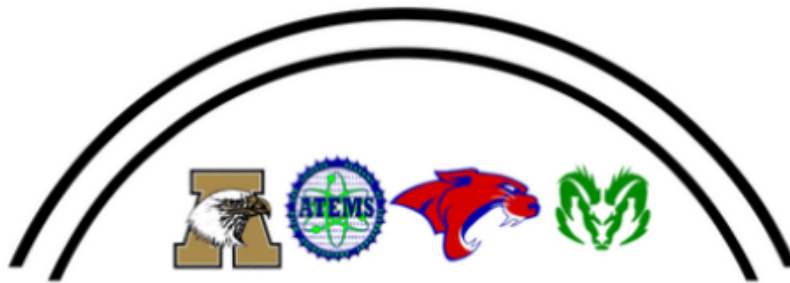


COOL Report

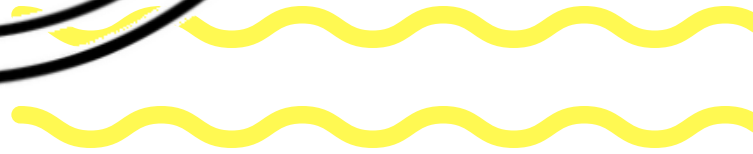
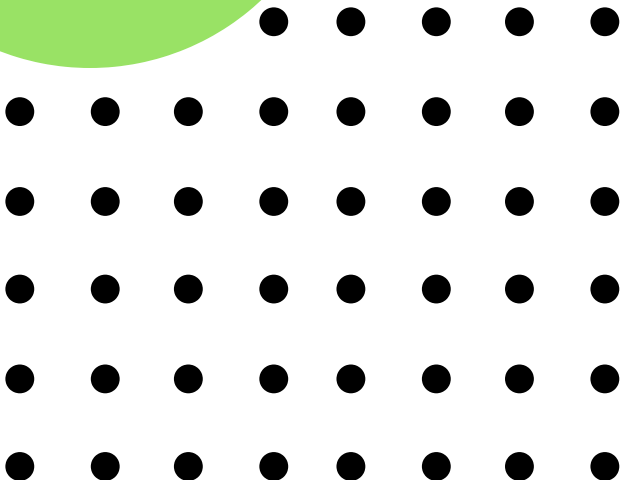
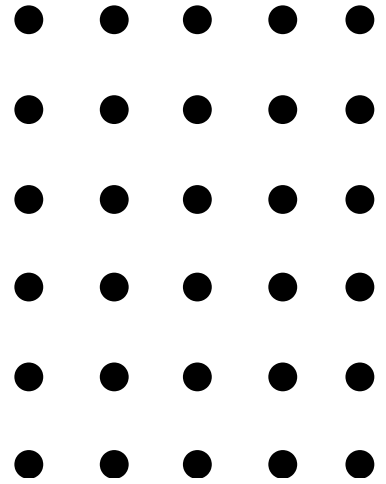
2017-2018



COOL

Est. 2007

COLLEGE OFFERS
OPPORTUNITIES
FOR LIFE



What's Inside?



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AbileneEducationFoundation





LETTER FROM THE COOL TEAM

Most people have heard of "The It Factor." It is an essential quality of character that shouts, confidently yet humbly, "I know precisely who I am, what I want, and I will achieve it." As we wrap up our 11th year of serving the students of AISD, we find that, as a COOL team, our ultimate goal is to instill in our students a firm sense of identity and purpose, unwavering confidence in their capabilities, solid direction for the road ahead, and an unequivocal assurance that they are equipped with the necessary skills and resources to achieve their post-secondary dreams. That's the difference the COOL Program makes, and the students we have the honor of serving emerge with their own variation of the It Factor. We call it The COOL Factor.

Over the past year, the COOL team served over 600 high school seniors and continued plowing the soil at the elementary and middle school levels through our educational outreach programs. We continue to develop and improve on our programs to keep our messages relevant to the upcoming generation.

We are so grateful to the students and families we serve, for entrusting us to guide them along the highway to college - a road that is often wrought with roadblocks and unexpected detours, but one that is manageable with the proper navigation system in place. But we are also thankful for community partners and stakeholders like you, who so generously sow into the work we are doing, making the COOL Program possible. We hope you enjoy looking back over the past year with us, while journeying through the year ahead.

The COOL Team:

Amanda Wiskow – Program Coordinator/District-Wide College Advisor

LaQuiera Gantt - Program Coordinator/CHS College Advisor

Dustin West – ATEMS/WCE College Advisor

Hannah Holmes – AHS College Advisor

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

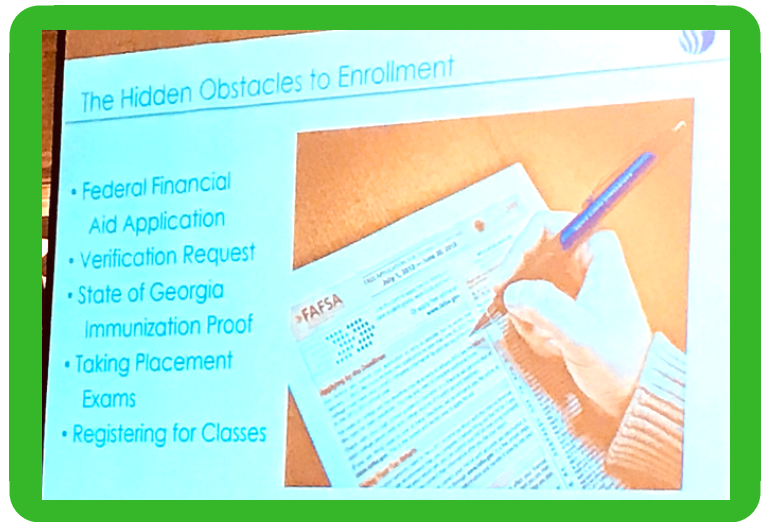
- Mentored 626 COOL high school seniors.
- Presented in over 85 high school classrooms.
- Conducted over 65 private parent meetings via face-to-face or telephone contact to assist with various aspects of the college admissions process.
- Assisted over 400 juniors and seniors in registering for the SAT/ACT including assisting them in accessing fee waivers, when eligible. Additionally, assisted junior student athletes in registering for the NCAA through the eligibility center.
- Guided over 375 students on 21 college tours across the state of Texas for a total of 4,228 bus miles.
- Organized the annual AEF-AISD College Fair at the Abilene Convention Center with approximately 50 universities, colleges, and trade schools represented. An estimated 1,000 students and parents attended from Abilene and the surrounding area.
- Partnered with Abilene Christian and Hardin-Simmons Universities financial aid representatives to present multiple FAFSA workshops for families at AHS, CHS, ATEMS, and WCE.
- Hosted representatives from multiple universities in COOL classrooms to meet with juniors and seniors who were interested in those schools.



