

"All students will be productive members of the community and know the value of democracy."
 —(Board of Trustees 'Results-5')

Citizenship

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Citizenship is a component of the Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills and the Social Studies curriculum for grades K-12. Through Social Studies, students learn the components of citizenship and study the political process. Students also gain knowledge and understanding about various cultures and beliefs through history and geography courses. Within and beyond the classroom students engage in service learning and perform community service, thereby enhancing their understanding of others while contributing to society as a whole. Students are expected to demonstrate civic responsibility in the following ways:

- By voting, if legally eligible.
- By participating in student government activities at their campuses.
- By contributing positively to the community, through volunteering, and
- By being good stewards of the environment.

The Peer Assistance and Leadership (PAL) program represents one example of civic responsibility. In 2003-04, 958 students participated in the PAL program, in which older students mentor younger students. This number represents a 25 percent increase in the number of PAL mentors from 2002-03. In addition, on the 2004 High School Exit Survey, half of the survey respondents indicated that they participated in community services.

"All students will understand the components of a healthy lifestyle."
 —(Board of Trustees 'Results-7')

Health and Safety



I Am AISD. As an athletic trainer, I see students struggle to overcome adversity every day. Whether the challenge be a debilitating injury or an upcoming game, I enjoy being a part of their success. I have the opportunity to participate in the lives of our students over their entire high school career. It is an opportunity I treasure.
Jason Allen, Athletic Trainer
 Anderson High School

The AISD Initiative for Healthy Kids, a joint project between AISD and the District's School Health Advisory Council (SHAC), began in 2004. The program emphasizes physical activity and exercise during the school day and nutrition education for children and parents to promote healthy lifestyles.

As part of this initiative, AISD expanded Texas Agriculture Commissioner Susan Combs' policy to ensure that carbonated beverages and foods of minimal nutritional value are not provided on any AISD campus or on off-campus field trips during the school day. In addition, AISD cafeterias now offer more healthful food and beverage selections for students.

Other highlights showing progress in the areas of overall health include:

- Elementary classroom teachers are supporting students' fitness through daily *Working Out For Wellness* physical activity periods.
- More than 10,000 AISD students participated in the *Marathon Kids* fitness program, which won national recognition and was featured in *USA Today*.
- More than 1,500 AISD middle school students participated in *Volleyball Play Day*.
- A campus wellness specialist has been assigned to

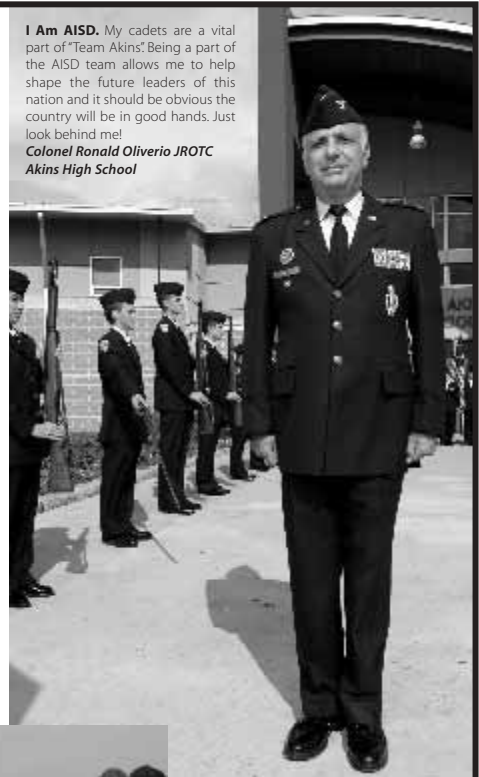
Sanchez and Walnut Creek elementaries as a pilot program to educate the students, staff, parents, and community on health and fitness concepts.

- Fifth grade, seventh grade, and high school students in Physical Education I *Foundations of Personal Fitness* undergo fitness level assessments for individual goal setting to improve their overall fitness levels.
- Many schools have a quality after-school physical activity program available for students, and
- Austin ISD qualified for the Health Department Immunization Honor Roll for achieving at least a 95 percent immunization rate at nearly all of its campuses.

A *Community Safety Task Force* was created in 2002-03 to lead the effort to ensure that Austin campuses are safe, conducive to learning and free from disruption. The Safety Task Force recommendations addressed: District Policies, Campus Facilities, Campus Climate and Continuum of Care for Students.

In 2003-04 school year, AISD adopted policies addressing the prevention and intervention of bullying and sexual harassment. As recommended by the *Community Safety Task Force*, the District is using the

I Am AISD. My cadets are a vital part of "Team Akins." Being a part of the AISD team allows me to help shape the future leaders of this nation and it should be obvious the country will be in good hands. Just look behind me!
Colonel Ronald Oliverio JROTC
 Akins High School



research-based *Positive Behavior Support* as a framework for creating and sustaining positive learning environments.

In addition, the Superintendent identified three initiatives to be implemented during the 2004-05 school year. These include: character education for students, dress codes for students and staff, and closed campuses at the high school level.

Plus, the 2004 Bond Program included \$20.9 million to be allocated for safety measures.

Discipline data are used as significant indicators of District progress in improving campus safety and sustaining positive learning environments. The most frequent student misbehaviors requiring corrective actions are related to aggression, insubordination, disruption, and the use of alcohol and drugs. AISD continues to enhance student support services to address these concerns.

The following reports on school safety for the 2003-04 school year will be available online in January 2005 at <http://www.austinisd.org/about/initiatives/annual/>:

- **AEIS Addendum: Criminal and Violent Offenses,**
- **AEIS Addendum: Violence Prevention and Intervention, and**
- **AEIS Addendum: Title IV Safe and Drug Free Schools and Communities.**