

Summary by the Texas State Auditor's Office on:

# Alliance Schools

## A Program of Texas Interfaith, a Private Nonprofit Organization Receiving No Public Funds

Funding Sources, Fiscal Year 2004 <sup>a</sup>		
Federal	State Appropriations	Other
\$ 0	\$ 0	Contributions
Funding Method	NA	
No. of Grants	NA	
Range	NA	
Eligible Entities	Public schools in areas served by Texas Interfaith affiliates	
UA - Unavailable		NA - Category does not apply
NYA - Not currently available (as of report date)		

LEAs, Other Entities, Students, and Parents Served			
Year	LEAs	Campuses	Students
2001 <sup>b</sup>	UA	UA	UA
2002	19	96	66,770
2003	19	97	66,426
2004	UA	UA	UA
<b>Totals</b>	<b>UA</b>	<b>UA</b>	<b>UA</b>

<sup>a</sup> Alliance Schools accepts no public or business funding but instead brokers public funding for public schools, students, and parents as part of its school-community organizing. Work in Alliance Schools depends on contributions of time and money from Alliance Schools staff, foundations, church members, community members, school teachers and administrators, and students.

<sup>b</sup> In the four years before the 2000-01 school year, there were an average of 122 Alliance schools statewide. Approximately 87,409 students benefited from attending an Alliance School each year in addition to the teachers, parents, and community members who benefited.

### Targeted Students and Grade Levels

Students in schools in communities being served by the 11 local affiliates of Texas Interfaith.

### Program Components

Program Component	Required/ Recommended/ Allowed
Counseling/Case Management	
Diagnostics-Based Intervention	
Academic Intervention	✓ <sup>c</sup>
Small Group Instruction/ Limited Class Size	
School-Day or Out-of-School Activity	School-Day and Out-of-School <sup>c</sup>
Computer Assisted Instruction	
Literacy/ESL/Bilingual Instruction	✓ <sup>c</sup>
College Preparation	✓

Program Component	Required/ Recommended/ Allowed
Career Preparation	
Mentoring	
Professional Development	✓
Parental Involvement/Education	✓
Community Involvement/Services/ Enrichment	✓
Pregnancy and Parenting Services	
Children's Day Care	
Safe Environment	✓

<sup>c</sup> Although the Alliance Schools Program does not directly provide academic services or ESL instruction, staff members leverage resources and broker agreements with local city and county governments and community colleges to provide these services to students and parents in Alliance Schools.

### Comments

Alliance Schools is a major program of Texas Interfaith<sup>d</sup>, which is a coalition of local interfaith organizations across Texas. Begun in 1993, the Alliance Schools program focuses on developing parent leadership, making student achievement the focus of school restructuring, and building community relationships and support around the issue of school improvement. Although it does not directly provide academic, ESL, or other support services for students, staff members leverage community resources and broker agreements with city and county governments and community colleges to provide such services. Some Alliance Schools benefit from other community-based programs, such as Communities in the Schools or 21st Century Community Learning Centers.

<sup>d</sup> Texas Interfaith is a component of the Texas Industrial Areas Foundation (IAF). IAF, a national network of interdenominational church congregations, works to improve the quality of life in disadvantaged communities through local organizing, leadership training and support, and advocacy.

