

# RESEARCH

*Report on an Educational Program*  
Department of Research and Accountability

## **TITLE VI INNOVATIVE PROGRAMS 2000–2001**

Houston Independent School District



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## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

### TITLE VI INNOVATIVE PROGRAMS 2000–2001

#### Program Description

The Civil Rights Act of 1964 and the Civil Rights Act of 1991, are two important civil rights legislation affecting education in the United States. Containing eleven titles, the Civil Rights Act of 1964 addresses broad discrimination issues from the constitutional right to vote, to protecting constitutional rights in public facilities and public education, to equal employment. Also, Title VI requires that federal funds to schools and other educational institutions be withheld if the institutions do not comply with the equal access mandates of the Act. No person, on the basis of race, color, or national origin, can be excluded from or denied the benefits of any educational program that receives federal financial assistance.

In 1989, the Governors of all 50 states adopted six National Education Goals for all students in the United States. These goals supplement and give depth to the Title VI anti-discrimination foundation paved in 1964. Two other goals were added later. The eight National Education Goals are:

- All children in America will start school ready to learn.
- The high school graduation rate will increase to at least 90 percent.
- All students will leave grades 4, 8, and 12 having demonstrated competency over challenging subject matter, including English, mathematics, science, foreign languages, civics and government, economics, arts, history, and geography, and every school in America will ensure that all students learn to use their minds well, so they may be prepared for responsible citizenship, further learning, and productive employment in our Nation's modern economy.
- United States students will be first in the world in mathematics and science achievement.
- Every adult American will be literate and will possess the knowledge and skills necessary to

compete in a global economy and exercise the rights and responsibilities of citizenship.

- Every school in the United States will be free of drugs, violence, and the unauthorized presence of firearms and alcohol and will offer a disciplined environment conducive to learning.
- The Nation's teaching force will have access to programs for the continued improvement of their professional skills and the opportunity to acquire the knowledge and skills needed to instruct and prepare all American students for the next century.
- Every school will promote partnerships that will increase parental involvement and participation in promoting the social, emotional, and academic growth of children.

In 1990, Congress reaffirmed these eight goals agreed to by the nation's governors under the leadership of Governor Clinton and then-President Bush by approving the *GOALS 2000: Educate America Act*. This Act passed with strong bipartisan support in 1994. The National Education Goals and GOALS 2000 have been endorsed by every major parent, education, and business group across the country. Today, well into the next century, these goals are still used to ensure that children across the United States are being educated to their fullest potential. GOALS 2000 was based on five fundamental principles: 1) all students can learn, 2) lasting improvements depend on school-based leaderships, 3) simultaneous top-down and bottom-up reform is necessary, 4) strategies must be locally developed, comprehensive, and coordinated and, 5) the whole community must be involved in developing strategies for system-wide improvement. As a result of this legislation, state and local agencies focus on comprehensive change, improvement, and achievement for all schools.

Houston Independent School District has a history of addressing the needs of students in the

district. Each Title VI innovative program operating in the district supported at least one of the National Educational Goals from this important legislation. Each program also contained its own individual program goals that reflect the unique aspects of each Title VI program. The scope of these eight goals are broad and programs throughout this district cover all eight goals. Supporting on-site educational facilities for children in treatment centers or emergency shelters, providing teacher training through partnerships with local universities, providing non-English speaking parents translations of important school information, and gang awareness education are just a few examples of how HISD is able to meet the needs of students as recommended by the Goals 2000 project.

Curriculum Alignment, Rice University School Mathematics Project, and Youth Enrichment are examples of innovative education reform programs.

Title VI Administrative District Grants Allocations, Nonprofit Schools, Neglected and Delinquent Facilities, and Satellite Media Center contributed significantly to the improvements of library services, and instructional and media materials through programs specially designed to meet these types of educational needs. Title VI funds allow materials and services to be disseminated to different programs throughout HISD.

Success for All, People Place Multicultural Center, and Youth Enrichment meet the needs of at-risk students by providing activities to improve reading strategies, assist students with gang resistance, and teach students the important contributions different cultures.

Translation Services and the Satellite Media Center meet the needs of HISD parents. Translation services assist non-English speaking parents by providing school related information in their native language. This allows them to fully participate in their child's education at HISD. The Satellite Media Center gave parents an opportunity to create educational materials to be used in their home.

The purpose of this project was to evaluate the eleven Title VI programs individually. These programs provide a variety of services to HISD students, teachers, and parents.

### Findings

- A variety of programs were made available to students, teachers, and parents through Title VI funds. They included:  
Facilities for Neglected and Delinquent Children,

the Satellite Media Center, Nonprofit and Private Schools, People Place Multicultural Center, Rice University School Math Project, Success for All, Title VI Administrative District Grants Allocation, Translation Services, Houston Defenders, and Youth Enrichment.

- This year Curriculum Alignment focused on the development of an online biography of articles and publications on current topics in instruction and curriculum alignment.
- Facilities for Neglected and Delinquent Children successfully provided additional money to on-site schools for the purchase of supplemental instructional materials.
- Thirty elementary schools received the *Houston Defenders* newspaper for classroom use.
- The Satellite Media Center provided extra-duty pay for 17 teacher-specialists through Title VI funds. These teacher-specialists successfully assisted visiting teachers with the production process. The teacher-specialists guided visiting teachers with the development of specific instructional media supporting curriculum tailored to the needs of their students.
- Forty-five Private and Non-profit Schools qualified for Title VI funds through HISD for the 2000-2001 school year.
- This year People Place Multicultural Center had a total of 10,639 students for the year. These students all participated in lessons designed to raise awareness of the contributions other cultures have made to America life.
- Two hundred forty-seven mathematics teachers attended RUSMP workshops for this school year.
- Success For All provided 10 training sessions during the 2000-2001 school year to assist over 200 teachers in learning new methods for teaching reading to HISD students.

- Allowing each administrative district control over local needs assessments, program design and implementation, and funding allocations created many diverse and innovative programs as specified in the title VI guidelines.
- Translation Services experienced a 40% increase in the district usage of translation and interpretation services. This indicates that non-English-speaking students, parents, and community members were able to participate more fully in the education process and contribute to student success in school through high quality translation and interpretation services, increasing the number of translations services, and providing reliable and pertinent information.
- For the 2000-2001 school year, G.E.A.R. offered 17 training sessions available to HISD teachers, administrators, and other key staff. These ses-

sions covered a variety of topics about gangs, gang related behavior, gang dynamics, signs and symbols to keep all levels of schools safe.

- Programs funded by Title VI addressed, supported and accomplished the National Educational Goals.

#### **Recommendations**

1. Title VI Program Supervisor should review program outcomes with individual program directors to determine their funding status for the 2001-2002 school year.
2. Encourage program directors to create electronic databases and other methods of tracking activity.
3. Develop new innovative programs that address the eight National Education Goals and meet the needs of students, teachers, and parents.