

# ALDINE DISTRICT-CHARTER COLLABORATION COMPACT

Date Signed: November 2013

Number of All Public School Students: 66,582 (2011-2012) NAPCS

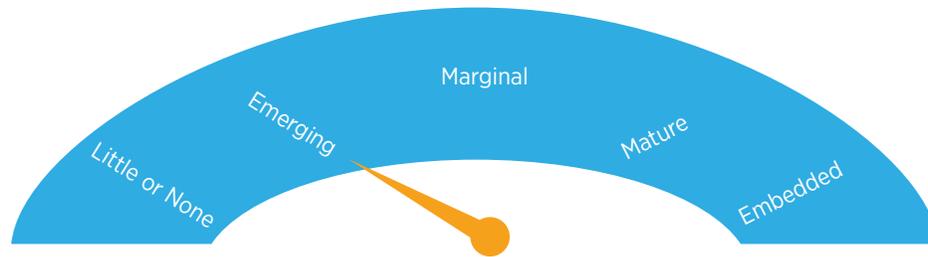
Percent of Charter School Students to All Public School Students: 3.4%

Charter Authorizer(s): Aldine Independent School District, Texas Education Agency

School District Governing Body: Elected board

Compact Grant Amount: \$100,000

## CURRENT STATUS OF COLLABORATION:



## OVERVIEW

Aldine Independent School District, located outside of Houston, faces increased competition from successful charter networks as it struggles to educate students living in widespread poverty. Inspired by the Compact in nearby Spring Branch Independent School District, Aldine ISD decided in 2013 to work with YES Prep, a charter school operator with schools in and around Houston. Aldine and YES Prep's partnership is an example of how districts can engage with a charter partner to turn around underperforming schools.

The Compact called for the creation of two new YES Prep charter schools co-located at district schools. The first campus opened at Hoffman Middle School in 2013 and the second campus will open at Eisenhower High School in 2016-17. District leaders agreed to provide equitable per-pupil funding for YES Prep charter school students. In exchange, the YES Prep students at Hoffman and Eisenhower are considered district students for the purposes of state funding and accountability. Also atypical for charter schools, the co-located YES Prep campuses have an attendance zone that prioritizes neighborhood students, allowing the district to minimize transportation costs.

Initially, leaders agreed simply to share school building space, but have since decided to encourage more substantial interaction so that they might improve the performance of the struggling district schools with

which the YES Prep schools shared space. Unfortunately, progress at Hoffman has been stymied by leadership turnover, as well as the lack of a clear framework for teacher-to-teacher collaboration. Still, the current principals are engaged and interested in making the most of the opportunities co-location offers. Central office staff members have built strong relationships with each other, and the principals value the operational and instructional support they receive.

The partnership could also have a larger impact on students in Aldine. YES Prep agreed to train all district teachers on *iAspire*, its four-year college counseling seminar that forms a core part of its approach to education. The program is being piloted with 9th graders at Eisenhower High School during the 2015-2016 school year, even before the YES Prep program fully launches there. District leaders plan to make *iAspire* available as an elective at all of their high schools.

Compared to other Compact cities, the Aldine partnership is limited in scope and breath. As such, it does not create a communitywide framework for district-charter collaboration, nor offer a fully formed vision for a portfolio management approach to education. The focused objective is to use co-locations to create lasting improvements in student achievement. Whether or not this effort proves successful is worth noting as co-location for school improvement is getting [more attention](#) nationally.

COMMON AREAS OF COLLABORATION	COMPACT PROGRESS
<b>High-Performing Schools</b>	As the centerpiece of the Compact, two YES Prep Public Schools were to be co-located with underperforming Aldine Independent School District schools to support campus-wide improvement. After the first year of the middle school co-location, the district school's academic results remained stagnant.
<b>Special Education &amp; English Language Learners (ELL)</b>	Compact leaders committed to collaborate around professional development for Special Education and English as a Second Language instruction and share best practices across co-located schools. This work had not yet begun as of the release date of this summary.
<b>Facilities &amp; Resources</b>	The Compact commits district leaders to provide equitable per-pupil funding for YES Prep charter school students. This prompted the district to figure out its costs for services and helped the two organizations agree upon a funding model. As part of the funding model, the district provides YES Prep with food, transportation, facilities, technology, and maintenance services. YES Prep created a student attendance area to minimize the district's transportation costs.
<b>School Performance Framework</b>	The district uses the state's school performance framework and includes YES Prep Hoffman and YES Prep Eisenhower's academic results in their reports.
<b>Enrollment Systems</b>	YES Prep runs its own application, timeline, and lottery, which the district advertises on its website. The district runs a school choice application for district and magnet schools, but there are no plans to include YES Prep in its application process or to coordinate the two systems.
<b>Human Capital &amp; Professional Development</b>	In fall 2015, the district piloted iAspire, the YES Prep-based college counseling seminar at Eisenhower High School. District leaders hope that in 10 years all district schools will offer iAspire. Current funding only allows implementation at one campus. At Hoffman, the co-located middle school campus, district and charter English Language Arts teachers have observed each other's classrooms and shared professional development.
<b>Common Core</b>	Texas did not adopt the Common Core State Standards; there are no standards-related Compact agreements in Aldine.