

**Title V, Part A Summary Report:
2003-2004**

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Title V, Part A—Innovative Programs provides federal funds to states under the No Child Left Behind Act of 2001 (Public Law

teaching, learning, and student research. The library technology assistant has continued working with the Instructional Technology department to coordinate library technology resources with the curriculum used in the district. In 2002-03, she reported that a number of campuses had outdated computer equipment in their libraries, and again, she reported this finding for 2003-04. The library technology assistant also reported that a growing number of campuses were not adequately staffed in their libraries, which made finding the right person to train at campuses difficult. Finally, the assistant expressed a desire to work more closely with the district's desktop support staff and help desk to share appropriate support software and troubleshooting tips.

COORDINATOR OF MENTORS AND VOLUNTEERS

During 2003-04, Title V funds supported a 0.6 FTE for a coordinator of mentors and volunteers for the district's Austin Partners in Education (APIE) program. The coordinator recruited and trained mentors and coordinated activities with volunteer partner organizations. In 2003-04, the Title V-funded coordinator led recruitment efforts at 18 volunteer fairs and community organizations. He also provided training to a total of 52 campus-based mentor contacts and led 31 training sessions for mentors throughout the year. A total of 521 mentors were trained in 2003-04. The coordinator also was involved in managing results from APIE's new system for conducting background checks on potential mentors, tutors, and volunteers. For the coordinator, one highlight of the year was his involvement with the Longhorn Leaders program, in which student athletes from the University of Texas visited middle schools to promote leadership values, academic success, and personal discipline to 7th grade students.

The work by the Title V coordinator supported the key goals of APIE including: supporting the academic success of students at all levels through mentoring and tutoring efforts; increasing the number of students who apply to college and receive financial aid; supporting school technology needs through partnerships with business organizations and individuals; and communicating the needs and successes of schools and students to increase the business community's support of the district. APIE reported that in 2003-04, 22,457 mentors and volunteers donated a total of 329,258 hours of service. At the federal volunteerism rate of \$16.54 per hour, APIE staff calculated a value of approximately \$5.4 million of in-kind services.

PRIVATE SCHOOLS AND NEGLECTED OR DELINQUENT FACILITIES

By law, Title V funds are available through the district to private, non-profit schools and facilities that serve neglected and delinquent youth within the Austin ISD boundaries. Staff at private, non-profit schools and facilities for neglected and delinquent youth were contacted in Spring 2003 about participating in Title V, as well as the other federal entitlement grant programs available to them. Title V funds were allocated to approved schools and facilities on a per-pupil basis for the purchase of items selected by the schools. All purchases were made through AISD, and had to meet a requirement of benefiting the schools' or facilities' populations as a whole. The district, in turn, retains title to and exercises administrative control over all equipment and supplies. A total of \$39,267 in Title V funds were spent by 33 private, non-profit schools and facilities, benefiting 4,451 students. These funds were used for purchasing library books, reference materials, and media such as videos and software. Six schools and facilities that were allocated funds in 2003-04 did not spend them.

ASSOCIATE SUPERINTENDENTS' PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Title V funds were made available for conference and travel expenses for two associate superintendents to attend the Model Schools Conference from June 25-28 in Washington, D.C. The conference brings together educators, policy makers, and community leaders to discuss educational practices that have contributed to gains in student achievement, as shown in 30 "model" schools identified from across the U.S. Most of the model schools are high schools that have successfully integrated practices such as small learning communities that have boosted achievement among all student subgroups.

MANAGEMENT AND EVALUATION

A total of \$44,111 of the Title V funds were spent on administration and evaluation of the grant and its activities, including direct and indirect costs. A 0.45 full-time equivalent from the Title V grant covered 25% and 20%, respectively, of the salaries for two staff members in the Department of State and Federal Accountability who monitored program expenditures and assisted private, non-profit schools and facilities that serve neglected and delinquent youth. Title V funds supported 25% of the salary for an evaluator from the Department of Program Evaluation, who collected data from district staff regarding programs and from staff at private, non-profit schools and facilities about their expenditures. The evaluator also prepared the

compliance and performance report to the Texas Education Agency that detailed expenditures, the numbers of students served, and staff trained for each funded program.

SUMMARY

A variety of programs were funded through Title V in 2003-04, and at an end-of-year advisory council meeting for the grant, program managers enthusiastically reported on their accomplishments and how their work benefited students. Although a relatively smaller proportion of Title V funds were expended in 2003-04 (\$258,366 out of \$534,684 available), compared with 2002-03 (\$485,122 out of an allocation of \$534,372), plans are underway for funding a number of innovative, research-based programs in 2004-05. Regulations for Title V permit unspent funds to roll forward, and given that Austin ISD's allocation for 2004-05 will be reduced to \$365,519 due to cuts at the federal level, remaining funds will allow continued support of existing programs and the addition of new programs that will meet the educational needs of students in Austin ISD and in community schools and facilities.

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