

Austin Independent School District

Alternative Learning Center

901 Neal Street, Austin, Texas 78702
(512) 414-2554 Fax: (512) 414-6744

The INVEST Program

The Austin Independent School District provides a drug and alcohol awareness program—the INVEST program—for secondary students and their parents/guardians (parent/guardian participation is required) for first-time misdemeanor-level drug and alcohol offenses during the current school year (i.e. misdemeanor alcohol offense, misdemeanor marijuana offense, misdemeanor possession of drug paraphernalia offense, misdemeanor dangerous drug offense at onset). This program must be offered for all first-time use and possession offenses at the conclusion of the removal conference. Offering this program for selling and distribution offenses is at the discretion of the campus administration.

Successful completion of the INVEST Program allows the student a shortened stay of two weeks at the ALC, rather than having to serve the entire removal period. The INVEST Program normally takes two weeks to complete while the student is assigned to the Disciplinary Alternative Education Program—the ALC. Students must attend classes at the ALC during the day, and attend the INVEST classes in the evening to be eligible for a shortened stay. Trained AISD counselors facilitate the INVEST Program which consists of four sessions held Tuesdays and Thursdays 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. at the ALC Campus, 901 Neal Street. Students must begin the INVEST program on a Tuesday and they must attend all of the sessions consecutively with the same parent or guardian (adult siblings or other relatives are not allowed as substitutes for parent/guardian participation). Each session includes a variety of activities, including physical movement, cooperative learning, role-play, and group discussions. Parents who speak only Spanish should make every attempt to bring an interpreter other than their child in order to participate in the program. If unable to do so, please contact Jerry Cantu at 512-414-6612 to discuss arrangements. Likewise, hearing impaired parents should contact Mr. Cantu to discuss arrangements.

The INVEST Program provides students and their parents an opportunity to explore substance abuse and family communication issues in a socio-educational group. INVEST topics are as follows: Session 1 emphasizes family communication—the foundation of all relationships. Session 2 focuses on social influences—How drugs, gangs, peer pressure, and the media influence our lives. Session 3 focuses on Rights and Responsibilities—What is important and what is expected of you in your family? What is your role in the family culture? What are the roles of other family members? Session 4 focuses on problem solving—Problem solving requires understanding the process for analyzing a problem and coming to agreement on a win/win solution. Current research indicates that improving family communication and family dynamics are effective in preventing and treating substance abuse.

Students will be returned to their regular instructional program upon successful completion of the INVEST Program and completion of 10 successful days in the instructional setting at the ALC. Students must meet the academic requirements set by their ALC teachers (i.e. passing in all work assigned, etc.). In addition, students can have no more than two unexcused absences during their stay at the ALC. Students are given a certificate of completion upon meeting all requirements listed, and must show this to their home school upon their return from the ALC. If the student and guardian do not successfully complete this program, the appropriate removal guidelines (as determined during the removal conference) will be followed. Call 414-6612 with questions.

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A copy of this form must be FAXed to the ALC

INVEST
Consent Form

I, _____, grant consent for my child, _____, to participate in INVEST, a substance and alcohol abuse education program which may be offered as an alternative to a full-term removal from the student's home school.

I (we) understand that the purpose of INVEST is to increase student and parental knowledge about the consequences of alcohol and other drug abuse and to help students and parents develop communication skills that promote resistance to alcohol and other drug abuse.

I (we) understand that both the student and parent/guardian must complete the full INVEST program and the student must adhere to all ALC and/or AISD rules, policies and code of conduct. There will be no excused absences and baby-sitting services will not be provided. If the classes are not fulfilled, the student will continue at ALC until the normal program is completed. **The same parent/legal guardian must attend all four sessions with the student (adult siblings or other relatives are not allowed as substitutes for parent/guardian participation).**

I (we) understand that , upon completing the INVEST program, discipline records pertaining to this student may be reviewed for the purpose of assessing INVEST effectiveness. In addition, I agree to complete questionnaires and/or submit to interviews during the INVEST program and at intervals after the completion of the program for the purpose of assessing INVEST effectiveness.

I (we) understand that should we not complete these classes then the student will have *to remain at the ALC until completion of the ALC program.*

I agree to participate in the INVEST program.

Parent/Guardian Signature

Student Signature

Home School Staff Signature

Date