

Austin Independent School District

Alternative Learning Center

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

The Positive Families Program

The Austin Independent School District provides an anti-violence program—the Positive Families Program—for secondary students and their parents/guardians (parent/guardian participation is required). Positive Families is offered to students who have exhibited violence or a pattern of extreme insubordination on the home school campus. Campus administrators must offer Positive Families to students and their parents/guardians who are removed for fighting or for physical aggression. Administrators *MAY*, but are not required to, offer Positive Families for those removed for assault with injury.

Successful completion of the Positive Families Program allows the student a shortened stay of two weeks at the ALC, rather than having to serve the entire removal period. The 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 Positive Families classes in the evening to be eligible for a shortened stay. Trained AISD counselors facilitate the 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 Positive Families 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 either Mr. Cantu to discuss arrangements.

The goal of the Positive Families Program is to give parents and students new ways to approach difficulties that occur in their daily interactions. It is designed and compiled to allow the teaching and reinforcing of certain interpersonal skills to both parents and students, and to encourage them to participate in an active learning approach to these skills. Positive Families topics are as follows: Session 1 focuses on communication. The communication unit stresses how listening affects what is heard, and how responding affects the amount of communication that takes place. Session 2 deals with anger management. This session will focus on what is happening internally as a result of what is happening externally, and provides strategies for becoming aware of, and managing anger. Session 3 focuses on conflict resolution. It will address ways and means of externally resolving a present conflict between two or more people or groups. Session 4 deals with Problem Solving. Through demonstration, families will learn steps to approaching a problem and reaching a solution acceptable to all involved. After completion of the program, parents and students are encouraged to practice and to reinforce these skills at home.

Students will be returned to their regular instructional program upon successful completion of the Positive Families 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.

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A copy of this form must be FAXed to the ALC

Positive Families

Consent Form

I, _____, grant consent for my child, _____, to participate in Positive Families, a program focusing on communication, anger management, conflict resolution, and problem-solving, which may be offered as an alternate to a full-term removal from the student's home school.

I (we) understand that both the student and parent/guardian must complete the full Positive Families 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 Positive Families program, discipline records pertaining to this student may be reviewed for the purpose of assessing Positive Families effectiveness. In addition, I agree to complete questionnaires and/or submit to interviews during the Positive Families program and at intervals after the completion of the program for the purpose of assessing Positive Families 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 Positive Families program.

Parent/Guardian Signature

Student Signature

Home School Staff Signature

Date