



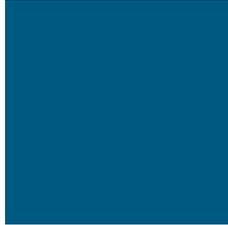
ANNUAL REPORT 2019-2020



The University of Texas at Austin
University of Texas Elementary School

THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT AUSTIN
UNIVERSITY ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
2019–2020 ANNUAL REPORT

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MESSAGE FROM THE VICE PRESIDENT **LaToya Smith**

Dear UT Elementary School Family,

This year more than ever, we owe the administrators, teachers and staff at UT Elementary School our gratitude. They navigated a difficult year while maintaining high standards for academic excellence and providing the support our students needed during the pandemic. The school's model Social and Emotional Learning initiative was key to making sure students felt safe during an uncertain time, even as families found their lives disrupted by COVID-19.

I have been the Vice President for Diversity and Community Engagement for less than a year now, but quickly learned of UT Elementary School's value to our Longhorn community as well as East Austin. Dr. Chavez, Dr. Whetstone and their team have nurtured a culture that enables students and families to participate in a supportive learning community that brings out the very best in every child. The school's role in helping train students from the university's College of Education to become excellent teachers is invaluable as well. You will learn more about the UT Elementary School mission and accomplishments in this year's annual report. The report is a reflection of the educational experiences that we wish every child in the state could have and demonstrates why the university values this outstanding school so much.

With best wishes,

Dr. LaToya C. Smith

*Vice President for Diversity and Community Engagement
Professor of Practice, College of Education, The University of Texas at Austin*



MESSAGE FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT

Melissa Chavez

Dear UT Elementary Families, Partners and Supporters,

After reviewing the student achievement data from the last two school years and the feedback from our family and staff surveys, we have learned what is working for our students and where changes should be made. We have concluded that remote education is not the best way for all of our students to learn. Online learning is a complimentary educational strategy for us to use, but our students perform better, and feel better, when they have in-person interaction with their peers and their teachers.

Core academics are important and they are the reason why we are here. However, students become more engaged and some students grow just as much academically through the interactivity of STEAM, Physical Education, Music and the fun of learning other languages and cultures. We also realized just how critical Social-Emotional Learning and family support is to rigorous academics for our school community.

To help our students overcome any academic losses, our team created plans for the next three school years that include: extending our calendar, holding Saturday classes, offering free summer school and hiring a social worker. In addition, we are hiring a new Social Emotional Learning director who will implement new strategies to support teachers, students and families. These steps have been specifically designed to meet the needs of each individual child we serve.

We look forward to a safe return to campus and the excitement of our new programs.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Melissa M. Chavez". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Melissa M. Chavez, Ph.D.
*Associate Vice President and Superintendent,
The University of Texas Charter School System,
The University of Texas at Austin*

TEACHER OF THE YEAR

Lucy McCoy

Lucy McCoy has been a teacher with UT Elementary for four years but has been teaching since she was 18. Lucy realized she had a passion for helping children when she started assisting a family member who has severe autism. This experience made her understand she was good at—and found joy in—helping children realize their full potential. Lucy said that with her teaching, she wants to: “empower my students to be proud of their efforts and successes, and even from their mistakes and how they can learn from them.”

Lucy was nominated by her peers, in part, because of her collaboration with other teachers. Lucy is campus leader in the area of English Language Arts (ELA), where she has helped her fellow teachers find and use resources as well as providing them with professional development on writing instruction. She has been a mentor to many teachers and offered model lessons for ELA instruction. Lucy said: “I never learn more than I do when working with the teachers, and the team at UTES is more like a village—all striving for the best of our kiddos!”

Lucy is currently pursuing a master’s degree in Teacher Mentoring, Leadership, and Professional Development under the Curriculum and Instruction Department at UT Austin. It is because of her expertise, commitment to the students and her willingness to assist her fellow educators that Lucy is the UT Elementary Teacher of the Year.





STAFF OF THE YEAR **Jennifer Montoya**

In many ways, Jennifer Montoya is the face of UT Elementary. Jennifer is one of the first people you meet when you come to UT Elementary. She works in the reception area and greets every student, parent and guest who comes to our school or calls on the phone. But behind the greetings, her role is much more complex.