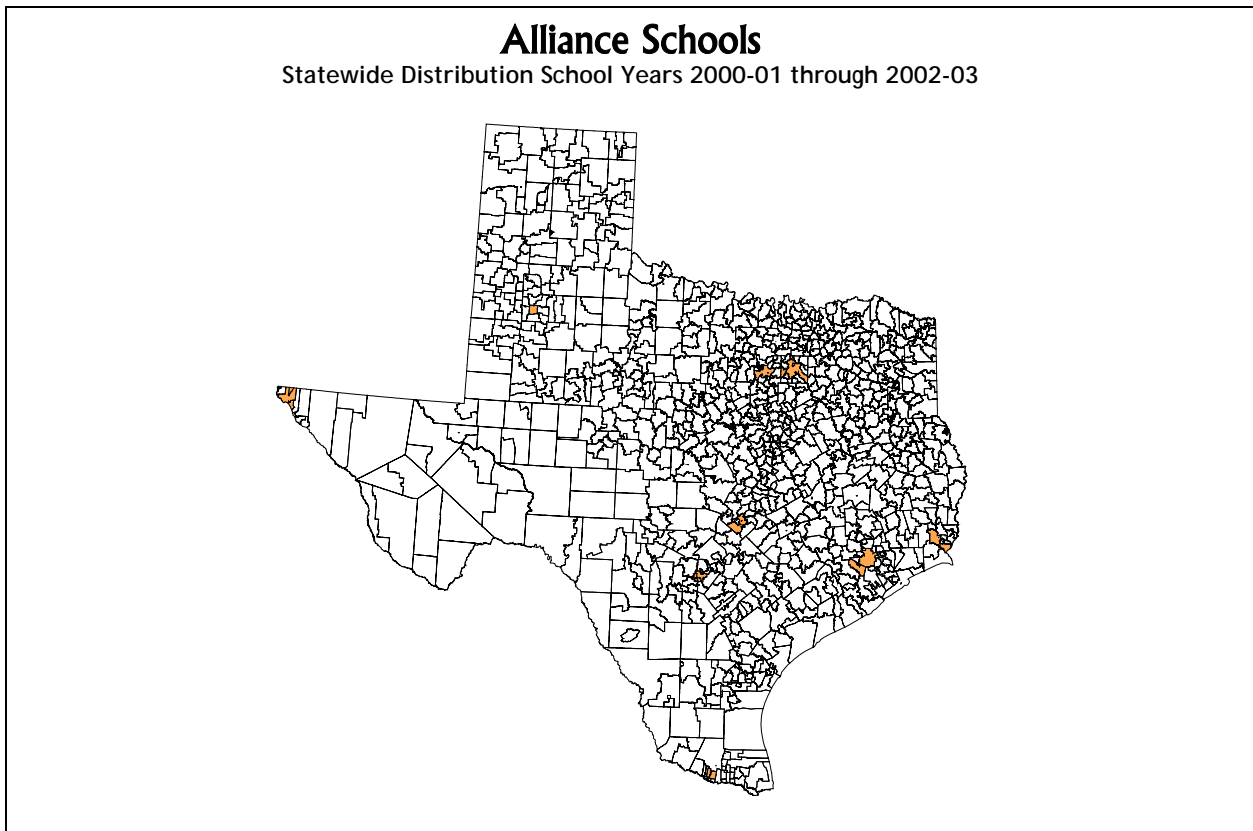
The information in these program summaries has been compiled from multiple sources of varying reliability and is unaudited. Sources include the Texas Education Agency, the U.S. Department of Education, the Texas Department of Family and Protective Services, universities, colleges, and other nonprofit organizations.

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### Evaluation\*

Alliance Schools reports that across all Alliance Schools in 2001, the rate of students passing the TAAS tests increased from school year 2000-2001 at more than double the pace for all students in the state. Among Alliance Schools in 2002, the rate of students passing the TAAS tests continued to increase at a greater rate than for all students in the state. The most dramatic increases on individual campuses ranged from 10 to 24 percent more students who passed all TAAS tests than the year before. From school year 1997-98 to school year 1999-2000, 59 schools had operated as Alliance Schools for three or more years. Alliance Schools report that TAAS passing rates for students in those schools improved during that period at more than double the statewide amount of improvement for math, reading, and writing, as well as for students passing all tests ( +6.8% for students in veteran schools compared with the statewide improvement over the same period of +2.2 %). Moreover, pass rates for economically disadvantaged Alliance Schools students improved 8.0%, compared with a 2.5% improvement statewide for economically disadvantaged students. A March 2002 report on Alliance Schools in Austin, Texas, reported that the program is working effectively in the eight key indicator areas: leadership development, community empowerment, social capital, public accountability, equity, school-community connections, high quality instruction and curriculum, and positive school climate (*Strong Neighborhoods Strong Schools - Case Study: Austin Interfaith*, prepared by Research for Action for Cross City Campaign for Urban School Reform, March 2002).

\* In most cases it is not possible to isolate the effects of funding for a single program on students' performance because districts applying for state funding for at-risk students are required to combine local, state, and federal resources to maximize services to at-risk students. For the same reason, a single program's cost does not provide a meaningful basis for determining the cost per student of a desired or achieved outcome.



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