

Comprehensive Needs Assessment – School Context and Organization

The Aledo ISD receives state, local and federal funding including Title I, II, III, Carl Perkins, IDEA Formula and Preschool. Aledo ISD received the state's highest financial integrity rating for the twelfth consecutive year. Aledo ISD also received the Texas Comptroller's 2014 Texas Honors Circle Award, which recognizes districts and campuses that achieve academic success through cost-effective operations. Only 46 Texas school districts received this award. Aledo High School was ranked as one of America's Best High Schools by the Daily Beast in 2014.

The district serves students from the Pre-school Program for Children with Disabilities (PPCD) through 12th grade. AISD staff includes 59.2% teachers, 8.8% professional support, 8.4% educational aides, 3.7% campus administration, 1.9% central administrative staff, and 17.9% auxiliary staff.

Teachers new to the profession and/or to the district are supported through a mentoring program. The training begins with New Teacher Orientation prior to the start of school at the district and campus level. For the 2014-15 school year, 99 new staff members were added to the Aledo ISD family.

Student-to-teacher ratio in Aledo ISD during the 2014-15 school year was 16.4 students per teacher for all campuses.

The district conducts a strategic planning meeting every three years consisting of: administrators, staff, parents and community members. The district strategic planning committee met during the 2015 spring semester to develop the 2015-2018 District Strategic Plan which was approved by the Board of Trustees for implementation in the fall of 2015. The District Wide Education Improvement Committee (DWEIC) and the Campus Improvement Committee meet during the year to review for planning and decision making; these committees are comprised of staff, parents, business, and community members.

Annual teacher and parent climate surveys are conducted to identify district and campus strengths and needs for improvement. In addition, personnel resigning from their position participate in an exit survey. In 2014-2015, the teacher climate survey reveals that Aledo ISD teachers identified absenteeism and tardiness as the biggest areas of concern across the district. Teachers also identified the use of technology in the classroom, monitoring of student performance, understanding of TEKS and STAAR expectations, and parent/community involvement as the district's greatest strengths.

District and campus information is disseminated through multiple sources such as the AISD website, Parent Link, the Aledo ISD smartphone application, and Bearcat Vision. The online Parent Portal system is available for parents to review grades, assignments and attendance.

Aledo ISD has a "Connections" mentoring program that pairs adults with students. During the 2014-15 school year, 61 students participated in the program. Feedback forms from all participants indicate program success for individual students with this program.

The district maintains a Community Partners program, with approximately 46 members, establishing relationships between local businesses, the school district and the campuses. The program enhances communication and cooperation with a common goal for student success. Annually, Aledo business leaders participate in the Texas Scholars Program at Aledo Middle School emphasizing the importance of academics at high school and career opportunities. Business and community leaders also participate in a Career Fair and College Fair at Aledo High School.

Strengths:

- Involved parents and a community that supports the district and individual campuses
- Communication with parents and community via varied sources
- FIRST Superior financial rating for 12 consecutive years
- Consistently high student achievement despite class sizes across all grades
- Aledo ISD Induction Year Teacher Support Program

Needs:

- Continue efforts to reduce class size waivers and class sizes across all grade levels and content areas
- Increase parent participation in climate survey
- Increased communication to specifically support child's learning at home (parent climate survey)
- Strategies to decrease student absenteeism and tardiness