Jennifer's main role is as the school's registrar, ensuring registrations, attendance, reporting and our admissions lottery are all accurate and complete. In addition, she helps communicate important messages to parents through phone, email, and the various channels the school uses. Jennifer explained: "Parents are busy, and they may be unsure. It is our role to be patient and help them understand everything they need to know about their child's education."

Eight years ago, Jennifer started as a part-time cafeteria monitor when her children were Little Longhorns. Over the years, she has increasingly taken new positions and duties, but she remembers the real reason we are all at the school: the students. She knows that the most important thing is that everyone in the school has a role to play in educating the students. Jennifer said: "From us, the children will learn SEL aspects like how to be nice, how to greet each other and how to show respect."



ROOKIE OF THE YEAR **Thomas Howard**

Thomas Howard is our new second grade teacher who comes to UT Elementary after having been a teacher in Alabama and South Carolina. His first year here was as part of the powerhouse second grade team with Teacher of the Year Lucy McCoy, and his hard work was noticed by the school.

Thomas was nominated for Rookie of the Year by his peers because his work with both students and teachers stood out. He is known as being very calm and respectful with the students, which leads to the students feeling very comfortable in his class. The teachers noted that he is a great source of positivity and community for everyone. Thomas has taken the steps to learn and implement the values of our school, and we are excited to see what his second year brings.



Little Longhorn Gardens Sprout to Life

In the winter of 2019-2020, UT Elementary found opportunities to replace the school gardens that had been displaced during the construction of our new building. Our school was awarded a \$2,500 grant from Austin Public Health, and we raised \$800 during a HornRaiser campaign. For the remainder of 2020, the gardens remained on hold until more students returned to campus and Ms. Calvin could create STEAM lessons around the gardens.

After the February freeze, Ms. Calvin purchased garden boxes, soil and plants. Each class built their own planter box, researched the components of soil and determined the ratios of soil to compost that should be put in each box. After preparing the garden beds, the kids put on their new gloves and put the seedlings in the soil. At the end of May, students were able to harvest tomatoes, herbs and a few peppers, and every student had the opportunity to sample something they had grown.

We are incredibly grateful to everyone who helped make our new gardens possible. The next time you are on our campus, make sure you stop by and see what is growing.



UT Elementary Founding Board Member Retires

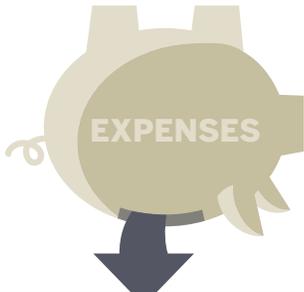
Dr. Edwin Sharpe has played many, many roles at the University of Texas and the University of Texas system since arriving on the Forty Acres as a freshman in 1964. He has been a student, a graduate student, a professor, a vice president, and a vice chancellor. But one of his greatest contributions to the university has been establishing the UT Elementary School, along with the late Dan Burck, former Chancellor of the UT System, and Dr. Marina Walne, a lifelong educator.

Sharpe is often called the “godfather” of the school and has attended every school management board meeting for the past 17 years—170 in all.

Dr. Melissa Chavez, superintendent for the UT Charter School System says, “I have learned what it truly means to be a transformational leader by sharing the leadership role of the school with Dr. Sharpe for almost two decades. He has been my coach, mentor and friend. The school community loves him very much and he will be dearly missed.”

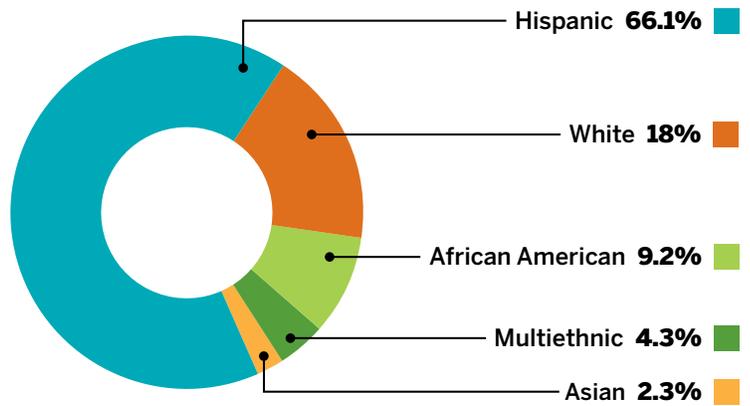
REVENUE & EXPENSES

State Funding	75%
UT Austin	13%
Philanthropic Gifts	4%
Federal Funding	6%
Earned Income	2%
\$3,402,924	100%