- Helped coordinate a Fall and Spring "ATEMS Goes to College Day" where the entire student body visited five different universities for the day. In the spring, seniors stayed on campus for a "Life After High School" seminar. In an effort to prepare seniors for real world experiences, professionals presented on topics such as banking, taxes, workforce, and housing.
- Collaborated with Abilene Christian and Hardin-Simmons Universities to host an early admission reception on the campuses of AHS, CHS, and ATEMS, where students and their parents were invited to a surprise ceremony in honor of the students who received early admission to the university.
- Collaborated with Communities in Schools (CIS), a program for at-risk students in AISD. CIS refers students who need one-on-one college admissions mentoring to the COOL Program. COOL also refers students to CIS who need additional resources outside of the scope of COOL, especially homeless or unaccompanied youth participants.
- Promoted the COOL program through participation in the AEF Pass for Success program, where AISD 5th graders participated in a football passing contest before the AHS/CHS home football games at Shotwell Stadium to earn \$200 for their PE department. Pass for Success is sponsored by Abilene Education Foundation.
- Presented a "Show Me the Money" scholarship seminar at AHS during lunch and after school for seniors and parents to learn and ask questions about applying for scholarships. Community Foundation of Abilene also participated to inform students of available CFA scholarships.



- Presented at junior and senior class meetings and parent meetings as well as the Holland Medical High School parent night.
- Attended the TSTC Counselor Update, College Board Workshop, and ACT Update in an effort to stay informed of changes in technical education and college readiness.
- Served approximately 2,500 elementary and middle school students through educational workshops.
- Led 5th grade college pep rallies at six elementary schools to encourage a college-going culture at a young age.
- Continued to follow up and provide support to COOL alumni, assisting them in attaining their post-secondary goals.
- Coordinated the "Junior Achievement in a Day" field trip at CHS for seniors in AP Economics classes.
- Led "Summer Application Camp" for the third year to help seniors get a head start on college applications (see page 5 for more details).
- Supported COOL participants by attending sporting events, theatrical/choir productions, art shows, and speech/debate events.



NEW THIS YEAR:

- LaQuiera and Amanda attended the Sarkeys Foundation Southwest Regional Leadership Forum in Norman, OK where non-profit leaders from OK and TX came to collaborate and share ideas.
- Hannah and Dustin attended the P-16 Statewide Professional Development conference in Austin, TX where high school counselors and admission professionals attended sessions to help them better assist the students they are working with.
- Dustin West implemented monthly "College Symposiums" at WCE.
- Hannah Holmes presented workshops at the Workforce Solutions "WOW What's Next" seminar.
- LaQuiera Gantt held a week-long "How to Thrive & Survive Freshman Year" seminar during lunch for CHS seniors.



SUMMER APPLICATION CAMP



The COOL Program implemented a new program in the summer of 2016 called COOL Application Camp. The goal of the camp is to assist incoming seniors with every facet of the application process so that, by the end, each student would have submitted one entire college application. Sixteen students participated in our third annual camp.

Submitting Applications

The COOL Counselors walked the students through the ApplyTexas application and gave tips for each section. Then students put it all together, by logging on to ApplyTexas (or the website of their first choice college) to complete a college application. They used their resumes to complete the academic/work history sections, and they were able to submit the essay with the application. Another benefit to the COOL Application Camp is the opportunity for incoming seniors to establish a relationship with their COOL Counselors as they begin their senior year.



Essay & Resume Help

Students were given invaluable information and tools to assist them in developing a College Essay, dispelling their fears about this daunting part of the college application process that tends to paralyze students in their tracks.



APPLICATION TIMELINE

The world of college admissions is constantly changing and evolving. We created this timeline as a tool for students, parents, and teachers to use in an effort to break down each important step - starting in their junior year and going all the way through high school graduation.

SPRING OF JUNIOR YEAR/EARLY FALL OF SENIOR YEAR

1. Register for SAT and/or ACT, and identify colleges to receive score report.
2. Print Admission Ticket to take on test day.
3. Take SAT/ACT.

SENIOR YEAR: JULY-DECEMBER

4. Build Academic Resume, to include all extracurriculars, community involvement, leadership positions, honors and awards, and employment since 9th grade.
5. Complete online college application, including 1-3 essays.
6. Submit application and pay application fee, or submit fee waiver.
7. Request high school transcript to be sent from registrar's office to college(s).
8. Request dual credit transcripts from any dual credit issuing colleges.

SENIOR YEAR: OCTOBER-DECEMBER

9. Set up FSA ID for student and parent, making sure all data is consistent with social security card.
10. Complete FAFSA, ensuring all data matches information on FSA ID's.
11. Sign FAFSA, using the FSA ID's.

