



2025-2026 Annual Report
Austin Independent School District
Head Start

Table of Contents

	Page Number
<u>Letter from the Director</u>	3
<u>Program Information</u>	4
<u>Families and Students</u>	4
<u>Family Engagement</u>	5
<u>Education</u>	5
<u>Student Outcome Data</u>	6
<u>Health - Medical and Dental</u>	7
<u>Community Partners</u>	7
<u>Financial Reports</u>	8

Letter from the Director:

As we close the 2025–2026 school year, we are excited to share highlights from our Head Start Program. This year was filled with collective learning and meaningful progress for both students and families.

In Austin ISD, our Head Start Pre-K3 programs prepare children with the skills they need to thrive in Pre-K4 and beyond. Our dedicated teaching staff provide high-quality learning experiences, while Family Advocates support parents through goal setting, meetings, and connections to community resources. The Head Start management team further strengthens this work by assisting families, staff, and schools.

We invite you to explore this annual report to learn more about the incredible efforts of our Head Start Pre-K3 staff and the positive impact on children and families. Information about Head Start enrollment is also available here:

www.austinisd.org/early-childhood/head-start.

Sincerely,

Amanda Bolding, Ph.D
Austin ISD Head Start Administrator

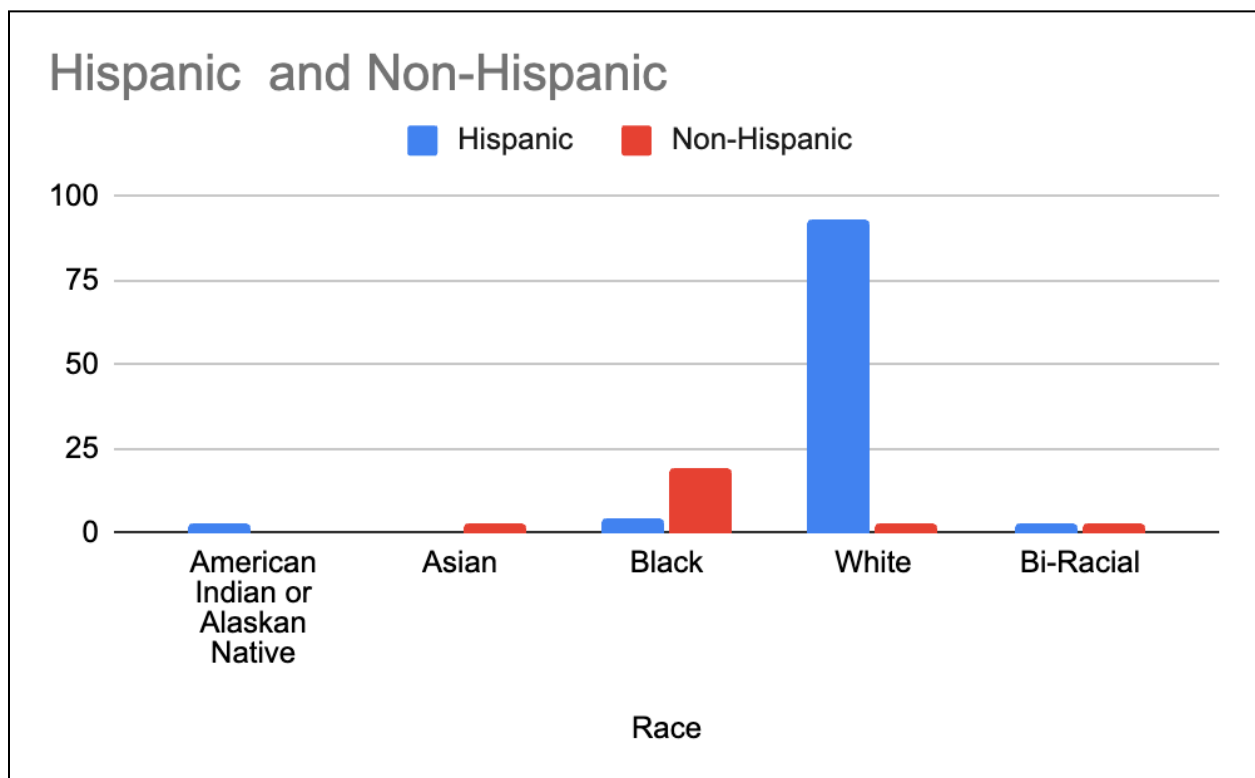


Program Information

Austin ISD Head Start (AISD HS) provides high-quality early childhood services to low-income families in Travis County. A community needs assessment revealed significant economic and racial segregation in Austin, with the greatest need for services concentrated in the city's "eastern crescent," home to many African American, Hispanic, and low-income families. To address this need, AISD Head Start slots are located in schools within this area.

