State of the Schools Report

Allen Independent School District

Rachel's Challenge

Can good deeds change the climate of an entire school? The answer is a definitely yes if you speak with students and staff at Green Elementary School.

The students took part in a year-long service project to build a safer and more positive environment. The project, called Rachel's Challenge, is based upon a national campaign to create positive change in schools and communities.

The national movement is named for Rachel Scott, a student killed at Columbine High School in 1999. Scott's acts of kindness coupled with the contents of her six diaries became the foundation for a creative program that is now being carried out in 330 schools in 50 states. At the core of the program is an effort to educate and encourage students to perform acts of kindness and helpfulness to create a more positive climate in organizations.

Green Elementary School adopted the program in August 2008 as a new approach to the no bullying campaign they promote each year. The program was outlined for students through lessons taught by Stacia Butler, the school counselor. It was then introduced to the whole school



at a kickoff rally in early November. The event culminated with students pledging to support the Rachel's Challenge program through good deeds over the school year.

For each act of kindness, students and staff members would receive a paper chain link with an explanation of why they were being recognized. The links would be tied together to form a larger chain at the end of the year.

"We were looking to inspire the hearts of our students by showing them how they could impact the climate of our school," explained Butler. "We began trying to 'catch' random acts of kindness but it gradually became a normal part of the school day. It caught on with everyone." Butler anticipated that they would collect about 2,000 chain links. Instead the students helped build a chain of 6,400 links that was unveiled at the school picnic in May. The chains represented acts such as helping new students get settled in the school, sewing tie blankets for the Children's Advocacy Center, collecting food for Allen Community Outreach and sending cards to military servicemen and women.

"Green is a friendlier and safer place because of Rachel's Challenge," according to Principal Kelly Campman. "There has been a decrease in office referrals and a more positive environment at every level. I especially like the program because it allows every Green student to help make a difference in a way that is meaningful to them."

The Allen Way

The Allen Way is a culture that believes in the ability and potential of every child who comes through our doors. We are willing to commit the staff and resources to provide the highest quality education that all students deserve. We also believe that our schools are part of a greater community and that one of our roles is to instill a sense of citizenship and pride in Allen, our state and our nation. Student achievement is among the highest in the state and continues to improve year after year. This commitment to student learning through quality instruction is evident from the Board room to the classroom teacher.

Harder to measure but equally important is the need for our students to understand the role they can play in their community and the world. Throughout this State of the Schools Report report you will find stories about Allen students and faculty members that demonstrate the character and compassion that represents *The Allen Way*. They represent a small number of the individual and group service projects that are underway in our schools each year.

Board of Trustees

Members of the Allen ISD Board of Trustees each represent the community at large and serve for three-year terms of office. The Board meets regularly on the fourth Monday of each month at 7 p.m. in the City of Allen Council Chambers in City Hall. Agendas for future meetings and summaries of past meetings are available online at the Allen ISD website: www.allenisd.org. A new addition this past year allows patrons to access video of each meeting online by agenda item. School patrons may also contact the Board by email at teamof8@allenisd.org.



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180 Pounds Of Snacks

Kids often don't realize the plight that their peers may be facing. But when they find out, they usually respond by finding some way to help.

That was certainly the case at Kerr Elementary School when students found out that the North Texas Food Bank needed help providing nutritional snacks for latch-key kids.

"It really opened their eyes," said adult sponsor and Evans teacher Nichole Cooks. "They didn't really realize that some kids go home in the afternoons to empty houses because both parents work. And sometimes, they go hungry over the weekends simply because the family doesn't have enough money for food."

So, the Kerr kids came up with the "Stack the Snacks" project.

"The snack drive's goal is to collect kid friendly, shelf-stable, healthy snacks," Cooks said, adding that it's important for elementary kids to have access to easily prepared food that doesn't require the use of a stove or microwave without adult supervision.

Before starting the drive, the teachers were careful to explain the importance of providing snacks that were easy-to-prepare as well as nutritional. It was a bit of a juggling act, but the students caught on quickly, Cook said.

"Once the drive kicked off, they had a good idea of what we were looking for," she said.

And the results were spectacular, with the students collecting more than 180 pounds of snacks over a 72-hour period.

Now in its third year at Kerr, Lisa Wright, another teacher-sponsor of Stack the Snacks, said she's proud of how the kids respond to the project.

"Some of them use extra change in the lunch line to buy a snack to contribute," she said. "They're always looking for ways to help because they've learned that no matter how big or how small, every donation makes a difference. Cooks agreed.

