

# Alief Independent School District

## Kennedy Elementary

### 2022-2023 Comprehensive Needs Assessment

**Accountability Rating: A**

**Distinction Designations:**

Academic Achievement in English Language Arts/Reading

Academic Achievement in Mathematics

Top 25 Percent: Comparative Academic Growth



**KENNEDY**  
ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

*Pride Spirit Tradition*

**Alief** Independent  
School  
District

# Mission Statement

Our mission is to work collaboratively with all stakeholders in the Alief Community to provide differentiation, high expectations, and a rigorous academic curriculum that prepares all students to perform at their fullest potential,

## Vision

Kennedy Elementary is committed to creating a culture of excellence where scholars are able to excel academically, behaviorally, and socially while empowering ALL students to become lifelong learners and active problem solvers,

## Value Statement

- Sustain a positive culture and climate
- Strengthen first line instruction
- Consistently integrate writing in all content areas
- Regularly analyze data using appropriate protocols to drive instruction
- Maintain a consistent vision with a sense of urgency

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# Comprehensive Needs Assessment

## Demographics

### Demographics Summary

Kennedy Elementary opened its doors in the fall of 1975, founded by Alief Independent School District, in honor of an Alief student whose mother worked as a nurse for the district. Student enrollment is approximately 544 students with 57% of those students being Bilingual, 95% being free/reduced lunch, and 14 (1st-4th graders) being identified as Gifted and Talented.

### Demographics Strengths

Our strengths include:

- Attendance
- Consistency of neighborhood (established homes)

### Problem Statements Identifying Demographics Needs

**Problem Statement 1:** At Kennedy, we have a high population of English Language Learners and students that are new to the country.

# Student Achievement

## Student Achievement Summary

The following programs are in place to meet the needs of all students in the 2021-2022 school year.

- RtI and STAT (monthly STAT meetings)
- Computer interventions (iStation, iready)
- Long Term Planning days
- BOY Diagnostic
- Common Based Assessments (CBA)
- TEA interim Assessments
- Data Analysis using School City
- Circle Assessment (Pre-K)
- Grade level tracking sheets

## Student Achievement Strengths

Reading/Language Arts Strengths for Kennedy:

- Weekly planning sessions with teachers
- Long range planning sessions
- Interventionists collaborating with classroom teachers to identify students who would benefit from their program
- Teachers using CBA results to drive instruction
- Small group instruction targeted to individual needs
- Small group instruction binders used daily by teachers
- Additional support provided by the Instructional Leadership Team (ILT) through programs such as Title I, coaching, modeling, and collaborative instruction
- Writing integrated in all content areas
- Teams formed to ensure systematic writing progress in K - 4th grades

- Student work samples viewed at PLC

#### Math Strengths for Kennedy:

- Weekly planning sessions with teachers
- Long range planning sessions
- Math content specialists collaborating with classroom teachers to identify students who would benefit from math interventions
- Teachers using Math-In-Focus, CBA results to drive instruction
- Additional support provided by the Instructional Leadership Team (ILT) through programs such as coaching, modeling, and collaborative instruction

#### Social Studies Strengths for Kennedy:

- Thinking Maps and Anchor Charts are incorporated into Social Studies Lessons to extend thinking.
- Pearson Digital Online Resources available to all K-4th grade teachers to seamlessly integrate technology into their weekly instruction.

#### Science Strengths for Kennedy:

- Science is being taught 45 minutes every day in Kindergarten through 4th Grade and being introduced in Pre-K everyday.
- Thinking maps being utilized in science classrooms
- Science notebooks being used in Kindergarten through 4th grade
- Increased PLC and long range planning time for science
- Fourth grade classes connecting science and writing
- StemScopes supports the Five E model for all grade levels.

#### ELL Strengths for Kennedy:

- Teacher training in SIOP
- Data driven instruction
- Explicit Vocabulary Instruction
- Monthly SIOP walkthrough feedback
- English Language Development (ELD) interventions pull out/push in

#### Special Education/Section 504 strengths for Kennedy:

- In-class support

- Spelling inventories and personal spelling lists for students with IEPs
- Dyslexia intervention with identified students
- Snap and Read Computer Program
- Accelerated instruction provided
- Inclusion is taking place in all grades

### **Problem Statements Identifying Student Achievement Needs**

**Problem Statement 1:** ELL's and SE students are performing below the expected level on district assessments and STAAR

# School Culture and Climate

## School Culture and Climate Summary

Several strategies and initiatives have been implemented to address and influence student behaviors. These include: a focus on the positive by rewarding students with awards assemblies, principal's breakfast (All A honor roll), cougar of the week, cougar cash positive behavior referrals, Kindness club links, Behavior celebrations, and have after school clubs.

## School Culture and Climate Strengths

### Strengths

- CHAMPS and Boys Town Skills has been implemented schoolwide.
- Teachers who have had Student Assistance Program (SAP) training are implementing it in the classroom.
- The ACE Club serves selected 4th grade boys.
- The GAP Club serves selected 4th grade girls.
- Student Council serves 4th grade students.
- After school enrichments such as STEM Club, Carpentry Club, Kindness Club, After School Program and Learning Together
- Guest Speakers and Special Programs for: Anti-Bullying, Drug Free Schools and Career Week.

## Problem Statements Identifying School Culture and Climate Needs

**Problem Statement 1:** The discipline referrals for physical aggression continue to be more than a quarter of all referrals.