SENIOR YEAR: NOVEMBER-APRIL

12. Apply for scholarships.

SENIOR YEAR: JANUARY-MARCH

13. Set up online portal at university, once college confirms and issues student login information.
14. Check portal for any outstanding items, including recommendation letters, additional institutional forms, etc.
15. Complete any institutional FAFSA verification forms, to be signed by student and parent.
16. Once admitted, complete housing application and pay housing deposit.

SENIOR YEAR: MARCH-MAY

17. Register for new student orientation, and pay applicable fees.
18. Finalize financial aid by accepting or denying offers, completing Entrance Loan Counseling, and Master Promissory Note.

SENIOR YEAR: MAY-JULY

19. Request Final Transcript to be sent to college.
20. Attend New Student Orientation and register for classes.

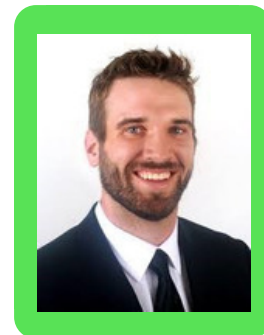


WHERE ARE THEY NOW?



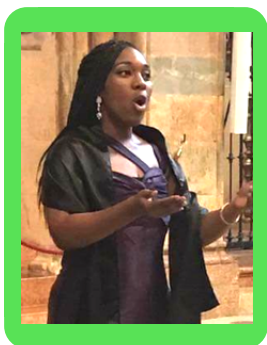
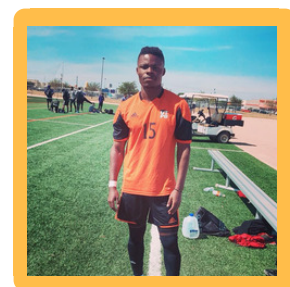
LeAndra Middleton - AHS Class of 2014
BSN - Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center 2017
Emergency Room Nurse at Hendrick Medical Center

Josh Rader - CHS Class of 2008
University of Texas at Arlington graduate
Owner of Firehouse Fitness in Abilene,
AEF Board Member



Justin Mendoza - ATEMS Class of 2015
Senior at Abilene Christian University
Mentor for incoming ACU freshmen, member of Big
Purple Band and Hispanic Association

Albert Batungwanayo
Junior at University of Texas of the Permian Basin
Studying Clinical Social Work, plays for UTPB soccer team



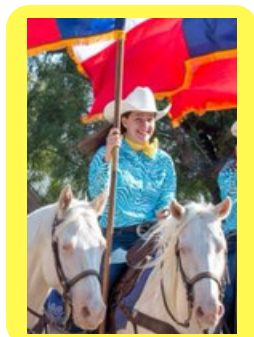
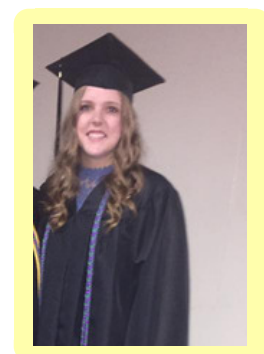
Mikalia Bradberry - CHS Class of 2013
Vocal Performance Degree - ACU 2017
Attending graduate school for vocal performance,
was chosen to perform in Opera Viva! vocal school in
Verona, Italy in 2017

Avery Walton - CHS Class of 2014
Human Resources Degree - Texas A&M University 2018
Attending graduate school at Texas A&M, Teaching
Assistant for three classes



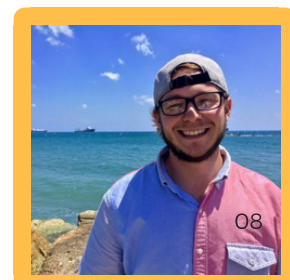
Gaston Bukasa - CHS Class of 2013
BS Mechanical Engineering - UTSA 2018
Maintenance & Engineering Supervisor - Pepsi Co.

Kyersten Parks - AHS Class of 2013
BS Education - McMurry University 2017
Second Grade teacher at Martinez Elementary, Abilene



Emma Dantzler - ATEMS Class of 2017
Sophomore at Hardin-Simmons University
Member of world-famous "Six White Horses" team

Noah Nighswonger - ATEMS Class of 2015
Senior at Southwestern Assemblies of God University
Studying Ministry, participated in a mission trip to Cyprus, Greece



EDUCATIONAL OUTREACH

COOL offers educational opportunities for elementary, middle, and high school classrooms through a variety of interactive activities designed to engage students in addressing future college goals. This past year, our educational workshops reached approximately 2,500 students in AISD!

High School Workshops

The COOL Team facilitated numerous classroom presentations and workshops to all grade levels at CHS, AHS, WCE, and ATEMS High Schools. A few of those workshops this past year included: I'm a Senior – Step By Step Guide to College Application Process, College Goal Setting, Financial Aid 101, Career Exploration & College Selection, College Rank- 'Em, Great Sorting Game, Crafting the College Essay, and Tips & Tricks for First-Generation College Students.



COOL College Dreams

The COOL Counselors presented COOL College Dreams, an interactive workshop in which students drew pictures of themselves in various careers and then brainstormed the types of college education that would be required to prepare for each specific career.

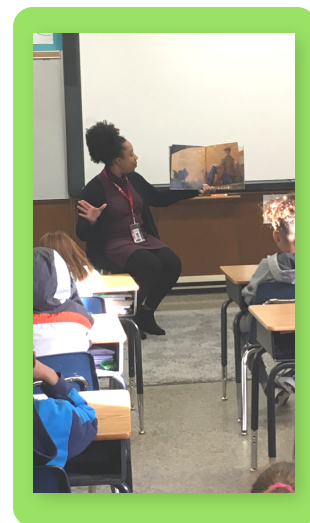
Future College Curls

For the past four years, a select group of Cooper COOL students have been involved in Future College Curls (FCC), an interest club that focuses on college admissions, embracing inner and outer beauty, boosting self-confidence, and community service. This year, the girls learned how to become young entrepreneurs by designing, marketing and selling Future College Curls t-shirts. Monies raised from their venture were then awarded to one deserving FCC senior in the form of a college scholarship. The girls also volunteered at various community events such as Kiwanis Pancake Day and GLAM U conference.



