



SwimATX

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FACT SHEET

Background Information

The Aquatics Division of the City of Austin Parks and Recreation Department participated in a pilot project with the YMCA and Austin Independent School District to form SwimATX. SwimATX:

- *Teaches high school students swimming skills*
- *Provides an opportunity for students to earn their lifeguard certification*
- *Provides an opportunity for high school students to gain employment as a lifeguard with the City of Austin and/or the YMCA*
- *Allows students to earn PE credits*

The program goals are to train and to recruit a diverse workforce that is reflective of the Austin community, to promote healthy activities that can be enjoyed at any age, and to promote water safety awareness.

The partnership consists of service agreement with the YMCA and an interlocal agreement with the Austin Independent School District. As part of the agreement, the City of Austin and YMCA recruit students to participate, allow the students' access to both PARD and YMCA facilities at no charge, provide staff to teach and lifeguard swim lessons, and offer a single point of contact for participating students. Financial assistance is made available by the City of Austin through scholarships to the Red Cross Lifeguard Certification Course, valued at \$250 per student. Additionally, the YMCA provides swimsuits and goggles at no charge. Austin Independent School District identifies up to 200 students per school year, assigns a physical education teacher to accompany and to supervise students, provides transportation to and from the swim facilities, and provides lunch for students participating in the Red Cross lifeguard certification course.

Pilot programs were held at John H. Reagan Early College High School and Lyndon Baines Johnson (LBJ) Early College High School in the 2015 spring semester.

Current Status

Swim ATX remains active a Reagan High School and started its first semester with Eastside Memorial in January 2017. As of the prior Fall 2016 semester, 127 students have participated, 68 signed up for the lifeguard certification course, 43 passed the course, and seven are currently employed by the City of Austin.

The City of Austin looks forward to continuing what has proven to be a successful partnership with the YMCA and Austin Independent School District and to provide more exposure to more students in additional school campuses. This program will offer the students the opportunity to improve upon their swimming abilities and to gain eligible employment all while earning PE credit.

On February 9, 2016, Contracts and Concessions Committee members received a briefing from the Aquatics Division Manager.

Staff Lead

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