



— SCHOOL YEAR 2024


ANNUAL REPORT



**AUSTIN
ED FUND**



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Dear Friends and Supporters,

This past year has been a powerful reminder of what is possible when a community invests in its public schools.

In close partnership with Austin ISD, the Austin Ed Fund continued to serve as a strategic and responsive partner—aligning community resources with district priorities to support educators, students, and families where it matters most. Together, we focused on strengthening systems, expanding opportunity, and responding to real needs across our school communities.

Because of your generosity, Austin Ed Fund awarded a record \$450,000 in teacher-led grants—supporting 66 projects that place educators at the center of innovation. By investing in educator experience, these grants empower educators to expand access and help students see what’s possible for their future.

Additionally, our focus on early literacy continues to grow. Strong reading skills are the foundation for lifelong learning, and we are proud to support programs that build these skills early and effectively, especially for our youngest learners. The results we’ve seen are inspiring for educators and life-changing for our students.

We continued our commitment to college and career readiness efforts, equipping students with the tools they need to explore future pathways with confidence and purpose through real-world experiences and skill-building opportunities.

Your support fuels this work. Thank you for participating and believing in the power of public education and helping create brighter opportunities for all students.

With deep appreciation,



Michelle Wallis

Executive Director, Austin ISD Office of Innovation and Development
and the Austin Ed Fund

— ABOUT US

Our mission is to inspire the community to invest in Austin ISD.

Austin Ed Fund is the philanthropic partner of Austin ISD, working alongside the district and community to strengthen public education and expand opportunity for students. A 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization, Austin Ed Fund develops and stewards meaningful public-private partnerships that advance district priorities and support students and educators.



Serving as a trusted partner and catalyst for innovation, Austin Ed Fund mobilizes community investment to support initiatives that go beyond what public funding alone can provide. Through close partnership with educators, families, and community leaders, the organization helps Austin ISD respond to emerging needs, test new approaches, and build systems that help students thrive.

“Students have a greater view of themselves as learners. On one campus, kindergarteners were reading full sentences in October!”

- Elementary School Principal

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Matias Segura, Superintendent, Austin ISD

Kathryn Whitley Chu, Board of Trustees, District 4, Austin ISD

Our Year at a Glance



3 focus areas:

early literacy, college and career readiness, and educator experience



\$450,000

in grants given to 66 Inspire The Future recipients



16

annual sponsors to Austin Ed Fund



\$2.5 million

granted for 400 educator-led projects since the Inspire the Future grants program's inception



\$2.2 million

raised to strengthen instructional quality of 1,000 early literacy educators teaching 15,000 K-2 students at 79 elementary schools to read

Our Year at a Glance



6,493

students in grades 4 - 10 from 59 schools went on college trips to 19 campuses



37

high school students participated in paid, 7-week summer internships across 13 sites



2

redesigned library spaces were launched with Defend the Dream Foundation



740

attendees at the Inspire the Future Luncheon featuring 88 students from 10 campuses and 1 superintendent address



More than \$38k

in Crisis Funds deployed for emergent student, family and staff needs such as food, clothes and supplies. Special thanks to H-E-B and the many generous donors to the Austin Ed Fund for making it possible for this support to be provided in times of need

— YOUR IMPACT

Program Highlights

Your generosity makes it possible to respond to the evolving needs of Austin ISD students and educators—investing in opportunity, innovation, and stability where it matters most.

Crisis Fund

Your generosity enables rapid, flexible support for Austin ISD educators and schools facing unexpected challenges. By meeting urgent needs in real time, you help stabilize learning environments and ensure students can continue to learn and thrive during moments of disruption.

Impact at a Glance

\$38,000 deployed
in rapid-response funding



College & Career Readiness (CCR): Internships & College Visits

Your support connects students to real-world experiences through internships and college visits across Austin ISD. By reducing financial and logistical barriers, you help students build skills, confidence, and clarity as they prepare for life after high school.

