

ACE Video Transcript

Introduction to ACE:

Welcome to ACE – Afterschool Centers on Education, a program funded by 21st Century Community Learning Centers and administered by the Texas Education Agency.

I'm Candace Ferguson, the State Coordinator and Program Manager in TEA's department of State Initiatives, Division of Programs for At-Risk-Youth. Our goal is to ensure that all Texas students are provided the opportunity for academic success and growth. Our program prepares students for college and/ or the workforce through improved academics, school attendance, behavior, and grade promotion.

We have great excitement around the ACE program. Our ACE Centers foster student achievement by offering extended learning opportunities outside of the regular school day through highly effective and rigorous programs. Through the incorporation of research and best practices, ACE programs offer a place where elementary, middle and high school students can arrive, strive and thrive.

I encourage you to browse through the ACE Program website to learn more about how the ACE program can change the lives of students, parents, businesses, and the community.

Voice Over:

Throughout the state of Texas, Afterschool Centers on Education, run by the Texas Education Agency and funded by 21st Century Community Learning Centers, are providing students an exceptional afterschool experience. ACE provides extended learning opportunities for children and their families and offers innovative, interactive, research-based programs in a safe and structured environment.

Personal Quotes:

Eulalio Martinez: "We get to learn some of that stuff here and then when school starts, we get to take it into the classroom. "

Dulce Arriette: "It has helped me because now I know there's other ways to solve a problem."

Benjamin Briseno : "The program inspired me to be a better person. Mr. Torres was actually my principal. It helped me out with my academics. I went to high school a better person."

Voice Over:

ACE Centers reinforce and complement students' regular academic programs while striving to improve:

- Academics
- Attendance
- Behavior
- Promotion rates
- Graduation rates

Personal Quotes:

Estella Torres: “It helps with academics. Our TAKS scores have come up. Our retain has gone down. So, it’s helped with our TAKS scores. It helps with report cards, grades, and attendance. “

Kelsey Denso : “Well the program has developed a lot throughout the years. The kids have more hands on projects. They are fun, but also, they are learning at the same time. So it has raised the TAKS scores a lot. Knowing that they come here, they do their homework before we do any of the fun stuff.”

Richard Torres: “We also do the character curriculum and that helps with respect and behavior. So, parents on the feedback on the surveys have told us that’s what is helping.”

Lindsay Bagwell : “It is an afterschool activity for them. They just don’t go home and watch TV and play video games. They’re actually learning but doing it in a fun way, so they always realize it.”

Voice Over:

ACE Centers are an important part of the community. Partnerships with local businesses, organizations, and volunteers are important to creating an enduring, community-based ACE Center.

Personal Quotes:

Jo Ann Castro : “ So it teaches them problem solving skills, not only academically but also social skills. They have to learn how to work as a team. It’s not where this is my grade and my grade only. This is a team effort.”

Frances Ehrlich: “We sit down with the students and actually ask, what is your goal after you graduate from high school? A lot of the times, and we’re even starting to talk to them in elementary. Because kids haven’t had the opportunity living in a small community you don’t always know what is out there. So we start those conversations with our kids in the afterschool program. Finding out what jobs are out there, what careers are out there and colleges are out there.”

Voice Over:

ACE is committed to

- Building student self-confidence and confidence in academic abilities
- Increasing promotion and graduation rates and helping students prepare for college and the workplace.
- Giving all Texas children the opportunity to succeed.