



# Progress SAISD

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## ABOUT THIS PUBLICATION

Progress SAISD is an electronic publication of the [San Antonio Independent School District](#), distributed by the Communications Department to inform the community about the District's progress in the areas of college readiness and drop-out prevention.

## THIS JUST IN

Fox Tech High School has been nominated for [2012 Blue Ribbon Schools Recognition](#), one of 26 Texas public schools to be selected for the honor, which awards schools for academic excellence and significant progress in closing the achievement gap. In receiving the nomination, Fox Tech and the other schools serve as models of best practices for schools across the state.

## BY THE NUMBERS

**2,400** Approximate number of SAISD seniors who could benefit from free help in completing financial aid applications

**1750** Number of middle and high school students in the District's Advancement Via Individual Determination (AVID) college readiness program

**41** Number of students in special architectural programs that pair students with firms for real-world experience

**35** Maximum number of college credits students enrolled in Alamo Area Academies can earn before graduating high school.

### PROGRAM TO OFFER STUDENT FREE HELP COMPLETING FINANCIAL AID FORMS

SAISD students will benefit from Student Aid Saturdays, a new program that will help high school seniors, current college students and their families fill out federal and state financial aid applications at no cost to them.

Student Aid Saturday, a program made possible through the city's [cafécollege](#) and its partners, will be held on Saturdays between Jan. 28 and March 17, at various locations throughout the city, including at SAISD's Burbank HS. SAISD has more than 2,400 seniors who could potentially benefit from the program.

A *San Antonio Express-News* article about Student Aid Saturdays explains that studies have shown there is a strong correlation between students completing the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) and enrolling in college. Read the story [here](#).

### STUDENTS SHOWCASE COLLEGE-RELATED RESEARCH



More than 300 students and parents attended the annual AVID Expo. [Advancement Via Individual Determination](#) has

a college readiness focus and is designed to increase the number of students who enroll in four-year colleges. Approximately 1,750 middle and high school students in SAISD are enrolled in the program. At this year's expo, middle-school students shared the results of their research projects - the topics were college entrance exams, colleges and universities and careers - in the form of a Jeopardy game.

### PARTNERSHIP PROVIDES REAL-WORLD TRAINING FOR ARCHITECTURAL STUDENTS

Highlands and Jefferson high school students are getting valuable hands-on experience while helping to shape renovations at their schools thanks to partnerships with architectural firms involved in Bond 2010 projects. Members of the Highlands Engineering and Architecture Team (HEAT) are working with architects for their school's renovation. Members of Jefferson's Architecture Construction and Engineering (ACE) mentorship program are also collaborating with the bond architects and contractors for that school's project. The programs were recently featured in [this](#) newspaper article.

### ACADEMIES GIVE STUDENTS COLLEGE JUMP START

SAISD wants to give more students a jump start to post-secondary education through the Alamo Area Academies, which provide students with valuable hands-on experience that prepares them for high-tech, high-wage jobs in the aerospace, advanced technology and manufacturing, information technology and security and health care sectors. This program is free is SAISD students.

Enrollment in Alamo Area Academies' four programs has steadily increased in recent years, providing more students with an opportunity to earn up to one year's college credit by high school graduation.

Approximately 42 SAISD students are enrolled in one of the four academies, where they study half of the school day. The other half of the day they are at their home campus. The program, which is open to all students in the Bexar County area, has an overall enrollment of 275 students.

Students participate in paid summer internships between their junior and senior years of high school, and that experience opens the door to a number of post-high school options. Upon graduation, students can go on to earn an associate's degree at Alamo Colleges, transfer to a university or enter the workforce. Learn more about the academies and their partners [here](#).