American Indian Education Program: 2010-2011

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At-a-Glance

The American Indian Education Program (AIEP) was designed to provide enrichment and support services to American Indian and Alaska Native students and their families. It also promoted understanding throughout the Dallas Independent School District (Dallas ISD), by educating staff and the community about the culturally diverse populations within the district. The AIEP aimed to address educational and culturally related academic needs of American Indian and Alaska Native students so that they may meet the same performance standards expected of all Dallas ISD students.

The program, funded by a federal grant, was designed to enhance and supplement core educational services in Dallas ISD by providing American Indian students with additional opportunities/activities that would improve academic skills and help them become more proficient in core content areas. The program also encouraged postsecondary readiness and success by increasing opportunities for students to explore their postsecondary options through presentations and fairs.

Evaluation Methodology

The community liaison for the program provided an Excel spreadsheet with the identification number for students who had participated in the program. The Dallas ISD student databases provided additional data on these students, including demographic and test performance data. The evaluator collected follow-up information through email and phone calls to program staff.

AIEP Goals

In 2010-2011, the American Indian Education Program received a federal Indian Education grant of $125,402 and served 614 students. AIEP outlined the following goals:

- Increase American Indian student participation in cultural education,
- Support academic achievement in reading and develop reading habits among American Indian students in grades PK-8,
- Decrease dropout rates among American Indian students,
- Prepare high school students for college and the workforce,
- Provide opportunities for students to explore postsecondary options through college field trips.

Program Activities

During the year, AIEP sponsored book and reading clubs for students who participated in the program to continue the goal of better reading habits and achievement. Students were encouraged to discuss and share cultural themes presented by American Indian authors found in their books during their readings.

In order to prepare students for college, the program took middle school and high school students to Southern Methodist University for a tour of the campus.

To provide opportunities for students to explore postsecondary options and to support high school students preparation for college and the workforce, the AIEP hosted an annual college and career night in the spring. At this event, student attendees received information packets, and learned about financial aid, career services, and academic and student life. These activities were geared toward encouraging students to remain in school and graduate. The college and career night gave students an opportunity to investigate future college and career or employment opportunities. AIEP representatives were also available throughout the year to meet with secondary students to assist with academic or behavioral concerns.

During the summer of 2011 from June 6 – 16th, AIEP hosted a two-week summer enrichment program that offered culturally related reading, writing, social studies and mathematics instruction. Students were exposed to a wide variety of activities including storytelling and American Indian tribal history. Students took two field trips, one to the Ft. Worth Museum of Science and History and another to the Trinity River Audubon Center located in Dallas.

Program Participants

After matching student IDs with those in the district database, demographic and TAKS data was available for 584 students. Students from 145 Dallas ISD elementary, middle and high schools across the district participated in the AIEP program. The schools with the largest numbers of program participants included George Peabody Elementary, W.E. Greiner and Raul Quintanilla middle schools and Sunset high school. Combined, these four campuses had more
than 15 percent of the program’s participants. The majority of students came from elementary schools (about 45%), followed by high schools (32%) and middle schools (24%). Program participants ranged in age from four to twenty-two with an average age of 12.34 years old. Program participants were equally split between male and female.

Just over half (51%) of the AIEP students identified themselves as American Indian and about another 37 percent identified themselves as Hispanic. Even though not all students who participated in the AIEP were identified as American Indian by ethnicity in district databases, all participants claimed an affiliation with one of the American Indian tribal nations.

A majority of AIEP participants were from economically disadvantaged families (about 73%). About six percent were classified as Limited English Proficient (LEP).

**Program Outcomes**

Table 1 displays passing rates on the *Texas Assessment of Knowledge and Skills (TAKS)* Reading, Mathematics, Science and Social Studies tests for AIEP students, compared with overall district passing rates. AIEP students performed slightly higher than the district on the reading, science, and social studies exams. They performed below the district by only about one percentage point in math.

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<th>TAKS Subject</th>
<th>AIEP</th>
<th>District</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
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For more information contact Program Evaluation at 972-925-6457.