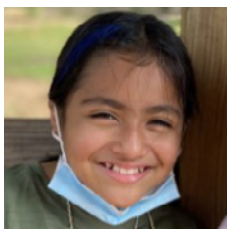




THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS ELEMENTARY SCHOOL **2021-2022 ANNUAL REPORT**



The University of Texas at Austin
University of Texas
Elementary School



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MESSAGE FROM THE VICE PRESIDENT

LaToya Smith

Dear Longhorn Family,

UT Elementary School is a unique public charter school not only in our UT Division of Diversity and Community Engagement portfolio, but in Austin. We have a great deal of Longhorn pride for the school's commitment to best practices in urban education and to creating a learning community where students, pre-service teachers, and educators thrive.

The UT Elementary School margin of excellence programming has helped provide students with valuable enrichment programming such as music, STEAM, Spanish, the Healthy Families initiative, and Social and Emotional Learning—programming that can change a child's life. Each year, former Little Longhorns like Frank Roe and Wynter Winston, who you will read about in this annual report, make their mark in colleges and universities across Texas, including UT Austin, and attribute their academic success to UT Elementary. We are so proud of both Frank and Wynter, as well as our outstanding teachers and staff honored on these pages. Congratulations to all of them!

We appreciate the support of so many Longhorn alumni, faculty, and staff as well as UT Elementary families and friends. We hope you will join us in celebrating the educational excellence of the school and the Little Longhorns who attend.

Best wishes,

Dr. LaToya C. Smith

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



MESSAGE FROM THE ASSOCIATE VICE PRESIDENT **Melissa Chavez**

Dear UT Elementary Families, Partners and Supporters,

As we reflect over the past year, the common theme seems to be change. And change is good.

For UT Elementary's Management Board, it was the first time in seventeen years that we held a board meeting without founding Board Member Dr. Edwin Sharpe. Dr. Sharpe retired last spring and we sincerely wish him a wonderful retirement. Dr. Sherry Field agreed to lead as chair and we are grateful for her leadership.

Thanks to ESSER Funding, we were able to bring on an Extended Learning Coordinator to lead educational programming, including afterschool tutoring, weekend programs and an expanded summer school program. We also brought on a SEL Coordinator to increase opportunities in the classroom, expand offerings to teachers and families, and to oversee the social work interns offering direct service to students.

There have also been changes in the school leadership. Lily Dominguez who was formerly UT Elementary's counselor was promoted to Principal. Dr. Nicole Whetstone, who was the Deputy Superintendent is now the Superintendent of the UT Charter School System. I remain the Executive Director of the Charter School System and Associate Vice President for the Division of Diversity and Community Engagement.

Change is also a constant in life. Our teachers and school leaders are using our changes as opportunities to improve the academic programs we provide to students. We are grateful to our partners and Management Board who help guide our decisions and to the families that believe that the University of Texas Elementary School is the best choice for their child.

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, The Division of Diversity and Community Engagement
The University of Texas at Austin
Executive Director, The University of Texas Charter School System*

UTES 2021-2022 Faculty and Staff Recognitions

UT Elementary faculty and staff nominate colleagues to be recognized as the Teacher of the Year, Staff of the Year and Rookie of the Year. Congratulations to our 2021-2022 award winners!

TEACHER OF THE YEAR **Norma Robinson**

Entering kindergarten is a major transition for many students and their parents. But when kindergartners enter Ms. Norma Robinson's classroom, they are welcomed with engaging lessons to encourage their curiosity and the warmth of a caring teacher to put them at ease. Robinson also greets parents with the same warmth and care, paving the way for positive relationships with the parents, many of whom will be away from their children for the first time. One of the reasons Robinson was nominated for Teacher of the Year is due to her dedication to developing strong relationships with students, parents and colleagues.

One of her nominators wrote: "She goes above and beyond to help her students succeed and builds strong relationships with her parents." Others noted that she is always willing to help out, plans amazing lessons and treats staff like family.

Congratulations to Norma Robinson, our Teacher of the Year.



UTES 2021-2022 Faculty and Staff Recognitions



STAFF OF THE YEAR **Athziry Loredo**

Teachers at UT Elementary depend on instructional aides to help work with students who need additional support academically or behaviorally. This year, instructional aide Ms. Athziry Loredo was named Staff of the Year. Loredo is being recognized due to her dedication to students and hard work. Whether she is tutoring students, cleaning, or preparing materials for the day, Loredo is always ready and willing to help however she can. UT Elementary School is incredibly grateful to have Loredo on our team and pleased to honor her as the Staff of the Year.



