

**Title I Facilities for Neglected or Delinquent Youth
Summary Report: 2001-2002**

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Title I is a compensatory education program supported by funds from the U.S. Department of Education through the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 as amended by the Improving America's Schools Act of 1994 (P.L. 103-382), and now reauthorized in the Leave No Child Behind Act of 2001 (P.L. 107-110). The purpose of Title I is to enable schools to provide opportunities for children served so they may acquire the knowledge and skills described in state academic content standards and meet the state performance standards developed for all children. Title I provides funds to state and local education agencies that have high concentrations of low-income children in participating schools.

This report includes a descriptive summary of the facilities for neglected youth and the facilities for delinquent youth within the attendance zone of the Austin Independent School District (AISD) that received Title I funds during 2001-02, and summarizes the use of Title I funds, demographics of students served, and program outcomes from these facilities, per state and federal requirements. Traditional academic data are not included because these facilities operate individualized on-site instructional programs for children who are wards of the state of Texas with the intent of mainstreaming the students into regular Texas public school classrooms. In addition, these facilities are not required to report student-level academic data such as test scores.

FACILITIES FOR NEGLECTED YOUTH

Three facilities for neglected youth were allocated \$9,000 in Title I Part A funds in 2001-2002 based on the estimated number of eligible students they serve. The facilities included Settlement Home, Lifeworks Shelter, and Helping Hand Home. Of the funds allocated,

approximately 99% (\$8,913) was expended during the year, mostly on instructional supplies and materials (81%). Individuals from the AISD attendance area and other Texas districts are placed in these facilities because of abuse, neglect, and/or emotional and behavioral problems. Regardless of their residency status, these youths attend AISD's public schools or in-house classes at the facilities. The nature of their placement dictates whether they attend school in a public or secured, in-house setting.

During 2001-02, 219 youth were served at these facilities using Title I Part A funds. Of the students served, 35% were male, 65% were female; 27% were African American, 30% were Hispanic, and 43% were White. Students served ranged from prekindergarten through grade 12 with the majority of the students in secondary grades (78%). Based on survey results from staff at these facilities, a brief summary is presented below on each facility.

Settlement Home

Settlement Home is a private, non-profit residential treatment center and foster home program for severely abused girls ages 7 to 17. The academic instructional program includes an on-campus elementary and secondary school for special education students, and a tutoring program for all children in the residential and foster group home program. The goal of the facility is to provide academic instruction, tutoring, and skill building to all residents at the home in order to help them improve their academic achievement levels. Nine staff members (2 full time special education teachers; 3 full time teacher's aides; 1 education supervisor; 2 part-time tutors; and 1 part-time computer lab instructor who taught advanced computer skills) provided instructional services to students. Title I funds were spent on supplies and instructional materials such as a digital camera, wall screen, paper and one Ez pro projector. Seven community volunteers worked directly with the academic program providing academic tutoring, yoga

classes, weekly Girl Scout groups, and cooking classes for all residents of the facility. Settlement Home served 61 students in grades 3-11 in 2001-2002. Only one of the 61 students was returned to a regular AISD classroom setting during the school year.

Lifeworks Shelter

Lifeworks is an emergency shelter that serves homeless youth in grades 6 to 12 until they can be enrolled in AISD or an alternative education program. Title I funds were used to provide staff training, library books, and school supplies. Eleven volunteers provided weekly year-round tutoring and social work support. The facility served 119 students in 2001-2002. Three Lifeworks students graduated from high school, 11 received GEDs, and 105 were returned to the regular classroom.

Helping Hand Home

Helping Hand Home (HHH) is a foster home program for children who become wards of the state of Texas because of abusive family situations harmful to them or to a parent. The instructional program provides facility-wide services. All students who reside at the facility are served. Helping Hand Home's instructional program utilized staff and volunteers to provide children with scheduled after-school homework time, assistance with special school projects, reading practice, and computer assistance. Among children served in 2001-02, some were identified as having special education needs such as learning disabilities, emotional disturbances, speech impairments, and attention deficits. Fourteen program staff (5 summer school enrichments teachers, 3 therapists, 1 educational liaison, 1 recreation coordinator and 5 direct care staff) provided services to the residents during the 2001-02 school year. Title I funds were spent on basic school and therapeutic art supplies. Twelve volunteers, mostly college students provided tutoring and mentoring services to the HHH residents. Members of several community

groups provided story time, art and music programs. The home served 39 students in grades K-6 in 2001-2002.

FACILITIES FOR DELINQUENT YOUTH

Five facilities for delinquent youth were allocated \$94,322 in Title I Part D funds in 2001-02 based on the estimated number of eligible students they serve. The facilities included The Oaks Treatment Center, Phoenix House, Travis County Detention Center, Travis County Leadership Academy, and Turman House. Of the funds allocated, approximately 86% (\$81,262) was expended during the year, mostly on instructional supplies, materials, and equipment (71%) and on instructional salaries (27%). Individuals from the AISD attendance area and other Texas districts are placed in these facilities because of delinquency, and the nature of their placement dictates whether they attend school in a public or secured, in-house setting. Traditional academic data are not available because these facilities operate individualized on-site instructional programs with the intent of returning students to public school campuses, and these facilities are not required to report individual student level academic data such as test scores or grades.

