

The Dallas Independent School District's African American Success Initiative (AASI)

A Title I support program, Dallas ISD's AASI aims to close achievement gaps by educating all students for success. The program increases access to opportunities by engaging students in conversations about their goals, futures and academic progress, as well as colleges and careers. EduGuide provides a strategic way for Dallas AASI to both build relationships and track progress toward their objectives.

PROGRAM

Advancing equity starts with understanding students more deeply so we can better support them. Dallas ISD pursued greater equity in education through a partnership between AASI and nonprofit EduGuide's results-based Social and Emotional Learning (SEL) program. Students in 24 elementary, middle and high schools worked with teachers and other staff mentors on their goals and struggles through EduGuide's unique activities.

Dallas ISD's program used EduGuide to:

1. Systematically develop students' SEL skills with EduGuide's activities.
2. Gain insights into how to better support and engage students, as teachers and other staff mentors read and respond to student reflections on EduGuide.
3. Track progress toward objectives in student engagement and key academic behaviors.
4. Train students to be positive peer influences as they mentor peers on what they're learning.

"This app is great for you to follow your goals and become an amazing student."
DISD Elementary Student

"I would like to inspire children from around the world so they know if any random person can become someone so can they..." DISD High School Student

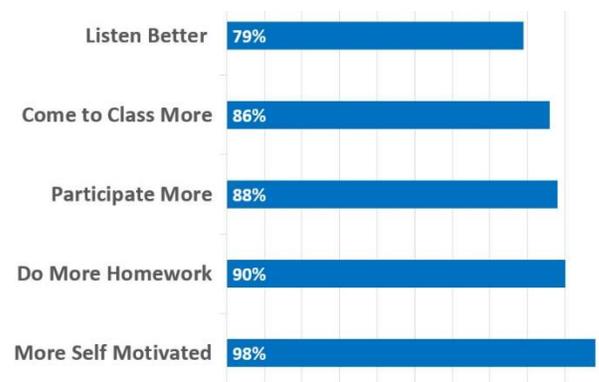
"I think every student in America could benefit." DISD Teacher

RESULTS

"EduGuide is a powerful program that I've seen make a real difference in students' lives," AASI Director Regina Rice said. "EduGuide makes teachers' jobs easier too, because it's simple to use and builds better relationships with students. Students listen better and are more engaged because they know teachers care and understand them for who they are and who they are striving to become."

Staff report that students in the program are listening better to feedback, completing more schoolwork and achieving better grades. One teacher at Carter High School reported observing improvements in 11 different indicators of student achievement.

Highlights from Student Impact Assessment



Students report being inspired by the activities, learning life lessons not otherwise taught in school, and building leadership skills to lift others to success. A student at Kennedy-Curry Middle School said that EduGuide makes you "open your eyes and to never give up on your life and to make you feel better about yourself."

"If you care about equity," Rice concludes, "I highly recommend you try EduGuide. It grows a school culture in which everyone builds each other up."