ROOKIE OF THE YEAR **Sarah Adler**

Third-grade teacher Ms. Sarah Adler is new to UT Elementary but not brand new to teaching. She graduated from UT Austin three years ago with a degree in education and taught in Dallas for two years before returning to Austin. Adler explained why she chose to become a teacher, “I’ve always dreamed of teaching since I was in elementary school myself. Being able to create a safe and loving environment where students feel empowered to learn is something I find so fulfilling.”

Adler was nominated by her fellow faculty members who enjoy working with her and appreciate her fun spirit that imbues her classroom. Adler noted that her classroom can sometimes be even funnier than you would expect. “As a newbie teacher standing at a healthy 5 feet tall — I quickly realized that it wouldn’t be hard for admin and other teachers to walk in and mistake me for a student, asking themselves, ‘Where is Adler?’ This is something that still always happens, even if I’m more used to it now!”

Celebrating Dr. Edwin R. Sharpe



On October 15, 2021, UT Elementary hosted the retirement celebration of Dr. Edwin R. Sharpe. Sharpe, who retired in the spring of 2021 after serving The University of Texas at Austin and The University of Texas System for 50 years, was a founding board member of UT Elementary and remained on the board for 17 years.

The celebration honoring Sharpe featured speakers who represented the breadth of his University of Texas career. Mrs. Vaughn Gross spoke about attending UT Austin with Dr. Sharpe, Dr. Victor Saenz described working with him in the College of Education's Educational Leadership Program, and both Dr. LaToya Smith and Dr. Melissa Chavez described being a student in a class taught by Dr. Sharpe.

Former UT Austin President and UT System Chancellor Dr. William Cunningham told the crowd gathered to honor Sharpe, that when he became University president, he followed the advice of his predecessor President Peter T. Flawn—he kept Dr. Sharpe nearby for his advice and leadership.

The evening culminated with the ceremonial ribbon cutting for the official naming of the UT Elementary Playground in honor of Dr. Sharpe.

OUTSTANDING EDUCATOR

Kameron Koeffler

Fifth-grade teacher Mr. Kameron Koeffler was honored as the Outstanding Educator of the Year by the Division for Learning Disabilities of the Council for Exceptional Children in January. Koeffler was nominated by Dr. Jessica Toste who is a UT University Charter School advisory board member and an associate professor in UT's Department of Special Education. She has conducted research at UT Elementary as well.

Said Toste, "As a trained special educator, I have seen Kameron translate his knowledge of evidence-based practices and disability into his classroom as a general education teacher. For his commitment to students with or at-risk for LD, as well as his passionate pursuit of diversity, equity and justice in education, I can think of no teacher more deserving of DLD's Outstanding Educator of the Year Award than Kameron Koeffler. He is truly the teacher that every parent dreams their child could have."

Koeffler completed his student teaching with Ms. Noura Wakim at UT Elementary and was hired as a third-grade teacher following his graduation from UT Austin's College of Education. In 2017, he was recognized as the Rookie of the Year for UT Elementary.



Remembering Chef Wayne and Ms. Lulu

UT Elementary lost two members of our school family during the last school year.

UT Elementary's beloved Chef Wayne passed away in early September 2021. Chef Wayne as a big man with a strong presence and he knew that his role at UT Elementary was about more than just preparing healthy food for the kids. "He treated the students with respect, and he made sure it was returned," said his supervisor Chef Kim Wilson. Chef Wayne took pride in ensuring every student said "good morning" and that they learned to use their words to ask for what they wanted.

In January 2022, longtime UT Elementary lunchroom monitor Ms. Lourdes 'Lulu' Bara Cardoza passed away. Cardoza helped raise many of our students and was close to many of our staff as she would watch their children after work. As an active member of the East Austin community, Cardoza touched the lives of many families, but she always made time for her daughter Ashley and her grandson Joshua.

Both Chef Wayne and Ms. Lulu will be dearly missed.



Annual Visualize Graduation Society Dinner Celebrates Founding Principal Dr. Treviño

After a two-year hiatus, UT Elementary held the annual Visualize Graduation Society dinner on April 21, 2022, where we honored our founding principal Dr. Ramona S. Treviño and highlighted the 'Margin of Excellence' programs that make UT Elementary special.