Leadership Student

Our team presented the Leadership Student Workshop to several student groups this year. This workshop is a perfect way to implement a leadership goal with a group while discussing leadership characteristics. The students broke into groups and traced the outline of a student and then wrote down the traits they thought a leader should possess. The groups shared their "Leadership Student," and facilitators then led a discussion on what it takes to become an actual leader and how leadership distinguishes them from other students when applying to college. Students walked away with real-life tips on how they can use their influence as leaders in their school and communities.



COOL College Bingo

Who doesn't like the thrill of finding the last item on your board, jumping out of your chair, and shouting you won? COOL College Bingo is an incredibly fun, easy game to play in a group and helps rehearse anything from college vocabulary to college facts. Middle School students played the game together, and best of all, winners were rewarded with fun prizes.



COOL Reach for the Stars

Reach for the Stars is an interactive workshop that helps elementary students identify goals for the school year and gives them practical steps to reach those goals. The workshop intentionally focuses on the importance of setting goals for college, even as elementary-aged students. The students were read *Mahalia Goes to College*, a fun book about a mouse who gets trapped in a backpack and finds herself at a university and decides to reach for the stars by attending and graduating from college.



PALS College Tour

Peer Assisted Leadership (PALS) is a mentoring, leadership and community service class in which seniors at CHS and AHS serve as one-on-one mentors with elementary students. In partnerships with the PALS Program, COOL provided college tours for these high school seniors and their 4th and 5th grade mentees. This year, the PALS mentors and mentees toured Abilene Christian University, where they were able to get a glimpse of what college life is all about.

COOL College Pep Rallies

For the fifth year in a row, COOL produced College Pep Rallies for students at select elementary schools. The rallies provided a fun environment for 5th graders to learn key college terminology and post-secondary education concepts needed to achieve their personal best while instilling excitement about college. Students played a variety of games, earned prizes and incorporated their college spirit alongside the AHS and CHS cheerleaders and mascots. The pep rallies focused on the importance of reading, scholarships, GPA, class rank, ACT, SAT and challenging themselves academically throughout elementary, middle, and high school.



Fill the Bucket

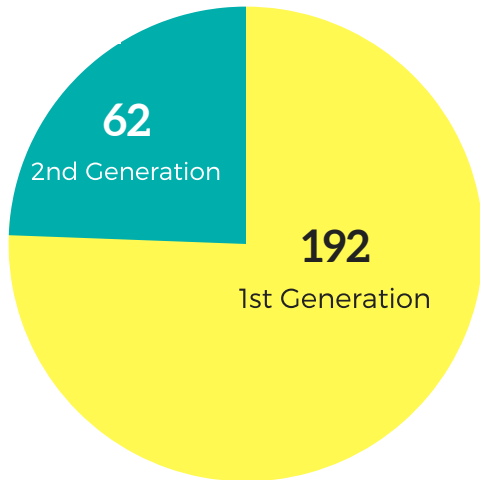
Fill the Bucket is an activity designed to help the participants learn how to not only set realistic goals, but also achieve them. Several rounds are played, and before each round the team establishes a unified points goal and strategy to achieve that goal. After each round, the students and COOL Counselor discuss what worked, what didn't, and what changes can be made. Team members must work together to evaluate their goals and performance and develop new strategies, accordingly. Middle School students who participated in this COOL workshop this year had a blast while learning the invaluable concept of setting, continuously re-evaluating, and attaining their goals – a concept that will prove to be invaluable, as the college years rapidly close in.

2017-2018

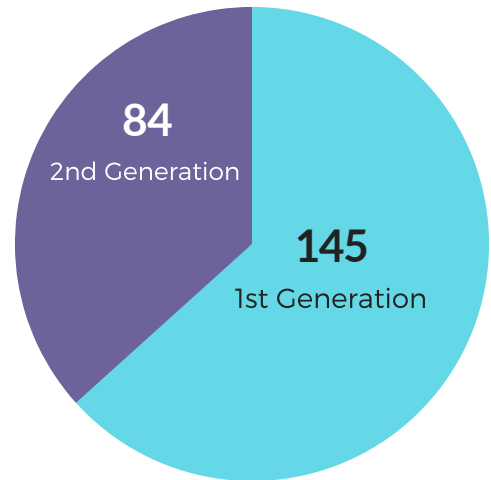
AHS & CHS Statistics: 1st & 2nd Generation COOL Senior High School Participants

Abilene High School COOL Senior Participants: 254

Cooper High School COOL Senior Participants: 229

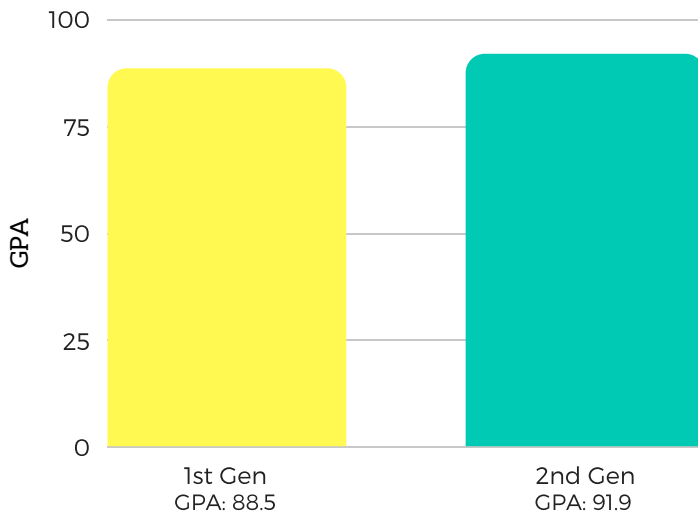


66% of the 2nd Generation students are economically disadvantaged and/or at-risk.