"The project had a great impact on the students," she said. "They were able to see how something as small as a snack can really go a long way in helping others in need."



A Look At Enrollments

A decrease in new home construction and the fact that much of Allen is approaching buildout, led to a smaller enrollment increase this past year.

Population growth was concentrated in the northeast and northwest quadrants of Allen in 2008-2009. This growth helped push K-12 enrollments to 18,093 students in August 2009. Projections indicate slow but continued growth as the city nears buildout.

Higher student numbers led to the construction of Mary Evans Elementary School in far west Allen in August 2008 and David and Lynda Olson Elementary School opened in northeast Allen in August 2009.

The new Beverly Cheatham Elementary School is now under construction in west Allen. This school will help relieve high enrollments at several campuses. Long-range plans include construction of at least one more elementary schools in 2013.

Elementary school attendance boundaries were also changed for the 2009-10 school year to adjust for Olson Elementary and boundaries will again be adjusted for the new Cheatham Elementary School in 2010.

Allen ISD Enrollment History				
Campus	1999	2004	2008	2009
Allen High School	1,993	3,144	3,698	3,706
Lowery Freshman Ctr.	792	1,160	1,238	1,337
Curtis Middle School	907	767	749	726
Ereckson Middle School	N/A	682	992	1,078
Ford Middle School	690	906	882	858
Anderson Elementary	818	821	946	648
Bolin Elementary	N/A	932	756	787
Boon Elementary	N/A	N/A	910	935
Boyd Elementary	550	582	596	597
Chandler Elementary	N/A	N/A	633	673
Evans Elementary	N/A	N/A	550	728
Green Elementary	784	784	735	763
Kerr Elementary	N/A	947	668	749
Marion Elementary	N/A	707	957	841
Norton Elementary	606	559	628	604
Olson Elementary	N/A	N/A	N/A	638
Reed Elementary	604	633	682	572
Rountree Elementary	458	566	546	535
Story Elementary	777	836	760	731
Vaughan Elementary	887	737	587	585
Allen ISD Total	9,440	14,763	17,513	18,091

* Enrollment projections do not reflect future school construction. A new elementary school opening in west Allen in 2010 will greatly reduce the actual enrollments.

Faux Paws



Like many students her age, Zoe Albert is passionate about animals. The difference is that Zoe has directed that passion into action.

The ninth grade student has created a business called Faux Paws which has raised thousands of dollars for animal advocacy groups.

The idea started with a pair of flip flops that she had decorated with faux (artificial) fur. They attracted attention and she began making the fashion flip flops for others. That led her to start a small business in 2006 with a small \$100 loan from her parents. Since that time she has expanded sales to several boutiques and animal adoption centers as well as online (www. fauxpaws.biz). The furry shoes sell for \$10.

Albert hand sews each of the sandals and has solicited grants for the raw materials to offset her costs.

Albert's efforts on behalf of animals earned her the 2008 Kid's CARE Hero from the Center for Animal Research and Education (CARE) in Bridgeport, Texas. She was also recognized with one of the 2007 Kohl's Kids Who Care awards.

"I've always been artistic and liked making things," said Albert. "I've also had a love for animals and this project ties those two things together."

"I see FauxPaws as a way to create a better life for helpless animals," adds Albert. "I really do feel that this makes a difference and that's why I am so committed to it."

Albert plans to continue her FauxPaws project through high school and hopes to study veterinary medicine in college.



A Financial Snapshot

2009 - 2010 Allen ISD Revenue & Expenditures

General Fund Revenue

Local Revenue	\$77,043,508
State Revenue	\$43,901,265
Federal Revenue	\$5,054,941

Student Nutrition Revenue

Local Revenue\$5,243,826	
State Revenue\$30,000	
Federal Revenue \$1,249,286	

Debt Service Fund Revenue

Local Revenue\$33,291,	958
State Revenue	\$0
Federal Revenue	\$0

General Fund Expenditures

•
Instruction\$78,327,641
Instructional Resources/Media \$2,303,509
Curriculum & Staff Developm\$2,094,166
Instructional Administration\$1,163,523
School Administration\$7,958,268
Co-Curricular Programs\$2,999,633
Guidance & Counseling\$5,082,805
Health Services\$1,245,035
Student Transportation\$2,572,227
General Administration\$4,195,645
Plant Maintenance\$18,108,123
Security & Monitoring\$1,419,826
Technology Services\$1,408,040
JJAEP (Juvenile Justice AEP)\$45,000
Tax Appraisal & Collection\$690,000
TOTAL\$130,101,050

Allen ISD, like many other Texas school districts, is feeling the pinch of the state's public education finance system. While the property tax rate was dropped significantly from the 2004/05 levels (see chart below), the state has not made up the difference in state funding dollars.