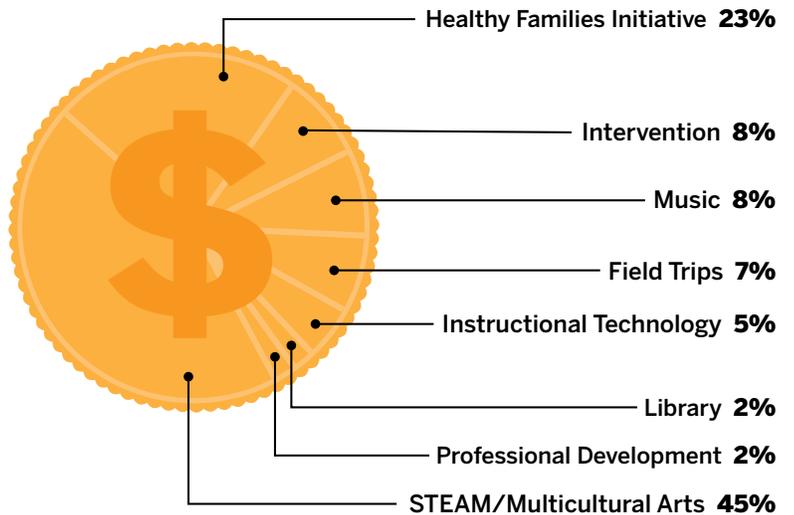


Instruction	60%
Plant Maintenance & Operations	7%
General Administration	7%
School Leadership	7%
Development	6%
Food Service	6%
Guidance, Counseling & Evaluation Services	2%
Instructional Resources & Media Services	2%
Student Transportation	1%
Health Services	1%
Curriculum & Staff Development	1%
\$3,454,991	100%

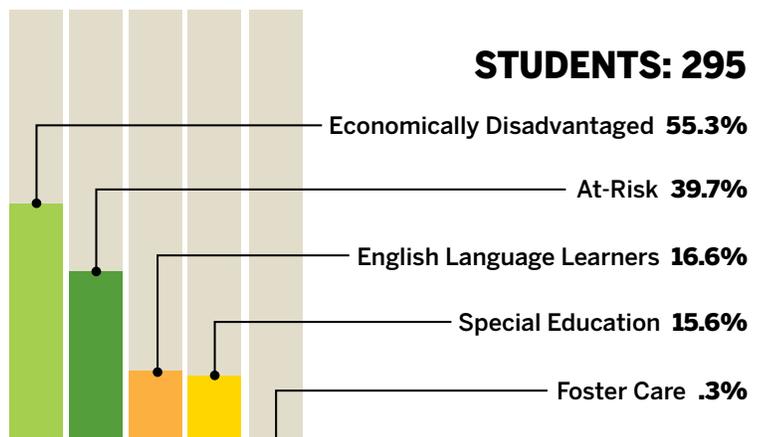
STUDENT DEMOGRAPHICS



PHILANTHROPIC GIFT EXPENDITURES



STUDENT POPULATION



Data based on 2019-2020 audited financials and the Texas Academic Performance Report.
More information is available on our website under the Public Information section.



The University of Texas at Austin
University of Texas Elementary School

MISSION

- 1.** To develop students into lifelong learners through rigorous, research-based curricula, individualized instruction, high expectations, and a nurturing environment that includes parental and community involvement;
- 2.** To provide opportunities for professional development and outreach for The University of Texas at Austin's academic units; and
- 3.** To serve as a model of an exemplary educational program for diverse learners.

VISIT US ONLINE
<https://utelementary.org>

THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS ELEMENTARY SCHOOL MANAGEMENT BOARD

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Superintendent (*Non-Voting*)



The University of Texas at Austin
**Division of Diversity and
Community Engagement**

The University of Texas Elementary School is a unit within
the Division of Diversity and Community Engagement at The University of Texas at Austin.