



An initial purchase of additional hotspots and data plans by the Hormel Foundation ensured internet access for students and families across our community. Grant dollars secured by Austin Aspires allowed us to extend the data plans through Summer 2021, build a free tutoring program, and hire a Tech Navigator to support families as they work through distance learning.

Mother Teresa said, "I can do things you cannot, you can do things I cannot; together we can do great things." That is the true spirit of collective impact, and we see it repeatedly in the work that we do in our community daily.



LETTER FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR:

2020 has been a year unlike any other. This past year, COVID-19 has provided us with unique opportunities to partner with community organizations, families and students in new ways.

Community partner support and the collective impact model brought grants to support distance learning efforts and the continuation of the backpack program to provide meals to students. Additionally, as a result of receiving dollars from the state of Minnesota during this past year, our expanded team has connected with and supported students and families in ways we weren't able to before.

All of this great work means Austin Aspires is very close to being recognized as a StriveTogether Sustaining Gateway organization. Sustaining Gateway organizations are those that demonstrate effective communication practices with partners and our community, and evidence of data-driven decision making to engage partners and practitioners to improve community-level outcomes.

We could not be more proud of the relationships we have with our community partners, and the tremendous support shown by all in our community. We feel honored to do what we get to do to ensure that Austin will be recognized as a leader in education with a culture of educational excellence, cradle to career, embraced in every aspect of our community.

Respectfully,
Jayne
Jayne Gibson
Executive Director



301 North Main Street, Suite 104
Austin, MN 55912

GET INVOLVED

The success of our work depends on the commitment of our community to our young people. Learn more about how you can help support our vision of educational excellence for all.

Visit: austinaspires.org or scan here



2020 ANNUAL REPORT to the community



educational excellence from cradle to career



COLLECTIVE IMPACT IN ACTION

In March 2020 the state of Minnesota, like so many others across the country, was forced to move to a drastically different educational model in the interest of the safety of their students and staff. In just a couple of short weeks, teachers, students and parents had to navigate their new roles in this unique and challenging learning environment.

It was not easy, but the students, staff and families of Austin worked with grace and perseverance to do their best. In typical Austin fashion, the community was quick to step forward and ask what could be done to support this shift. Austin Aspires, working in collaboration with the Austin Public Library, Austin Public Schools and Pacelli Catholic Schools identified needs, and then resources, to support.

OUR 5 KEY OBJECTIVES:

All learners will be ready for kindergarten.



All learners will be challenged to achieve their academic potential.



Our community will support and enhance parents and mentors in their role as the primary influencer of our learners.



Our community will provide equal access to opportunities which encourage our learners to explore areas of personal interest and prepare for post-secondary education or career.



Our community will address social, emotional, mental and physical barriers to success for all learners.



OUR GROWING TEAM

WE GAINED THE TIME AND TALENTS OF 4 NEW NAVIGATORS IN 2020 THANKS TO GRANTS FROM THE STATE OF MINNESOTA!

Learn more about our full team at: www.austinaspire.org/staff.html



IMPORTANCE OF THE EARLY YEARS

Parenting is the most important job, yet one of the messiest and most challenging that many of us will ever know. Children don't come with instruction manuals, and even if they did, the instructions would only work sometimes as the needs of children are constantly changing.

Using dollars from a state of Minnesota grant, Austin Aspires hired two Early Childhood Navigators to support parents on their important journey. MaKayla Oxley and Sylvia Hernandez work directly with families of children prenatal through age 6 to get the families connected to the resources they need for their child to be successful. Examples of the supports that our navigators provide include helping families find dental care for a youngster, fill out preschool registration paperwork, connect the family to a healthcare provider and so much more!

MaKayla and Sylvia are here to support parents in their challenging, yet so important, role of support in those early years. A child's early years are the foundation for his or her future development, providing a strong base for lifelong learning and learning abilities, including cognitive and social development. We feel fortunate to get to partner with you to make a difference during this critical time in your child's life!

NAVIGATING THE PATHWAY TO SUCCESS

High school graduation rates are a data set used to ensure students in Austin are career and college ready. Two years ago, education leaders in the community identified an eye-opening gap in Austin graduation rates - Hispanic males were graduating at a far lower rate than any other group in our community. As a result of education partner collaborations and community focus groups with families and students, Austin Aspires leveraged grant dollars from the State of Minnesota to hire two bilingual navigators to support Hispanic males in grades 7-12.

Teresa Lugo and Jesus Alvarez have a primary focus to work with families and students to remove obstacles that may keep them from graduating in four years. Their work includes connecting students with additional academic support as needed, serving as a liaison between school and family, and helping these students realize their potential and opportunities through college visits, intramural activities and leadership experiences.

Working with educators and partners in our community, Teresa and Jesus have already made a multi-generational impact on not only the students they are working with, but the community of Austin as a whole.