The amount of funding that Allen ISD receives per student is the same as in 2006. Any increases in local property value benefit the State of Texas instead

of staying with the local district. Despite all this, the district is implementing the bond programs passed by the voters in November 2008 and May 2009. With this new bond program, Allen ISD will add Beverly Cheatham Elementary in the fall of 2010 to relieve student numbers on the west side.

Other projects such as the Career and Technology Center, the Auditorium, and the Multipurpose Stadium are scheduled to open in 2011 and 2012.

2009-2010 General Fund Expenditures and Revenues

General Fund Budget

Payroll Costs - 80%

All employee salaries Capital Outlay - 1% Major equipment purchases Supplies - 4% Student and staff supplies Professional and Contracted Services - 14% Utilities and contracted services such as legal services, maintenance and tax appraisal Other Operating Expenses - 2% Insurance, travel, elections, miscellaneous General Fund Revenue

Local Revenue - 62%

Current Year Tax Levy Prior Year Deliquent Taxes Tuition from Lovejoy ISD Athletic Receipts, Kids Club Program Community Ed Programs Facility Rentals, Investment Income Summer School Tuition

State Revenue - 34%

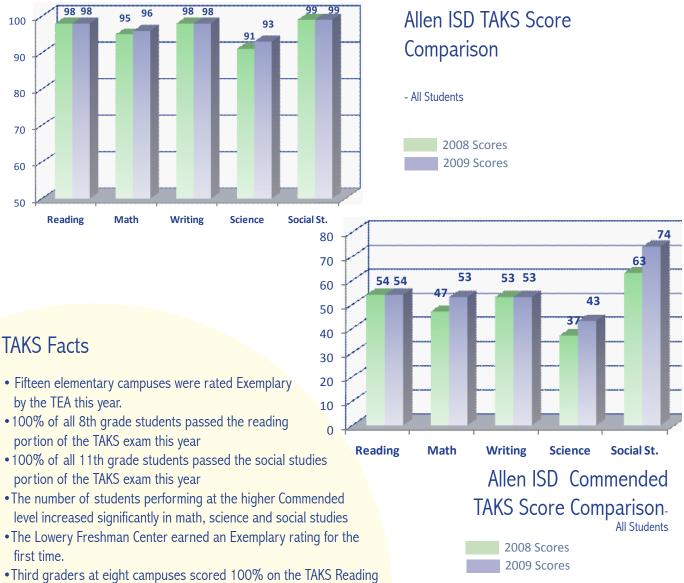
Per Capita Funds Foundation School Funds TRS (Texas Retirement System) On-Behalf Funds

Allen ISD Total Tax Rate History

<u> 2005 - 06</u>	<u> 2006 - 0</u> 7	<u> 2007 - 08</u>	<u> 2008 - 09</u>	<u> 2009 - 10</u>
\$1.9124	\$1.7822	\$1.4703	\$1.4703	\$1.54

- Tax rate represents \$100 per assessed value of property

2009 TAKS Results



exam this year.

Student Performance

Rise In TAKS Scores Leads To Improved TEA Ratings

Allen students earned higher scores on the 2009 TAKS (Texas Assessment of Knowledge and Skills) exams.

A total of 98% of all Allen students passed the reading portion of the exam in the Spring of 2009. The percentage of students meeting the state passing standard was 96% for mathematics, 98% for writing, 99% for social studies and 93% for science. Last year's total scores were: 98% for reading, 94% for mathematics, 98.3% for writing, 98.7% for social studies and 91% for science.

TAKS scores represent the number of students meeting the minimum passing standard on each test. Allen ISD stresses the importance of students scoring at the higher commended rate on the tests. The numbers of students scoring at this higher standard continued to increase this past year (see chart at left).

The commended rate for mathematics TAKS, for example, rose from 47% last year to 53% in 2009. Commended scores rose in all subjects tested.

The state's accountability rating system is based upon TAKS scores, TAKS M test scores, completion rate and dropout rate. The official ratings of exemplary, recognized, academically acceptable and academically unacceptable are released by the Texas Education Agency each August based on the previous school year results.