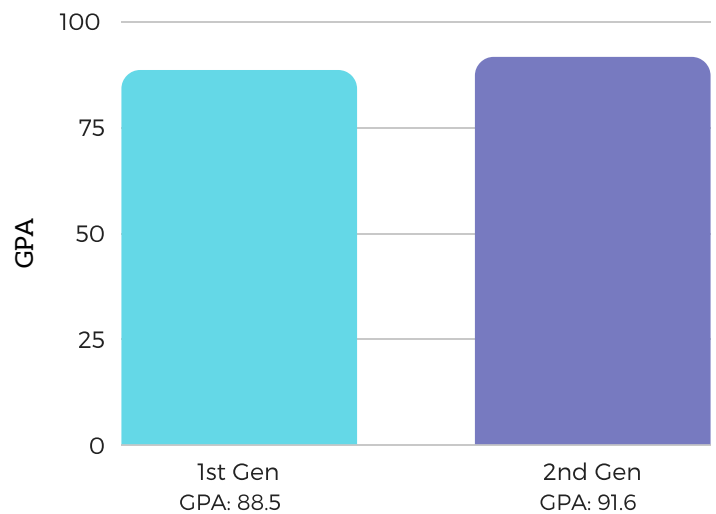


12% of the 2nd Generation students are economically disadvantaged and/or at-risk.

1st & 2nd Generation GPA



1st & 2nd Generation GPA



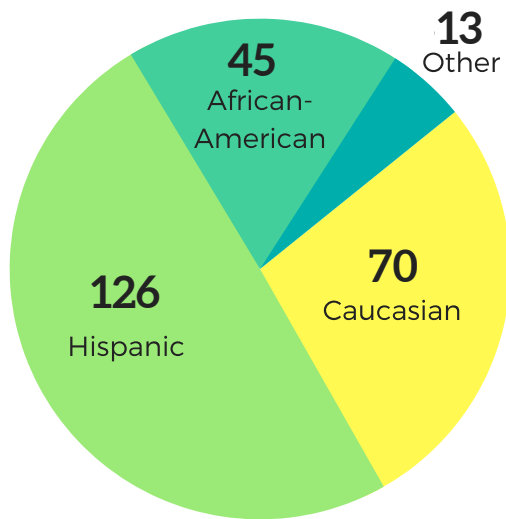
This chart indicates the overall Grade Point Average (GPA) of COOL Program senior participants for the 2017-2018 school year. Our statistics typically indicate that first-generation students tend to have a lower GPA than second-generation students.

It is important to note that 80% of students in the COOL Program are first-generation and/or classified by AISD as either at-risk or economically disadvantaged.

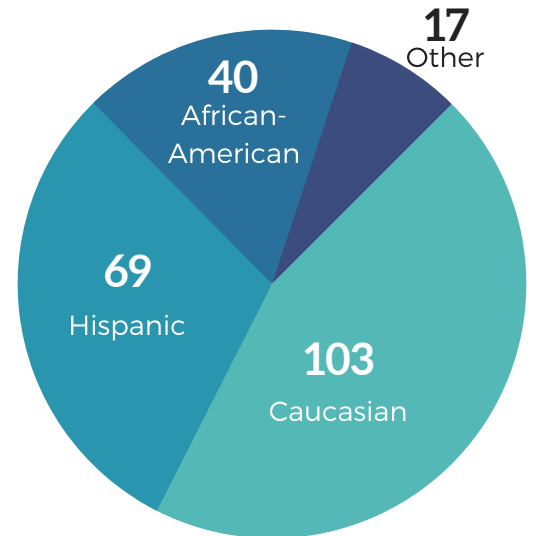
STATISTICS

AHS/CHS Statistics Ethnicity Breakdown

Abilene High School
COOL Senior Participants

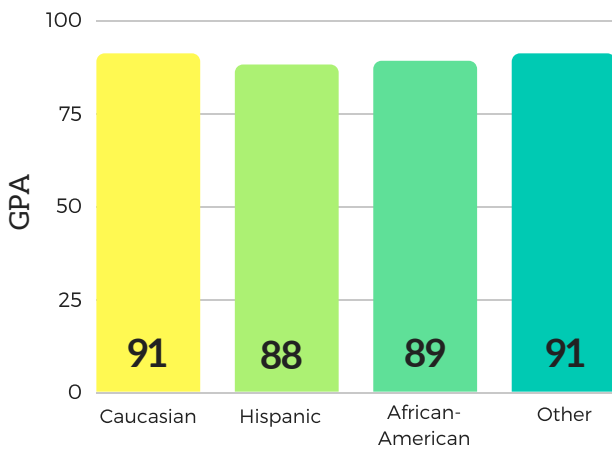


Cooper High School
COOL Senior Participants

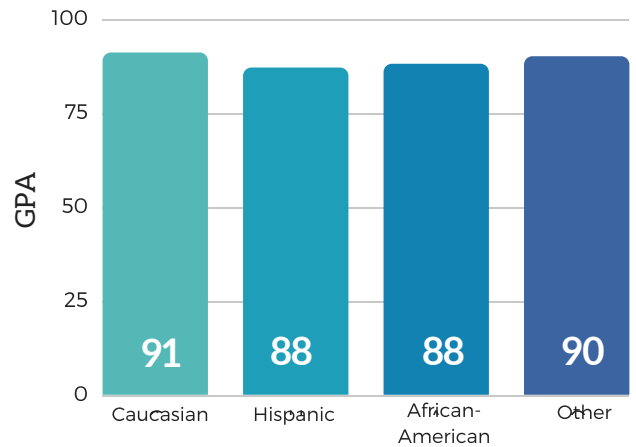


This chart indicates the different ethnicities of the senior participants in the COOL program for the 2017-2018 school year.