Impact at a Glance

35 students
participated in internships
and college visits

13
partner hosts engaged

7 campuses
supported across
Austin ISD



Early Literacy

Your support improves the early reading experiences for Austin ISD's youngest learners. **These investments build foundational literacy skills and foster a love of reading**, setting students on a path toward long-term academic success.

Impact at a Glance

15,000 students reached through early literacy efforts.



Inspire the Future Grants

Your investment puts resources directly into the hands of educators, empowering Austin ISD teachers to lead innovative, student-centered projects. These teacher-led ideas strengthen classroom learning and create meaningful opportunities for students across the district.

Impact at a Glance

\$450,000

awarded in ITF Grants

66

educator-led projects funded

48

campuses reached

— YOUR IMPACT



Austin Ed Fund awarded \$450,000 to 66 projects across the district, surpassing \$2.5 million since 2015



— INSPIRE THE FUTURE GRANT WINNERS

2024 Austin Ed Fund Grant Winners

SCHOOL	APPLICANT	GRANT AREA OF FOCUS
Akins Early College High School.....	Christopher Aguilar.....	College and Career Readiness
Andrews Elementary School	Blanca Galvez Perez	Literacy
Austin ISD Creative Learning Initiative.....	Lydia Nelson, Melinda Servantez.....	Literacy
Austin ISD Dyslexia.....	Tamara Black, Toni Hearn	Literacy
Austin ISD Multilingual.....	Harishini, Ernest	Literacy
Austin ISD Office of Organizational Transformation.....	Sundal Ali, Farid Razavi.....	Educator Experience
Austin ISD Special Education	Courtney Gregori, Judith LeBlanc	College and Career Readiness
Austin ISD Student Support Services	Veronica Silva	Educator Experience
Austin State Hospital	Damien Mills.....	Literacy
Barrington Elementary School.....	Maria Hernandez.....	College and Career Readiness
Barrington Elementary School.....	Atenas Vallado	Literacy
Bear Creek Elementary School.....	Pamela Calabrese, Promyse Draper.....	Literacy
Bedichek Middle School.....	Tracy Kriese.....	Literacy
Blackshear Elementary School.....	Julissa Lopez, Nick Martinez.....	Educator Experience
Blackshear Elementary School.....	Cheylin Rush, Sharae Franklin	Literacy
Blazier Elementary School.....	Dianira Guerra.....	College and Career Readiness
Blazier Elementary School.....	Karen Newton.....	Literacy
Burnet Middle School	Janaye Pierce, Jose Perez.....	Educator Experience
Burnet Middle School	Linda Sue Rodriguez, Helena Walker	College and Career Readiness
Casey Elementary School.....	Samantha Barrett, Crystal Maldonado-Porter.....	Educator Experience
Casey Elementary School.....	Cassidy Woodall, Dominic Milazzo.....	Literacy
Cook Elementary School.....	Cecilia Flores, Mariela Sepulveda	College and Career Readiness
Cook Elementary School.....	Beth Gavin	Literacy
Covington Middle School.....	Cedric Maddox.....	College and Career Readiness
Covington Middle School.....	Amber Watts.....	Educator Experience
Crockett Early College High School	Sara Freund, Ana Garcia.....	Educator Experience
Crockett Early College High School	Ashley Smith, Matthew Valdez.....	College and Career Readiness
Dobie Middle School.....	Laurie Stauffer.....	College and Career Readiness
Dobie Middle School.....	TyAnn Wellman	Educator Experience
Govalle Elementary School.....	Deja Gamble, Jessica Victoria.....	College and Career Readiness
Harris Elementary School.....	liliana Batista.....	Literacy
Houston Elementary School	Chaitra McGrew, Korinne Litrell	Educator Experience
International High School.....	Raul Rivera	College and Career Readiness