During 2001-02, 1,556 youth were served at these facilities using Title I Part D funds. Of the students served, 73% were male, 27% were female; 28% were African American, 45% were Hispanic, 26% were White, and 1% were Asian/Pacific Islander or American Indian/Alaskan Native. Based on survey results from staff at these facilities, a brief summary is presented below on each facility.

Travis County Juvenile Detention Center (TCJDC)

Travis County Juvenile Detention Center (TCJDC) (formerly the Gardner-Betts Juvenile Justice Center) served 1,229 students, grades 4-12 in 2001-2002. All students were provided on-site supplementary instruction. The program offered a TAAS-centered curriculum focusing on

English, mathematics and reading in content areas during the regular school year. In addition, TCJDC offered an on-site summer program for students at the end of the regular school year. Three program teachers were hired to teach the first summer session of 2002. Title I funds were used to provide staff development for the summer school teachers and buy computers, software, school supplies, and materials. Staff from two volunteer agencies, Austin/Travis County Health Department and the Texas Department of Health, provided sexuality education and hepatitis C prevention instruction. Approximately 980 students were returned to regular classroom settings during 2001-02.

The Oaks Psychiatric Treatment Center

Youths, ages 5 to 21, live at the Oaks Psychiatric Treatment Center, a year-round group home facility. The instructional curriculum provided there is individualized to serve students in grades 6-12, and includes GED and pre-vocational classes. In addition, there are two summer sessions which allow students to gain credits toward graduation. The residents received on-site and after-school supplementary instruction tailored to their specific educational needs. The Oaks served 68 students in 2001-2002. Title I funds were used to purchase computers, printers, software, books, tapes, videos and basic school supplies. The school does not use community volunteers because of confidentiality issues.

Travis County Juvenile Shelter-Leadership Academy

Sixty-two students, ages 10 to 16, were provided on-site instruction and transitional halfway housing at this facility for delinquent youth. In addition, a support program of caseworkers, probation officers, and round-the-clock house parents offered intensive supervision of residents while they were at the halfway house, attending their home school, or taking GED classes. The Title I funded program at the Leadership Academy is supervised by the AISD

Alternative Learning Center principal. Title I funds were used to provide the summer school teacher's salary.

Phoenix Academy of Austin

Youth, ages 13 to 16, participated in both residential and day-treatment substance abuse programs at the Phoenix Academy. The Title I supplementary instructional program, implemented through the facility's summer session, offers a curriculum designed to bridge the gap between the regular AISD classroom and instructional time spent at the facility. The facility offers course remediation and the regular AISD core curriculum, thus the program allows students time for remediation and generation of needed credits. Four staff (one of whom was a certified teacher) provided instructional services to the targeted students. Courses for credits were targeted during the summer to enable students to increase their credits toward graduation. A remedial program also was offered for middle school students in core subjects to ensure that they passed to the next grade. The Academy served 187 students in 2001-2002, and returned 120 students to regular classrooms during the regular school year.

Turman Halfway House

Ten students, ages 16-21, received services at the Turman Halfway House. Title I funds were used to provide supplementary instruction in GED preparation classes as well as job training. Three of the 10 residents were returned to regular classrooms. The facility had no community volunteers this school year.

ACADEMIC PROGRESS FOR FACILITIES FOR DELINQUENT YOUTH

Only delinquent facilities were required to complete survey questions on program performance and data sources necessary for the TEA Title I, Part D, Subpart 2 Performance Report. Facility staffs were asked to rate their programs academic impact on students served.

Academic impact measurements were categorized as limited, moderate, or great (representing respectively at least 70%, 80%, or 90% of the students making academic progress). A summary of all institutions' evaluation responses indicated program objectives were *moderately* effective in meeting the following program goals: help students maintain and improve educational achievement, accrue school credits that meet state requirements for grade promotion and secondary school graduation, make transition to a regular program or other local education agency (LEA) programs, and complete secondary school or equivalency requirements.

SUMMARY AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Review of program goals and outcomes, numbers of students served, and program impact ratings indicates that activities and resources at these facilities funded by Title I have been moderately effective in supporting grant goals and in keeping with AISD's goal to improve student achievement. Collectively the eight facilities served 1,775 students (57 more than in 2000-01), returned 1,209 (9 less than in 2000-01) of those served to regular AISD classrooms, and graduated 14 students (three through regular high school graduation plans and 11 through a GED program) in 2001-2002. The facilities graduated 10 students in 2000-2001. Survey results showed that most of these facilities were supporting the academic progress of students served. Since the facilities were only moderately effective in having an impact on student academic achievement, it is recommended: *that the facilities align their academic programs with AISD's districtwide curriculum and the TEKS to ensure impacting the academic achievement of all students served* In addition, some problems were encountered during data collection with turnover in staff. Some staff hired was unaware of the evaluation data they were to provide to AISD. Also, some facility staff left for vacation as soon as school was over and it delayed the relay of required evaluation information to the evaluation staff. *Therefore, it is recommended*

that AISD grant and program evaluation staff work closely with these facilities to structure the data collection process so that facility staff will be aware the kind of data needed and the timeline for production of these data. Such collaboration will enable the district to have the most accurate information for state data reporting requirements.

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