to full participation by persons with disabilities.

**SEDL.** Founded in Austin in 1966 as the Southwest Educational Development Laboratory, SEDL is no longer an acronym. SEDL is a nonprofit education research, development, and dissemination organization. Its services are now national and include professional development, turnaround consulting services, research and evaluation services, and research-based products.

**Seedling Foundation.** Nonprofit organization serving public schools in the greater Austin area through mentoring children of incarcerated parents, campus beautification, and college admissions mentoring.

**SEEDS. (Special Education Electronic Documents System).** Software used to record and report Special Education data.

**SEES. (Special Education Evaluation Services).**

**Seidlitz.** Private firm that provides educator training in helping students achieve academic literacy.

**SEL. (Social and Emotional Learning).** A field that has emerged from the understandings of the nature of biology, emotions, and intelligence and their relation to success and happiness. Through social and emotional learning, children's emotional intelligence (EQ) is bolstered, giving them an enormous edge in their personal and professional futures.

**SEM. (Standard Error of Assessment).** Statistical measurement in state accountability system.

**SEMS. (Special Education Management System).**

**SENS. (Statewide Education Notification System).** An information delivery system that provides critical and time-sensitive information sent from *TEA* to Education Service Centers, school districts, charter schools, and others organizations through a variety of communication channels.

**SERP-Math. (Special Education Research Project).** See *TEMI*.

**Service Learning.** A teaching technique that engages students in active participation in an integrated curriculum of learning and service that benefits the community.

**SES. (Socio-Economic Status).**

**Settle-Up.** A funding reconciliation in the *FSP* occurring after the close of the state fiscal year in which the state pays aid to any school districts that were underpaid and recovers aid from districts that were overpaid.

**SFSF. (State Fiscal Stabilization Fund).** A special program under *ARRA* consisting of two components: the Education Stabilization Fund (ESF), and the Government Services Fund (GSF).

**SFY. (State Fiscal Year).**

**SHA. (School Health Assistant).**

**SHAC. (Student Health Advisory Council).** A district-level advisory committee required by state law to address student health issues and concerns.

**Shadowing.** A career exploration process that enables a student to follow a worker through a period of time to observe what the worker does on the job.

**SHARS. (School Health and Related Services).** A Medicaid financing program administered by *TEA* and *HHSC* allowing school districts to receive reimbursements for certain health-related services provided to special education students.

**Sheltered Instruction.** Represents a visual, hands-on approach to teaching in the content area using a guarded vocabulary. Sheltered instruction does not reduce nor eliminate the content area curriculum; instead, it tailors the curriculum to *LEP* students' proficiency in English. In the sheltered class the teacher uses subject matter as a tool for language acquisition.

**SHIS. (Student Health Information System).** An *EMR* developed by *AISD* for the purpose of maintaining a student's confidential medical records, *PHI*, immunization status, health history, nurse visit encounters, medical diagnoses, or *IHCP*. It can only be accessed by the school nurse or *SHA*. *SHIS* information is protected under *HIPAA*.

**SHRC. (Science/Health Resource Center).** *AISD* center providing teachers with training, materials, and technical assistance in the areas of science and health.

**SI. (Speech Impairment).**

**Sibling Transfer.** See *Transfer*.

**SIFE. (Students with Interrupted Formal Education).** A unique subgroup of *ELL* students, who may also be referred to as *SLIFE* (Students with Limited or Interrupted Formal Education). These students have had limited formal schooling because of political or social conditions in their native countries.

**SIG. (School Improvement Grant).** Funding formerly provided by the U.S. Department of Education for the purpose of supporting focused improvement efforts in the nation's lowest-performing schools. Now included under *Title I* of ESSA.

**Signature Program.** AISD initiative to strengthen schools and *Vertical Team* alignments. Signature programs make schools more attractive such that students are more likely to attend schools within their assigned attendance zones. In so doing, neighborhoods are also strengthened.

**Significant Period.** Selected class period or time of day used to record official attendance for purposes of claiming ADA related funding.

**SIM. (Strategic Instruction Model).** A proprietary product providing a comprehensive, research-validated approach to adolescent literacy that addresses the needs of students to read and understand large volumes of complex materials, as well as their need to be able to express themselves effectively in reading.

**SIOP. (Sheltered Instruction Observation Protocol).** Model that provides training for teachers to gain strategies to better support *ELLs*.

**SIS. (Student Information System).** General term for an automated system for maintaining student related data.

**Skillpoint Alliance.** Community organization that builds partnerships between industry, education and the community which lead to college and career success for Central Texans while meeting employers' needs for a qualified workforce.

**SLC. (Small Learning Community).** Individualized learning environments within a larger school setting. SLCs create a structure to support constructive relationships among students, teachers, and staff, by grouping students together each year to take core courses with the same group of teachers, thus increasing the support students receive from peers, teachers, and other adults.

**SLD. (Specific Learning Disability).** A disorder in one or more of the basic psychological processes involved in understanding or in using language, spoken or written, which disorder may manifest itself in the imperfect ability to listen, think, speak, read, write, spell, or do mathematical calculations. The term includes such conditions as perceptual disabilities, brain injury, minimal brain dysfunction, dyslexia, and developmental aphasia. The term does not include a learning problem that is primarily the result of visual, hearing, or motor disabilities, of mental retardation, of emotional disturbance, or of environmental, cultural, or economic disadvantage.

**SLIFE.** See *SIFE*.

**SLO. (Student Learning Objective).** A measurable outcome of student learning; may be used to assess teacher performance.

**SLP. (Speech Language Pathologist).**

**SLPP. (School Leadership Pilot Program).** State accountability sanction (requiring principals to attend training).

**SLR. (Student Level Review).**

**SLT. (School Leadership Team).**

**SLTI. (School Leadership Team Institute).** SLTIs provide teams of administrators and teacher leaders from each campus an opportunity to review their school's achievement data to develop instructional plans



for the coming school year. In addition, leadership teams have the opportunity to review and improve routines and systems in order to maximize teaching and learning.

**SN.** See *Schoolnet*.

**SMART.** See *Project SMART*.

**SMART. (Specific, Measurable, Attainable, Realistic, and Timely).** Used in strategic and other planning to describe optimal goal statements.

**SMART Girls.** See *SMART Moves*.

**SMART Moves. (Skills Mastery and Resistance Training).** A comprehensive prevention/education program of BGCA that helps young people resist alcohol, tobacco, and other drug use, as well as premature sexual activity. Related programs include SMART Girls, Street SMART, and Date SMART.

**SME. (Subject Matter Expert).**

**SNAP. (Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program).** Formerly known as the Food Stamp Program, SNAP provides food-purchasing assistance for persons with no or limited income. It is administered by the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

**SNDP. (Special Needs Diversionary Program).** A Texas probation-intake based diversion program that targets youth with specific mental health needs by diverting youth into wraparound community services, many of which are provided to the youth and families in their homes or in school. Collocated teams of probation and mental health staff provide joint case management, service delivery, and supervision to youth involved with the program. See *TCOOMMI*.

