



# Austin Partners in Education (APIE)

## Annual Program Evaluation, 2023–2024

### Executive Summary

## Introduction

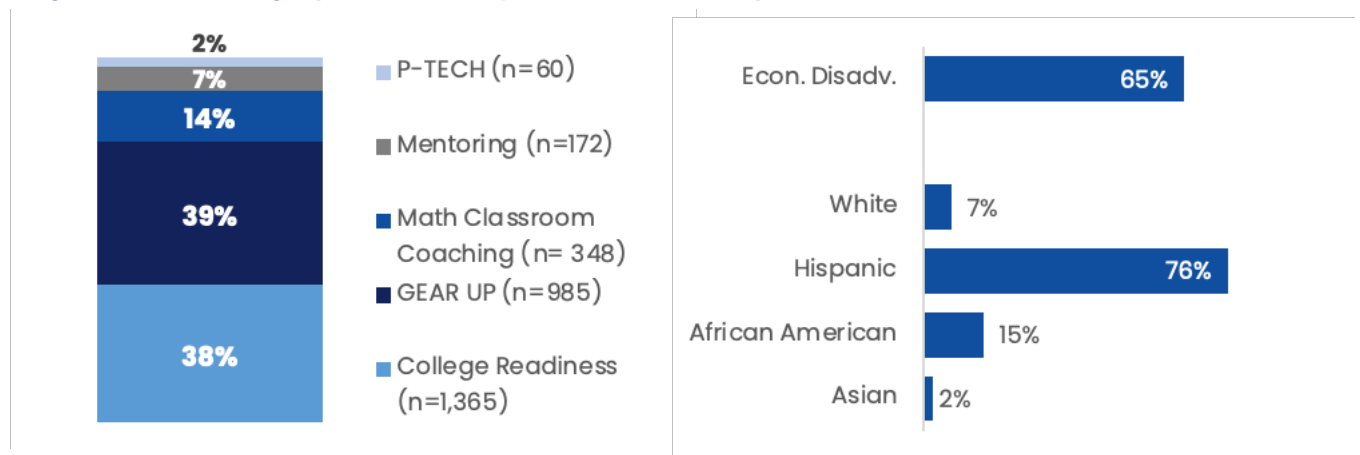
Austin Partners in Education (APIE) is a nonprofit organization dedicated to improving college and career readiness through student-centric tutoring and mentoring programs. This annual evaluation of program services in 2023–2024 provides information about program effectiveness to help facilitate decisions about program implementation and improvement.

## What APIE programs were implemented, and whom did the program serve?

In 2023–2024, APIE implemented five programs across the Austin Independent School District and served over 2,500 students. APIE provided a Math Classroom Coaching program in four middle schools and supported College and Career Readiness programs in seven high schools. APIE staff also supported the district’s Pathways in Technology (P-TECH) program at Akins Early College High School. In addition, APIE staff provided student engagement and academic support services for Gaining Early Awareness and Readiness for Undergraduate Programs (GEAR UP) participants, and APIE supported mentoring in AISD’s middle and high schools. Most APIE program participants were categorized as having economic disadvantage.

Figure 1

### Program and Demographic Summary for All APIE Participants



Source. AISD student enrollment and demographic records provided by AISD Management Information Systems, August 2024

## What were the academic outcomes for APIE participants and how did these compare with those for similar non-participants?

Across all APIE programs, many APIE participants experienced positive academic outcomes and often outperformed their matched comparison groups.

### *Math Classroom Coaching (MCC)*

- Most MCC participants **passed their math courses** and had slightly greater course averages compared to a matched group of students.
- **STAAR results were mixed** across grade levels and courses of enrollment for both APIE MCC participants and comparison group students in Spring 2024.
- Attendance rates for MCC students (90.1%) **were similar** between MCC students and matched comparison group students (89.5%).
- Grade level promotion rates for APIE MCC students (99%) were **significantly greater** than the matched comparison group students (84%).

