

2019-2020 Annual Report  
Austin Independent School District  
Head Start

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## **Letter from the Director:**

What a wild and crazy ride we have had during the 2019-2020 school year. We started the year as a new Head Start grantee in Travis County, Texas and finished the year in the midst of a global pandemic, unsure how the next school year would proceed. The below report captures our accomplishments during the 2019-2020 school year that support our never-ending goal of preparing children for school and for a lifetime of success. Current research shows that children who participate in high quality early learning experiences, combined with family support, are far more likely to succeed in school and throughout their life.

Austin Independent School District Head Start PK3 programs prepare children with the skills they need to have a successful transition into PK4 and beyond. We achieve this goal with the support of staff, families and the communities we serve. We have a big job to do and strive to provide the best possible outcome for children and their families. Our teaching staff work diligently to ensure high-quality learning experiences for all children, while our family advocates work to connect and support families with community resources and our Head Start management team works to provide additional supports to families, staff and schools.

Please take the time to learn about the great work that the Austin Independent School District Head Start PK3 staff are doing for children and families. You may access this annual report and other information including information on Head Start enrollment at [www.austinisd.org/early-childhood/head-start](http://www.austinisd.org/early-childhood/head-start).

Thank you,

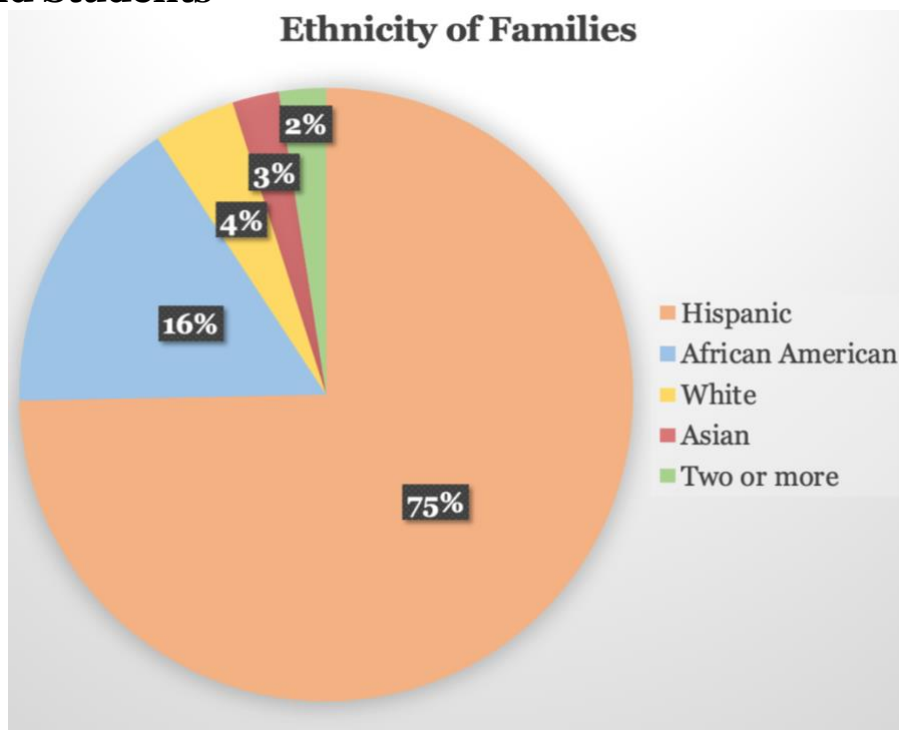
A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Ashlee Johnson". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Ashlee Johnson  
AISD Head Start Administrator