Ratings are based on performance by all students and in all student groups identified by the state. These groups include African-American, Hispanic, White and Economically Disadvantaged.

Based upon student test performance in the spring of 2009, Allen ISD was rated as Recognized by the TEA. Fifteen Allen ISD campuses were rated as Exemplary, and four were rated as Recognized by the state.

Completion Rate

In addition to state testing results, the district also uses the completion rate to measure student achievement. This completion rate represents the percent of students within a graduating class that finish high school and obtain a diploma.

Ninety-eight percent of the class of 2008 completed high school. Based on preliminary estimates, 99% of the 2009 class completed high school. This



copletion rate is among the highest in the area and state.

Post-Secondary Readiness

Readiness for post-secondary school and work is another important measure of student achievement. Post secondary measures include college entrance exam scores, advanced course participation, and college readiness measures.

A five-year trend shows a gradual increase in average reading scores from 526 to 530. Average SAT math scores increased from 541 to 560 and the overall composite average from 1060 to 1090 in the same time period. The ACT average composite scores showed an increase from 22.8 to 23.8.

Operation Thank You

For fourth graders at Mary Evans Elementary School, expressing gratitude means more than just saying thank you.

It means writing and sending more than 1,000 letters to active duty servicemen, veterans and wounded warriors at Walter Reed Army Medical Center, Brooks Army Medical Center, a combat surgical hospital in Iraq and local members of the Veterans of Foreign Wars.

"The letters thank the soldiers for their commitment to the country and the hard, dangerous work they do," said Jackie Zander, a fourth grade teacher at Evans and the adult sponsor of the project. "It may seem like a small token, but it does mean a lot to the kids."

Apparently the letters mean a lot to the servicemen, too.

Zander and her students have maintained a scrapbook of the letters, pictures and mementoes that the soldiers, sailors, airmen and Marines have sent in response to the kids' letters. But she's especially proud of two American flags: One flew over Forward Operating Base Warlord on Christmas Day, the other over Camp Ramadi on Good Friday of 2008.



Also, several veterans have visited the school to meet the students and thank them for taking the time to write the letters.

"This project has shown the kids that one person can make a difference, even if they can't serve in the military," she said.

The school visits make a huge impression on the students, Zander said.

"When they get to actually meet with and talk with the servicemen, they realize just how much their efforts mean," she said

"I never dreamed the kids would get so much out of this project," Zander said.

"They have learned how everyone can make a contribution to the country, even if they never serve on the frontlines."

The Big Picture

Strategic Plan - Year Two

The Allen ISD Strategic Planning Committee met in May 2009 to review progress on the district's strategic plan. The five-year plan was created by a committee of parents, business leaders and staff members in 2007.

Fifteen strategies and 41 related action plans were set in motion to support five major objectives covering Funding and Finance, Learning Environment, Highly Qualified Staff, Graduate Profile and Communications.

Allen ISD staff completed twenty-seven of those action plans in 2008-2009. Highlights of the past year's strategic plan progress include:

Campus Intervention Specialists

Campus Intervention Specialists or CIS positions were added at all elementary schools to support the Allen ISD's counseling program. These specialists work primarily with the monitoring and handling of standardized tests on the campus. Their work frees up the school counselors who can focus more on guidance and counseling to provide behavioral support and character education. Examples of the character education initiatives include Rachel's Challenge, Project Wisdom and Character Counts.



Technology For Parents

Allen ISD replaced ParentConnect with a new student information system called Family Access in 2009. Family Access is the web site for parents to view student information and communicate with the teacher about their student's progress in school. Feedback has been very positive from teachers and parents.

The district also launched its new web site in August. The site has several new capabilities that will be added as more teachers and parents become familiar with the new site.

Community Partnerships

Allen ISD created the new position of Director of School Community Partnerships to build relationships with local businesses and agencies. The director, Dr. Sandra McCoy-Jackson, has helped create an elementary service learning program. The community advisory committee is currently developing a middle and high school service learning program.

Cadres - Improving from Within

Allen ISD offers students a rigorous curriculum that is updated according to state standard. The school district ensures that the curriculum is understood by the teachers through curriculum cadres. These cadres or groups of teachers within a specific subject area work with the corresponding subject area coordinator to review curriculum and create systems to help teachers use it effectively.

Professional Learning Communities

Professional learning communities have been established at every campus and among the district leadership team. PLC's create a culture of collaborative planning and development. PLC's take advantage of existing planning structures, e.g., grade level or department teams.