The theme of the evening was Always Teaching. Always Learning. For the program, Little Longhorns became the teachers and taught the audience their birthday month in Spanish, how to program a robot, and how to play the cello, demonstrating the skills they learned in the programs that contribute to the school's margin of excellence.

Mrs. Jeanne Klein introduced her longtime friend, Dr. Ramona Treviño, this year's Dan Burck Visionary Award honoree, noting Treviño's commitment to sharing the educational expertise of the University with the world. Mrs. Penny Burck and Dr. Melissa Chavez presented the Dan Burck Visionary Award to Treviño.

UT Elementary's Visualize Graduation Society (VGS) is a multi-year giving society for those who have pledged to invest at least \$1,000 per year of programmatic funds for a period of five years or more. VGS members play a critical role in helping UTES fulfill its mission as a research-based demonstration school that sets students on a successful path from Pre-Kindergarten through Ph.D.

Join our VGS Society today! Learn more at:

<https://utelementary.org/vgs/>



Mrs. Penny Burck and Dr. Melissa Chavez present the Dan Burck Visionary Award to UTES founding principal, Dr. Ramona Treviño.

Visualize Graduation Society

UT Elementary’s Visualize Graduation Society (VGS) is a multi-year giving society for those who have pledged to invest at least \$1,000 per year for a period of five years or more. VGS members play a critical role in helping UTES fulfill its mission as a research-based demonstration school that sets students on a successful path from Pre-Kindergarten through Ph.D.

Funds provided by VGS members directly support UT Elementary’s Margin of Excellence Programs. Our school framers believed that including these classes in our school was so important that they needed to be provided to every student. These classes are not included in our state funding, therefore, UT Elementary must fundraise around \$150,000 every year in their support.

UT Elementary’s Margin of Excellence Programs are:

- Health and Wellness
- STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Art and Math)
- Music Programs (including Orchestra, Strings and General Music)
- Social Emotional Learning

To learn more or join our giving society or our annual spring fundraiser, please contact Sharon at sharon.yarbrough@austin.utexas.edu.



Little Longhorns
Big Dreams

Visualize Graduation Society Levels of Support

Doctorate	Masters	Bachelors
\$25,000	\$12,500	\$5,000
\$5,000/yr	\$2,500/yr	\$1,000/yr
\$417/mo	\$208/mo	\$83/mo

2021 Visualize Graduation Society Members



DOCTORATE

Laura & Stephan Beuerlein
Julie & Pat Oles
The Stahl Family Foundation
F. Ford Smith

MASTERS

Sammy Antoun
Mallory & James Shaddix
Mimi & Allen Smith
Ken Snodgrass

BACHELORS

Mary & Jerry Bell
Leslie D. Blair
Penny Burck
Melissa M. Chavez
Wilmeter A. Haynes
Lou Ann & Bill Lasher
Cindy Y. Lo
Alice & Keith A. Maxie
Sarah Sharp
Molly & Ed Sharpe
Janice Slagter
Ronnie R. Volkening

SUSTAINING MEMBERS

Asha Lakshmi Allam
Lisa Avra
Janet Bates
David B. Bourland
Rae Ann Banda
Wendy Cluley
Barbara & David Gamble
Heidi Johnson
Sherry M. Melecki
Terry & Graham Quinn
Noura G. Wakim
James Walters
Pamela & George Willeford.

UT Elementary would also like to thank our special donors who have made significant contributions to improving our programs for students:

Jeanne & Mickey Klein University Masonic Lodge
Sheri & James Quick Little Longhorn League

UTES Influenced Recent Texas State University Graduate Frank Roe

Mr. Frank Roe (UT Elementary class of 2009) attended UTES for only a short time, but the experience made a lasting impression. He remembers his UTES teacher Ms. Mary Ledbetter “made it a fun and safe environment.” He also remembered that as a fifth grader, the teachers “really wanted us to get into good middle schools” and invited representatives from different middle schools so the students could learn about their options for transitioning to secondary school.

In May of 2022, Roe graduated from Texas State University, earning his degree in psychology. As with most college students navigating school, work and the pandemic, his classwork took a little longer than four years. Most importantly, he did not give up. “I wanted my degree. I wanted to be the first person in my immediate family to graduate from college. Not to mention, it would be a waste. All of the time and energy I already had in it,” Roe explained.

