

## OUR MISSION

KIPP Austin Public Schools will empower under-served students to strengthen the academic skills, intellectual habits, and character traits necessary to thrive in, and graduate from, four-year colleges and universities, giving them the freedom to shape their futures and positively affect their communities.

## OUR VALUES

Courage  
Tenacity  
Honor  
Community  
Quality

## OUR SCHOOLS



**"RECOGNIZED"  
SCHOOL**

(2008, 2009)

– Texas Education Agency



**"EXEMPLARY"  
SCHOOL**

(2009)

– Texas Education Agency

## WHO WE ARE

We are part of the national "Knowledge Is Power Program" movement, a network of free, open-enrollment charter schools dedicated to closing the achievement gap for underserved students. The KIPP model has been heralded by media nationwide, including *The New York Times*, the *Washington Post*, *Newsweek*, "60 Minutes", "ABC World News", and many more.

## WHAT WE DO

Through a combination of high expectations, a focus on results, and a belief that demographics do not define destiny, KIPP Austin prepares students for success through excellent teaching, more time on task, wellness programs, and supportive relationships.

We begin with recruiting only the very best teachers that have had proven success in the classroom. Students attend school from 7:30 AM to 5:00 PM, Saturday school twice a month, and for three weeks during the summer. Daily physical education and a nutrition program ensure our students are physically fit to learn. In addition, every KIPP Austin student has close relationships with teachers, advisors, and other adults at school to help them climb the mountain to college.

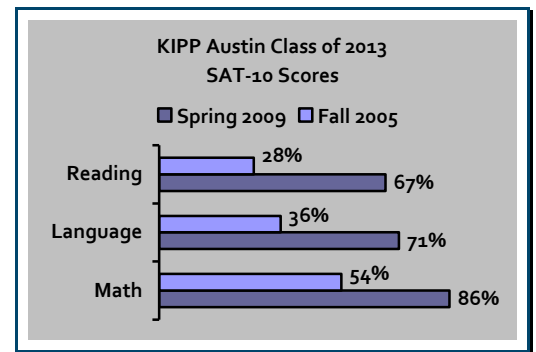
## WHY WE EXIST

Nationwide, less than 10 percent of low-income students attend college: this staggering fact simply perpetuates the cycle of poverty. The situation in Austin is no different: fewer than half of all high school graduates in Austin ISD are ready for college. For students who are African-American or Hispanic, the outcomes are far worse. In 2005, 1,977 African-American and Hispanic Austin area students graduated from high school – and only 150 scored at or above the minimum college admissions exam criterion.

KIPP Austin was established in 2002 to address this problem. 91% of our students come from low-income families and qualify for the federally subsidized meal program. 94% of students are Hispanic and 5% are African American. KIPP Austin Public Schools currently serves grades 5-10 in three schools.

## KIPP AUSTIN'S SUCCESS

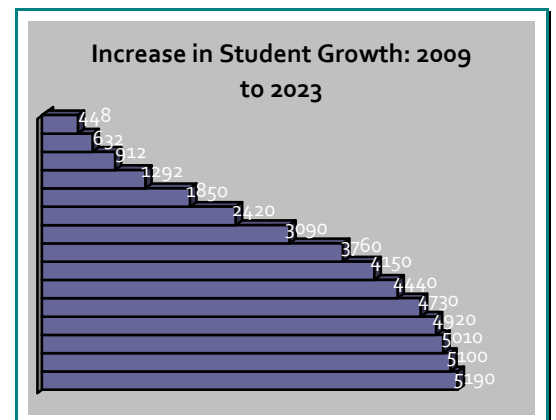
The proof that our model works is demonstrated in the remarkable growth of our students. The average 5<sup>th</sup> grader enters KIPP Austin reading at a third grade level; some do not speak, read, or write in English. After four years of intensive academics at KIPP Austin, these same students leave 8<sup>th</sup> grade out-performing their peers across the state. The chart below demonstrates typical student growth at KIPP Austin.



## KIPP AUSTIN'S FUTURE

In response to the ever-increasing demand, KIPP Austin will grow from a middle school and high school to a full pre-K through 12 school system, with ten schools on two campuses.

By 2023, we will serve over 5,000 low-income students, more than tripling the number of college-ready underserved students in the Austin area.



## KIPP AUSTIN PILLARS

### High Expectations

KIPP Austin Public Schools are characterized by explicitly defined and observably high expectations for behavior and academic achievement. We have created an atmosphere in which every minute of every day is considered valuable learning time for students.

### Choice and Commitment

Students, their parents and the faculty make a choice to be at our schools. Everyone must make and uphold a commitment to one another to put forth the time and effort required to attain educational success.

### More Time on Task

We believe that there are no shortcuts to academic success. A longer school day, week and year are necessary for students to prepare academically, socially and culturally for competitive colleges.

### Power to Lead

As a network of public charter schools, KIPP Austin Public Schools operates as an independent school district in the state of Texas. Principals have control over their budgets and personnel at their schools and exercise authority to implement the curriculum, programs and policies that will maximize student success.

### Focus on Results

KIPP Austin Public Schools focus on results: quantitative results such as student achievement on standardized tests and other objective measures, as well as qualitative results such as student leadership, engagement in community service, and the development of musical, theatrical and artistic expression.

### Character Education

All students at KIPP Austin Public Schools develop traits that will help them succeed in life and contribute to their communities. These traits include resiliency, persistence, curiosity, leadership and team skills, and meaningful community service that gives students a sense of how their personal academic success can be used to benefit the larger community.

### Nutrition and Fitness

School-based fitness and nutrition programs help students attain better physical health and improve academic performance. KIPP Austin Public Schools has developed an innovative fitness and nutrition program that includes elements recommended by the Task Force for Access to Health Care in Texas, such as regular physical education during the week, extracurricular team and individual sports, nutrition education that is integrated into the core curriculum content and a vegetable garden on campus.

### Supportive Relationships

Every KIPP Austin Public Schools student has close relationships with teachers and other adults at school, and all students have advisors who work closely with them and their families. Through our KIPP Alumni Services Program, we continue to maintain ties with our alumni long after they have moved on to higher education. These relationships ensure students receive the support and resources they need to prepare for higher education and for life.

## VISIT KIPP AUSTIN

To learn more about KIPP Austin, or to schedule a visit and see our amazing students and teachers in action, contact Tess Williford in the Development Department at (512) 501-3643 x204.



*5<sup>th</sup> graders eager to share their knowledge during math class.*



*Principal Freddy Gonzalez gets students ready to learn during morning assembly.*



*Students learn about climbing the mountain to college in Utah's national parks.*



*KIPster Noemi R. and her proud dad.*



*Math teacher Sheila Ogden working with students.*



*Food & Garden Club students show off their harvest from KIPP's organic garden.*