2024 Austin Ed Fund Grant Winners

SCHOOL	APPLICANT	GRANT AREA OF FOCUS
Jordan Elementary School	GaNiece Denali, Kelly McIntyre-Salas	Literacy
Kocurek Elementary School	Jaclyn Yacoub, Vanessa Anchondo	Literacy
LBJ Early College High School	James (Rob) Williams, Kendra Henderson	College and Career Readiness
Linder Elementary School	Norman Gomez, Miguel Rizo	College and Career Readiness
Linder Elementary School	Jessica Pecina Lopez	Educator Experience
Lively Middle School	Brianna Garcia	College and Career Readiness
Lively Middle School	Andres Nava	College and Career Readiness
Marshall Middle School	Risa Chavez-David	Literacy
Mills Elementary School	Courtney Cartledge	College and Career Readiness
Navarro Early College High School	Sanford Jeames	Literacy
Navarro Early College High School	Heidi Kayser	Educator Experience
Navarro Early College High School & Akins Early College High School	Laura May, Loraine Tijerina	College and Career Readiness
Oak Hill Elementary School	Emily Matthews, Kyra Abbe	College and Career Readiness
Ortega Elementary School	Raquel Abrajan, Sandra Brown	Literacy
Overton Elementary School	Daniela Willett	Educator Experience
Palm Elementary School	Rhoda Coleman, Zachary Perkins	Literacy
Palm Elementary School	Kimberly Harrison	Literacy
Patton Elementary School	Yumiko Sakamoto, Kristin Reider	Educator Experience
Perez Elementary School	Yadi Landaverde, Gabriela Jimenez	Literacy
Pickle Elementary School	Yza Rodriguez	College and Career Readiness
Pickle Elementary School	Tanya Vazquez, Julia Cerda-Carrillo	Educator Experience
Sanchez Elementary School	Iliana Barrera-Lubman	College and Career Readiness
Small Middle School	Deanna Sylvia	Literacy
St. Elmo Elementary School	Kristel Sans	College and Career Readiness
Sunset Valley Elementary School	Lluvia Faz, Maria Rodriguez Arellano	Literacy
Travis Early College High School	Heather Merritt, Martha Ralston	Literacy
Travis Early College High School	Susan Rozanc, Sarah Hodges	Educator Experience
Walnut Creek Elementary School	Luis Chinchilla, Edna Aguirre	College and Career Readiness
Walnut Creek Elementary School	Heather Stephens	Literacy
Widen Elementary School	Benito Faz-Banda	College and Career Readiness
Winn Montessori School	Bridget Farr, Zachary Perkins	Educator Experience
Zilker Elementary School	AJ Pitts, Hannah Hallmark	Literacy
Zilker Elementary School	AJ Pitts, Elizabeth Vreeland	Educator Experience



Blazier Student Leadership News

Blazier Intermediate School | Award: \$3,200

Your support helped students find their voices—and their confidence.

Through the Blazier Student Leadership News program, students created and produced their own bilingual news broadcasts, building skills in communication, collaboration, media literacy, and digital citizenship. The project strengthened connections across campuses and families while giving students authentic leadership opportunities that will serve them far beyond the classroom.



Book Nook Vending Machine

Clint Small Middle School | Award: \$10,000

Your generosity put books directly into students' hands—and into their homes.

With support from an Inspire the Future Grant, Clint Small Middle School launched a book vending machine that allows students to choose books aligned to their interests and keep them for free. The project sparked excitement around reading and will distribute more than 500 books during the school year, removing barriers to access and fostering a love of literacy.



Celebrating the Culture of Biliteracy Across Generations

Travis Early College High School | Award: \$10,000

Your investment honored language, culture, and community.

This schoolwide literacy initiative celebrated bilingualism through student- and family-centered events, multilingual books, and adult English classes for parents. Students, families, and staff came together to build literacy across generations—creating joyful moments of connection while strengthening academic skills and community engagement.



Supporting Novice Teachers Through Collective Coaching

Crockett Early College High School
Award: \$9,600

Your investment strengthened educators—and the students they serve.

This collective coaching model provided novice teachers with dedicated time, mentorship, and collaborative professional learning embedded into the school day. Participants reported feeling more connected, organized, and confident—helping improve instructional practice and build a stronger, more supportive teaching community.

