

## PROJECT LET'S ELIMINATE AT-RISK NEEDS (LEARN)

### *Organization's Background and Need for the Project*

Since 1990, Lamar Consolidated Independent School District (LCISD), through Project LEARN, has provided Adult, Parenting, Early Childhood, and Tutorial education to LCISD families, while incorporating Intergenerational Literacy Activities. The program increases the academic success of LCISD children by providing educational opportunities to families and encouraging increased parental involvement. Project LEARN serves between 90-120 families per year. Currently the program averages approximately 2.5 children per family. Using this calculation, approximately 225 – 300 children from ages 0-5<sup>th</sup> grade will be served.

The literacy needs of these families are further addressed through weekly parenting classes, monthly home visits, and daily parent and child together (PACT) time. Afternoon and evening adult classes are provided concurrently with early childhood, pre-kindergarten (Pre-K), kindergarten, and school-aged tutorial classes. Many LCISD children and parents have low English proficiency and are of low socio-economic status. In the Lamar district these students are considered “at-risk” of dropping out of school. The program proposes to address the literacy needs of these families by providing early childhood classes, adult education classes, PACT time, and after school tutoring for children from kindergarten through fifth grade.

By providing educational assistance to all family members, Project LEARN can help the school district increase the reading readiness of children from kindergarten through second grade (TPRI/Tejas LEE), help the district increase the scores of state mandated testing for participating students from third through fifth grade (TAKS), provide early childhood students with educational activities to prepare them for school, and provide Adult Education (reading, writing and conversation skills) so that parents can better communicate with school district employees and increase their socio-economic status.

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Program achievements include:

- Recognized for outstanding progress of adult students by TEA and Texas LEARNS in 2004-2005 with students progressing at even higher rates in subsequent years
- Recognized as a Program of Excellence for superior performance with family literacy, by Reading is Fundamental (RIF) in 2007

<u><b>Assessment</b></u>	<b>2003-2004</b>	<b>2004-2005</b>	<b>2005-2006</b>	<b>2006-2007</b>
District Reading Readiness Assessment for <i>children</i> from Kindergarten to 2nd Grade (TPRI/Tejas LEE)	<b>93%</b>	<b>93%</b>	<b>*80%</b>	<b>92%</b>
State Standard	80%	75%	75%	75%
<b>Adult Oral Assessment (Best Plus)</b>	<b>63%</b>	<b>71%</b>	<b>81%</b>	<b>85%</b>
State Standard	65%	65%	66%	67%
* <b>Please Note:</b> 2005-2006 was the start of the District's dual-language program. A number of LEARN students who had previously been learning the English language through our program were enrolled in Kindergarten as Dual Language students and were immersed in classes that were 90% Spanish, 10% English.				

**Reading instruction** will be delivered using age appropriate reading curricula and will be appropriate for diverse populations. Students will receive reading instruction during PACT time and during regular classroom instruction. Parents will learn why reading is beneficial to children, how to read aloud with confidence, and how to access written material for the home. All **EC classes** emphasize pre-reading and provide a source of activities for teachers.

To be eligible for the program: families must meet the qualifications of the free and reduced lunch program, live in the Lamar School district, and participating adults must need English as a Second Language (ESL) or Adult Basic Education (ABE) classes to prepare for the GED. (e.g. The majority of participants who apply to the program are of Hispanic descent, with some African American participation.