Service Above Self At Allen HS

Suneet Flora and Simon Le are busy high school students. They both carry a rigorous course load and aspire to study as pre-med students after graduation. Flora and Le also serve as presidents for two of the high school's service organizations; the Key Club and Interact Club.

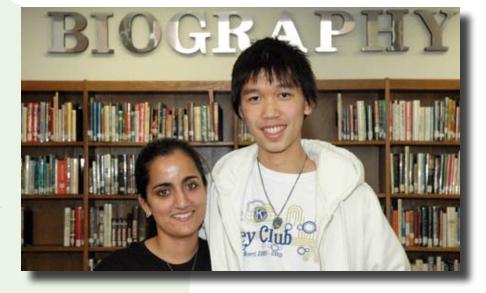
The Key Club, which is sponsored by the Allen Kiwanis Club, is one of the school's larger service organizations with approximately 170 members. Club projects have included volunteer efforts to help both international and local organizations. For example, club members assembled several thousand packages of dried food for Kids Against Hunger, an organization providing meals for families in Honduras. They also collected canned goods at Halloween for ACO and provided a book, blanket and a snack for children.

Our most rewarding project has been the Challenge Air, according to Flora, the Key Club President for 2009-2010. "Area pilots donate their time and planes to take disabled students flying. Our club helps the pilots and also provides activities for the children and families while they wait for their flight." Le's first experience with community service was also through Challenge Air. As a member of the Key Club, he volunteered for the project which he says "changed his perspective and priorities. Seeing the excitement in the children's faces made the entire day worthwhile and inspired me to get more involved."

Le, who serves a Lt. Governor for the Texas-Oklahoma Key Club District Board, joined the newly formed Interact Club which is sponsored by the Allen Noon and Sunrise Rotary Clubs. This year he serves as president of the 50-member Interact Club along with his role with the Key Club. Two bigger projects for Interact this year have been the packaging of games and food for patients at Children's Hospital of Plano and participation in a cleanup project at White Rock Lake.

"It's easy to get focused on nothing but school work," adds Le. "Involvement in Key Club and Interact has helped me see the big picture."

"It has been rewarding seeing the difference our student volunteers can make," adds Flora. "It has also helped me make many new friends — people I will probably stay in touch with the rest of my life."



The Year In Review

Community Approved Bond Proposals Allen ISD voters approved a \$219 million bond proposal in November 2008 and a \$119.4 million bond proposal in May 2009.

Major projects included in the November proposal included two new elementary schools, a career and technology center addition to Allen High School, expansion of Curtis and Ereckson Middle Schools, renovations to Curtis Middle School, Ford Middle School and six elementary campuses, a classroom addition to Boyd Elementary School, the addition of new restrooms and concessions to the existing Allen Eagle Stadium and the purchase of 45 school buses.

Bonds from the May 2009 proposal will finance a new auditorium at Allen High School, a new multipurpose stadium and a new service center for maintenance, student nutrition and transportation.

Students Honored For Service

Allen honored 28 Allen ISD elementary students at the Eagle Service Awards Banquet in May. They were honored by local service organizations for their various service projects.



Eagles Win 2008 State Championship The Allen Eagles football team won the 2008 State 5-A Championship on December 20. The team defeated Hightower HS at Houston's Reliant Stadium to bring the state football trophy home to Allen for the first time.

The Eagles wrestling squad were named as Dual State Champions and UIL State Runner-ups. The Allen Eagle Hockey Club also won the 2009 State Hockey Championship.

Payne Named Principal of the Year

Steve Payne, former principal of Allen High School and the Lowery Freshman Center, was selected as the 2008-2009 Texas High School Principal of the Year by the Texas Association of Secondary School Principals. Payne now serves as the Allen ISD Assistant Superintendent for Secondary Programs.

Nine Named Merit Finalists

Nine Allen High School seniors were named as finalists in the 2009 National Merit Scholarship Competition and one student was named as a finalist in the 2009 National Achievement Scholarship Program.

Ten Receive All State Music Award

Ten Allen High School students were named to the 2008-09 Texas Music Educators Association (TMEA) All-State Orchestra, Band and Choir. This recognition is the highest individual honor in the state. They included 4 choir, 5 band and 1 orchestra student.



School Naming Honors Cheatham The Board of Trustees honored a long time school nurse with the naming of Beverly Cheatham Elementary School. Cheatham began her career at Reed Elementary in 1983 and retired from Allen High School in 2009.

