



Title I, Part A Program Summary, 2015—2016

Executive Summary

The purpose of the federal Title I, Part A, program is to provide funds to improve elementary and secondary educational programs in both public and private nonprofit schools and institutions. During the 2015—2016 school year, the Austin Independent School District (AISD) received more than \$30 million in Title I, Part A funds to serve 77 public schools. Funds received were based on the percentage of low-income students living in the school's attendance area, according to the most recent census. By the end of the school year, \$26,164,310 Title I funds were expended, serving 49,307 students, resulting in a cost per student served of about \$530.

On the state-required achievement tests (i.e., State of Texas Assessment of Academic Readiness [STAAR] and end-of-course [EOC]), AISD Title I students on average passed at lower rates than did AISD non-Title I students, and this trend has persisted over several years.

Compared with students at AISD non-Title I schools, students at Title I schools were more often Hispanic, economically disadvantaged, and English language learners. AISD's Title I student population increased slightly from 2014—2015 to 2015—2016. The average cost per Title I student served was \$525 in 2015—2016.

The Texas Education Agency's (TEA) preliminary 2016 state accountability ratings showed that all but eight AISD schools met the state's standard rating. Six of the schools that rated as needing improvement were Title I schools. In the state's preliminary Performance-Based Monitoring Analysis System (PBMAS) 2016 report, AISD's Title I students' performance levels did not meet state Title I students' performance levels for some STAAR and EOC subject tests. AISD is implementing a district-wide improvement plan to address these needs.

As the district faces financial shortfalls, it is critical that district staff ensure the cost-effective use of the funds available. Because AISD needs to help support schools in improving students' academic performance, it is suggested that district staff in several key areas (i.e., curriculum, school operations, and special programs) as well as schools' leadership teams review ways in which Title I, Part A, funds are being leveraged, along with other funds, to support students and staff at AISD Title I schools. District staff will be examining campus and district intended outcomes for their Title I, Part A fund allocations during 2016—2017. Program evaluations will focus on major district initiatives that are supported by Title I, Part A and other funds, such as family engagement, summer school and other extended learning, and equity of resources.