



Outside the Box Dropout Prevention

www.outsidetheboxdropoutprevention.org
outsidetheboxdp@austin.rr.com
(512) 385-3305 or (512) 300-5514

Mission

Built it and they will come. Providing students, families and volunteers a strong educational partner outside the school environment to academically empower, advance and prepare all students, regardless of ethnicity, socioeconomics and educational challenges for college, career and a global economy.

History

Since 2013, Outside the Box Dropout Prevention has developed, delivered and administered the SUCCESS, Student Using College and Career Exploration to Solidify Success, Million Second Reading and Million Second Learning Projects using effective dropout prevention strategies. Over the years, we've collaborated with the Montopolis Parks and Recreation Center's after school, youth enrichment, summer camp, Kid's Café and Boredom Busters Program. We've partnered with professors, students and volunteer organizations from the University of Texas to provide some of Austin's most challenging students to teach, special education, economically disadvantaged and English language learners, one-to-one tutoring and mentoring projects in a safe, positive, welcoming learning environment. Our college, career and heritage day events provide students, parents and families an opportunity to bond academically, socially and personally. Volunteers gain insightful, one-to-one teaching and learning experiences combining classroom instruction with meaningful community service.

Targeted Service Area

In spite of Austin's numerous quality of life accolades, Montopolis remains an economically segregated community. Getting more minorities, economically disadvantaged and academically underprepared students ready for college and knowledge-based careers translates into more jobs filled locally. Residents are confined to construction and service jobs and lack the educational attainment to overcome challenges that significantly influence their child's occupational class, income prosperity and life prospects. As more impoverished, academically underprepared, English language learners enter public schools zoned for Montopolis, the dropout rate among these groups is expected to increase and strain Austin's educational, social and economic resources.



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2016 Million Minute Learning Project

The 2016 Million Minute Learning Project, modeled after our successful 2015 Million Second Learning Project will direct school-aged children toward the goal of one million minutes of tutor guided learning. The Million Minute Learning Project will deliver, support and administer one-to-one tutoring and mentoring to improve reading, writing and mathematic levels, increase academic confidence in all subject areas and strengthen independent learning skills that transfer into school success. Every student is assigned a tutor and English language learners are matched with a bilingual tutor. One-to-one tutoring is the most effective form of instruction, resulting in student mastery of academic concepts at a much greater level. The student and tutor work cooperatively, cover and complete large areas of academic learning, concentrate on weak objectives and reinforce strong objectives, connecting the two to make a whole. The student and tutor will use a student specific, Individual Learning Plan, to increase every student's ability to understand and apply academic concepts to solve complex problems. Tutors provide oral and written directions, increase wait time for student responses and assess the student's understanding of the answer. The student is asked frequent questions, repeats directions to the tutor to ensure understanding and collaboratively improve the quality of answers. The greatest increase in tutoring effectiveness arises from the number of deep questions raised by the student or tutor in the one to one tutoring environment. Students are taught to use strategies including drawing a picture, looking for a pattern, guessing and checking, working with a simpler problem, working backwards, writing an equation to solve a problem connected to an everyday experience, making a table, solving by graphing, check that the answer is reasonable or makes sense, using an estimate to verify the answer by working the problem using a different strategy to confirm logic. The on-site supervisor manages, monitors and evaluates the one-to-one tutoring and mentoring sessions, notes and steers discussions with students, parents and tutors and immediately responds to questions, concerns and challenges. Students, tutors and parents review goals and objectives and discuss creative ways to maximize learning to increase basic analytical, problem solving and critical thinking skills.

Evaluation

A pre and posttest, DIBELS and/or Reading A-Z, will measure development of early emergent readers, emergent readers, early fluent readers and fluent readers. An end of the year assessment will indicate a 10% growth in fluency and comprehension skills.



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Scaling Up

As additional students, families, and volunteers request Outside the Box Dropout Prevention, we can no longer, on our own, meet the out-of-school learning demands of our constituency without well-qualified, experienced, paid staff. We plan to scale up from a 20-student maximum to a 100-student capacity.

Funding

In Montopolis, educational, occupational and economical inequality perpetuates a never-ending cycle of dropouts, poverty and juvenile delinquency. The Million Minute Learning Project will provide students in grades, PK-12, most at-risk of dropping out of school due to low academic, social and/or language skills, access to quality, year-round, out-of-school learning, in a format they understand. Funds will be used to deliver 9600 hours of direct academic learning to close the achievement gap between low and high-income youth. We will recruit and secure 100-students and coordinate family engagement events to empower all students to engage in challenging course work and better prepare for college, career and a future economy driven by technology-based jobs.

Total Amount Requested for the Program: \$84,640.

Total Cost of the Program: \$253,920.