Abilene High School
COOL Senior Participants



Cooper High School
COOL Senior Participants



This chart indicates the overall Grade Point Average (GPA) of the COOL program seniors for the 2017-2018 school year by ethnicity.

ATEMS & WCE

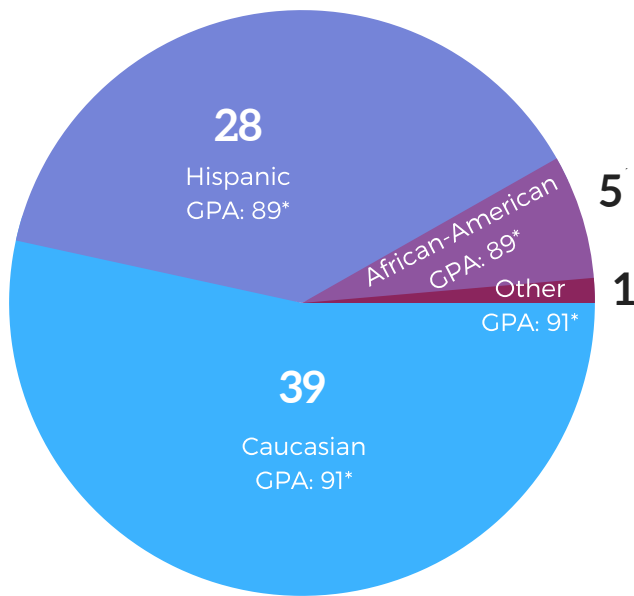
Total ATEMS COOL Senior Participants: 73

1st Generation: 47 || 2nd Generation: 26

42% of 2nd Generation students are economically disadvantaged and/or at-risk

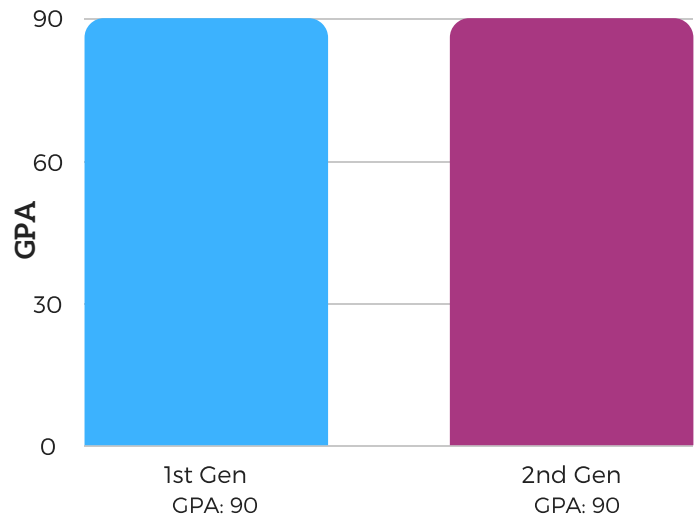
Ethnicity Breakdown/GPA*

2017-2108 COOL Senior Participants
*represents average GPA



1st & 2nd Generation GPA

2017-2108 COOL Senior Participants



Woodson Center for Excellence Statistics

Woodson Center for Excellence (WCE) is an alternative high school for students in Abilene ISD. It is a school of choice offering an accelerated program designed to help students at-risk of not graduating on time meet the state and local graduation requirements. Many of the students at WCE campus have the potential to attend college and be just as successful as their peers at AHS, CHS, and ATEMS. Many WCE students attend COOL college tours. The style of college advising differs at WCE because many of the students have family obligations, extreme financial situations, or children of their own. Students who attend WCE may not be able to enroll in college right away due to the varied graduation times or other circumstances, so we work with these students to formulate a plan to get them into college as soon as possible. Although the COOL Program makes an effort to work with as many seniors as possible at WCE, this year we actively assisted 70 seniors who are planning to enroll in a post-secondary education including college, community college, or a certificate program. Some are joining the military and plan to further their education while serving our country.

Total WCE COOL Senior Participants: 70

1st Generation: 44 || 2nd Generation: 26

100% of 2nd Generation students were economically disadvantaged and/or at-risk.

100% of WCE COOL Senior participants were either 1st Gen., economically disadvantaged, and/or at-risk.

27% of WCE COOL Senior participants were classified as unaccompanied youth or homeless.

COOL GRADUATE UPDATE

The COOL Program, using the National Student Clearinghouse (NSC) database, social media, and personal contact, has been able to track most individual COOL senior participants after high school graduation. A majority of COOL senior participants enrolled in a post-secondary institution after high school and all were accepted to at least one college of their choice. There were a wide variety of reasons why some of our participants chose to not pursue a post-secondary education. Some students joined the military or made personal choices which increased their need to immediately enter the workforce or postpone enrollment. Percentages of COOL participants who enrolled in a post-secondary institution after high school graduation have consistently exceeded the national average since the program's inception in 2007-2008.

It has been five years since the 2012-2013 COOL senior class enrolled in college and four years since the 2013-2014 senior class first began their college journey. We are pleased to report the following information on our graduates, our students still enrolled, and those who, although yet to earn a degree, have earned some college credit. We seek out these past COOL graduates in an attempt to encourage them to re-enroll by providing assistance and guidance to further their post-secondary education options. It is important to note studies* have found several key reasons explaining why first-generation college students are not graduating at the same rates of those who are second-generation. These reasons include the fact that first-generation students are twice as likely to be financially independent, more likely to be financially responsible for others, and the fact that most of them must work and therefore may be attending school part-time. It is our sincere hope that those who have postponed their education will one day return to complete their degrees. When they are ready, the COOL team is here to assist them.