**SOA. (Standardized Oral Administration).** An online administration option for STAAR. The SOA test forms feature a text-to-speech tool that students can use to hear selected text in test questions, answer choices, and graphics.

**SOC. (System of Care).** Community based service delivery system that ensures a child-centered and family-focused approach, with the needs of child and family dictating the types and mix of services.

**Socratic Questioning.** A strategy that develops the critical thinking skills of students through the use of disciplined questioning that pursues thoughts from many directions.

**SOF. (Summary of Finances).** A report generated for each school district by TEA and updated by districts, including financial information related to the FSP.

**SOP. (Summary of Performance).** Required in IDEA for all graduation students in special education. A summary of a student's academic achievement and functional performance that includes recommendations to assist the student in transitioning from high school to higher education, training, and/or employment.

**SP. (Strategic Plan).**

**Special Area Teacher.** Art, music, and physical education teachers at the elementary schools.

**Special Revenue Fund.** An account for certain revenues required to finance particular activities or programs ("dedicated fund").

**SpECS. (Special Education Compliance Status).**

**SpEd. (Special Education).**

**SPP. (State Performance Plan).** *IDEA* requires each state to develop a six-year performance plan to evaluate efforts to implement the requirements and purposes of the act and illustrate how the state will continuously improve upon this implementation.

**SRC. (School Report Cards).** A subset of *TAPR* data generated by *TEA*, and sent to parents by school districts.

**SRCS. (School Readiness Certification System).** System for certifying the effectiveness of pre-kindergarten programs, Head Start and Early Head Start programs, and government subsidized child care programs in preparing children for kindergarten.

**SREB. (Southern Regional Education Board).** Founded in 1948 at the request of Southern leaders in business, education and government. The nation's first compact for education.

**SRN. (School Redesign Network.)** Located at Stanford University, a learning collaborative that helps school leaders to develop a broader knowledge base about school design, teaching and learning, curriculum and assessment, and a deeper understanding of the features of schools that have been successfully redesigned to support excellence and equity

**SRO. (School Resource Officer).** A law enforcement officer stationed at AISD secondary campuses.

**SRQ. (Student Residency Questionnaire).** A form used by most school districts to help determine whether or not students qualify as homeless under the *McKinney-Vento Act*.

**SSA. (Shared Service Arrangement).** An agreement between two or more school districts and/or *ESCs* to share personnel or services.

**SS/HS. (Safe Schools/Healthy Students).** A comprehensive approach to youth violence prevention, the SS/HS initiative is a unique federal grant program designed to prevent violence and substance abuse among our nation's youth, schools, and communities.

**SSI. (Statewide Systemic Initiative).** Mathematics and science education reform effort launched by the National Science Foundation. Based on a commitment to systemic reform, the SSI Program provides funding to qualifying states that enable them to make simultaneous changes in multiple components to achieve improved student learning of challenging content.

**SSI. (Student Success Initiative).** Grade advancement requirements that apply to students who take *STAAR* reading and mathematics tests at grades 5 and 8. A student may advance to the next grade level only by passing these tests or by unanimous decision of a *GPC* that the student is likely to perform at grade level after additional instruction.

**SSIG. (Secondary School Information Guide).** A guide with important information for students and parents on how students can be successful in middle and high school; it provides detailed information about the courses offered and the courses a student needs to graduate.

**SSS. (Social Service Specialist).** See *Licensed Mental Health Professional*.

**STAAR. (State of Texas Assessments of Academic Readiness).** The current state *standardized testing* system (replacing *TAKS*), implemented in the 2011-2012 school year. For grades 3-8, *STAAR* assesses the same subjects as *TAKS*. For high school, subject-area *TAKS* tests were replaced with *STAAR EOC* assessments.

**STAAR A. (STAAR Accommodated.)** A standard *STAAR* test, but administered with certain embedded supports to help students with disabilities access the content being assessed. These embedded supports

include visual aids, graphic organizers, clarifications of construct-irrelevant terms, and text-to-speech functionality.

**STAAR Alt 2.** An alternate assessment that differs from a standard *STAAR* test, designed for students with significant cognitive disabilities who are receiving special education services.

**STAAR L.** A linguistically accommodated English version of a standard *STAAR* test, provided to *ELL* students in grades 3-8 who meet certain requirements.

**Staff Allotment.** Under *Other Programs*, school districts receive additional funding at a set amount to supplement staff salaries for each teacher, counselor, librarian, and nurse employed by the district.

**Standardized Testing.** In general, standardized testing involves administering the same test in the same manner to all test takers, and scoring the test in the same way. In many cases, standardized testing has evolved into “high-stakes testing,” which has important consequences to students such as grade level advancement or graduation.

In Texas, standardized testing began in 1979 with the enactment of SB 350, requiring every school district in the state to administer a criterion-referenced test (*CRT*) to ensure that all students possessed certain basic skills. Following is the history of Texas standardized testing:

- 1979-1984, Texas Assessment of Basic Skills (TABS)
- 1984-1990, Texas Educational Assessment of Minimum Skills (TEAMS)
- 1990-1999, Texas Assessment of Academic Skills (TAAS)
- 1999-2011, Texas Assessment of Knowledge and Skills (TAKS)
- 2011-Present, State of Texas Assessments of Academic Readiness (*STAAR*)

**STAR.** Sit up straight, Track the speaker at all times, Ask/Answer questions, and Respect the learning environment.

**StAR Chart. (School Technology and Readiness).** The Texas Teacher STaR Chart is designed to help teachers, campuses, and districts determine their progress toward meeting the goals of *TEA*’s Long-Range Plan for Technology, as well as meeting the goals of their district.

**State Aid.** See *FSP*.

**State Comptroller FAST.** See *FAST*.

**State Student Groups.** See *Student Groups*.

**STEM. (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math).**

**STEPS. (Statewide Texas Educational Progress Study).** State reports that analyze different aspects of student demographics and school performance.

**Street SMART.** See *SMART Moves*.

**Student Groups.** Specific groups of students used in the disaggregation of accountability data. The seven federal student groups under the *NCLB Waiver* include: All Students, African American, Hispanic, White, Economically Disadvantaged, Special Education, and *ELL*. The 11 state student groups include the seven federal student groups plus American Indian, Asian, Pacific Islander, and Two or More Races.

**Student Support and Academic Enrichment.** See *Title IV*.

**Subfinder.** An automated employee absence management and substitute placement system, formerly used by AISD and replaced by *Aesop*.

**Success by Six.** Network of early childhood coalitions, focused on improving school readiness through community change so young children can come to school ready to succeed. Operating under local United Way organizations, SB6 coalitions are galvanizing business, government, and non-profit leaders around the importance of early learning.

**Success Program.** Summer program to increase reading and math levels of fourth and fifth grade students.

**Summative Assessment.** An assessment that is cumulative in nature and is utilized to determine whether students have met the course goals or student learning outcomes at the end of a course or program. (Compare to *Formative Assessment*.)

**Supplementary Aids and Services.** Term used in *IDEA* to describe those aids, services, and other supports provided in regular education classes, extracurricular activities, and/or non-academic settings, to enable a student with a disability to be educated with students who do not have disabilities. Schools must try supplementary aids and services before recommending removal of a student with a disability from a setting with non-disabled peers.

