



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 ACTION

In April of 2019, the collaborative of several organizations in the community of Austin was awarded a PrairieCare Family and Child Fund grant to support healthy emotional development in our youngest learners. Austin Public Schools, Pacelli Catholic Schools, Parenting Resource Center community partners and Austin Aspires are working together to implement Dr. Becky Bailey's Conscious Discipline practices throughout our organizations.

According to Minnesota Department of Health statistics, 1 in 10 young people experienced a period of major depression in their lifetime. Sharing resources, knowledge and learning together, these agencies have made each other stronger and better equipped to positively impact the quality of life for children and families in our community.



**LETTER FROM
THE EXECUTIVE
DIRECTOR:**

2019 proved to be a monumental year for Austin Aspires! Internally, we completed our three-year strategic plan and continue to gain clarity as we work toward a culture of educational excellence for all.

Thanks to gracious community partners, grants and the state of Minnesota, we have secured additional funding to increase our staff and grow our work. The hard work of local legislators has also brought new resources to our community through our inclusion in the state funding bill. Additionally, we launched two Collaborative Action Networks (CANS) practicing collective action in its truest form.

Using community data, we have identified the need to focus energies around early childhood and academic potential at the secondary level as part of our strategic plan. Members of our CANS have honed that work even further and are identifying ways they can support these focused efforts through their roles.

Helen Keller's words "Alone we can do so little; together, we can do so much" show true every day in the work we are doing in our community. We feel very fortunate to be in a community that cares so much!

Respectfully,

Jayne

Jayne Gibson
Executive Director



2019 ANNUAL REPORT to the community



AUSTIN
aspireS
educational excellence from cradle to career

AUSTIN
aspireS

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.



NEW IN 2019



STATE OF MINNESOTA FUNDING

Many thanks to Representative Jeanne Poppe and her colleagues for all they do for our community. This last legislative session, Rep Poppe worked exceptionally hard to bring new dollars to the community of Austin through the education bill. Austin Aspires will receive \$250,000 each year of the budget cycle to support students and families in our community!

We have worked closely with our community partners, educational partners and funding partners to determine the best way to use these dollars. We will be adding staff to work with identified students and families in our community to connect them to needed resources. Early Childhood Navigators will work with families with children birth to 5 to connect them to opportunities and resources needed to ensure essential needs for children are being met

early in life. Bilingual Community Navigators will work directly with our Hispanic boys in grades 6-12, and their families, to remove obstacles that may currently keep them from graduating high school ready to fill essential roles in our community.

Both of these positions have the potential to positively impact students, families and our community for multiple generations. Watch for additional information to be shared about these important roles, the individuals that will fill the roles, and the work they are doing!

With the financial support in part from a grant from StriveTogether, we were able to bring Jessica Hutchinson on board this year to help connect with families. She has been working to build relationships with families and identify their needs. Through bi-monthly Parent to Parent meetings, parents are able to support one another, and get support from one another, as they journey on the challenging path of parenthood. In addition to learning from each other, guest speakers from our community provide their expertise to support individual development as parents. We would love to have you involved in our group as a parent, as a presenter, or as a community member!

NEW WEBSITE!



Visit us at:
www.austinaspire.org

to learn more about the impactful work we are doing in your community, local resources available to you and your family, upcoming events and more!



PARENT ENGAGEMENT COORDINATOR

Reach out to Jessica to learn more at:
parentengagement@austinaspire.org

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 2018 4-YEAR GRADUATION RATE*

STATUS	NUMBER OF STUDENTS	PERCENTAGE
GRADUATED	296	76.9%
CONTINUING	36	9.4%
DROPPED OUT	44	11.4%
UNKNOWN	9	2.3%

*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:

Percentage who receive an ACT composite score of 18 or higher

Average ACT composite score of students scoring in top 10%

Average ACT composite score of students scoring in top 20%

Percentage of seniors who academically qualify for the Austin Assurance Scholarship

2019 AVG SCORE

60.2%

29

27

75.9%

2024 GOAL

63%

31

29

80%

AREAS OF IMPACT:

- GRADUATION RATES
- COLLEGE PERSISTENCE RATES
- SOCIAL EMOTIONAL HEALTH
- CAREER AND COLLEGE READINESS
- EMPOWERING PARENTS AND MENTORS IN OUR COMMUNITY

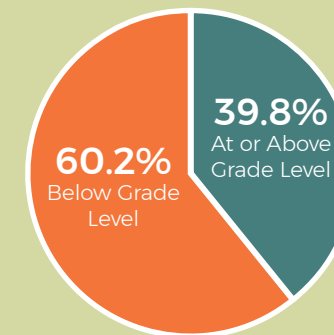
EARLY LITERACY GOALS

EARLY READING LEVELS

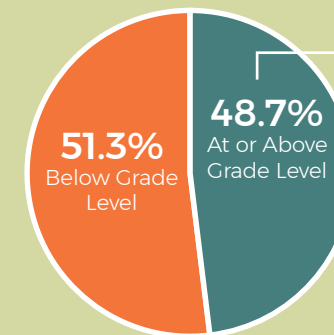
OF AUSTIN STUDENTS ENTERING KINDERGARTEN

PLAN FOR IMPROVEMENT:

FALL 2018



FALL 2019



66.3% of 'At or Above Grade Level' kindergarteners are Caucasian



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

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

THE AUSTIN ASSURANCE SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

The graduating class of 2019 was the first class eligible to participate in the Hormel Foundation Austin Assurance Scholarship Program, and participate they have! More than 100 Austin High School and Pacelli High School graduates are attending Riverland Community College this fall thanks in part to this program.

College freshman KieJuana VanZant says the scholarship provided her with the opportunity to go to college and play basketball, while staying close to family. "I have four younger siblings still at home. They are watching me. They see that I can do this, and now they know they can too," VanZant said. VanZant was one of 80 high school students who participated in a job shadow opportunity through Austin Aspires. She spent her time with the Austin Police Department. Her field of study at Riverland – the Law Enforcement Pathway!

Jasmine Sannicolas, Riverland freshman, shared that she did not even consider college

until the Assurance Scholarship became available. "When I lost my mom, I didn't think there was any way that I could attend college. The Assurance Scholarship has allowed me to continue my education while staying close to home," said Sannicolas.

Quincy Muzik is pursuing a degree in technology, with an emphasis on design and gaming. For him, being able to go to college for free, especially a college with a great reputation that is well connected within the state college system, was an easy decision.

These Assurance Scholarship students express tremendous gratitude to the Hormel Foundation for this opportunity. We are grateful to all of the scholarship students for the commitment to the community they have shown through volunteering and representing Austin well. We look forward to realizing the positive impact they will have on Austin.

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