## Program Information

Austin Independent School District Head Start (AISD HS) provides comprehensive, high- quality early childhood services to low income families residing in Travis County, Texas within the Austin Metropolitan area. In a review of our community needs assessment it was noted that Austin is one of the most economically and racially segregated large cities in the country and the need for full-day services for 3-year-old students was present in the area. The “eastern crescent” of Austin has both the highest concentrations of African-American and Hispanic residents and people living in poverty, while the highest concentrations of White residents and higher-income people live on the west side. This segregation is reflected in the enrollment patterns of AISD schools. The Head Start slots for AISD are placed at schools in this eastern crescent, where the highest need continues to exist. The Austin Independent School District Head Start program has the capacity to serve 204 children in 12 classrooms on 8 public school sites. All programs are housed inside of AISD school campuses operating 5 days a week following a typical school schedule of 8am-3pm with some minor time adjustments at each individual campus. The AISD HS program staff at the school level consists of one teacher and one teaching assistant in each classroom as well as a lunch monitor to maintain ratio and provide staff with breaks. Each classroom has the ability to enroll up to 17 children, all who turned 3 on or before September 1st of the current school year. Services provided by AISD HS are designed to promote the educational, social, nutritional and emotional development of children while providing family support services to their family.

## Families and Students



English Language Learners  
**51% of enrolled students**

Average Daily Attendance (ADA)  
**95%**

Total number of students and families who received services\*  
**185**

\*for 30 days or longer

## **Family Engagement**

AISD Head Start offers a variety of opportunities for parents to be engaged in their child's learning and educational experience. Our goal is to ensure that the whole family is supported to ensure long lasting and positive outcomes for all enrolled families. Each enrolled family has access to individualized family support services and mental health services for the entire family and the support of a dedicated Family Advocate. Enrolled families were given the opportunity to complete a needs assessment with their Family Advocate to assist with identifying family strengths and determining family needs. Once the needs assessment was completed the Family Advocate and the family worked to establish individualized family goals. Families were also given the opportunities to attend parent-teacher conferences, home visits, monthly family meetings, school celebrations, parent - child activities, and school resource fairs. In addition to the events listed, Family Advocates facilitated parenting sessions using The Center on the Social and Emotional Foundations for Early Learning: Positive Solutions for Families curriculum to promote school readiness and parent engagement including topics such as positive guidance, building relationships, and managing challenging behaviors. Families were also encouraged to participate in activities offered by the school Parent Support Specialist (PSS) who support the entire school community and work in collaboration with the Family Advocate assigned to each school site.

## **Education**

AISD Head Start uses the Creative Curriculum for Preschool which aligns to the TX Prekindergarten guidelines and the Head Start Early Learning Outcomes Frameworks. Teaching staff use the curriculum and related guidelines to create developmentally appropriate learning environments and experiences for students to build skills and meet our established school readiness goals:

