**Introductions**

The goal for the meeting was to present to the TASK Force the current state of pre-kindergarten and early childhood education in AISD, Austin, and Texas. Task Force Co-Chair Janie Ruiz introduced the Panel Participants and the TASK Force members who were unable to attend the first meeting.
The Current State of Prekindergarten and Early Childhood Education in AISD

Joan Atobelli, Director of Special Education for AISD
Ms. Atobelli presented the data on PPCD program in AISD. A power point presentation was distributed entitled Effort-Based Education: Providing 3 and 4-year old Children with Disabilities Access to Quality Instruction with Social and Emotional Supports Alongside Typically Developing Quality Peers. AISD provides a continuum of services for children with disabilities from ages 3 to 22. AISD’s vision is a rigorous PPCD (Pre-School Program for Children with Disabilities) Inclusion program which includes 3-year olds with disabilities instructed with typically developing 3-year olds and 4-year olds with disabilities instructed with typically developing 4-year olds in a day care, preschool or Pre-K setting in a location other than an elementary campus. It also includes highly qualified special education teachers and teaching assistance co-teaching with AISD pre-k teachers or tuition funded preschool teachers. And finally, the schools would have access to specialized service providers such as speech therapists, physical and occupational therapists, behavior specialists, and a PPCD nurse onsite. The program for children with disabilities in AISD is called Pre-School Program for Children with Disabilities (PPCD). There are several different models of PPCD programs currently in AISD. Two PPCD models are: Community day-care setting inclusion and tuition-based day care setting on elementary campuses. Please see power point presentation to read a more detailed description of the models and the AISD PPCD program.

Anita Uphouse, Administrative Supervisor of Early Childhood Education for AISD
Ms. Uphouse began with an historic over view of AISD’s prekindergarten program. AISD offers full-day prekindergarten to all identified eligible students. To be eligible for enrollment in an AISD prekindergarten class, a child must be four years old on or before September 1st of the current school year and must be: (1) unable to speak and comprehend the English language (2) educationally disadvantaged (eligible to participate in the national free or reduced-price lunch program (3) the child of an active duty member of the armed forces; or (4) homeless.

A document entitled Overview of the AISD Prekindergarten Program was distributed to the Task Force. The document includes initiatives, prekindergarten enrollment, teacher years of experience, and curriculum. The document also includes The Texas Early Education Model: TEEM Project fact sheet. Please refer to handout presented at the meeting for further information on AISD preschool and TEEM.

Useful website for questions regarding prekindergarten programming and curriculum: http://www.tea.state.tx.us.
Brian Mowry, Prekindergarten Curriculum Specialist for AISD

Mr. Mowry presented a brief overview of the prekindergarten curriculum standards in AISD. The AISD Prekindergarten Matrix was developed in 2002 in tandem with other core subject areas to ensure a seamless alignment with the State Prekindergarten Curriculum Guidelines and the Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills (TEKS). Instructional Planning Guides (IPGs) were developed during the summer of the 2003 to correlate with our state adopted resource, DLM Early Childhood Express and the AISD Prekindergarten to Grade 12 Curriculum Matrix.

Janice Curry, Evaluation Specialist, Office of Program Evaluation

Ms. Curry presented preliminary findings (June 14, 2006) from the 2005—2006 PPVT-III and TVIP testing sample. A total of 1,639 (n = 1,478) prekindergarten students were tested. The findings include gains for all students tested in their language of instruction, 80% (n = 1,183) of all students were in the average range (standard score of 85-115 or above) at the posttest when tested in their language of instruction. Also, the data show that in general Spanish language children have improved significantly on the PPVT-III and the TVIP. For any questions regarding this document please contact Janice Curry, Education Specialist Office of Program Evaluation.

The panel provided answers to questions regarding the data provided by Anita Uphaus and Janice Curry. Follow up information regarding the mobility rate of prekindergarten students in AISD will be provided at the next meeting. Further questions should be emailed to Melissa Chavez and Dr. Janis Guerrero and they will be directed to the appropriate program/person to be addressed. The questions above will be submitted to Office of Program Evaluation.

Laurie Barber, Principal of Andrews Elementary

Andrews Elementary has some special early childhood program models. There are two bilingual PPCD programs. Andrews has the “The Aspire Program”, which is a parenting education program, the program provides three-day care classes infant, toddlers, and three year olds so the parents can place their children in care while they are in those classes.

The State of Early Childhood Education in Austin and in Texas

This presentation is postponed due to time and will be presented at the June 28, 2006 Task Force Meeting.

List of Interviewees & Interview Protocol

Dr. Janis Guerrero, Executive Director Office of Planning & Community Relations, AISD. Provides the latest draft of the strategic planning interviews and protocol. After
reviewing the document, suggestions from task force members included: gathering a larger sampling of prekindergarten teachers, including more bilingual representation, including more parents need, including more business representation, and including the Black Childcare Coalition group.

If there are any other candidates for interview that the Task Force would like to recommend, Dr. Guerrero needs these names ASAP. Dr. Guerrero’s staff will meet and finalize the candidates and protocols and get started with the interviews.

**Next Steps**
The next meeting of the AISD Superintendent’s Task Force on Early Childhood Education is scheduled for June 28, 2006 from 3:30 pm to 5:00 pm at the United Way of Austin. The agenda for the next session will include a presentation on the state of early childhood education in Austin and in Texas. The task force will also create committees to study identified areas in further depth. These committees will take on a particular issue or area of study for the remainder of the Task Force and present their findings to the group.