**Supported Employment.** Facilitation of competitive work in integrated work settings for individuals with the most severe disabilities who need ongoing support services in order to perform their job. Supported employment provides assistance such as job coaches, transportation, assistive technology, specialized job training, and individually tailored supervision.

**SWD. (Students with Disabilities.)**

**SWOT. (Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, and Threats).** A type of analysis conducted in a strategic planning process, which may be part of an *environmental scan*.

**SY. (School Year).**

**SYM. (School for Young Men).**

**System Safeguards.** See *Safeguards*.

- T -
-------

**TA. (Teaching Assistant).**

**TABE. (Texas Association of Bilingual Education).** Affiliated with NABE, TABE is a professional membership association that includes educators of all grade levels, administrators, college students, and parents interested in promoting bilingual education.

**TAC. (Texas Administrative Code).** Codified state regulations for implementation of particular statutes.

**TAEA. (Texas Art Education Association).** Non-profit organization that supports art educators and art instruction, and conducts competitions for student art, including: Visual Arts Scholastic Event (VASE) for high school; JrVASE (or Junior VASE) for middle school; and TEAM (Texas Elementary Art Meet) for elementary school.

**TAHPERD. (Texas Association for Health, Physical Education, Recreation, and Dance).** Association of professionals and students committed to the development of knowledge and programs that promote active, healthy lifestyles, and enhance skilled, athletic motor performance.

**TAIS. (Texas Accountability Intervention System).** Campuses with *IR* ratings under the state accountability system (or Priority School designations under the *NCLB Waiver*) must utilize this system, which includes data collection and analysis, needs assessment, and development and monitoring of a *TIP*.

**TAKS. (Texas Assessment of Knowledge and Skills).** State *standardized testing* system in effect between 1999 and 2011 (followed by *STAAR*).

**TALA. (Texas Adolescent Literacy Academies).** The TALA initiative exists to increase academic literacy among middle school students by providing research-based professional development to middle school teachers.

**TAN. (Tax Anticipation Note).** TANs are issued by a state or local government with the understanding that a certain amount of taxes will be collected within a given period of time. The note allows the taxing entity to fund projects now rather than waiting for the actual collection of the taxes. TANs are understood to be short-term debt obligations; that is, the taxing entity is expected to have enough revenue in hand to cover the face value of the debt within a relatively short period of time.

**TANF. (Temporary Assistance to Needy Families).** Program that provides financial and medical assistance to needy dependent children and the parents or relatives with whom they are living. Eligible TANF households receive monthly cash and Medicaid benefits.

**TAP. (Teacher Advancement Program).** The Milken Family Foundation created TAP as a strategy to attract, retain, develop, and motivate talented people to the teaching profession. See *DATE*.

**TAP. (Theater Action Project).** A Central Texas nonprofit organization that uses the creative arts to counter violence through the academic, social, and emotional development of young people.

**TAP. (Tiered Academic Plan).** A model that delineates levels of instructional interventions based on student needs. In AISD, three tiers are used, including Classroom Instruction, Targeted Interventions, and Intensive Interventions.

**TAPR. (Texas Academic Performance Report).** State accountability and reporting system, replacing the former *AEIS*.

**Target Revenue.** To provide taxpayer relief, 2006 legislation required each school district to “compress” its *M&O* tax rate to two-thirds of the 2005 rate. For the majority of districts, which had a 2005 *M&O* tax rate of \$1.50, the Compressed Tax Rate (CTR), or District Compressed Rate (DCR), is \$1.00. However, the Legislature did provide districts an opportunity to “enrich” the CTR up to \$1.17.

The Legislature held districts harmless for losses in tax revenues through the concept of “Target Revenue.” [This was supported through the establishment of a special Property Tax Relief Fund, based on the revamping of corporate franchise, motor vehicle, and tobacco product tax structures.] To compensate districts for taxation losses, Target Revenue was included in the *FSP* to assure districts a minimum amount of money per *WADA*. Through subsequent legislation, several adjustments were added to the formula to yield an Adjusted Minimum Revenue, or Revenue at Compressed Tax Rate (RACR).

From RACR is subtracted State and Local Revenue – net *CTR* revenue (after related *recapture*) and the greater of (a) *Tier I* state share, or (b) the sum of the *ASF* payment, *NIFA*, and *High School Allotment* (the latter is the case for AISD). If the remainder is a positive number, that amount is paid to a district as Additional State Aid for Tax Reduction (ASATR) under *Other Programs*.

Pursuant to recent legislative requirements, ASATR will be eliminated after the end of the 2016-2017 school year.

**TASA. (Texas Association of School Administrators).** Founded in 1925, membership organization that includes public school superintendents and administrators, education service center staff, college and university professors and students, and others interested in public education.

**TASB. (Texas Association of School Boards).** Created in 1949, TASB is a voluntary, nonprofit, statewide educational association that serves and represents local Texas school districts.

**TASBO. (Texas Association of School Business Officials).** Established in 1946, TASBO is an independent, not-for-profit professional association dedicated to being a trusted resource for school business and operations in Texas. TASBO is one of the state and province affiliates of the Association of School Business Officials (ASBO) International which serves members from the U.S., Canada, and more than 20 other nations.

**TASSP. (Texas Association of Secondary School Principals).** An organization formed by and for campus administrators. Established in 1922, its purpose is to build an active network of educators that want to take responsibility for the quality of school leadership.

**TA-TEKS. (Technology Applications TEKS).** See *TEKS*.

**TBEC. (Texas Business and Education Coalition).** Nonprofit organization that works to bring business and education leaders together to effect improved performance of Texas public education.

**TBI. (Traumatic Brain Injury).**

**TBS. (Texas Behavior Support).** A state network to enhance the capacity of schools to educate all students, especially students with challenging behaviors, by adopting a sustained, positive, and preventative instructional approach to schoolwide discipline and behavior management.

**TCAD. (Travis Central Appraisal District).**

**TCASE. (Texas Council of Administrators of Special Education).** A professional society that administers and supports special education programs throughout the state of Texas.

**TCCAP. (Travis County Collaborative Afterschool Project).** A collaboration of *CIS*, AISD, *CARY*, and *BGCAA*. *CIS* is at the cornerstone of this partnership, with on-campus staff at Pearce and Webb middle schools providing referrals and services to students in need during and after school.

**TCDD. (Texas Council for the Developmental Disabilities).** Ensures that all Texans with developmental disabilities have the opportunity to be independent, productive, and valued members of their communities.

**TCDS. (Travis County Day School).**

**TCDSS. (Texas Center for District and School Support).** State-funded entity that supports districts and schools in meeting required performance standards under both state and federal accountability systems. Additionally, TCDSS coordinates with the state's 20 *ESCs* and manages a number of grants and special projects for *TEA*. TCDSS also operates the Coaching and Leadership Development Center (CLDC).

**TCIP. (Texas Continuous Improvement Process).** Annual process that the state uses to continuously identify areas for improvement and implement strategies to improve the provision of special education in Texas.