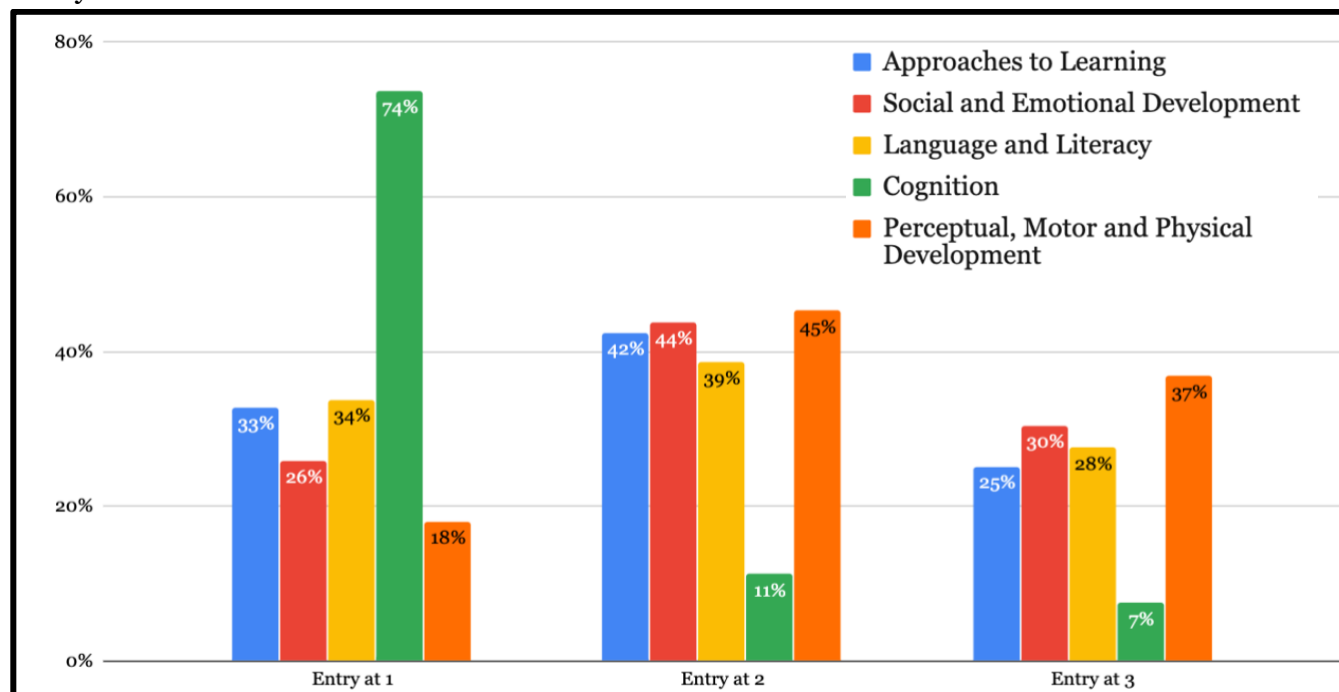
- Approaches to Learning: Child exhibits initiative and independence, demonstrates curiosity in situations and surrounding environment
- Social and Emotional Development: Child manages emotions with increasing independence and cultivates positive interactions with adults and peers
- Language and Literacy: Child understands and progressively uses complex language with peers and adults for a variety of purposes
- Cognition: Child demonstrates number and shape knowledge and engages in cognitive tasks and behaviors that can advance mathematical learning.
- Perceptual, Motor, and Physical Development: Child expands knowledge, awareness, and willingness to make nutritious and healthy food choices and eating habits; demonstrate knowledge of personal hygiene and safety practices and routines.

## **Student Outcomes Data**

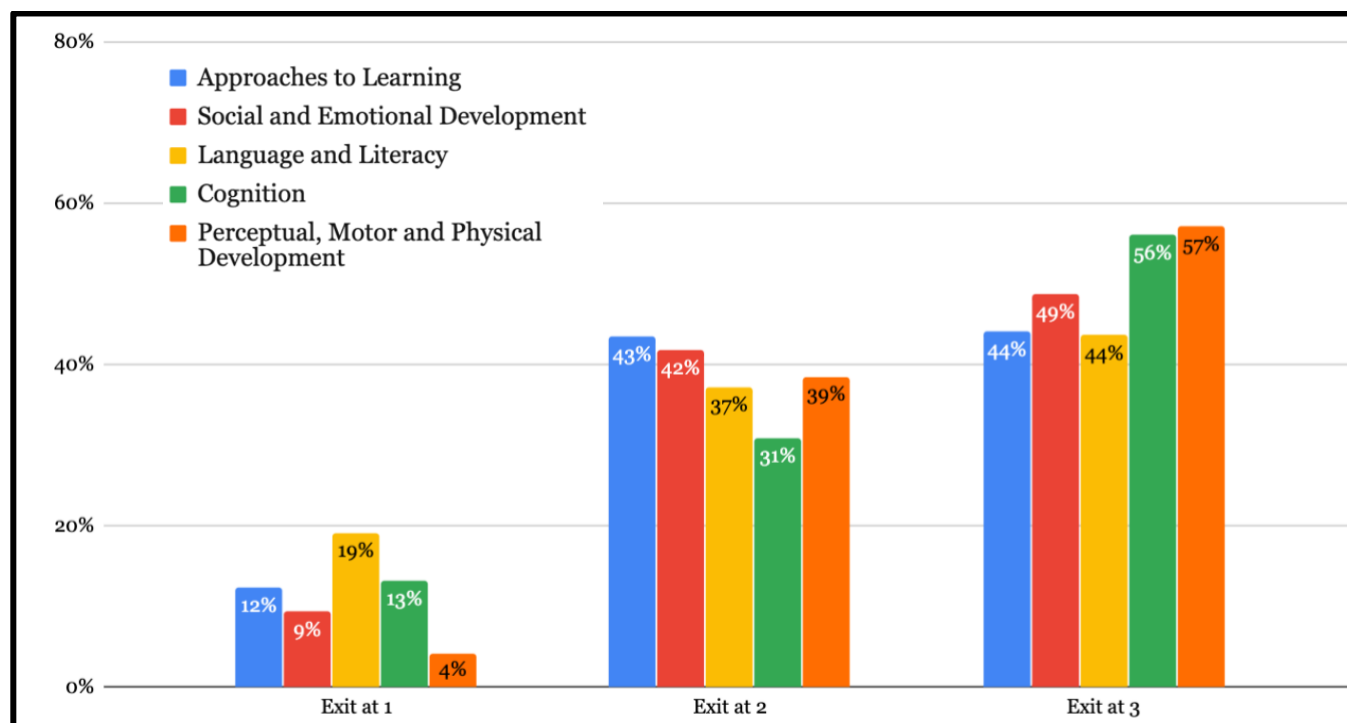
Below is an aggregate of the data collected on student progress by teaching staff using several CLI Engage checklists during the 2019-2020 school year. Entry scores were collected during Wave 1 of the CLI checkpoint period and due to the COVID-19 pandemic and the closure schools for the remainder of the school year, scores collected during Wave 2 will be used for exit. Entry scores are reflected in the first table and exit scores in the 2nd table. The percentage