He included some sage advice for his fellow Little Longhorns on their secondary and postsecondary journeys: “Keep doing what you are doing and don’t fall behind or you won’t reach your goal. Surround yourself with positive people.”

Roe also had advice for Little Longhorns to keep in mind when they did enter college. He said, “Many of us are told in high school that our college professors won’t care about us. That’s not true. Get to know them, be truthful and upfront with them. Professors do care.”

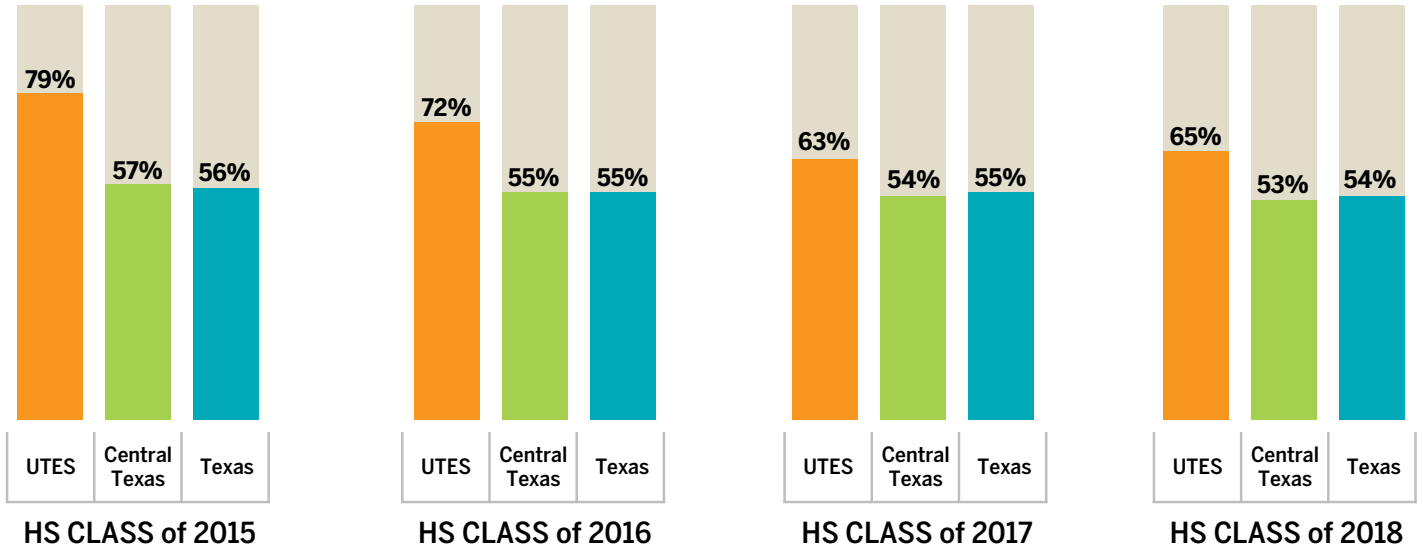
Roe is currently working at a residential treatment center as he is preparing for graduate school. He plans to earn his master’s degree to become a professional therapist.