**TCJDC. (Travis County Juvenile Detention Center).** See *Gardner-Betts Juvenile Justice Center*.

**TCOOMMI. (Texas Correctional Office on Offenders with Medical and Mental Impairments).** A program with two components: diverting justice-involved youth with a primary mental health diagnosis;



and promoting continuity of care and reintegration into the community for youth released from TYC facilities.

**TCSR. (Texas Consolidated Accountability Report).** Annual report for each district and campus in the state, combining the accountability rating, *distinction* designations, *FIRST* rating, and community and student engagement rating (see *HB5*).

**TCTA. (Texas Classroom Teachers Association).** Founded in 1927 by teachers to represent the needs and interests of teachers, TCTA provides professional liability insurance coverage as well as professional counsel, represents Texas teacher issues at the federal and state levels, and provides teachers relevant professional development, current information, and other services designed specifically for classroom teachers.

**TDADS. (Texas Department of Aging and Disability Services).** State agency established in 2004 as a result of House Bill 2292, which consolidated: mental retardation services and state school programs of the Department of Mental Health and Mental Retardation; community care, nursing facility, and long-term care regulatory services of the Department of Human Services; and aging services and programs of the Department on Aging.

**TDARS. (Texas Department of Assistive and Rehabilitative Services).** State agency that: administers programs to help Texans with disabilities find jobs through vocational rehabilitation; ensures that Texans with disabilities live independently in their communities; and prepares children with disabilities and developmental delays to meet education goals. A department of the Texas Health and Human Services Commission, the department has four divisions: Rehabilitation Services; Blind Services; Early Childhood Intervention Services; and Disability Determination Services.

**TDSHS. (Texas Department of State Health Services).** State agency that promotes optimal health for individuals and communities while providing effective health, mental health, and substance abuse services to Texans. Created on September 1, 2004, DSHS combined four agencies into one (as directed by HB 2292): Texas Department of Health; Mental Health Programs of Texas Department of Mental Health and Mental Retardation; Texas Commission on Alcohol and Drug Abuse; and Texas Health Care Information Council.

**TEA. (Texas Education Agency).** Headed by the Commissioner of Education, this state agency administers state and federal educational programs, monitors educational providers, and provides guidance and technical assistance.

**Teacher Development.** New Teacher Orientation, Mentor Teacher, and Teacher Leadership are programs designed to address training needs of teachers across their professional careers.

**TEAM.** See *TAEA*.

**TEAMS. (Total Education Administrative Management Solution).** Student information system developed by Prologic Technology Systems and currently utilized by AISD.

**TEAMS. (Texas Educating Adults Management System.)** The current web-based management information system for adult education in Texas. The system is made up of data collected according state and federal definitions and is entered by local adult education providers who receive state and federal adult education funds.

**TEASE. (TEA Secure Environment).** The authentication portal through which many TEA web application users access *TEA* information resources.

**TEC. (Texas Education Code).** Codified educational statutes enacted by the Texas Legislature.

**TECEC. (Texas Early Childhood Education Coalition).** The mission of TECEC is to build a system of quality early care and education that prepares children in Texas for success in their education and life.

**Technology Allotment.** See *IMA*.

**Tech-Prep.** High school courses that award credit-in escrow at the community-college level within a particular career concentration.

**TED. (Technology, Entertainment, and Design).** Owned by the nonprofit, nonpartisan Sapling Foundation, TED is devoted to spreading ideas, usually in the form of short, powerful talks (TED Talks). TED began in 1984 as a conference where technology, entertainment and design converged, and today covers almost all topics

**TED. (Texas Education Directory).** TEA automated directory that provides current organizational and mailing information for public schools (including charter schools and Texas state agency schools), school districts, regional education service centers, and accredited non-public schools in Texas.

**TEEG. (Texas Educator Excellence Grant).** Part of HB 1 (79th Legislature) providing substantial teacher incentive programs aimed at the state's most economically disadvantaged schools that demonstrate the highest levels of student achievement or improvement.

**TEEM. (Texas Early Education Model).** The goal of TEEM demonstration projects is to find successful ways to integrate early care and education programs so that children enter school ready to learn.

**Tejas Lee. (El Inventario de Lectura en Español de Tejas).** Reading assessment of early grade level speakers of Spanish.

**TEKS. (Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills).** State-mandated curriculum, evaluated through state assessments in various areas.

**TELL. (Teaching, Empowerment, Leading, and Learning).** A survey used by AISD to capture the perceptions of campus staff about their working and learning environments.

**TELPAS. (Texas English Language Proficiency Assessment System).** TELPAS has two components: the Reading Proficiency Tests in English (RPTE) and the Texas Observation Protocols (TOP). Both components are designed to assess the progress that *LEP* students make in learning the English language.

**TEMI. (Texas Early Mathematics Inventories).** Assessments for levels K-2 used to identify students struggling in mathematics – TEMI-PM (Progress Monitoring), and TEMI-O (Outcome).

**TENET. (Texas Educational Network.)** Originated in 1991, TENET advances and promotes education in Texas by providing a communications infrastructure which can be used to foster innovation and educational excellence in Texas. TENET is now funded and operated by the University of Texas.

**TEPSA. (Texas Elementary Principals and Supervisors Association).** Formed in 1917, a community of professional leaders providing training, networking opportunities, information, and support.

**TEPSAC. (Texas Private School Accreditation Commission).** Ensures quality in private schools by monitoring and approving organizations that accredit the various non-public elementary and secondary educational institutions in the state.

**TERP. (Texas Emissions Reduction Plan).** State program offering grants and incentives to voluntarily reduce emissions, as from school buses or facilities, that may lead to air pollution.

**TESCCC. (Texas Education Service Center Curriculum Collaborative).** A team of Education Service Centers that represents all areas of the state. The goal of the collaborative is to provide a quality curriculum support system to Texas K-12 schools.

**Texas ACE. (Afterschool Centers on Education).** A *21st Century Schools* program that serves as a supplementary program to enhance state or local reform efforts to assist students in meeting academic standards in core subjects (math, reading, science, social studies) by providing out-of-school time services to students and their families.

**Texas Fitness Now.** Grant program aimed at fighting childhood obesity by supporting in-school physical education, nutrition, and fitness programs for students in grades 6-8. The program targets middle school students attending schools where enrollment is at least 75% economically disadvantaged. Rules for the program were developed by the State Comptroller in partnership with *TEA*, which is administering the program, evaluating grant applications, and awarding the funds to schools.

**Texas Parent to Parent.** See *TxP2P*.

**Texas Project FIRST. Families, Information, Resources, Support, and Training** is an activity of the Texas Continuing Improvement Process (*TCIP*), and is focused on providing accurate and consistent information to parents and families of students with disabilities.

**Texas School Accountability Dashboard.** A *TEA* online service for quickly finding clear and concise accountability information and demographics for campuses and districts.

**Texas TTCC.** See *TTCC*.

**Texas Turnaround Framework.** A conceptual structure which includes essential components and related actions that are necessary to produce significant student achievement gains in the lowest performing schools in two academic years. See *TTLA* and *CSF*.

