



PREKINDERGARTEN EVALUATION SERIES 2010–2011

ISSUE 2: PEABODY PICTURE VOCABULARY TEST PERFORMANCE BY VERTICAL TEAM

The state of Texas mandates that districts with at least 15 or more eligible 4 year old students provide a half day prekindergarten (pre K) program to prepare students developmentally for the rigor of kindergarten and beyond. In 2010–2011, AISD pre K program during the 2010–2011 school year, based on the Peabody Picture Vocabulary Test IV (PPVT-IV) and Test de Vocabulario en Imágenes Peabody (TVIP).

KEY FINDINGS

The major findings of this report include:

Students' ability in receptive vocabulary entering pre K significantly differed by vertical team.

- f English speaking pre K students who enrolled at schools in the Reagan, Johnson, Travis, and Eastside Memorial vertical teams had significantly lower normal curve equivalent (NCE) scores in Fall 2010, on average than did students from other vertical team campuses.
- f Spanish speaking English language learners (ELLs) who enrolled at schools in the team

Although the average gain on the PPVT/TVIP significantly differed by vertical team, these differences were attributed more to the students' school and/or classroom rather than to the vertical team in which a school resides.

PREK PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

AISD provides a full day pre K program for all children who are 4 years old on or before September 1st of the current school year and who meet one of the following eligibility criteria:

- f Economically disadvantaged (qualify for free or reduced price lunch program)
- f ELL
- f Homeless
- f Child of an active duty military member or a military member who was injured or killed in service
- f Resides or has ever resided in foster care (Texas Education Code §29.153 [b])

The AISD pre K program is designed to provide instructional activities to meet the individual needs of young children and stimulate learning in all areas of physical, social, emotional, and cognitive development.

The district pre K curriculum is closely tied to the guidelines issued by the state of Texas and focuses on the content areas of language and literacy, mathematics (math), social studies, science, technology, health, visual arts, music, and physical education, to prepare students for success in kindergarten.

The program's daily schedule also includes lunch, time for outside play, and time for rest. Students are provided ample opportunities for self expression and divergent thinking through working individually as well as in large and small groups.

Peabody Picture Vocabulary Test by Vertical Team, 2010–2011

Table 1. Peabody Picture Vocabulary Test (English, PPVT) and Test de Vocabulario en Imágenes Peabody (Spanish, TVIP) Normal Curve Equivalent (NCE) Results, by English Language Learner (ELL) Status, 2010–2011

	Native English speakers (PPVT)				ELL (TVIP)			
	Number of students tested	Avg. NCE (Fall)	Avg. NCE (Spring)	Avg. gain	Number of students tested	Avg. NCE (Fall)	Avg. NCE (Spring)	Avg. gain
District wide	373	39.0	50.2	11.2	488	34.5	51.1	16.6

INTERPRETATION OF NORMAL CURVE EQUIVALENT (NCE) SCORES		
Range of performance	NCE scores	National percentile
Very low	1–24	1–11
Low	25–35	12–25
Low average	36–44	26–39
Average	45–55	40–60
High average	56–64	61–74
High	65–75	75–88
Very high	76–99	89–99

Source: Southard, 2006