The program serves up to 136 children across 8 classrooms on 7 AISD campuses. Each classroom enrolls up to 17 students who are age 3 by September 1 of the current school year. Programs operate five days a week, 7:30 a.m.–3:00 p.m., following the district calendar. AISD Head Start is designed to promote children's educational, social, nutritional, and emotional development while also providing comprehensive family support services.

Families and Students



English Language Learners
63% of enrolled students

Average Daily Attendance (ADA)
91.5%

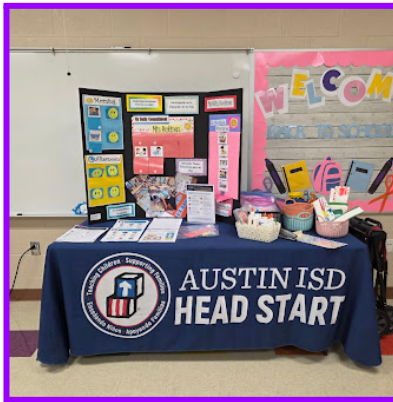
Total number of students and families who received services*
152

*for 30 days or longer

Family Engagement

AISD Head Start engages families as partners in their child's education while supporting long-term family success. Each family has access to individualized support services, mental health resources, and a dedicated Family Advocate. Through needs assessments, families identify strengths, set goals, and receive tailored support.

Engagement opportunities include conferences, home visits, family meetings, parent-child activities, and parenting sessions using the *Positive Solutions for Families* curriculum, which covers positive guidance, relationship building, and managing challenging behaviors. Families are also encouraged to participate in activities offered by the school's Parent Support Specialist (PSS), who works collaboratively with Family Advocates to support the broader school community.