Going The Extra 8400 Miles

The world is a little bit smaller for students of Ford Middle School thanks to math teacher Tanya Miller's efforts.

Over the past two summers, Miller has traveled to Africa for mission work. When she returned to the classroom in the fall, she shared her experiences and photos with her students.

"I want our students to understand what education is like in Africa," she said. "I want them to see just how important some things are that we take for granted."

The result has been campus-wide fundraisers to help two Ugandan schools and orphanages. The first was held during the fall of 2007.

"I shared with my students that as little as \$150 can fund an African student's education for a year. The students were interested in helping and responded by organizing a fundraiser with the goal of collecting \$1,500 over a six-week period."

They exceeded their goal and the money was used to pay several teachers' salaries that had not been paid in more than a year. Educational supplies and much-needed food for the orphanage were purchased as well.

The next year, Miller told her students about a school's need for a small tractor to help maintain its grounds and garden.

"This wasn't a need for a big, fourwheeled tractor," she said. "They just needed a small, two-wheeled tractor."

Her students responded once again by raising more than \$2,500, more than enough to buy the tractor and more."

Besides being proud of her campus for

their fundraising, Miller also is proud of the way they work to stay in contact with the African students to learn more about them and their culture.

"Being a pen pal with these kids is not easy. They have limited resources and because of the time, distance and expense, keeping up communications can be a challenge," she said. "But our kids were able to make that connection.

"Not everyone gets the opportunity to share, to help and to be part of something that makes a difference and see it through to fruition. I'm happy our kids have the chance."



Just The Facts

AISD Student Ethnicity – 2009-2010

Anglo	63.5%
African American	11.0%
Hispanic	12.8%
Asian / Pacific Islander	11.9%
American Indiana / Alaskan	8%

Allen ISD Attendance Rate

2007-2008 School	Year	96.9%

Allen High School - Fall 2009

Total Student Enrollment
Total Students Enrolled In One or More
Advanced Placement Classes 820
International Baccalaureate 394
Pre-Advanced Placement (AP) 1,208
AHS Students With Dual Enrollment In
Collin College 301
Minimum Graduation Plan 4%
Recommended Graduation Plan 65%
Distinguished Graduation Plan 31%
SAT Mean Score Composite 2009 1090
ACT Mean Score Composite 2009 23.8
Allen HS Faculty 344
Allen HS Administrative Staff 11
Graduation Rate 97%
Completion Rate 99.4%
National Merit Semi-Finalists 3
Extracurricular Participation

Advanced Academics – Fall 2009

Gifted-Talented Enrollment	. 1,880
G/T Enrollment Percentage	10.1%
Advanced Academics Enrolled	. 4,757

Community Services

Community Education

Class and Camp Participation ... 4,400 Children's Concert Attendance . 4,000 Kids Club Program Enrollment..... 1,270

Foundation For Allen Schools

2008 Annual Campaign \$115,880 Other Contributions. \$65,754 Endowment / Assets \$489,824 Student Scholarships Awarded \$36.250 Teacher Scholarship Support ... \$18,930 Classroom Grants Awarded \$84,431

Allen ISD Facilities

Elementary Campuses	15
Middle School Campuses	3
Freshman Center	1
High School	1
Special Achievement Center	1
Administration Building	1
Service Center	1

Student Nutrition

Avg. Lunches Served P/Day	12,000
Income Eligible Students (Free)	1,672
Income Eligible Stud. (Reduced).	564
Full & Part-Time Staff	140

Transportation

Total Buses	97
Miles Driven Per Year	730,000
Daily Routes	70
Daily Riders	4,000
Total Employees	162

Employee Profile

Professional - Non Teaching	264
Teaching Staff	1,210
Support Staff	874
Total Employees	2,348

Teaching Experience 0-5 Years	34%
Teaching Experience 6-10 Years	24%
Teaching Experience 11+ Years	42%

Teachers w/ Bachelor's Degree 75%
Teachers w/ Master's Degree 24%
Teachers w/ Doctorate Degree 1%

State Highly Qualified Teachers	100%
Certified Teacher Applicants	4,104
Classified Staff Applicants	1,792

AISD Program Enrollments – Fall 2009

Special Education	2,066
LEP - (Limited English)	1,712
Bilingual	283
Pre-K Program	200
Head Start	

Student Second Languages

Spanish	1,500
Arabic	
Vietnamese	230
Korean	165
Other (68 languages)	

Technology

Total Workstations	. 8,584
Multimedia Workstations	. 1,230

Allen Independent School District

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