



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.

COLLECTIVE IMPACT

In our efforts to achieve better outcomes for all children in our community we have committed to collective impact. Therefore we will:

Measure What Matters

Our partners have built a common agenda around five major milestones along the education continuum. We use timely and accurate community-wide data to drive our work.

Identify Effective Practices

In addition to using data, we look at effective practices in our community. We select best strategies moving forward by identifying what is working and what best practices should be implemented across the community.



LETTER FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR:

The African proverb, "If you want to go fast, go alone. If you want to go far, go together" is especially important when working to set our community apart. We rely heavily on the time, talents and treasures of incredible individuals and organizations in our community. We need you!

In 2019, we will work to form a Young Adult Advisory Council and will continue to leverage the invaluable perspective of parents, educational staff, community members and partner organizations. Using the collective impact model of Strive Together, we work to maximize the strength of each collaborator to provide world class education for all learners in our community.

Thank you so much to those who have already become involved in our work, and welcome aboard to those of you joining us now. Many hands and hearts can make even the largest of tasks easier.

Respectfully,

Jayne

Jayne Gibson
Executive Director



2018 ANNUAL REPORT to the community

AUSTIN **aspire**s

educational excellence from cradle to career

AUSTIN **aspire**s

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



WHO WE ARE

Austin Aspires is a local coalition with the mission of bringing together schools, community organizations, government agencies, businesses and philanthropic foundations. As a collective group we are holding ourselves accountable to measurable improvement on a core set of student outcomes. Working together, we will create a community where all children thrive. We are moving from individual impact where each organization is working on a discrete set of goals in isolation, to shared ideas and aspirations for our community, to collaborative action rooted in shared responsibility and accountability.

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.



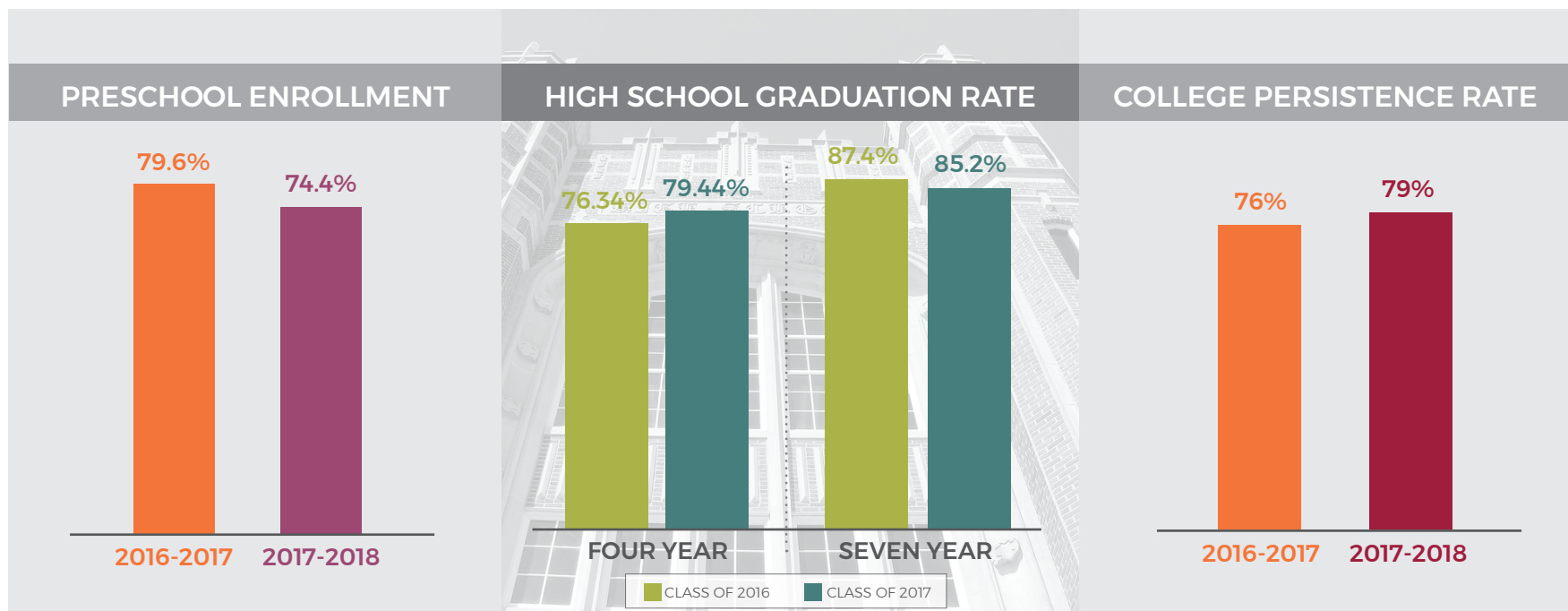


AUSTIN EDUCATION AT A GLANCE

High School Graduation Rate data is reflective of the percent of Students completing the required number of credits and specific coursework in four and seven years.

College Persistence Rate data is reflective of the percent of high school graduates starting college and persisting or graduating in 2 years.

* Reflects Austin Public Schools Data Only



THE AUSTIN ASSURANCE SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

Earlier this year, the Hormel Foundation announced The Austin Assurance Scholarship program. This generous donation provides eligible Austin and Pacelli High Schools graduates the opportunity to attend any Riverland Community College campus for little to no cost. What a tremendous opportunity for the students and community!