Education

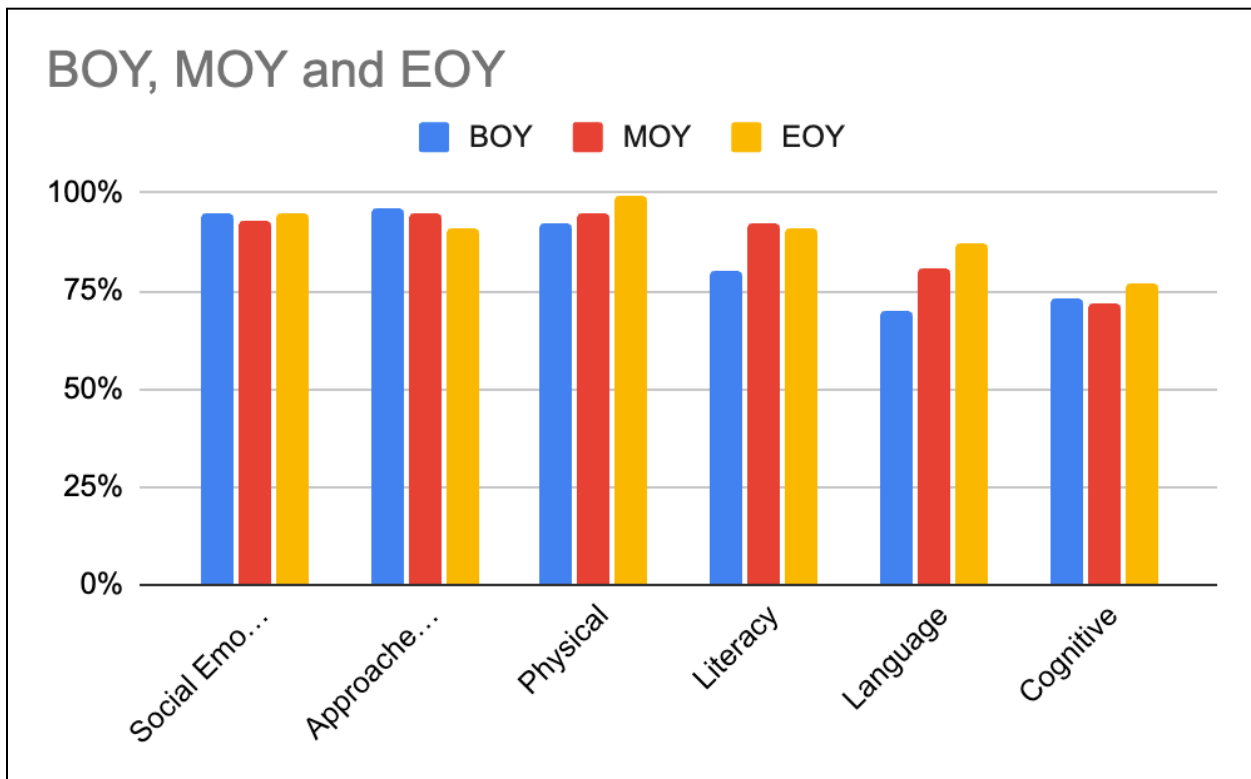
AISD Head Start implements the Creative Curriculum for Preschool, which is aligned with the Texas Prekindergarten Guidelines and the Head Start Early Learning Outcomes Framework. Teaching staff use this curriculum and its related guidelines to design developmentally appropriate learning environments and experiences that support skill-building and help students meet established school readiness goals:

- **Approaches to Learning:** Demonstrates initiative, independence, and curiosity about new situations and the surrounding environment.
- **Social and Emotional Development:** Manages emotions with increasing independence and builds positive relationships with both adults and peers.
- **Language and Literacy:** Understands and progressively uses complex language with peers and adults for a variety of purposes.
- **Cognition:** Shows knowledge of numbers and shapes and engages in tasks that promote mathematical thinking and problem-solving.
- **Perceptual, Motor, and Physical Development:** Expands knowledge of nutrition and healthy eating habits, demonstrates awareness of personal hygiene and safety practices, and develops motor skills to support overall physical well-being.



Student Outcomes Data

Below is the data collected on student progress by teaching staff using several CLI Engage checklists during the 2025-2026 school year. Beginning of Year (BOY), Middle of Year (MOY), and End of Year (EOY) percentages are reflected for each learning domain in the table below based on collected data, students made significant progress during the 2025-2026 school year and are well prepared for entering Pre-K4.



Health - Medical and Dental

Head Start programs are required to support families in overcoming barriers to accessing medical and dental care, while also ensuring that enrolled students receive vision and hearing screenings. The table below presents data collected on the health status of enrolled students.

Students with continuous access to health care	98%
Students with continuous access to dental care	91%
Students with completed physical exam	85%
Students with completed dental exam	80%

Community Partnerships

Throughout the school year, partnerships were established to bridge gaps in services between schools, the community, and enrolled Head Start families. These collaborations focused on addressing needs in health services, health education, safety, awareness of community resources, and overall access. Partnerships provided both direct support for students and families, as well as indirect support through parent education. This year AISD Head Start acquired a new partnership with Any Baby Can of Austin.

The goal of these efforts was to help parents and staff gain access to essential services while also equipping them to navigate these resources independently. To ensure partnerships reflected family and staff priorities, surveys were conducted at the beginning, middle, and end of the year to gather input and feedback. This data guided coordination with community partners, ensuring that families and staff received the support they identified as most important.