*"Completing College: Assessing Graduation Rates at Four-Year Institutions," a 2011 study completed by the Higher Education Research Institute at UCLA.



The actual number of COOL senior participants who enrolled in post-secondary education directly after high school is listed below. Please note these numbers only include students we could verify through the NSC or personal contact.

COOL CLASS OF 2012-2013*

*This was the first year with four full-time college advisors.

- 393 - Enrolled in post-secondary education directly out of high school.
- 296 - Graduated from college or are still enrolled.
- 46 - Earned some college credit, but not a degree.
- 51 - Earned some college credit, but we are unable to verify their current enrollment status.

COOL CLASS OF 2013-2014

- 391 - Enrolled in post-secondary education directly out of high school.
- 239 - Graduated from college or are still enrolled.
- 66 - Earned some college credit, but not a degree.
- 86 - Earned some college credit, but we are unable to verify their current enrollment status.

ACTUAL NUMBER OF COOL SENIOR PARTICIPANTS ENROLLED IN POST-SECONDARY EDUCATION DIRECTLY AFTER HIGH SCHOOL

2008-2009:	220
2009-2010:	258
2010-2011:	280
2011-2012:	261
2012-2013:	393*
2013-2014:	391*
2014-2015:	362*
2015-2016:	378*
2016-2017:	404*

*In these years, there were four full-time COOL Program College Advisors, including services at ATEMS and Woodson Center for Excellence high schools.

AEF SCHOLARSHIPS

In conjunction with the Star Family of Dealerships, the Abilene Education Foundation (AEF) acknowledged the 2018 scholarship recipients on Tuesday, May 14, 2018.



AEF granted a total of \$43,650 in scholarships in 2018.



If the AEF scholarship recipient decides to attend Abilene Christian University, Hardin-Simmons University, McMurry University, or Cisco College, the institution will match the AEF scholarship amount, within certain restrictions/limitations of their financial aid package. This makes the dream of attending a local university an attainable option for many of our students. AEF is very appreciative of their enthusiastic collaboration.

Abilene Education Foundation Scholarships

Abilene Education Foundation Scholarships are funded due to the tremendous generosity of the Abilene community at our past Cajun Festival fundraisers. This year AEF was pleased to provide scholarships for seven deserving students.

- Okosieme Ughanze, AHS \$1,000: Texas Tech Univ.**
- Mikayla Johnson, CHS \$1,000: McMurry University**
- Israel Yolou, AHS \$1,000: Yale University**
- Faith Parsons, CHS \$1,000: Abilene Christian Univ.**
- Krischelle Rubner, ATEMS \$1,000: Univ. of North TX**
- Esther Musonera, AHS \$1,000: Texas A&M University**
- Bridget Miller, CHS \$1,000: Northwestern State Univ.**

AHS and CHS Alumni Endowed Scholarships

AHS and CHS Alumni Endowed Scholarship funds are endowed monies that provide scholarship opportunities for the graduating seniors of Abilene High School and Cooper High School. The AHS Alumni Scholarship fund began in 2008 by the class of 1958 and includes donations from the classes of 1940, 42, 43, 48, 53, 55, 57, 58, 59, 60, 63, 64, 65, 79, 93, 95, 96, 2001, and 2002. The CHS Alumni Scholarship began in 2008 by the class of 1978 and includes donations from the classes of 1964, 65, 67, 69, 76, 78, 79, 88 and 1996. AEF also contributes to the growth of these funds. This year's award recipients were:

- Robert Martinez, AHS \$1,100: Texas Tech University**
- Jonas Sims, CHS \$1,100: Abilene Christian University**



Rising Phoenix Scholarship (ATEMS only)

This scholarship is sponsored by the employees of ATEMS High School. The ATEMS mascot is the Phoenix and recipients demonstrate one who, no matter the obstacle, will rise and face the challenges laid at their feet. This scholarship recognizes an outstanding student and is a one-time award for \$1,000.

- Dakota Russell-David, ATEMS \$1,000: McMurry Univ.**



Cougar Nation Scholarship (CHS only)

"Rise Up" is the official motto of Cooper High School. This Cougar Nation Scholarship is for a student who exemplifies what it means to be a Cooper Cougar, both in school pride and academic excellence, and it is funded by AISD employees. This year's recipients were:

Alyssa McLean, CHS \$750: Texas Tech University
Rebecca Desrochers, CHS \$750: Hardin-Simmons U.
Rachel Shirmer, CHS \$750: Duquesne University
Hannah McGuire, CHS \$750: Hardin-Simmons Univ.
Shelby Murray, CHS \$750: Texas A&M University

Royce Curtis Excellence in Education Endowed Scholarship (AHS only)

During its 20th class reunion, the AHS Class of 1993 announced, to a very surprised Royce Curtis, a permanent scholarship fund which will help future Eagles reach their goals of a college education. The endowment was established by graduate Bracken Kolle and his wife, Joana. Royce served as the AHS principal for 14 years and as the AISD Associate Superintendent of Personnel for seven years until retiring in 2010. This year's recipient was:

Joey Martinez, AHS \$2,000: Univ. of Texas-Arlington



Michele Scott Memorial Scholarship (AHS only)

Michele Scott was a remarkable friend, person, coach and teacher. She had an incredible personality and influenced all with whom she came into contact. In fact, some of the funds from the scholarship were directly raised by her students. This award celebrates her life and is sponsored by AISD employees.