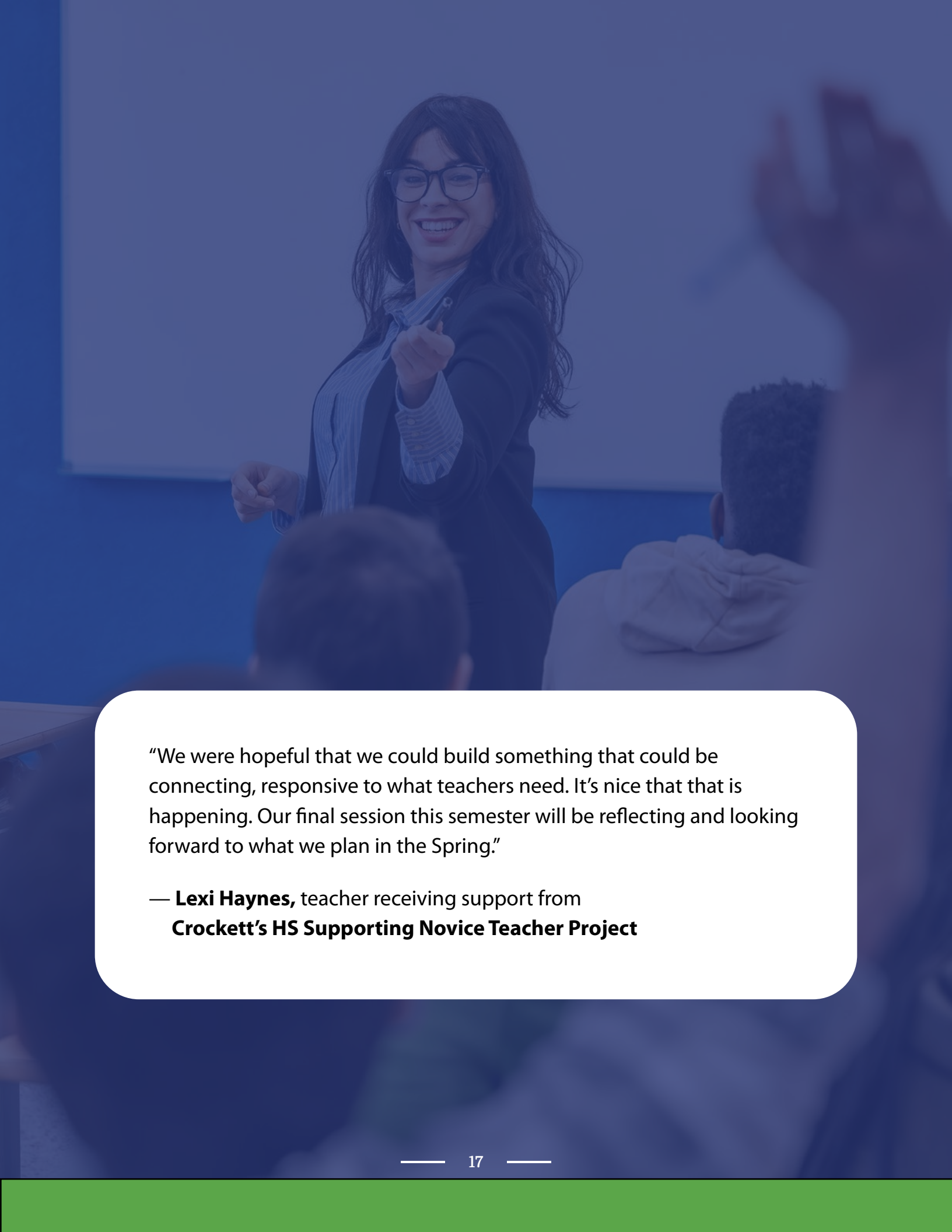
Empowering Tomorrow's Leaders Through Model UN

Lively Middle School
Award: \$2,500

Your support opened doors to leadership and global learning.

With financial barriers removed, more students were able to participate in Model UN conferences and experience learning on university campuses for the first time. Students built public speaking, research, and diplomacy skills—gaining confidence and exposure that expanded their vision for college and career pathways.



