

## THE PROGRAM

Austin PALS (Peer Assistance, Leadership & Service) is a peer mentoring program at every level- elementary, middle and through high school.

PALS (the mentors) are trained by either a classroom teacher or counselor with a focus on their social emotional learning (SEL) skills and what it means to be a mentor. They are then assigned to PALees (younger mentees) with whom they meet regularly.

Austin PALS is a curriculum-based program, approved by the Texas Education Agency as an elective course. As a youth empowerment and cross-age peer mentoring program, it has served thousands of AISD students since it was founded at Crockett High School in 1980.

PALS trains students to be peer mentors and role models to students at their own campuses, and—in the case of middle and high school PALS—feeder middle and/or elementary schools. The PALS Program promotes an ethos of service, skills, and community-mindedness for PALS and PALees alike.

### AUSTIN PALS CAMPAIGN FOR THE FUTURE

*Holly Powell Lange and Heather C. Powell,  
 Campaign Co-Chairs*

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## THE LEGACY

Founded in 1980 by career educator H. Grant Thomas, the Peer Assistance Leadership and Service (PALS) Program is singularly focused on improving the lives of students in the Austin area through mentoring. Grant assembled a team of educational and student leaders committed to the cause and, 40 years later, PALS has been proven and recognized as an effective and essential tool to achieve a variety of long-term outcomes in the lives of students, mentors and teachers while in the process, transforming school culture.

**AUSTIN PALS** | CAMPAIGN FOR THE FUTURE

**PEER TO PEER MENTORING**  
Ensure leadership, mentoring and peer-to-peer assistance in the Austin community for our children, while creating tomorrow's leaders. This campaign will reinforce the important work being done within the Austin Independent School District.

**NETWORK**  
Create a supportive network of our graduates into the PAL Alumni Network.

**ONCE A PAL...**

**FUTURE SUCCESS**  
The time has come to insure the next 40 years. Our goal of \$1,000,000 will provide uninterrupted support for the program.

**ALWAYS A PAL.**

## THE PALS

PALS are students trained in mentoring and leadership in cooperation with AISD's Counseling, SEL, and Trust-Based Relational Intervention staff, as well as district-approved outside facilitators. PALS work with students at their own campuses and at feeder schools in their vertical teams to mentor, role-model and implement community service projects.

PALeers are younger students who are mentored by older PALS. They typically spend 30-40 minutes per week with a carefully trained older PAL.

*Currently, PALS Programs are in 14 AISD High Schools, 7 middle schools, 31 elementary schools, and growing: serving thousands of students across the district.*



Contributions to the campaign, held at the Austin Community Foundation, are not only life-changing for the beneficiaries but also tax-deductible for the donor. We can think of one million reasons to continue on the work that Grant began 40 years ago. We hope you will consider investing in the future of PALS.

DONATE

For additional information, please contact Heather Powell at 512.921.3417 or [heather@rootsre.com](mailto:heather@rootsre.com).