Financial Reports

2026-2027 Grant Year 1 (05/1/2026-04/30/2027)

Year 1 Grant funds awarded: \$1,924,220

Additional Funds Awarded

Cost of Living Adjustment (COLA) \$12, 083

Quality Improvement (QI) \$0

Total Funds Awarded \$ 1,936,303

Salaries & Benefits \$ 1,579,850

Materials & Supplies \$ 136,302

* Contracted Services \$ 7,656

**Other operating expenses \$ 142,922

Indirect Costs (required) \$ 69,573

2025-2026 Grant Year 0 (05/01/2025-04/30/2026)

Year 0 Grant Funds Awarded: \$1, 924, 220

Additional Funds Awarded

Cost of Living Adjustment (COLA) \$0

Quality Improvement (QI)

Total Funds Awarded \$ 1,924,220

Salaries and Benefits \$ \$1,584,752.00

Materials and Supplies \$ 94,277.00

*Contracted Services \$ 6,600

**Other operating expenses \$ 141, 299

Indirect Costs (required) \$ 97, 292

2024-2025 Grant Year 5 (05/01/2024-04/30/2025)

Year 5 Grant Funds Awarded \$1,778,817

Additional Funds Awarded

Cost of Living Adjustment (COLA) \$ 43,690
Quality Improvement (QI)

Total Funds Awarded \$ 1,822,507

Salaries and Benefits \$ 1,517,062
Materials and Supplies \$ 77,500
*Contracted Services \$ 4,255
**Other operating expenses \$ 121,977
Indirect Costs (required) \$ 101,713

2023-2024 Grant Year 4 (5/01/2023 - 4/30/2024)

Year 4 Grant Funds Awarded \$ 1,727,265

Additional Funds Awarded

Cost of Living Adjustment (COLA) \$153,265
Quality Improvement (QI)

Total Funds Awarded \$ 1,880,530

Salaries and Benefits \$ 1,503,400
Materials and Supplies \$ 124,261
*Contracted Services \$ 6,600
**Other operating expenses \$ 137,017
Indirect Costs (required) \$ 109,252

2022-2023 Grant Year 3 (5/01/2022 - 4/30/2023)

Year 3 Grant Funds Awarded \$ 1,657,475

Additional Funds Awarded

Cost of Living Adjustment (COLA) \$ 48,407

Total Funds Awarded (without ARA) \$ 1,705,882

Salaries and Benefits \$ 1,398,207
Materials and Supplies \$ 132,078
*Contracted Services \$ 8,100
**Other operating expenses \$ 84,240
Indirect Costs (required) \$ 83,258

2021-2022 Grant Year 2 (5/01/2021 - 4/30/2022)

Year 2 Grant Funds Awarded \$ 1,658,881

Additional Funds Awarded

Cost of Living Adjustment (COLA) \$ 19,977
American Recovery Act (ARA/COVID-19) \$305,484
Funds expire: 3/31/2023

Total Funds Awarded (without ARA) \$ 1,678,858

Salaries and Benefits \$ 1,364,158

Materials and Supplies	\$ 136,216
*Contracted Services	\$ 18,840
**Other operating expenses	\$ 57,428
Indirect Costs (required)	\$ 81,128

2020-2021 Grant Year 1 (5/01/2020 - 4/30/2021)

Year 1 Grant Funds Awarded	\$ 1,551,469
Additional Funds Awarded (COLA and Quality Improvement)	\$ 86,025
Total Funds Awarded	\$ 1,637,494
Salaries and Benefits	\$ 1,366,569
Materials and Supplies	\$ 129,162
*Contracted Services	\$ 28,320
**Other operating expenses	\$ 33,667
Indirect Costs (required)	\$ 79,776

2019-2020 Grant Year 0 (7/01/2019 - 4/30/2020)

Total Funds Awarded	\$ 1,551,470
Salaries and Benefits	\$ 1,227,701
Materials and Supplies	\$ 173,095
*Contracted Services	\$ 20,953
**Other operating expenses	\$ 62,159
Indirect Costs (required)	\$ 67,562

**Contracted services expenses include contracted training from Teachstone and communications, marketing, print, and COPA subscription.*

***Other operating expenses includes employee and non-employee travel, membership in National Head Start Association and NAEYC, cost of Pre-K monitors to maintain ratios at all times and miscellaneous operating costs.*