**TexCare.** State program offering two separate children's health insurance programs: Children's Health Insurance Program (*CHIP*); and Children's Medicaid. Both programs provide health insurance for children at a price that fits the budgets of Texas families. Rates are flexible and based on the number of people in the family and the family's income and expenses.

**TExES. (Texas Examinations of Educator Standards).** The exam educators must pass to receive certification. TExES is based on the Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills (*TEKS*).

**TexMAT. (Texas Examination for Master Teachers).** Test for educators desiring master teacher certification.

**TexPrEP** See *AusPrEP*.

**TEXSHEP. (Texas Support for Homeless Education Program).** Grant program for local education agencies, education service centers, and/or open enrollment charter schools to provide supplemental academic and related assistance, beyond that provided in the general education program, to facilitate the enrollment, attendance, and academic success of students who are in homeless situations.

**TexTEAMS. (Texas Teachers Empowered for Achievement in Mathematics and Science).** Professional development program for teachers developed by the University of Texas at Austin.

**THEA. (Texas Higher Education Assessment).** An *IBT* that assesses the reading, math, and writing skills that college entrants should have if they are to perform effectively in undergraduate programs. THEA does not affect admission to college, but may indicate whether remedial coursework is needed.

**The Arc.** A community-based organization of and for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities. It provides an array of services and support for families and individuals and includes over 140,000 members affiliated through more than 730 state and local chapters across the nation. The Arc is devoted to promoting and improving supports and services for all people with intellectual and developmental disabilities

**THECB. (Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board).** State agency created by the Texas Legislature in 1965 to provide leadership and coordination for the Texas higher education system to achieve excellence for the college education of Texas students.

**THEO. (Texas Homeless Education Office).** Ensures that all Texas children in homeless situations have the opportunity to enroll in, attend, and succeed in school. In its efforts to accomplish this goal, the office provides a variety of services to school districts, education service centers, students, parents, caregivers, service providers, shelters, state agencies, advocates, higher education institutions, and other interested parties.

**THHSC. (Texas Health and Human Services Commission).** State agency that provides oversight responsibilities for designated health and human Services agencies and administers certain health and human services programs including: Texas Medicaid Program; Children's Health Insurance Program (*CHIP*); and Medicaid waste, fraud, and abuse investigations.

**Third Base.** AISD after-school care program in which children can learn, thrive, relax, and have fun. All activities are conducted in indoor and outdoor space that is organized, safe, fun, and challenging to children.

**THSP. (Texas High School Project).** Created in 2003, THSP is a public-private alliance that is dedicated to all Texas students graduating high school ready for college and career success and prepared to be contributing members of the community.

**Tier I.** Under the *FSP*, a mechanism for ensuring that school districts have sufficient funding to provide basic educational services. Tier I funding begins with the Basic Allotment (BA) – an amount of money set by the Legislature which serves as a multiplier in the funding formulas. The BA is currently \$5,140, and corresponds to the *EWL* related to the *CTR*.

If a district has a *CTR* of \$1.00, it receives the full BA. If a district has a *CTR* below \$1.00, it receives a proportionately smaller BA. The BA may be increased through certain adjustments, yielding the Adjusted Basic Allotment (ABA), or Adjusted Allotment (AA). The adjustments include the Cost of Education Index (CEI), which varies geographically. If applicable, other adjustments may be made for small and medium-sized school districts.

The only BA adjustment for which AISD qualifies is the CEI. The CEIs assigned to each district have not been updated by the Legislature since there were originally set in 1991. The CEI is a multiplier greater than 1.0, up to a maximum of 1.2. AISD's CEI is 1.1. However, a district does not actually apply all of a CEI greater than 1.0 – actually applied is the decimal amount beyond 1.0 multiplied by 0.71, added back to 1.0. [This adjustment reflects 71% of statewide district operational costs being related to professional salaries.] AISD's CEI of 1.1 is therefore applied as 1.071, yielding an ABA of \$5,505.

The largest component of Tier I funding is the Regular Program Allotment. The Regular Program Allotment is based on the Regular Program ADA, which is defined as the *Refined ADA* minus *FTEs* in Special Education and *CTE*. To derive the Regular Program Allotment, the Regular Program ADA is multiplied by the ABA.

Additional Tier I funding is available based on the number of students in the specific programs of Special Education, Bilingual Education, *CTE*, *G/T*, *SCE*, and *PEG*. Determining the number of students depends on the program, and may be based on either *ADA*, *FTEs*, or enrollment. In addition, each of the programs is assigned a "weight," which is a multiplier established by the Legislature. The allotment for each

program is derived by multiplying together the number of students in the program, the weight for the program, and the ABA. [The Special Education Allotment is a combined total of allotments for several different special education Instructional Arrangements/Settings, each with its own weight.]

Other Tier I funding includes the New Instructional Facility Allotment (*NIFA*), *High School Allotment*, and *Transportation Allotment*. [Rates used to calculate the Transportation Allotment have not been updated by the Legislature since 1984.]

After total Tier I funding is calculated, subtracted from it is the Local Fund Assignment (*LFA*), which is the *CTR* applied to the District Property Value (DPV) for the prior year. If the remainder is greater than zero, that amount equals the funding paid by the state to the district (the “state share”). If the remainder is less than zero, the district is said to be “budget balanced” and receives no Tier I funding. [AISD’s *LFA* is always too high to receive any Tier I funding.]

**Tier II.** Under the *FSP*, a layer of funding for school districts to supplement *Tier I* funding. Tier II is often referred to as the “enrichment” or “guaranteed yield” tier. Whereas *Tier I* relates to a district’s *CTR*, Tier II relates to a district’s *M&O* tax rate beyond the *CTR* – the District Enrichment Tax Rate (DTR). For districts with a *CTR* of \$1.00, the maximum allowable DTR is 17 additional cents.

In addition to the DTR, another factor in Tier II funding formulas is the Weighted Average Daily Attendance (WADA). The calculation of WADA begins with the *Tier I* funding amount, which is affected by “weights” (multipliers) assigned to various programs. Through certain adjustments to the *Tier I* funding amount, and calculations involving the *BA* and *ABA*, the WADA is derived. The result is a figure greater than the *ADA*.

There are two levels of funding under Tier II – L1 and L2. L1 covers up to six additional cents beyond the *CTR*. These six cents are often referred to as “Golden Pennies” because of the potentially high level of funding provided by the state, and because the Local Revenue (LR) generated in L1 is not subject to *Chapter 41* “Recapture.” School districts can access four of the six pennies at the discretion of the local school board, but access to the fifth and sixth pennies requires voter approval.

In the formula for deriving L1 funding, the Legislature establishes a standard multiplier, which is currently \$74.28. This multiplier is often referred to as the “Austin Yield,” because it is based on a projection of AISD’s L1 revenue per WADA per penny. AISD is used as a benchmark because its L1 revenue is above that generated by districts containing 95% of the state’s students.

