Poverty Concentration in Austin Area Schools

Jennifer Jellison Holme, Ph.D., Sarah Diem & Anjale Welton

The Department of Educational Administration
The University of Texas at Austin
Poverty Trends: Contextualizing Austin

Source: US Census

% Individuals Below the Poverty Level for U.S. and Austin:
- 1990: 13.1, 12.4
- 2000: 13.3, 14.4
- 2006: 13, 17.9
- 2007: 17.7, 17.5
Percent of Individuals in Poverty in Austin (2000)

39.6%

Source: www.DataPlace.Org
Percentage of Children Under 18 in Poverty

Source: US Census, American Community Survey
Map of Child Poverty Rate in Austin, 2000 (US Census)

51.8%

Source: www.DataPlace.Org
## Poverty Rates in Austin Metro Area Districts

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>District</th>
<th>2000/01</th>
<th>2006/07</th>
<th>Change</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Austin ISD</td>
<td>48.0%</td>
<td>61.0%</td>
<td>+13.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pflugerville ISD</td>
<td>30.2%</td>
<td>41.5%</td>
<td>+11.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Round Rock ISD</td>
<td>13.5%</td>
<td>24.8%</td>
<td>+11.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Leander ISD</td>
<td>14.7%</td>
<td>19.2%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Eanes ISD</td>
<td>2.5%</td>
<td>2.7%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Del Valle</td>
<td>63.7%</td>
<td>77.3%</td>
<td>+13.6%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Percentage (%) of students eligible for free or reduced price lunch or other public assistance (Source: TEA)
AUSTIN REGION:
Percentage of Elementary Students Eligible for Free or Reduced Lunch by School, 2001

Legend
Regional Value: 43.9%
- 0.0 to 7.3% (35)
- 8.7 to 22.8% (31)
- 24.5 to 43.8% (37)
- 43.9 to 60.2% (32)
- 61.9 to 80.5% (36)
- 84.1% or more (35)
- No data (9)

Note: Schools with "No data" had fewer than 50 students in 2001.
**Concentration of Poverty in AISD Schools**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>% Low Income Students</th>
<th># of Schools</th>
<th>% of Total Schools</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>&gt;90</td>
<td>36</td>
<td>40.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>80-89</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>15.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>60-79</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>11.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>40-59</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>13.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20-39</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>7.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>&lt;19</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>11.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>89</td>
<td>100.0%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

40% of AISD schools are 90% or more low-income

67% of AISD schools are 60% or more low-income

Adapted from [http://data.theirfairshare.org/district.php?district=5](http://data.theirfairshare.org/district.php?district=5) 2005-06 school year
AUSTIN REGION:
Percentage of Non-Asian Minority Elementary Students by School, 2001

Legend
Regional Value: 50.8%
- 2.9 to 17.2% (35)
- 17.7 to 30.0% (32)
- 30.9 to 50.0% (37)
- 50.8 to 69.6% (35)
- 69.7 to 90.1% (33)
- 91.0% or more (34)
- No data (9)

Note: Schools with "No Data" had fewer than 50 students in 2001.
Why Does Concentrated Poverty Matter?
1. High poverty schools = concentrated disadvantage

- High rates of student mobility
- Higher rates of untreated health problems: asthma, vision, hearing
- Higher rates of student absenteeism
- Lower levels of academic readiness
- Fewer networks of opportunity: fewer connections to college, careers
## Mobility and Poverty Rates in High & Low Poverty AISD High Schools

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2004/05</th>
<th>2005/06</th>
<th>2006/07</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Johnston</td>
<td>40.0%</td>
<td>49.3%</td>
<td>41.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Poverty</td>
<td>80.4%</td>
<td>82.6%</td>
<td>81.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reagan</td>
<td>39.0%</td>
<td>41.0%</td>
<td>42.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Poverty</td>
<td>77.5%</td>
<td>79.7%</td>
<td>83.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Anderson</td>
<td>15.6%</td>
<td>14.5%</td>
<td>14.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Poverty</td>
<td>13.4%</td>
<td>17.9%</td>
<td>16.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bowie</td>
<td>11.3%</td>
<td>9.7%</td>
<td>10.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Poverty</td>
<td>7.4%</td>
<td>7.7%</td>
<td>7.7%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
2. High poverty schools have difficulty retaining teachers

Percent (%) 5-Year Average Turnover Rate

- San Antonio ISD
  - Highest Poverty Schools: 17.10%
  - Lowest Poverty Schools: 16.80%

- Dallas ISD
  - Highest Poverty Schools: 23.70%
  - Lowest Poverty Schools: 16.50%

- Houston ISD
  - Highest Poverty Schools: 22.60%
  - Lowest Poverty Schools: 17.50%

- Austin ISD
  - Highest Poverty Schools: 26.70%
  - Lowest Poverty Schools: 12.60%

2. High poverty schools have difficulty retaining experienced teachers.

Source: http://data.theirfairshare.org/district.php?district=5 2005-06 school year
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>School</th>
<th>2004/05</th>
<th>2005/06</th>
<th>2006/07</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Johnston</td>
<td>22.3%</td>
<td>17.1%</td>
<td>10.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reagan</td>
<td>8.8%</td>
<td>17.3%</td>
<td>20.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Anderson</td>
<td>2.3%</td>
<td>6.2%</td>
<td>7.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bowie</td>
<td>3.8%</td>
<td>5.9%</td>
<td>3.9%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Note: Beginning Teacher = Classified as Having Zero Years of Experience
There are consistent and systematic relationships between concentration of poverty and student achievement.

- Lower income students perform better in middle-class schools.

- Effects of high-poverty schools are negative for both low-income and higher-income students.

- Moving to lower poverty schools = better results.
4. High Poverty Schools Impact Neighborhoods Around Them

- Concentration of Poverty in Schools
- Middle Class Demand for Schools and Housing
- School and Neighborhood Stability
- Housing Prices
- Tax Base for Schools and City Services