

Comprehensive Needs Assessment – Family and Community Involvement

Parent and community involvement is a vital factor to the success of Aledo ISD. There are numerous opportunities for parents and community members to become active participants: Community Partners, “Connection” Mentoring Program, East Parker County Chamber of Commerce, Parent Connection/Volunteer Program, National Night Out, Texas Scholars, Runners’ Club, Cowtown Marathon, Grandparents’ Day, Watch D.O.G.S., Kindergarten Roundup, Curriculum Nights/Open House, Parent Teacher Organization (PTO), Camp Hope, Beach Club, Veteran’s Day Program, AHS Career Fair, AHS College Fair, Jumping Jamboree, Junior Achievement, Reading Day, Turkey Trot, TOTS program, Heritage Day, Herdwise (district wide), Aledo Educational Foundation, field trips, Aledo Athletic Booster Club, 2025 Committee, District Wide Effectiveness Improvement Committee, Parenting University, Bearcat Academy, Coffee with the Counselors & Principals, and the Lions Club.

Aledo ISD’s Community and Student Engagement Rating as mandated by House Bill 5 is exemplary across all campuses. The purpose of House Bill 5 is to evaluate student and community engagement showcasing areas where schools are excelling while identifying areas where improvement can be made.

A variety of opportunities exists for parent/community involvement in decision making through the District Wide Effectiveness Improvement Committee (DWEIC), Campus Performance Improvement Committee (CPIC), Campus Leadership Teams, Student Health Advisory Committee (SHAC), Aledo ISD Technology Committee, and the Citizens Committee regarding bond elections.

The Aledo Education Foundation awarded approximately \$180,000 in grants to 41 district teachers representing nine campuses. These grants ranged from the 3rd Grade Book Club to Gracefully Strong to Student iPads in the classroom. In addition to the teacher written grants awarded, the Aledo Education Foundation provided over \$60,000 in disbursements to AISD for additional non-curricular programs ranging from the Employee Recognition banquet to Innovative Teaching Grants.

The 21st Century Workforce Development Program partners with Bell Helicopter Textron and Lockheed Martin through programs such as STEM (Science-Technology-Engineering-Mathematics) to prepare our students for their future careers.

Aledo ISD uses multiple formats to communicate district and campus information to parents: Superintendent Community Night meetings, Superintendent Brown Bag lunch meetings, corresponding notes home via: students, mail, ParentLink, postings on campus marquees, email, district website, campus newsletters, Parent Portal (grades and attendance), School Fusion, Remind 101, Aledo ISD App, district Twitter, and campus Facebook pages.

An annual campus and district survey is distributed to all parents; the feedback is reviewed and disseminated to campus principals for consideration in campus improvement plans. Of the 5,629 invitations delivered, the district received 1,200 responses representing an all-time high 21% response rate. Child Safety, Understanding Student Expectations, AISD’s Public Image, and AISD’s communication rating all received ratings of 94% and above.

The district benefits from a close working relationship with community organizations like Community Partners, including AdvoCats and the Center of Hope. Service projects, such as food and clothing drives, are conducted throughout the year at campuses to support these organizations as they

actively serve the needs of families in our community. Another project is English classes for non-English speaking parents. Local churches have implemented the Snack Pack Program for schools with Kindergarten through Grade 6 and provided mentorship opportunities.

Aledo ISD utilizes several dropout prevention strategies including; Circle of Friends, Garden Club, Horse Therapy, Guidance Lessons and Camp Hope. In addition, the district partners with the AdvoCats, Lions Club, Center of Hope, and local churches to further support at-risk students.

The following is a partial listing of the many community/service organizations that use district facilities: AAI Baseball & Softball, Aledo Runners Club, Back the Bearcats, Bearcat Bouncer Camp, Girl Scouts, Claymation Camp, Daddy-Daughter Dances, Robotics Camp, Ex-Students Association Banquet, Aledo Lions Club Youth Football & Basketball, Lions Club Charity Dinner, Aledo Youth Football and Cheer Association, Westside YMCA, Campfire USA, City of Annetta City Council, TAV Club Volleyball, Christ Chapel Bible Church, Ride for Heroes, Aledo Advocats/Run-Walk-Crawl, TCA Football, Town Hall Meeting, Texas Girls' Choir, and Bearcat Bootcamp.

Strengths:

- Parents actively involved in their child's education
- Parent participation in specialized committees
- Community business partners actively support the mission of the district
- Aledo ISD employees volunteer regularly with summer enrichment programs throughout the community
- Extra-curricular programs in which parents and employees work together to enhance student involvement

Needs:

- Improve parental involvement for our Hispanic and Economically Disadvantaged student groups
- Maintain response rate to annual Parent Climate survey (21% response rate in 2014-2015, up from 15.76% response rate in 2013-2014 school year)