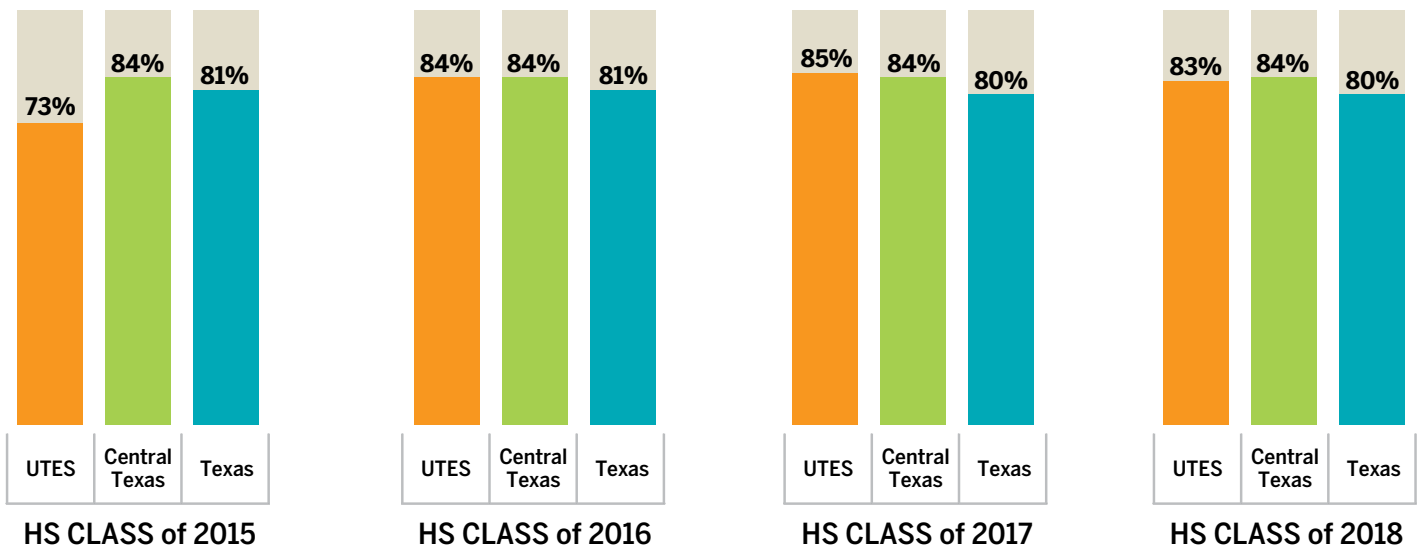
UTES College Enrollment & UTES Persistence

UT Elementary alumni have consistently higher rates of postsecondary enrollment and equal rates of college persistence as compared to Central Texas and statewide students. Data sourced from the National Student Clearinghouse and E3 Alliance.

POSTSECONDARY ENROLLMENT RATES



POSTSECONDARY PERSISTENCE



Endowments Help Plan for the Future

As UT Elementary matures and redefines its role as a national and global educational model, it is essential that we ensure the excellence of our programming so that our students can achieve success as lifelong learners. In addition to standard curricula, UT Elementary offers a range of courses and learning opportunities that are typically available only to students in expensive, private elementary schools. Known as our Margin of Excellence programs, these research-based classes provide students with skills that have been shown to improve overall educational outcomes, setting them up for success in elementary school and beyond.

Thank you to our current Endowment Holders:

- Bradley Bourland UT Elementary School Library Book Fund
- Criaco Family Endowed Excellence Fund
- Ira and Muriel Maxie Endowment
- Jan McMillian Family Endowment for Reading Intervention
- Randy and Lisa Ramirez Dissemination of Educational Best Practices Endowment
- Sheri Schember Quick and James Campbell Quick Endowed Excellence Fund for UT Elementary
- Richard L. Simon Excellence Fund
- Laura and Steve Beuerlein Endowment for Educational Equity

Currently, UT Elementary is able to offer only a fraction of the Margin of Excellence programs our students need to thrive. Endowments would expand our offerings and secure the future of these programs for years to come.

To establish an endowment with UT Elementary or for additional information please contact:

Sharon Yarbrough, *Director of Development*
sharon.yarbrough@austin.utexas.edu



Wynter Winston's Dream of Attending Big UT Comes True

In May 2022, Ms. Wynter Winston graduated from the Fine Arts Academy at McCallum High School and has been accepted into The University of Texas at Austin; but for her elementary school years, she was a Little Longhorn. Winston attended UT Elementary from February of her kindergarten year to 5th grade and credits her experience as a Little Longhorn with shaping her life and her goals.

Wynter really enjoyed her years at UTES. While she loved all of her teachers, she specifically credits her “school moms,” including Ms. Miles, Dr. Khieu and Ms. Tanco, who she knew would always be there for her. She said that UTES “always made me feel included. I felt like I belonged.” Upon reflection, she added, “The faculty and staff cared about every student as a child.”

In June 2022, Winston attended orientation at UT. Orientation included a video where she learned that UT is in fact not 40 Acres, but rather 431 acres. At the time she wondered if UT Elementary was included. During her elementary years, Winston attended an afterschool program at a recreation center where Big UT students would read stories to the kids. One day, when she was in first or second grade, a college student asked Winston why she had a Longhorn on her uniform. She recalled being a little upset that they didn't know she was a Little Longhorn, but she told them all about UT Elementary and how proud she was of her school.

Growing up in Austin, she admittedly took for granted some of the opportunities that seemed commonplace. “We would go to the Bob Bullock or the Blanton all the time. We knew them like the back of our hands.” She also recalled Coach K (former UTES PE Coach Dr. Robert Knipe) would lead field trips to campus frequently.