# Staff Quality, Recruitment, and Retention

## Staff Quality, Recruitment, and Retention Summary

Kennedy Elementary will continue to strive for the highest quality staff. In order to support our teachers, we will continue to have weekly planning meetings with support from content specialists to ensure grade level TEKS are being implemented. Each grade level will also continue to participate in Professional Learning Communities (PLC) to analyze data, determine desired results, and create a plan for small group and whole class intervention strategies. Campus professional development will also be used to build capacity in teachers and is based on need.

## Staff Quality, Recruitment, and Retention Strengths

### Strengths

- Struggling teacher's supported through mentoring and ILT
- Morale building and team building activities take place throughout the year.
- PLC team planning and Long Range Planning support teachers in first line instruction.
- Continuous opportunities for Professional Development help ensure that staff members continue to refine their skills.

## Problem Statements Identifying Staff Quality, Recruitment, and Retention Needs

**Problem Statement 1:** Highly qualified teachers are difficult to recruit.

# Curriculum, Instruction, and Assessment

## Curriculum, Instruction, and Assessment Summary

Kennedy Elementary staff members strive for continuous student growth through the implementation of the following

- Current Texas TEKS
- Alief ISD Pacing Guides
- Exemplary first line instruction
- Ongoing student assessment
- Data driven instruction

## Curriculum, Instruction, and Assessment Strengths

Strengths:

Student achievement is directly linked to curriculum, instruction, and student assessment. Kennedy has many programs in place to support and continuously improve:

- First line instruction
- Implementation of TEKS/Pacing Guides
- Interventions/RtI

## Problem Statements Identifying Curriculum, Instruction, and Assessment Needs

**Problem Statement 1:** ELL's and SE students are performing below the expected level on district assessments and STAAR

# Parent and Community Engagement

## Parent and Community Engagement Summary

Kennedy Elementary has a Family Engagement Center that is open virtually via zoom and face to face. Our Family Center Liaison organizes classes, activities, and guest speakers throughout the year for parents. Each month there is also at least one Family event outside of the Family Center, either at night or during the school day, to which parents and families are invited. Each semester there are also opportunities for parents to meet with the Principal, or to observe in their children's classrooms.

## Parent and Community Engagement Strengths

Strengths:

Kennedy continues to build positive relationships and with parents and the community through various events. Our strengths include:

- Parent participation in the Family Center
- Parents volunteering in different areas throughout the school (VIPS)
- Increase in attendance for evening events
- Administrators and staff provide support for Family Center events
- Off-campus events such as Alief Proud Day
- Informational sessions about parenting, health, community resources, safety, and academics
- Community partnerships with organizations such as the Star of Hope and Rice University provide opportunities for field trips for Student Council members, GT students, and all 4th grade students.
- Jumpstart Program for three years olds
- Rosetta Stone software Program for language development for parents

## Problem Statements Identifying Parent and Community Engagement Needs

**Problem Statement 1:** Parents do not have a high attendance for academic nights.

# School Context and Organization

## School Context and Organization Summary

The Master Schedule here at Kennedy Elementary is based upon self-contained and blocked classes. Our staff is 100% highly qualified, and 93% of our classroom teachers were here last year. Many of our teachers have taught multiple grades over the years, which provides a real understanding of vertical alignment in instruction.

Kennedy has a strong Instructional Leadership Team (ILT) which includes specialists in math, reading, science, social studies, technology, RTI, special education (in class support), and interventionists. The ILT participates in ongoing Professional Development Training related to their areas of specialization, which allows them to assist teachers with planning, provide training, model lessons, conduct PLCs and offer coaching and guidance as needed.

Kennedy Staff Members serve on a variety of committees, are elected to the SDC, and actively participate in team planning, PLCs, and Professional Development throughout the year. This allows staff members to analyze student data, reflect on current practices, and make decisions regarding assessment and instruction which are designed to improve student performance.

Our Family Engagement Center takes a leadership role in providing opportunities for parents to become involved in the life of our school. Parents are also encouraged to serve on the FAME Committee and on the SDC.

## School Context and Organization Strengths

Strengths:

- Kindergarten schedule allows students to have a break in their academic instruction by scheduling Block Specials in the middle of the day.
- Computer interventions are provided for targeted practice in reading and math.
- Monthly special events for families, including Family Nights or daytime events such as Sing-alongs and Field Day.
- Learning Together program supports 2nd and 4th grade students.
- Additional PK aide to help support students instructionally

## Problem Statements Identifying School Context and Organization Needs

**Problem Statement 1:** Staff typically need to be persuaded to facilitate a club or group.

# Technology

## Technology Summary

Technology Smart Goal: Kennedy will be ranked as recognized or exemplary on the Digital Learning Environment indicator as it pertains to the Student and Engagement Accountability System.

## Technology Strengths

Strengths:

Kennedy Elementary has a well-balanced amount of technology to support classroom learning. Teachers use interactive boards in conjunction with document cameras to teach content. Students utilize computers in their classroom for small group rotations. Aside from in-classroom technology, teachers can check out laptops or science iPads to do research, projects, or extensions. Teachers can also go to the library and work on laptops or library iPads.

## Problem Statements Identifying Technology Needs

**Problem Statement 1:** Our campus infrastructure is unable to support a large number of devices.