A photograph of a woman with long dark hair and glasses, wearing a dark blazer over a light-colored striped shirt. She is smiling and pointing her right hand towards the camera. In the background, there are blurred figures of students in a classroom setting. The entire image has a blue tint.

“We were hopeful that we could build something that could be connecting, responsive to what teachers need. It’s nice that that is happening. Our final session this semester will be reflecting and looking forward to what we plan in the Spring.”

— **Lexi Haynes**, teacher receiving support from
Crockett’s HS Supporting Novice Teacher Project

— INTERNSHIP PROGRAM

Building Opportunity: Austin ISD’s First Summer Internship Program

In the summer of 2024, the Austin Ed Fund, in partnership with the Austin Chamber and Austin ISD, launched Austin ISD’s inaugural **Summer Internship Program**—expanding access to meaningful work-based learning experiences for high school students through the commitment of Austin-area employers.

Over seven weeks, **37 students** gained hands-on experience with **13 companies and organizations** across the Austin community. Through mentorship, real-world projects, and exposure to professional environments, students developed workplace skills, confidence, and a clearer understanding of potential career pathways.

Launching a new program required building systems and partnerships in real time, but students quickly rose to the challenge. Many experienced their first professional workplace and began to see themselves as contributors beyond the classroom. What began as a pilot laid the foundation for a scalable model rooted in strong employer partnerships and shared investment in student success.



“I’ve enhanced my communication skills as I’ve had to cooperate with all departments of the company. I’ve definitely grown more comfortable managing my time effectively.”

Ailia Zhao - O’Connell Robertson
Rising 12th grader at
LASA High School





"I have enjoyed seeing how projects are run from behind the scenes. The best part has been learning about all the different aspects of construction, from logistics on-site to the planning to the marketing and outreach done to even be considered to work on the project. A lot of my internship so far has been asking questions about things, and while in the past I don't think I would have felt comfortable to ask questions, I have pushed myself to ask more questions and ask for help."

Corry Grodeck - JE Dunn Construction
Rising senior at **LASA High School**

INTERNSHIP PROGRAM



Participating Companies & Organizations

- AG Wealth Advisors
- Boy Scouts of America - Capitol Area Council
- Encotech Engineering Consultants
- Garza EMC LLC
- HKS Inc.
- Icode #3 Austin
- JE Dunn Construction Company
- JG Consulting
- Nexus Private Capital
- O'Connell Robertson



— OUR FUNDERS

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— DONOR & PARTNER RECOGNITION

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A Call to Men

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Buena Vista Foundation

City of Austin's Urban Forest Grant

Defend the Dream Foundation

ECMC

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The Overton Group

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St. David's Foundation

Tapestry Foundation

Webber Family Foundation



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Clint Small

Matt Smith & Jason Berkowitz

Missy Strittmatter

Claire & Carl Stuart

Lindsey Stuart & Nathan Damweber

Jocelyn & Andy Tau

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Russell Valdez & Samantha Miller