### *College Readiness (CR)*

- Including TSIA test-taking records from 2023–2024 and prior school years, **significantly greater percentages** of APIE CR participants (84%) had taken at least one TSIA than did matched comparison group students (55%).
- APIE CR participants outperformed the matched comparison group of students on the reading and essay TSIA with **significantly greater percentages** meeting college readiness criteria.
- In Math, a **significantly greater** percentage of APIE CR participants (54%) **took the Math TSIA** than did comparison students (32%).
- Small proportions of APIE (19%) and matched comparison group students (8%) took the TSIA in both ELAR and Math, but a **significantly greater percentage** of APIE CR students met college readiness criteria across both subject areas.
- APIE CR students (87.3%) had **significantly greater attendance rates** than those of the matched comparison group students (79.8%).
- APIE CR participants were **promoted (94%) or graduated (95%) at significantly greater rates** than were comparison group students, 81% and 86% respectively.

### Pathways in Technology (P-TECH)

- In 2023–2024, a **significantly greater percentage** of APIE P–TECH participants completed one or more TSIA (100%) than did the matched comparison group of students (70%).
- On the TSIA Write Placer, APIE P–TECH participants had **significantly higher** Write Placer scores than did the comparison group students.
- On the TSIA Math, **significantly greater** percentages of APIE P–TECH participants met college readiness criteria than did the comparison group.
- **Attendance rates** for APIE P–TECH students (84.1%) were **significantly greater** than those of the matched comparison group students (80.7%).

### Gaining Early Awareness and Readiness for Undergraduate Programs (GEAR UP)

- As a GEAR UP grant partner, APIE staff provided 7,168 hours of small group tutoring and informal mentoring for approximately 987 GEAR UP students
- GEAR UP tutoring sessions were most often **focused on preparing for the TSIA** followed by tutoring for English 2, History, and Pre–Calculus, and Algebra 2.
- APIE GEAR UP students who were tutored in preparation for the TSIA took subject area TSIA and met college readiness criteria at **significantly greater rates** than those not tutored for the TSIA.

### Did APIE program participants experience positive attitudes toward school, academic self-confidence and/or school engagement and perceive the programs as effective?

APIE program participants and volunteers supporting APIE programs responded positively on all program surveys. They indicated APIE programs were helpful and encouraging for students.

Figure 2

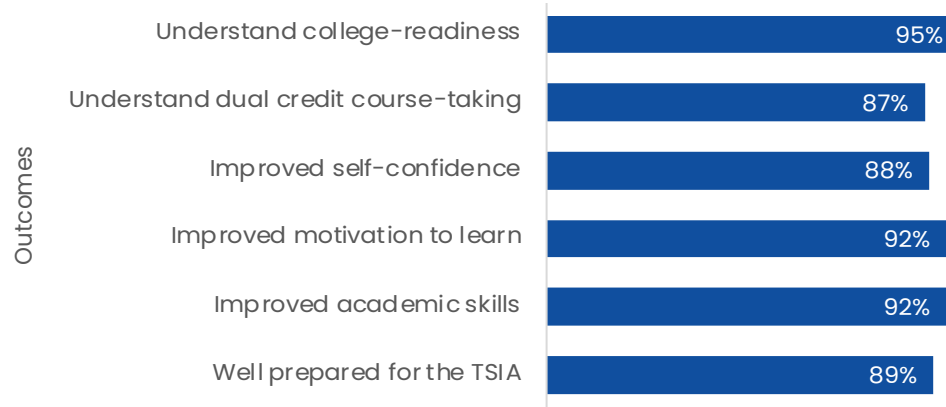
**Most APIE MCC students in 2023–2024 reported their APIE volunteers helped them understand math better, like math more, and be better at math.**



