

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 fourteenth consecutive year.

The district serves students from the Pre-school Program for Children with Disabilities (PPCD) through 12th grade. AISD staff includes 56.7% teachers, 10.5% professional support, 8.3% educational aides, 3.9% campus administration, 1.7% central administrative staff, and 19% 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 2016-17 school year, 83 new staff members were added to the Aledo ISD family.

Student-to-teacher ratio in Aledo ISD during the 2016-17 school year was 17.7 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 Effectiveness Improvement Committee (DWEIC) and the Campus Improvement Committee (CIC) 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 2016-2017, the teacher climate survey revealed that Aledo ISD teachers identified the opportunity to influence the direction of change in the district as the biggest area of concern across the district. Survey data also indicated significant concern regarding custodial services. Teachers also identified the monitoring and assessment of student performance, collaboration, and quality of relevant professional learning 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 social media. The online Parent Portal system is available for parents to review grades, assignments and attendance. Some teachers use messaging applications to communicate directly with students and parents at home. There has been an increase in the use of Google Classroom as a educational platform across the district. All school board meeting dates and agendas are sent to parents electronically via Parent Link.

Aledo ISD has a "Connections" mentoring program that pairs adults with students. During the 2016-17 school year, 90 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 33 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. Area business leaders and universities participated in College and Career Fair at Aledo Middle School emphasizing the importance of academics at high school and career opportunities. Business and community leaders also participated in a Career Fair and College Fair at Aledo High School and at Aledo Middle 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 14 consecutive years
- Consistently high student achievement despite class sizes across all grades
- Aledo ISD Induction Year Teacher Support Program
- Aledo Learning Center serves students who are at risk of dropping out. 29 students graduated from ALC in 2016-2017.

Needs:

- Continue efforts to reduce class size waivers and class sizes across all grade levels and content areas
- Increase parent participation in climate survey
- Continue efforts to increase communication from the classroom to home in ways that assist parents in supporting a student's learning.
- Explore opportunities for staff members to influence change across the district