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Snow White

Linda & Mark Williams

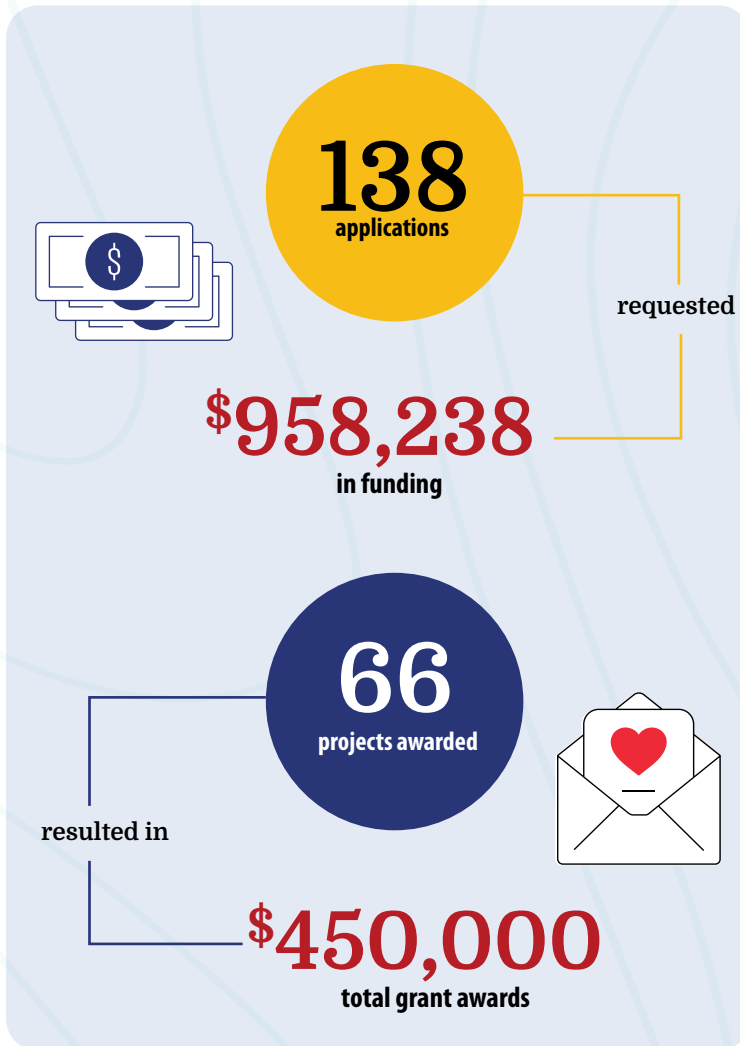
Margaret Williams

Margaret & Matt Williams

Bob Wynn

Margie & Thomas Yankeelov

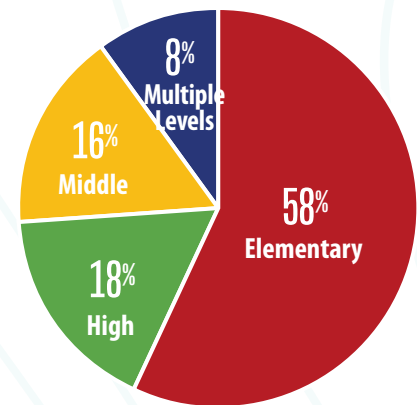
2024 ED FUND FINANCIALS



Impact By Focus Area



Impact By School Level



Innovative Opportunities for Students, Staff, and Families



Books to diversify classroom libraries with more representation across ethnicities and races



Events and programs that celebrates students and families' cultural and linguistic diversity



Field trips and community events for students and families to learn more about college and career opportunities



Professional development, mentoring, and team building to support the growth and wellbeing of teachers and staff