in the chart is the percent of children that received a score of 1, 2 or 3 on entry or exit. The data shows that a significant percentage of children were scoring a 1 at entry in all 5 categories. At exit, almost 50% of children were scoring in the 3 range with over 75% scoring a 2 or 3.

### Entry Data



### Exit Data



## Health - Medical and Dental

Head Start programs are required to assist families with barriers that may exist when accessing medical and dental services as well as providing vision and hearing screenings for enrolled students. The below table reflects data collected regarding enrolled student's various health statuses:

Students with continuous access to health care (insurance)	88%
Students with completed physical and or dental exam	84%
Students with positive vision screening*	70%
Student with positive hearing screening*	57%

*\*Students with "failed" screenings or deemed "unable to screen" were provided referrals and vouchers to be served by local physicians.*

## Community Partnerships

Partnerships were formed throughout the school year to assist with bridging gaps in available services between the schools, the community and enrolled Head Start families. The focus was placed on trying to address areas of need pertaining to health services, health education, safety, knowledge of community resources and overall access. Partnerships were formed to provide both direct services to enrolled students and families as well as indirect services in the form of parent education. In forming partnerships, it is our goal to create opportunities to both assist parents with gaining access to available services as well as educating parents on ways to navigate through their desired service independently. Both an in-person student dental clinic as well as a family car seat safety inspection event were scheduled to take place in the spring semester. Unfortunately, due to COVID-19 restrictions, both of these events were canceled to maintain the health and safety of our enrolled students, families and staff.

## Federal Review

During early March of 2020, the AISD Head Start program completed the Focus Area 1 (FA1) monitoring from the Office of Head Start. The monitoring consisted of a review of current program practices, education services, family engagement practices as well as fiscal processes and program management. The final report was sent to AISD in May of 2020 stating that the program was meeting all compliance requirements.

## Financial Reports

2019-2020 Grant Year 1 (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

2020-2021 Grant Year 2 (5/01/2020 - 4/30/2021)

Year 2 Grant Funds Awarded	\$ 1,551,469
Additional Funds Awarded (COLA and Quality Improvement)	\$ 86,025
<b>Total Funds Awarded</b>	<b>\$ 1,637,494</b>
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

*\*Contracted services expenses include contracted trainings from Teachstone and Conscious Discipline, communications, marketing, print, and COPA subscription.*

*\*\*Other operating expenses includes employee and non-employee travel, membership in TX and National Head Start Associations, cost of PK monitors to maintain ratios at all times and miscellaneous operating costs.*