Winston said she knew most of the Fine Arts buildings. “I had seen performances in some and had auditions in others. While I was on the campus tour at Orientation, I was



able to point out some of the buildings to the other new students,” she said. Her familiarity gave her confidence in a situation that could be otherwise overwhelming.

Winston is attending UT as a dance major with the goals of going on tour as a professional dancer, learning to be a choreographer and earning her teacher certification. “I love kids and the track I am on includes earning my teaching certificate. I have also been in contact with my dance teachers at McCallum to return in the fall to help teach high school students,” she explained.

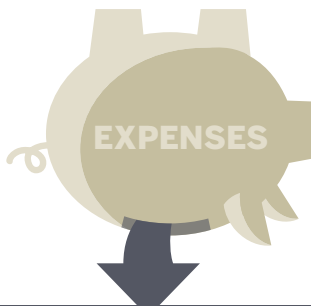
UT Elementary does not have a dance program, but there is always the chance that Winston will change that.

UTES Financial and Demographic Data

REVENUE & EXPENSES

State Program Revenues	80%
UT Austin	13%
Philanthropic Gifts	4%
Federal Program Revenues	6%
Earned Income	3%

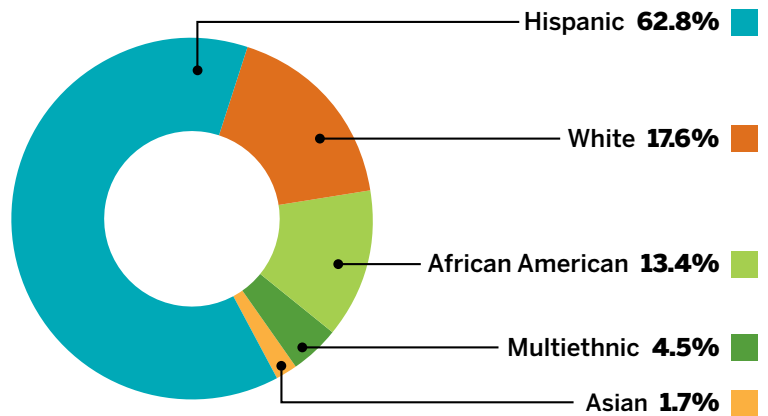
\$3,402,924 **100%**



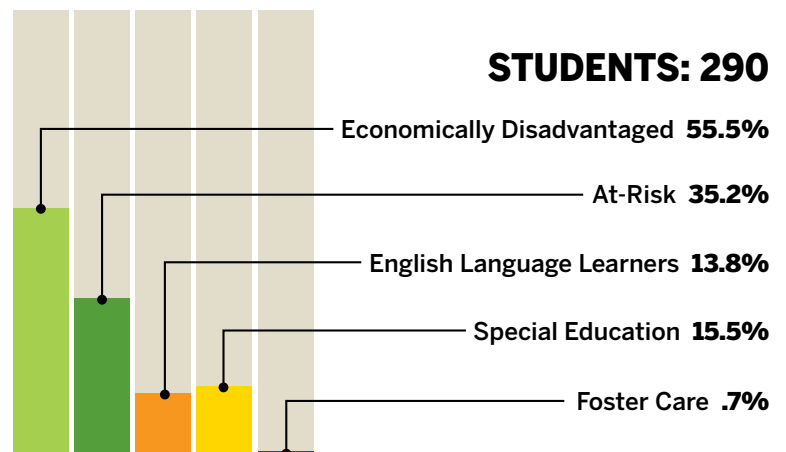
Instruction	60%
Plant Maintenance & Operations	7%
General Administration	7%
School Leadership	7%
Development	6%
Food Service	6%
Guidance, Counseling & Evaluation Services	2%
Instructional Resources & Media Services	2%
Student Transportation	1%
Health Services	1%

\$3,454,991 **100%**

STUDENT DEMOGRAPHICS



STUDENT POPULATION



All data based on 2020-2021 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 2021-2022 MANAGEMENT BOARD

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Victor Saenz, Ph.D.

Starla Simmons
Sharon Vaughn, Ph.D.
Mark J. Williams
Nicole Whetstone, Ph.D.,
Principal (*Non-Voting*)
Melissa M. Chavez, Ph.D.,
Superintendent (*Non-Voting*)

