

MAKING AN IMPACT: A Newsletter for AISD's IMPACT Teams

The purpose of this newsletter is to highlight some of the great things that IMPACT teams are doing across the district, maintain the momentum, share ideas, and keep you updated of trainings, new resources and other developments pertinent to your IMPACT team. Please submit suggestions and ideas for upcoming issues to Laura Payne at 414-0178, lpayne@austin.isd.tenet.edu.

--Housing Authority of the City of Austin supporting AISD students and IMPACT teams—

The Housing Authority of the City of Austin (HACA) has taken an active role in supporting AISD students and IMPACT teams. HACA is supporting AISD students in several different ways. Read on to see how students at your school may benefit from HACA's new programs.

- HACA tutoring program:

HACA is contracting with Communities in Schools - Central Texas, Inc. (CIS) for tutoring services at four public housing developments. CIS will provide after school tutoring programs at Booker T. Washington, Chalmers Courts, Meadowbrook, and Northgate sites.

- HACA Scholarship Program

The HACA Scholarship Program provides annual academic scholarships to deserving applicants whose families are public housing or Section 8 clients. Over \$50,000 in scholarships were awarded this year. All recipients are high school graduates or recipients of a GED who have a GPA of 2.5 or higher and have demonstrated leadership and a high level of motivation. Our fifteen scholarship winners demonstrated academic and extracurricular achievement and the potential for future success in their studies and in their careers.

The schools they will be attending include the University of Texas, Austin Business College, Concordia College, Prairie View A & M, Austin Community College, Southwest Texas State University, and the Maine College of Art. Their selected areas of study are as varied as the careers they pursue:

there is an aspiring Lawyer; a Photographer; two Commercial Music Managers; two Entrepreneurs; a Law Enforcement Official; an Office Technician; a Medical Assistant; a Psychologist; an Audio Engineer and a Physical Therapist.

- Case Management in Schools:

HACA has partnered with CIS to provide in-school case management for youth living in HACA public housing from the following schools: Fulmore Middle, Kealing Junior High, Oak Springs and Zavala Elementary Schools.

For more information on HACA's programs, contact Gregory Harrick HACA's school to success coordinator at 474-5636 or Eric Metcalf, CIS Program Specialist at 462-1771, x118.

SHARE THE WEALTH... OF IDEAS

The nurse at **Brooke Elementary** is offering special parent information sessions for parents of asthmatic students and parents of children with multiple medical needs from the Lifeskills class. The parent sessions are designed to address the high rate of absenteeism within these groups by connecting families with needed support services, and raising parents' comfort level in sending their children to school, despite their medical needs. Contact Stephanie Schoonover at 414-0728 for more information.....

The IMPACT team at **McBee Elementary** developed sample scenarios of referrals for a faculty meeting to get the word out to their staff about the process and who to refer. Contact: Sandra Creswell at 841-2504 At **Pickle Elementary**, the first 15 minutes of each meeting is reserved for guest speakers from community agencies. This allows all members of the team to learn about the services provided and strengthens their community partnerships. Contact: Leonor Vargas at 841-8412..... **Garza High** is training a group of teachers in the solution-focused approach to serve as advocates for students referred to the IMPACT team. Contact: Joann Garner at 414-0151..... **Oak Hill Elementary** brought in their technology staff to assist with development of their IMPACT referral form and a database to track students. Contact: Cynthia Birdwell at 414-5155 The IMPACT team at **Reagan High** is conducting a reading assessment with recovered dropouts prior to their re-entry to classes. This gives the team a picture of the returning student's level so they can place he/she in the most appropriate classes. Contact Cindy Breeding at 841-2678.....

Your School is in the First Call for Help Online Database!

In addition to a wide range of community resources, all individual AISD schools are now listed in the First Call for Help online database. Please take a few minutes to look up your school to ensure that the information is correct. The information currently listed is extremely general, therefore you may want to tailor the description of your individual school. To make changes or additions to your school's description, email Holly Alexander at holly.alexander@uway-austin.org or call her at 324-1854. Also remember: if you are getting frustrated with the database, call 324-1899 for assistance and to schedule a hands-on training on the database, contact Laura Payne at 414-0178.

Go to www.uway-austin.org, click on Get Help, search programs for AISD and look for your school.

Go for the Money with Grant-Writing Assistance

Does your IMPACT team have great ideas for special programming that are just lacking the funding? There are several levels of Grant Writing training available to introduce you to possible sources of funds and help you get started on a grant proposal. AISD offers a half-day Introduction to Grant Writing seminar to give you the basics to get started. The next seminar is

Sign up for [Introduction to Grantwriting](#) on 2/21/02 through the PDA Catalog.

February 21, 2002. In addition, a two-day training will be offered by the Governor's office on November 8th and 9th, 2001.

Registration is limited so contact Mariann Hill at 414-3974 if you are interested. For an even more intensive workshop, look into the week-long Grantmanship Center, INC. training that will be hosted by AISD. The AISD Office of Grant Development and Program Support is also available to provide individualized training for your IMPACT team or a group from your vertical team. Contact Stan Brein at 414-3472 for more information on these opportunities.

Returning from Dill/ALC...

What is in place for your students returning from Dill or the ALC to ensure that they are successful upon return? Linelle Clark has highlighted this as an area for IMPACT teams to consider.

- Many elementary campuses have a process in place for students returning from Dill. For example, at Pickle Elementary, students returning from Dill meet with the counselor to develop a contract and a positive behavior plan to encourage their success on their home campus. Contact April Farris at 841-8408 for sample forms.
- High schools and middle schools have a designated ALC transition coordinator. What supports do they provide to assist students in their successful transition back to the home campus? Lanier High School's CIS coordinator and dropout prevention specialist are collaborating to facilitate students' smooth transition back from the ALC. Contact Sabra Fugate at 832-1662 or Marilyn Stewart at 414-7491 for more details.

UPCOMING TRAININGS

Hopefully, many of you were able to attend Dr. Linda Metcalf's October 3rd training sessions on *Brief Solution Focused strategies for schools*. The November training is a follow up on the October training. However, you are encouraged to attend even if you missed the first session. Mark your

More Solution Focused Training:

Wednesday, November 14

8-12 or 1-4 (choose **either** the morning or afternoon session)

Location: Austin High School Theatre

calendars for the next session and encourage other team members to attend. **All IMPACT team members are invited** (Assistant Principals, Counselors, Visiting Teachers, Nurses, Parent Training Specialist, teachers, and others.)

Next General IMPACT Meeting: February 14 or 15 (Choose either date)

Elementary: 8 am to 9:30 am, Secondary: 1:00 pm to 2:30 pm

Location: CAC Board Auditorium

Coordinators, please plan to attend with as many team members as possible.