Materials that increase access to outdoor learning spaces and gardens



Tools to support a more inclusive environment for marginalized students

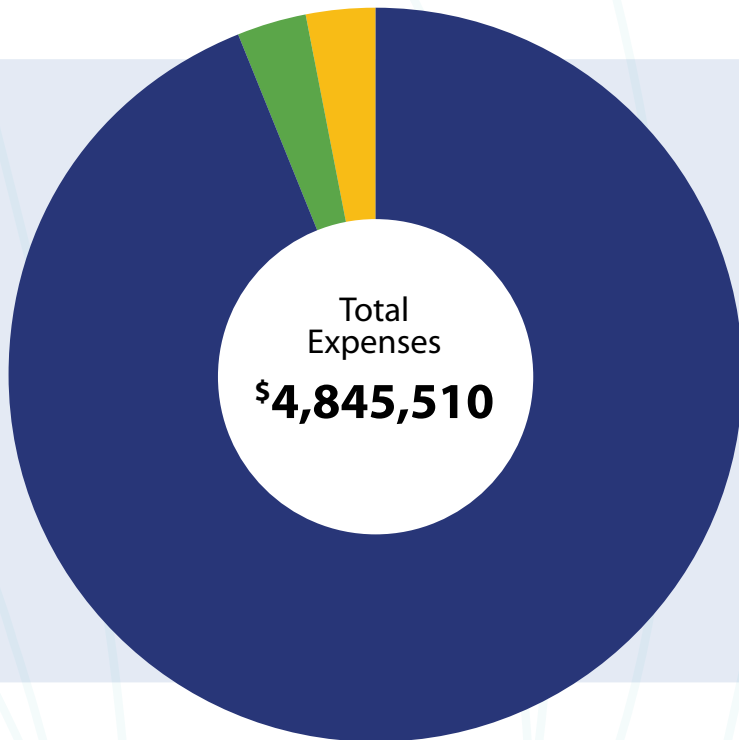
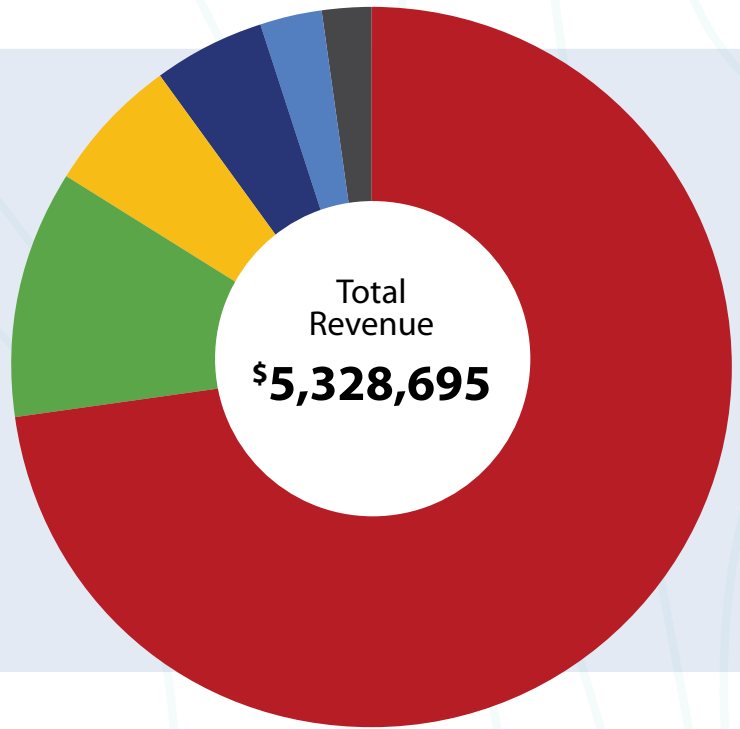


Supplies to ensure engaging hands-on learning experiences in literacy and numeracy

2024 Financial Summary

REVENUE

- 73% Foundation Grants
- 11% Special Events
- 6% Investment Income
- 5% Individual Donations
- 3% Other
- 2% Business/Corporation



EXPENSES

- 94% Program
- 3% Admin
- 3% Fundraising



When I found out the project was funded, I was overwhelmed with gratitude and hope. This wasn't just about math and challenging my students — it was about changing lives.

Being identified as gifted and talented in math puts students on the advanced math track in middle school. This grant gave our students the skills and confidence to soar.

-Yza Rodriguez,
Inspire the Future grant winner

”

— CONNECT WITH US

How You Can Help

There are many ways to help **Inspire the Future** for students and educators across Austin ISD. By learning about our work, investing in our mission, and sharing our story, you help grow impact where it matters most—supporting educators, strengthening public schools, and expanding student opportunity.



Learn

Stay connected to our work, programs, and events by visiting austinedfund.org, where we share updates, stories of impact, and opportunities to engage.



Promote

Help amplify the impact. Share Austin Ed Fund success stories, initiatives, and opportunities within your networks and on social media to build broader support for public education.



Give

Fuel our mission by becoming a **Leadership Giving Circle member** or an **Annual Sponsor**. Your investment directly supports innovation, opportunity, and excellence across Austin ISD.



Introduce

Expand our community by introducing friends, colleagues, and partners to the Austin Ed Fund. Your connections help strengthen the circle of champions committed to Austin's students and schools.

Together, we can continue to build a stronger future for Austin ISD—one connection at a time.



**AUSTIN
ED FUND**



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