The first step in determining the L1 Guaranteed Yield Amount (GYA) is to multiply together \$74.28, the district’s WADA, and the number of pennies (up to six) beyond the *CTR*. Then, from this product, subtract the actual LR generated by the district. If the remainder is greater than zero, that amount equals the L1 funding paid by the state to the district. If the remainder is less than zero, the district receives no L1 funding. [Theoretically, AISD should receive no L1 funding. But the Austin Yield is an estimated rate and, if the estimate is off, AISD may actually receive some L1 funding.]

L2 covers any additional pennies beyond the first six, up to the *DTR* limit. These pennies are often referred to as “Copper Pennies,” because of the comparatively lower potential level of enrichment funding provided by the state, and because the LR generated in L2 is subject to *Chapter 41* Recapture. Access to these pennies requires voter approval.

The state sets a standard multiplier (currently \$31.95, corresponding to the *EWL* related to L2) for use in the L2 funding formula. The first step in determining the L2 GYA is to multiply together \$31.95, the district’s WADA, and the number of pennies (up to 11) beyond six. Then, from this product, subtract the actual LR generated in L2 by the district. If the remainder is greater than zero, that amount equals the L2 funding paid by the state to the district. If the remainder is less than zero, the district receives no L2 funding. [AISD’s LR generated in L2 is always too high to receive any L2 funding.]



**TIF. (Teacher Incentive Fund).** Federal program that supports efforts to develop and implement performance-based teacher and principal compensation systems in high-need schools.

**TIF. (Tax Increment Financing).** TIF zones enable taxing entities to fund certain improvements and provide for the revitalization of specific geographical areas. Typically, TIF zones are designed to finance infrastructure projects that encourage commercial growth. Each participating entity pays incremental taxes into the TIF fund on an annual basis. Then, a portion of this payment is returned to the entity (per the participation agreement) to fund its own capital projects within the zone. A benefit of a TIF zone is the increased tax revenue that is eventually realized for all entities involved due to the land improvements and real estate development. School districts may participate in TIF zones.

**TINA. (Teacher in Need of Assistance).** A teacher whose performance is determined through evaluation to be in need of improvement.

**TIP. (Targeted Improvement Plan).** Campuses with *IR* ratings under the state accountability system (or Priority School designations under the *NCLB Waiver*) must develop an annual plan to focus on the areas specifically related to low performance, as part of *TAIS*.

**TIP. (Teacher Induction Program).** A comprehensive set of supports designed to help both new teachers and teachers who are new to AISD accelerate their growth as educators and to acclimate them to AISD's systems and culture.

**TIP. (Total Immersion Program).**

**TIRZ. (Tax Increment Reinvestment Zone).** See *TIF*.

**Title I.** An *ESSA* grant program for ensuring that all children are provided with opportunity to receive a fair, equitable, and high-quality education. Title I funds assist state and local education agencies in improving basic programs. Title I includes expanded funding for improving schools with poor performance, replacing the former *SIG* program.

**Title II.** An *ESSA* grant program for preparing, training, and recruiting teachers, principals, and other school leaders.

**Title III.** An *ESSA* grant program supporting the instruction of *ELLs* and immigrant students.

**Title IV.** An *ESSA* grant program, Part B of which supports *21st Century Schools*. Part A now includes the Student Support and Academic Enrichment program, providing funding for well-rounded educational opportunities, effective use of technology, and safe and healthy students. The latter replaces the former *Safe and Drug-Free Schools and Communities* program under *NCLB*. Part E supports Family Engagement in Education programs, *Promise Neighborhoods*, arts education, and *GT* programs.

**Title IX.** Included in the Education Amendments Act of 1972, Title IX states, "no person in the United States shall, on the basis of sex, be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under any education program or activity receiving federal financial assistance."

**TJPC. (Texas Juvenile Probation Commission).** State agency that works in partnership with local juvenile boards and juvenile probation departments to support and enhance juvenile probation services throughout the state by: providing funding, technical assistance, and training; establishing and enforcing standards; collecting, analyzing, and disseminating information; and facilitating communications between state and local entities.

**TLA. (Technology Literacy Assessment).** Test required annually for students in Texas in the eighth grade.



**TLI. (Texas Literacy Initiative).** A plan to ensure that every Texas child is strategically prepared for the literacy demands of college and/or career by high school graduation. To achieve this goal, the plan centers on early language and pre-literacy skills for age 0 to school entry, and on reading and writing instruction for students in grades K-12.

**TLCF. (Technology Literacy Challenge Fund).** Federal funding provided to the states by the U.S. Department of Education for integrating technology in the classroom.

**TMEA. (Texas Music Educators Association).** Begun in 1920 as the Texas Band Teachers Association, the TMEA is a membership organization of school music educators dedicated to promoting excellence in music education.

**TMSDS. (Texas Math and Science Diagnostics System).** An online tool that supports instructional efforts by providing a web-based collection of *TEKS*-aligned diagnostics and resources. *TEA* has created this tool to support on-going formative assessment.

**TOP. (Texas Observation Protocols).** See *TELPAS*.

**TOPT. (Texas Oral Proficiency Test).** Certification test for educators teaching Spanish or French at the secondary level, and those teaching students whose first language is Spanish or French.

**TOT. (Training of Trainers.)**

**TOY. (Teacher of the Year).**

**TPEIR. (Texas PK-16 Public Education Information Resource).** TPEIR provides stakeholders in public education – including but not limited to administrators, educators, state leadership, researchers, and professional organizations – with ready access to public primary, secondary, and higher education information for purposes of research, planning, policy development, and decision-making.

**TPRI. (Texas Primary Reading Inventory).** An assessment device designed to facilitate a teacher's capacity to identify students at-risk for reading difficulties in early grades, and to set learning objectives for those students.

**TPRS. (Texas Performance Reporting System).** Online reporting system of *TEA* that includes *TAPR* and other performance data.

**Tracking.** A specific sequencing of schools across the elementary, middle, and high school levels. See *Vertical Team*.

**Tracking Transfer.** See *Transfer*.

**TRACS. (Texas Review and Comment System).** Automated review and comment system for state and federal grant applications maintained by regional councils of governments (*COGs*).

**Transfer.** Enrollment in a school other than the school ordinarily assigned based on residence. To expand on opportunities for school choice, AISD offers the following types of transfers if space and staff are available (priority transfers are considered first, then non-priority transfers):

- Sibling Transfer – priority transfer to allow sibling students to attend the same school
- Tracking Transfer – priority transfer to allow a student who previously transferred to a school to remain with his peers from elementary to middle school, or from middle to high school
- Majority-to-Minority Transfer – also known as “diversity choice,” a priority transfer to allow a student to transfer from a school where his ethnic group is over 50% of the school population to a school where his ethnic group is less than 50% of the school population

- Curriculum Transfer – a non-priority transfer to allow a student to participate in a desired program of study
- General Transfer – a non-priority transfer that may be requested when a student does not qualify for one of the above transfers

**Transportation Allotment.** Under *Tier I*, school districts that provide student transportation receive an allotment based on miles of bus routes and student ridership in categories of service (regular education, special education, *CTE*). Rates used in the allotment calculation are set by the Legislature.