Source. APIE Participant Survey records, Spring 2024

Figure 3

**Overall, APIE CR participants understood the importance of college readiness and improved academic skills.**



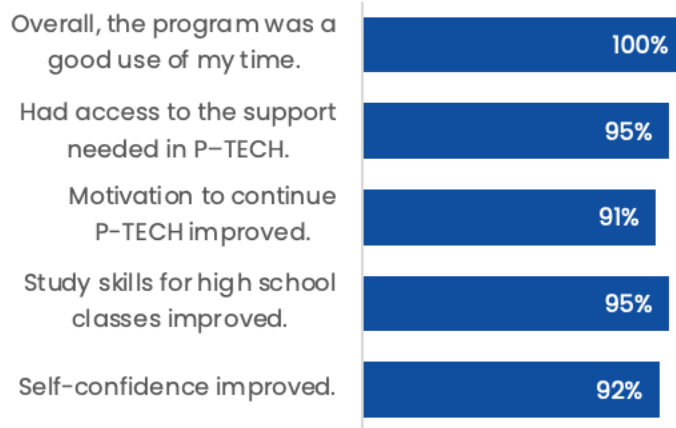
Source. APIE Participant Survey records, Spring 2024



*My tutor was amazing...Explaining and being specific throughout, making it smooth and easy to understand. I was not good AT ALL with math or my TSI and once I got help, I passed my TSI with the highest [score] I've ever seen before. Thanks for being patient and teaching so greatly.... Couldn't have graduated without her help. – CR Participant*

Figure 4

**All APIE P-TECH participants reported the program was a good use of their time.**



*I appreciate the number of things we can learn in one year and use in the future.*

*– APIE P-TECH Participant*

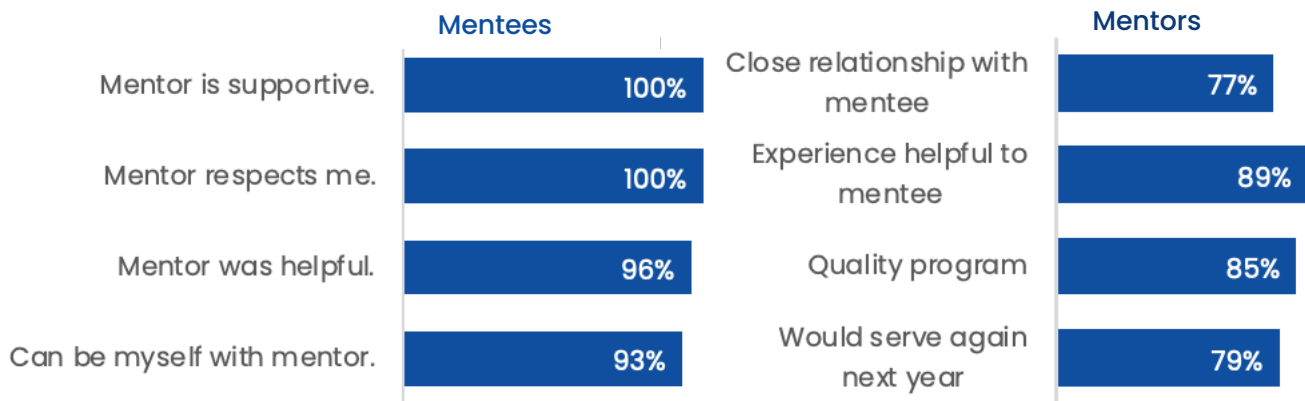
*The interactions stick with you, and you get college credit.*

*– APIE P-TECH Participant*

Source. APIE Participant Survey records, Spring 2024

Figure 5

**APIE mentees and mentors described the mentoring experience to be supportive and helpful.**



Source. APIE Participant Survey records, Spring 2024

*My mentor is very kind and considerate, but not only that. She is always there for me if I need her.*

*– APIE Mentee*

*My mentee was able to share her feelings and frustrations that she otherwise didn't, and doing so was both a needed release for her as well made me feel good about my role as a mentor.*

*– APIE Mentor*



## In Summary

APIE's programming provided needed support to assist students in reaching their full potential. Collaboration, communication, and problem-solving among community members and school staff are key in addressing student needs. This strong partnership between the Austin community and its schools enhances the program's effectiveness in better serving all AISD students.