

Dear Parents,

As promised last month, I have some more information to share about the new Strategic Plan. As you may recall, the Strategic Plan provides the direction for the District and our schools. It is a road map to help us raise the achievement and performance of all students and make Austin a premier urban school district.

In the next year, you can expect to see an intense focus on areas such as;

- Boosting student attendance
- Retaining and developing quality teachers
- Helping students to recover class credits
- Better serving the needs of students who are English Language Learners

Through this work, our goals are to:

- Close the achievement gap between student groups
- Bring all students to performing at or above grade level
- Assure that all students graduate ready for college, career and community
- Ensure that all schools meet or exceed state and federal accountability standards

Your contribution is vital to the achievement of these goals and a key part you can play is ensuring the attendance of your child.

Not only does attendance boost student achievement and improve the quality of your child's educational experience, but there is also a huge financial connection to your child's attendance. Did you know that the District loses \$45 in state revenue per absent student per day? *And, did you know that just a one percent increase in the District attendance rate would generate an additional \$6 million from the State of Texas to our School District?* That money goes directly into your child's education.

Parents are the all-important connection between home and school. I ask for your support and assistance in making sure your child is in school every day. By helping to reinforce good attendance, you will also ensure your child's academic success.

In the months ahead, I will share information and updates with you on these and other important areas of focus. Throughout the school year, there will also be opportunities for you to learn more about the Strategic Plan and how it will support your child's success now and in the years to come. You can also stay informed about the new Strategic Plan by visiting the AISD website at [www.austinisd.org](http://www.austinisd.org).

*In the meantime, I encourage you to get involved! Talk to your child's teacher about how you can support your child's attendance, how to help them with their homework, and remember make time to volunteer at your child's school.*

Your participation and support for the new Strategic Plan is essential. We need every parent to believe in the power of their child's success.

Thank you.