Kylee Barber, AHS \$850: Abilene Christian University
Annelise Moore, AHS \$850: University of Oklahoma

Meta Alice Keith Bratten Foundation Scholarship (AHS only)

Meta Alice Keith Bratten graduated with the AHS class of 1943. She was active in Personality Girls, Pep Squad, The Battery, Glee Club, and G&G Club (a club just for senior girls and meant "The Gang"). These awards are for two AHS graduates and are \$6,000 each. They are granted over a period of four years, pending a minimum college GPA of at least 2.5. This year's recipients were:

Klarissa Morales-Galindo, AHS \$6,000: Angelo St. U.
Kellian Hobbins, AHS \$6,000: Hardin-Simmons Univ.



Jerry Taylor Memorial (AHS only)

Jerry Taylor graduated with the AHS Class of 1967. While at AHS, he played football and participated in musical activities such as choir and ensemble and had his own singing group, "The Vagabonds". After college, Jerry moved to Nashville, TN to pursue his dream of a music career as a songwriter and entertainer. In later years, he wrote music for theatrical plays. This year's recipient of the Jerry Taylor Memorial Scholarship was:

Matthew Bos, AHS \$2,000: Sam Houston State Univ.



Woodson Center for Excellence/ TSTC Scholarship (WCE only)

Last year we have added a special scholarship for a student at Woodson Center for Excellence who will be pursuing a degree at Texas State Technical College (TSTC). This recipient was chosen by both the Woodson guidance counselor and COOL Counselor for their excellent work in the classroom and desire to pursue a post-secondary degree at TSTC.

Daniel Tynes, WCE \$500: Texas State Technical Coll.

Coach John McCabe Memorial Scholarship (AHS only)

Coach John McCabe devoted himself to a 46-year career in teaching, coaching, and mentoring high school students. He was regarded as a history teacher and football/track coach with an enthusiasm for helping students reach their highest potential. This scholarship is awarded to a student athlete at AHS who exudes the Eagle spirit and possesses a love of learning. This year the scholarship was awarded to:

Leslie Filorio, AHS \$500: Dallas Baptist University

Citizens Bank of Abilene

The Citizens Bank of Abilene is committed to building strong and enduring relationships with their customers and in the community. Candidates for the scholarship must possess a cumulative GPA of 85 or higher and show active participation in extra-curricular activities or volunteer in the community, and possess a sense of school pride. This year's recipients were:

Brady Cluck, CHS \$1,000: Baylor University

Hannah Pinson, AHS \$1,000: Abilene Christian Univ.



Johnny Ortega, Jr. Memorial Scholarship (AHS only)

The Johnny Ortega, Jr. Memorial Scholarship is provided by Mary & Juan Ortega, Sr. in memory of their son, Johnny Ortega, Jr. who passed away in February 2011. Johnny was a 2006 graduate of Abilene High School, an active duty soldier of the U.S. Army from 2007-2011 and an avid runner. While at Abilene High, Johnny participated in cross-country. To honor his memory, this scholarship was awarded to an Abilene High male senior who has participated in varsity athletics. This years recipient was:

Gavin Chapman, AHS \$1,000: Texas A&M University

Young Masters Juried Art Exhibition Scholarships

In collaboration with The Grace Museum and Abilene Independent School District, the goal of the Young Masters exhibition is to celebrate young master artists (enrolled in Advanced Placement art courses) and their dedicated teachers with a quality museum exhibition. The 2018 Young Masters event was held on March 29th, and the following winners were recognized at that time.

Jaime Scudder, Junior, AHS, \$2,000: Best of Show
Kennedy Carmichael, Sophomore, CHS \$1,250: First Place

Tatum Bohannon, Sophomore, AHS \$1,000: Second Place

Abigail Smith, Junior, CHS \$750: Third Place

Ivan Martinez, Senior, CHS \$500: Merit Award

Chloe Batten, Senior, AHS \$500: Merit Award

Lyric Kinkade, Junior, AHS \$500: Merit Award

Kenzie Fortson, Sophomore, CHS \$500: Martha Kiel Scholarship Merit Winner

Matthew Shira, Junior, CHS \$250: Honorable Mention

Kenedy Underwood, Junior, CHS \$250: Honorable Mention

Brianna Jones, Senior, CHS \$250: Honorable Mention

Angelina Martinez, Sophomore, CHS \$250: Honorable Mention

Autumn Cordero, Junior, and Lettie Raymond, Senior, CHS: Master Class with Patty Rae Wellborn & Linda Strickin



2017-2018 COOL SCHOLARSHIP UPDATE

With an average tuition increase of 3% per year, the need for scholarships continues to grow. As College Advisors, we stress the importance of students submitting as many scholarship applications as possible, in anticipation of gaps in financial aid. Thanks to the generosity of our donors, students are able to meet this challenge head-on by earning scholarships from civic organizations, foundations, individual donors, and educational institutions, which include athletic and merit-based awards.

The COOL Program is pleased to announce that ATEMS, AHS, and CHS 2017-2018 senior participants received over \$8,000,000 in scholarship money to be used over a four-year period!

This amount only includes money received as academic, need-based, athletic, and/or community scholarships. This amount does not include any traditional financial aid opportunities such as federal and state grants.

The COOL Program would like to thank the following community partners for their support.

Shelton Family Foundation
Dian Graves Owen Foundation
Abilene Independent School District



Abilene Christian University



Azle Education Foundation

Cisco College



Community Foundation of Abilene

Communities in Schools



Dodge Jones Foundation



First Financial Bank

Hardin-Simmons University



Junior Achievement of Abilene



Kiwanis Club of Abilene

McMurry University

Star Family of Dealerships

Talent Search

Texas Association for College Admission Counseling

Texas State Technical College - West Texas

A special thank you to AISD print shop for printing this report.