One of the eligibility criteria included community volunteer hours. Without the collaborative efforts of community agencies, this extremely important component of the program could have become a logistical nightmare. Instead, it was an opportunity for collective impact!

The United Way funded a dynamic, online platform called Get Connected. Austin Aspires staff worked with United Way staff to educate community organizations to post volunteer needs in

a manner that is easy for students and community members to view and register for. Staff from Austin Public Schools and Pacelli Catholic Schools worked with the team to ensure students had accounts and were able to understand how to use the program. Volunteer hours, and the financial impact of these hours, will be tracked for each individual student and community member utilizing the Get Connected site.

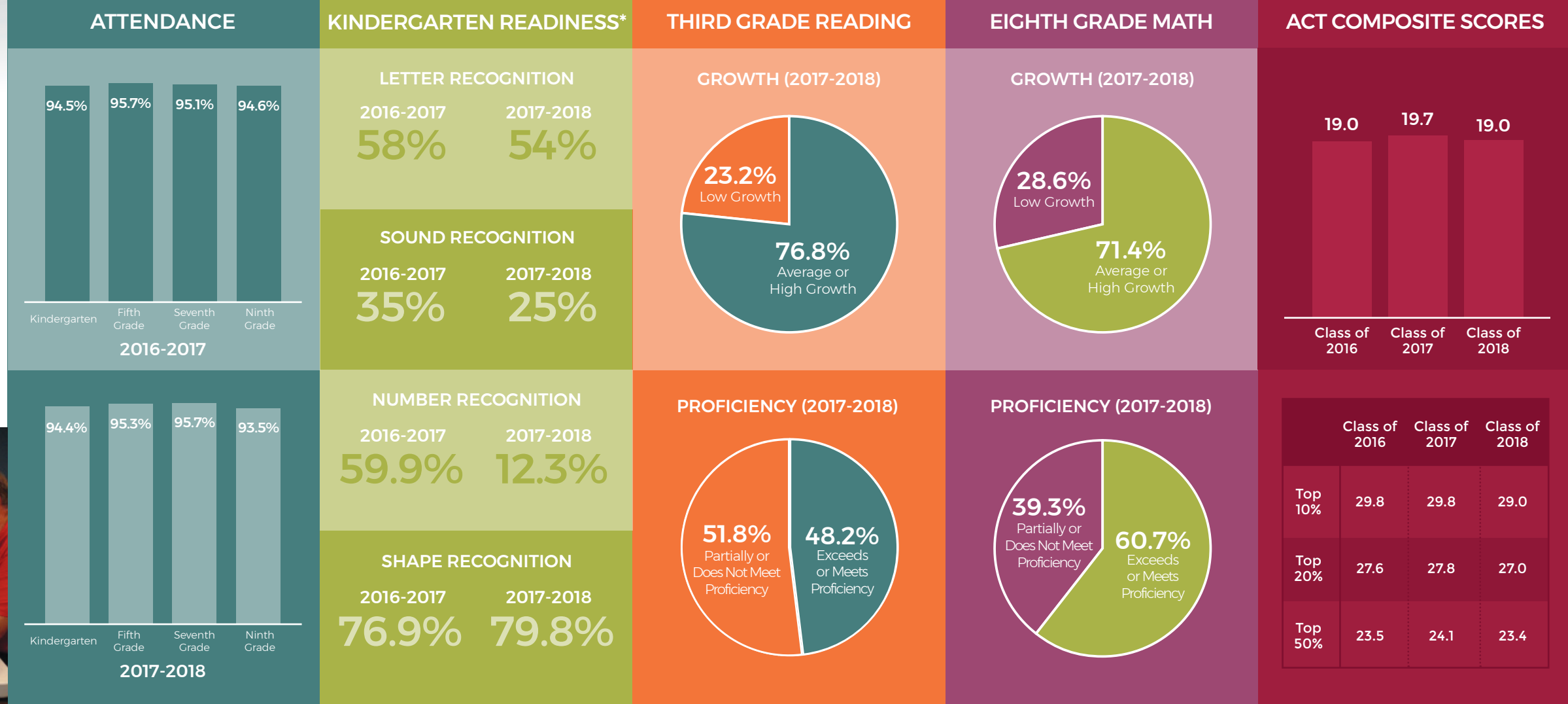
Thank you to Hormel Foundation, United Way, and the schools for coming together in support of all students. Volunteerism is part of the equation for long-lasting change in the community and plays an important role in character development of individuals. With the support of many, it is now easier to volunteer in our community.

OUR STRUCTURE

Austin Aspires is fortunate to have had the ongoing support of 86 passionate volunteers during 2018. Our work is completed using our Leadership Table, Collaborative Action Networks and Partner Organizations. In 2019, we will include a Youth Advisory Council. All of this work is guided by our Board of Directors.



For additional information about our advisors, staff and volunteers, please visit: austinaspres.org.



EDUCATION & DONOR PARTNERS



COMMUNITY & ACTION PARTNERS

- American Foundation for Suicide Prevention
- Austin Area Chamber of Commerce
- Austin Area Commission for the Arts
- Austin Human Rights Commission
- Austin Police Department
- Austin Public Library
- The City of Austin
- Education Minnesota
- Head Start
- The Hormel Institute
- HyVee
- Math Masters
- Mower County
- Mower Refreshed
- Parenting Resource Center
- Quality Pork Processors
- Science Fair Mentorship Program
- United Way of Mower County
- Welcome Center
- Workforce Development Inc.
- YMCA of Austin