AUSTIN EDUCATION AT A GLANCE

A HIGH LEVEL LOOK AT THE COMMUNITY DATA FOR OUR AREAS OF FOCUS IN THE COMING YEAR

HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION RATE

CLASS OF 2019 4-YEAR GRADUATION RATE*

STATUS	NUMBER OF STUDENTS	%	WHITE VS. STUDENTS OF COLOR
GRADUATED	294	79.5%	
CONTINUING	37	10.0%	
DROPPED OUT	31	8.2%	
UNKNOWN	8	2.2%	

*High School Graduation Rate data is reflective of the percent of both Austin Public Schools and Pacelli High School students completing the required number of credits and specific coursework in four years.

HIGH ACADEMIC POTENTIAL

HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS ENROLLED IN AUSTIN SCHOOLS:

	2020 AVG SCORE	2024 GOAL
Percentage who received an ACT composite score of 18 or higher	52.5%	63%
Average ACT composite score of students scoring in top 10%	28.9	31
Average ACT composite score of students scoring in top 20%	26.5	29
Percentage of seniors who academically qualify for the Austin Assurance Scholarship	75.1%	80%

AREAS OF IMPACT:
 GRADUATION RATES
 COLLEGE PERSISTENCE RATES
 SOCIAL EMOTIONAL HEALTH
 CAREER AND COLLEGE READINESS
 EMPOWERING PARENTS AND MENTORS IN OUR COMMUNITY

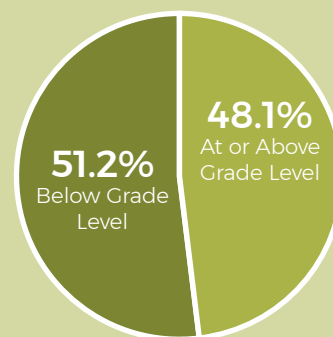
EARLY LITERACY GOALS

EARLY READING LEVELS

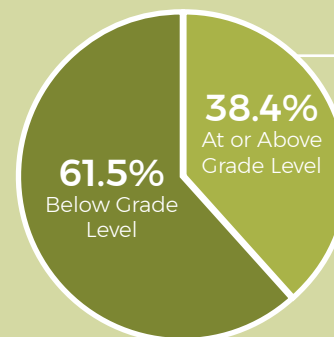
OF AUSTIN STUDENTS ENTERING KINDERGARTEN

PLAN FOR IMPROVEMENT:

FALL 2019



FALL 2020



56.3% of 'At or Above Grade Level' kindergarteners are White

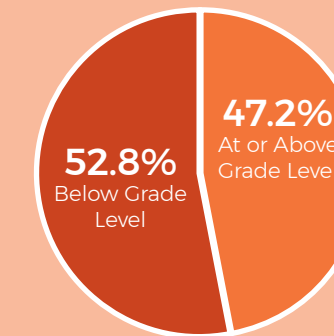


Using the FASTBridge early reading assessments, the percentage of students entering kindergarten on grade level will increase to 42% by 2024.

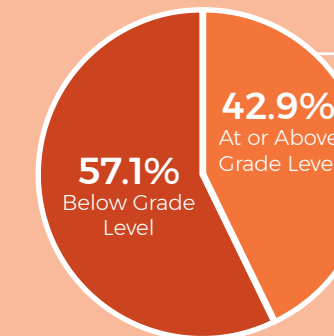
AREAS OF IMPACT:
 Kindergarten Readiness
 Reading By Grade 3
 Social Emotional Health
 Empowering Parents

THIRD GRADE READING

SPRING 2018



SPRING 2019

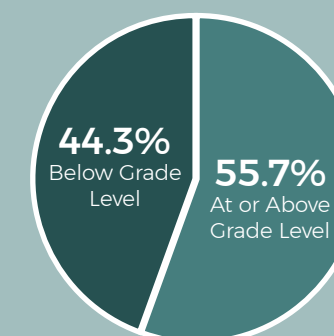


59.5% of 'At or Above Grade Level' third graders are White

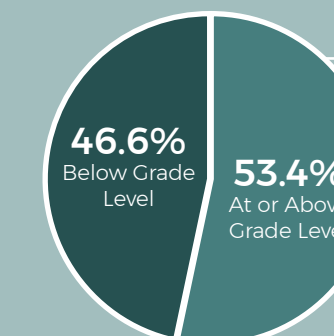


EIGHTH GRADE MATH

SPRING 2018



SPRING 2019



69.6% of 'At or Above Grade Level' eighth graders are White



EDUCATION & DONOR PARTNERS



COMMUNITY & ACTION PARTNERS

- | | | |
|--------------------------------------|---------------------------------|--|
| Americorps | Austin Rotary Club | SEMCAAC |
| Austin Area Chamber of Commerce | CLA (Clifton Larson Allen) | The City of Austin |
| Austin Area Commission for the Arts | Education Minnesota | The Hormel Institute |
| Austin First United Methodist Church | Faith Church Austin | United Congregational Church of Austin |
| Austin Human Rights Commission | Head Start | United Way of Mower County |
| Austin Morning Lions Club | HyVee | Welcome Center |
| Austin Noon Kiwanis | Mower County | Workforce Development Inc. |
| Austin Police Department | Mower Refreshed | YMCA at Austin Community Recreation Center |
| Austin Public Library | Parenting Resource Center | |
| | Quality Pork Processors | |
| | Science Fair Mentorship Program | |