

Draft Action Plan Becker Elementary

Purpose: The purpose of this action plan is to increase enrollment at Becker Elementary School.

Objective: This action plan would bring together Becker Elementary stakeholders (parents, teachers, neighbors, PTA, CAC, community organizations, and volunteers), AISD administration and City of Austin representatives and focus their efforts on increasing enrollment at Becker through outreach to neighborhood parents, the expansion of the existing pre-kindergarten and/or special education inclusion programs, the development of science- and technology-enhanced programs, and/or the development of specialized programs such as dual language and/or arts programs.

Pre-kindergarten and/or special education changes could be implemented as early as August 2006. The creation of specialized or enhanced programs could begin in August 2006, with a pilot program for Becker students operating in the summer of 2006. Parent workshops on enhanced/specialized programs could occur prior to the transfer deadline for the 2007–2008 school year. Further development of enhanced or specialized programs at Becker could occur throughout the 2006–2007 and 2007–2008 school years as additional funding through grants and in-kind partnerships becomes available.

This preliminary action plan for Becker Elementary represents practical considerations, necessary tasks, and a wide variety of potential options for increasing enrollment at Becker. The document is intended to be developed more fully in collaboration with AISD and with much input from teachers and administrators. To formalize this collaboration, we request that the AISD/COA joint subcommittee establish the Becker Action Committee and require it to report quarterly on activities and results.

1. Secure commitment of AISD collaboration on Becker Action Committee (BAC) formation and planning March 2006

2. Establish executive committee, advisory board, and subcommittees. Develop reporting structure. Tentative participants: April 2006
 - AISD representative(s)
 - Becker principal
 - Becker teacher(s)
 - Becker PTA officer
 - Becker CAC officer
 - Becker parent(s)
 - BCNA officer(s)
 - Bouldin Creek parent(s) of child(ren) under 5
 - Representatives from in-school services partners (i.e., Communities In Schools, LifeWorks)
 - Representatives from school partner organizations (i.e., South Austin Civic Club)
 - Representatives from City of Austin (i.e., Housing Authority, Watershed Protection/Green Classroom, Cultural Affairs, Council aides)
 - Representatives from Travis Heights and Pease elementary schools and/or other neighborhoods/schools

3. Evaluate expansion of Becker pre-kindergarten and/or special education inclusion programs
 - Evaluate resource and space requirements March 2006
 - Identify rooms available for additional classes March 2006
 - Evaluate tuition-based, open enrollment expansion of pre-k program April–May 2006
 - Develop project plan for implementation with completion timeline(s) May–June 2006

4. Evaluate dual-language, arts, and/or science and technology programs
 - Review history and success of elementary specialized programs in Texas March 2006
 - Visit AISD high school magnet and enhanced/specialized programs April 2006
 - Identify other Texas districts with dual-language or enhanced/specialized programs. Interview by phone and conduct site visits if possible May–June 2006
 - Develop a list of best practices for dual-language and other enhanced/specialized programs July 2006
 - Evaluate enhanced/specialized programs in terms of need and value to Becker students July–Aug 2006
 - Evaluate Becker Elementary and AISD for compatibility with best practices and align with CAC Strategic Plan July–Aug 2006

5. Planning, implementation, training and review activities for enhanced/specialized programs
 - Review CAC strategic plan (see CAC tasks below) Aug 2006
 - Identify marketing firms that would assist on a pro bono basis May 2006
 - Identify volunteer grant writers to submit/manage funding requests July 2006–June 2007
 - Develop a marketing plan Aug–Sept 2006
 - Develop an implementation plan Sept–Dec 2006
 - Implement plans for enhanced/specialized programs Dec 2006–Dec 2007
 - Review plans quarterly to incorporate stakeholder input and evaluate results to date Sept 2006–May 2008
 - Coordinate parent workshops before 2007-08 school year transfer deadline Jan–Feb 2007

6. Bouldin Creek Neighborhood Association (BCNA) Tasks
 - Identify, recruit, and inform prospective Becker parents/students March-Dec 2006
 - Issue survey to Bouldin Creek residents March 2006
 - Begin canvassing neighborhood, identifying parents March 2006
 - Cosponsor public/community forums at Becker Elementary March–May 2006
 - Conduct small group meetings with Becker staff and prospective parents March–May 2006
 - Establish welcome committee to identify new parents on an ongoing basis May 2006
 - Establish email and telephone lists to keep current and prospective parents apprised of progress May 2006
 - Conduct workshops to review results of survey, small group meetings, and other stakeholder communications June–Dec 2006

7. Becker CAC Tasks
 - Review budget status for 2005–2006 March 2006
 - Develop 2006–2007 budget for new programs April–May 2006
 - Update criteria for new principal developed in previous search and include “Commitment to meeting Becker challenges” March–May 2006
 - Establish/expand partnerships with other organizations such as Armstrong Community Music School, Dougherty Arts Center, Downtown Austin Alliance, and Chamber of Commerce March 2006–May 2008
 - Develop strategic plan for enhanced/specialized programs with input and review by parents, teachers, and the district May–Sept 2006
 - Oversee implementation of new programs, working with Prime Time and community partners June–July 2006
 - Oversee submission of grants for specialized programs and enhanced curriculum, working with community partners July 2006–June 2007
 - Re-evaluate strategic plan semi-annually and adjust as needed Dec 2006 & May 2007

8. Becker PTA Tasks

- Sponsor quarterly community forums to inform stakeholders and solicit community support March 2006–Jan 2008
- Establish working relationships with Travis Heights and Pease PTAs March–Dec 2006
- Support Becker parents' individual outreach efforts May 2006–May 2008
- Participate in City recognition/placement of Becker historical marker May–Oct 2006
- Co-sponsor annual outreach event with community partners July 2006–June 2008
- Participate in joint fundraising events with community partners July 2006–June 2008
- Invite community to monthly events such as movie nights, PTA meetings, and school programs Sept 2006–May 2008

9. Research/review additional methods for increasing Becker enrollment

- Review history and success of AISD elementary schools with 6th grade Aug–Dec 2006
- Review current Becker boundaries and potential expansion Nov–Dec 2006
- Research/visit successful charter schools in Austin Nov 2006–March 2007
- Explore option of creating AISD district charter school and research district charter schools in other Texas cities (i.e., Dallas and Houston) Nov 2006–March 2007
- Review requirements/success of public Montessori schools Nov 2006–March 2007
- Brainstorm additional options and set timeline to explore Jan–Feb 2007
- Develop project, marketing, and implementation plans. Review plans semi-annually to incorporate stakeholder input and evaluate results to date Jan 2007 & July 2007