**TRE. (Tax Ratification Election).** Each year, a school district must calculate its rollback tax rate. The rollback tax rate equals the lesser of:

- A. \$1.04 + any additional “enrichment” pennies (see *Tier II*) already approved by voters + I&S rate
- B. *Effective tax rate* + \$0.04 + I&S rate

If a school district proposes tax rate higher than the rollback rate, a TRE must be scheduled. If the TRE does not pass, the district’s tax rate “rolls back” to what it was.

**TREx. (Texas Records Exchange).** Web-based software application designed for the exchange of electronic student records as required by House Bill 1 (79th Legislature). In using TREx, school registrars have the capability to electronically request and receive student records for students who have attended or will be attending Texas public schools. High school registrars and counselors also have the capability to electronically create and send official student transcripts to Texas public colleges and universities.

**TRS. (Teacher Retirement System of Texas).**

**TSBVI. (Texas School for the Blind and Visually Impaired).**

**TSD. (Texas School for the Deaf).**

**TSDC. (Texas State Data Center).** Focal point for the distribution of Census information for Texas, which also provides population estimates and projections.

**TSI. (Texas Success Initiative).** A state-legislated program designed to help colleges determine if students are ready for college-level course work in the general areas of reading, writing, and math. TSI also helps determine what type of course or intervention will best meet the needs of students to be better prepared for college-level course work if they are not ready. Incoming college students in Texas are required to take the TSI assessment unless they meet certain exemptions.

**TSPR. (Texas School Performance Review).** School district performance assessments formerly prepared by the State Comptroller of Public Accounts, and now prepared by the *LBB*.

**TSPRA. (Texas School Public Relations Association).** A nonprofit, professional organization dedicated to promoting public schools through effective communications. A chapter of the National School Public Relations Association (*NSPRA*).

**TSSC. (Texas School Safety Center).** A school safety training and information center located at Texas State University.

**T-STEM. (Texas Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics).** An initiative that builds on state and local efforts to improve achievement among all Texas students and focuses on increasing the number of students who study and enter science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) careers.

**TSUS. (Texas State University System).** Founded in 1911 to consolidate the support and management of state teacher colleges, the system has evolved into a network of eight higher education institutions across Texas, including Texas State University (TSU).

**TTCC. (Teacher Technology Competencies Certification).** The Education Service Centers of Texas have joined together to offer a statewide certification program designed to meet the needs of teachers, districts, and the state of Texas to document that teachers have the knowledge and skills necessary to integrate technology into effective instruction in every classroom.

**TTIPS. (Texas Title I Priority Schools).** A grant program to provide federal funding to school districts which have the capacity and commitment to implement rapid and dramatic reforms to turn around the state's most struggling campuses.

**TTLA. (Texas Turnaround Leadership Academy).** A program focusing on the two principal elements of the *Texas Turnaround Framework* – District Systems and Processes, and Campus Leadership.

**TUDA. (Trial Urban District Assessment).** Under *NAEP*, district-level assessments in reading, math, and science in selected urban school districts across the country.

**Turnaround Plans.** If a campus has been rated *Improvement Required* for two consecutive years, it must develop and submit to TEA a Turnaround Plan explaining a systemic approach to producing significant and sustainable gains in achievement and a *Met Standard* rating within two years. Campuses not meeting this standard in two years are subject to further sanctions, including campus closure or placement of a board of managers over the district.

**TUUNA. (Texas Uniform Unincorporated Nonprofit Association Act).**

**TVIP. (Test de Vocabulario en Imagenes Peabody).** See *PPVT*.

**TWC. (Texas Workforce Commission).**

**21st Century Schools.** Under *Title IV* of *ESSA*, a grant program to fund after-school programs through Community Learning Centers (CLCs). CLCs provide academic enrichment opportunities for children, particularly students who attend high-poverty and low-performing schools. The program helps students meet state and local student standards in core academic subjects, offers students a broad array of enrichment activities that can complement their regular academic programs, and offers literacy and other educational services to the families of participating children.

**Twilight Evening School.** AISD program providing high school students options for regaining lost credits. The program assists students who are at risk of dropping out by offering credit recovery at extended school hours.

**Two-Way Dual Language.** A program that supports two language groups, such as students whose primary languages are Spanish and English, in becoming bilingual and bi-literate. (Compare to *One-Way Dual Language*)

**TxBESS. (Texas Beginning Educator Support System).** An initiative of the State Board of Educator Certification, TxBESS is a comprehensive induction program that has proven to be highly effective in retaining Texas teachers. TxBESS began in 1999.

**TxCADs. (Texas Curriculum Alignment Documents).** Proprietary tools to help teachers craft their lesson plans to support student goals and expectations through alignment of *TEKS* with *STAAR*.

**TxHmL. (Texas Home Living).** *TDADS* program that provides selected essential services and supports to children and adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities who live in their family homes or their own homes.

**TxP2P. (Texas Parent to Parent).** Organization committed to improving the lives of Texas children who have disabilities, chronic illness, and/or special health care needs. The heart of TxP2P is the parent-to-parent peer support model – parents volunteering to provide support and information to other parents.

**TxPEP. (Texas Principal Excellence Program).** A self-paced professional development program for principals and aspiring principals in school districts and charter schools. The objective is to enhance individual leadership skills of participants by providing both business management and educational administration professional development through convenient, innovative, and customized learning.

**TxSRC.** Software used for building *PEIMS* submissions from *SAS*/xp tables.

**TxSSC. (Texas School Safety Center).** Serves as a central location for school safety information. It provides schools with research, training, and technical assistance to reduce youth violence and promote safety.

**TxTAP. (Texas TAP).** See *TAP*.

**TxVSN. (Texas Virtual School Network).** Created by the Texas Legislature to serve as a statewide clearinghouse for online high school and college (dual credit) courses.

**TWC. (Texas Workforce Commission).** State agency charged with overseeing and providing workforce development services to employers and job seekers.

**TYC. (Texas Youth Commission).** State agency that operates juvenile correctional facilities. TYC partners with youth, families, and communities to provide a safe and secure environment where youth in the agency's care and custody receive individualized education, treatment, life skills, employment training, and positive role models to facilitate successful community reintegration.

- U -
-------

**UbD. (Understanding by Design.)** Instructional and learning approach focused on deriving meaning from “big ideas.” A three-stage process – desired results, evidence, and learning plan – with planning done backward from desired results.

**UIL. (University Interscholastic League).** Nonprofit group that organizes and supervises contests for public schools to assist in preparing students to become good citizens. UIL aims to provide healthy, character-building, and educational activities carried out under rules providing for good sportsmanship and fair play.

**Uncommon Schools.** A nonprofit organization that starts and manages urban charter public schools that close the achievement gap and prepare low-income students to graduate from college. Uncommon builds schools by developing and managing philosophically aligned, highly accountable, and geographically linked networks.

**UNESCO. (United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization).** UNESCO promotes conferences and meetings of experts, supports projects, stimulates research, and commissions consultancy services and comparative publications. It is also engaged in educational planning, contributes to the development of education by conducting worldwide surveys, and publishes an annual statistical review of educational systems.

