

LIBRARY ASSISTANT

Title VI allocated \$48,880 and expended \$40,730 for a library assistant. This person provided technical support for teachers and librarians with library hardware and software, provided information technology support as a backup for the library technology coordinator, created campus barcodes, and developed and maintained the AISD Library Resource webpage.

The library assistant reports that she has been very successful in achieving the goals of her position. She reports that her most useful duty was providing technical support at campus libraries. The assistant's supervisor reports that the position has been extremely useful to her and to librarians at all campuses.

The biggest obstacle to the success of the library assistant was the outdated computer equipment at several campuses. Although she was able to use it this year, she believes that a lot of it will need replacement over the next few years to keep pace with software updates. The assistant recommends that the district promote a closer working relationship between her position and the district help desk and information technology support staff.

COORDINATOR OF MENTORS AND VOLUNTEERS

The coordinator of mentors and volunteers has a number of duties serving to improve recruitment, training and effectiveness of mentors and volunteers at AISD campuses. During the 2001-02 school year, the coordinator organized several activities to recruit volunteers and introduce them to contact persons at the campuses. He developed and used the training materials for mentors, introduced mentors to contacts, and followed up on mentor-contact communication. He developed a database for tracking mentors and volunteers in the district. The coordinator of mentors and volunteers also served as a liaison between AISD and several community groups and political committees that promote volunteerism.

Partners in Education reported that, during the 2001-02 school year, 13,576 volunteers donated a total of 332,880 hours of service. At the federal volunteerism rate of \$16.05/hour, this represents \$5,342,724 in service. Partners in Education reported that, during the same period, 2,287 mentors donated service. Also during this year, the district published a new handbook for mentors and a new mentoring brochure. The coordinator of mentors and volunteers has implemented a number of recruitment and training initiatives and formed collaborations with the Capitol Area Volunteer Center, the University of Texas Volunteer Center, the City of Austin and Travis County Commissioners, and the Office of the President of Mexico.

The coordinator reports that although this year was successful, there remain problems to be addressed. Lack of training of mentor contacts has resulted in the loss of some potential

mentor service. He recommends that the district designate a central training location and encourage or require all mentor contacts to take part in regular training sessions. He also reports that the job is too big for one person and recommends that the district employ additional staff to work with mentors and volunteers.

READING RECOVERY

Title VI allocated \$23,947 and expended \$21,469 to pay 25% of the salary of a Reading Recovery teacher leader and 25% of the salary of a Reading Recovery secretary. The Reading Recovery teacher leader's duties included teaching two students daily, providing training for Reading Recovery teachers and literacy support specialists, and monitoring the implementation of Reading Recovery on AISD campuses.

PRIVATE SCHOOLS AND NEGLECTED OR DELINQUENT FACILITIES

By law, Title VI funds are available through AISD to nonpublic, nonprofit schools within AISD boundaries. Private, nonprofit schools were contacted in spring, 2000 to determine if they would participate during the upcoming school year. Funds were then allocated to approved applicants on a per-pupil basis for purchase of items selected by schools. All purchases were made through AISD. The district retains title to, and exercises administrative control over, all equipment and supplies.

Title VI allocated \$28,034 and disbursed \$20,533 that served 3,591 students in 23 private, nonprofit schools and 1,768 students in 8 Neglected or Delinquent facilities. Officials at participating schools were asked to complete a survey of the effectiveness of Title VI funds at their campuses. Among administrators at the seven Neglected or Delinquent facilities, two rated the Title VI-funded materials as _____, four rated them as _____, and one rated them as _____. The institution that rated the materials as _____ reported that it was difficult to meet the requirements of the grant, due to their non-traditional teaching format and student population. Among administrators at the 22 private schools participating, 17 rated the materials as _____, 4 rated them as _____, and 1 school reported that the materials did not arrive in time to be used during the 2001-02 school year. Student counts and survey information were compiled from campus reports submitted by the facilities. Four private schools did not submit data.

REFERENCE

Huskey, C. B. (2001). Title VI: 2000-2001 Feedback (OPE Publication Number 00.11). Austin, TX: Austin Independent School District, Department of Accountability, Office of Program Evaluation.

AUSTIN INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT

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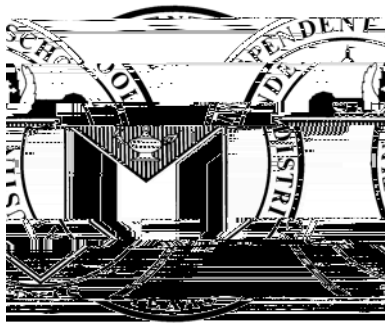
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