**Universal Design.** A way of designing products and services so they can be used by people with the widest possible range of abilities.

**Universal Screener.** A brief assessment administered to all AISD students to determine who is at risk for behavior and/or academic difficulty.

**UpClose.** See *AISD UpClose*.

**USAC. (Universal Service Administrative Company).** A nonprofit corporation appointed by the Federal Communications Commission to ensure that the benefits of telecommunications services reach students and communities across the country.

**USC. (United States Code).** Codified statutes enacted by the United States Congress.

**USDA. (United States Department of Agriculture).**

**USDE. (United States Department of Education).**

**USDHHS. (United States Department of Health and Human Services).**

**UTEach.** Program started in 1997 as a partnership between the University of Texas colleges of Education and Natural Sciences and AISD to encourage students to pursue teacher certification in the fields of math and science.

- V -

**VAC. (Vocational Adjustment Class).** Work/study program designed to transition students into the world of work.

**VAC. (Vocational Adjustment Coordinator).** Works with students to successfully transition them into the world of work.

**VAL-ED. (Vanderbilt Assessment of Leadership in Education).** Tool to assess the leadership skills of school principals and to target appropriate professional development.

**VASE.** See *TAEA*.

**Vertical Articulation.** See *Articulation*.

**Vertical Team.** A group of campuses consisting of a high school and its feeding middle and elementary schools. See *Tracking*.

**VETP. (Virtual Education for Teen Parents).** A nontraditional, home-based AISD program for pregnant and parenting teens grades 9-11. The program allows teens the option to earn academic credits while securing appropriate child-care services.

**V/H. (Vision/Hearing).**

**VI. (Visual Impairment).**

**VICTORY. (Volunteers in Communities Tutoring Our Responsible Youth).** Collaborative tutorial program between AISD and the City of Austin to bring volunteers and students together at public libraries.

**VISTA. (Volunteers in Service to America).** Founded in 1965 and incorporated into the *AmeriCorps* network of programs in 1993. VISTA members commit to serve full-time for a year at a nonprofit

organization or local government agency working to fight illiteracy, improve health services, create businesses, and strengthen community groups.

**VO<sub>2</sub>Max. (Volume + O<sub>2</sub> + Maximum).** Maximum capacity of the body to transport and use oxygen during exercise, which reflects physical fitness.

**VOE. (Verification of Enrollment).**

**Voucher.** A document, usually state-issued, that parents can use to pay tuition at an out-of-district public school, a private school, or a religious school. The term is also used more broadly to describe school-choice proposals in which states help pay tuition for children attending private or religious schools.

**VR. (Vocational Rehabilitation).** A set of services offered to individuals with disabilities designed to enable participants to attain skills, resources, attitudes, and expectations needed to compete in the interview process, get a job, and keep a job.

**VSN. (Virtual School Network).** See *TxVSN*.

**VSP. (Virtual School Program).** A non-traditional, home-based academic program that is available to AISD high school seniors. The goal of the program is to provide academic opportunities for students who are unable to participate in a traditional classroom setting most often because they are parents and/or must work full-time for economic reasons. VSP students earn academic course credits to graduate from high school.

**VT.** See *Vertical Team*.

- W -
-------

**WADA. (Weighted Average Daily Attendance).** See *Tier II*.

**WBL. (Work-Based Learning).** Work-based learning is a planned program of job training and experience that makes use of business and industry sites as part of the school's curriculum.

**WEB. (Where Everybody Belongs).** A program to transition students to the middle school level.

**WebER.** See *ER*.

**WIA Youth. (Workforce Investment Act).** A program of Goodwill providing youth ages 16-21 with training and guidance to help prepare them for successful employment in a competitive workforce.

**WIC. (Women, Infants, and Children).** Special supplemental nutrition program of the U.S. Department of Agriculture Food and Nutrition Service that serves to safeguard the health of low-income women, infants, and children up to age 5 who are at nutritional risk by providing nutritious foods to supplement diets, information on healthy eating, and referrals to health care.

**WICOR. (Writing, Inquiry, Collaboration, Organization, and Reading).** Learning support structure in *AVID* that incorporates teaching and learning methodologies in critical areas.

**WIDA Consortium. (World-Class Instructional Design and Assessment).** A consortium of state departments of education, WIDA designs and implements proficiency standards and assessment for K-12 students who are *ELLs*, as well as a set of proficiency standards and assessments for Spanish language learners. WIDA also provides professional development to educators, conducts research on instructional practices, and provides assessment results.



**Windham Schools.** A non-geographical school district established by the State Legislature that provides educational services to offenders in the custody of the Texas Department of Criminal Justice. The Texas Board of Criminal Justice, which is appointed by the Governor, acts as the board of education for the district.

**WL. (World Languages).** Department within AISD.

**Workforce.** A private company specializing in automated workforce management solutions. Formerly used by AISD along with *IFAS*, now replaced by *BOLT*.

**WOW. (Workstation on Wheels).**

**WOW. (World of Wellness).** A health education series of instruction and activities for the classroom.

**WOW Time. (Work Out for Wellness).** Texas statute requires that all students enrolled in kindergarten or grades 1-6 in an elementary school setting to participate in *TEKS*-based, structured physical activity for a minimum of either 30 minutes daily or 135 minutes weekly.

**Wraparound Services.** Comprehensive array of services offered to students and families, often in partnership between schools and communities, and often involving before- and after-school programs, with the goal of surrounding multi-problem students and families with services rather than with institutional walls, and to customize these services (also referred to as “holistic” or “strength-based” services).

**WSD. (Windham School District).** See *Windham Schools*.

**WSF. (Weighted Student Funding).** See *SBF*.

- X, Y, Z -
-------------

**XY-Zone.** A *C/S* initiative (the XY stands for the male chromosome) working specifically with teen males to help keep them in school and prepare them for a successful future. The project works by developing responsibility, creating community awareness, providing health information, and serving as an outlet for developing positive relationships with parents, peers, adult mentors, and partners.

**YES Waiver. (Youth Empowerment Services).** A Medicaid program that allows for more flexibility in the funding of intensive community based services for children and adolescents with severe emotional disturbance (SED) and their families.

**YFAC. (Youth and Family Assessment Center).** A *C/S* initiative, a community- and school-based program that utilizes the wraparound approach to providing services to children and families.

**YIs. (Yearly Itineraries).** AISD curriculum guides that provide a yearly at-a-glance scope and sequence.

**YRE. (Year-Round Education Program).** A program that operates school during a portion of, at a minimum, eleven to twelve calendar months.

**YSM. (Youth Services Mapping).** A *G/S* initiative of AISD that identifies the array of support services and resources available to students throughout the community.

**ZBB. (Zero-Based Budgeting).** In traditional incremental budgeting, only variances from the previous year need to be justified, based on the assumption that the “baseline” is automatically approved. By contrast, in zero-based budgeting, every line item of the budget, rather than only the changes, must be approved, requiring greater scrutiny.

**ZPD. (Zone of Proximal Development).** Refers to the distance between what a child can do with assistance and what the child can accomplish without assistance.