



BRIDGING THE GAP

Southwest ISD Builds the STAT Team

2026–2028 Innovative Services for Students with Autism
Texas Education Agency Competitive Grant

April 2026 | Presented to the Southwest ISD Board of Trustees

THE CHALLENGE WE MUST ADDRESS

70% of Our Students Face a “Services Clif” After High School

95%

**ACHIEVED
READINESS GOALS**

Academy of Social Diversity participants met elementary school readiness targets

70%

NOW AT RISK

of those same students may exit high school without a clear path to employment or college

85%

**FAMILIES ARE
CONCERNED**

of families in partner districts are “very concerned” about their child’s future after high school

Four Districts. One Mission. One Collaborative.



**TEA Competitive
Grant**

**Up to \$2,000,000
Over 2 Years**

**125+ Students
Served Annually**

THE GRANT AT A GLANCE



GRANT

2026–2028 Innovative Services
for Students with Autism

Texas Education Agency
Competitive Grant



AWARD

Up to \$1,000,000 Per Year

No Local Match Required
for Natalia ISD



STUDENTS

Ages 14–22 | Autism
Spectrum Disorder

Educational or Medical
Diagnosis Eligible

Total Potential Award: Up to \$2,000,000 Over 2 Years

FOUR PATHWAYS. ONE BRIDGE TO ADULTHOOD.



Vocational Preparation Academy

Real-world job training and employer partnerships in our community.



Higher Education Pathways

College access and enrichment through Texas A&M University–San Antonio.



Independent Living Skills

Financial literacy, transportation, and self-care through community-based instruction.



Inclusive Community Integration

Peer mentoring, social events, and community service across all four districts.

01

Employment Readiness

60% of graduates secure competitive employment or enroll in postsecondary education within 6 months of program completion



02

Inclusive Transition Services

Serve 125+ students annually across all four districts. Increase inclusive activity participation by 40% by end of Year 2



03

Sustainable Regional Network

Formalize MOUs with all partner districts, employers, and higher education institutions by end of Year 1. Launch Employer Advisory Council with 10+ business partners





Families Are Partners, Not Bystanders.



Regional Parent Advisory Council

Quarterly meetings with representatives from all four districts to co-design and provide feedback on program services.



Dual-Strand Parent Training

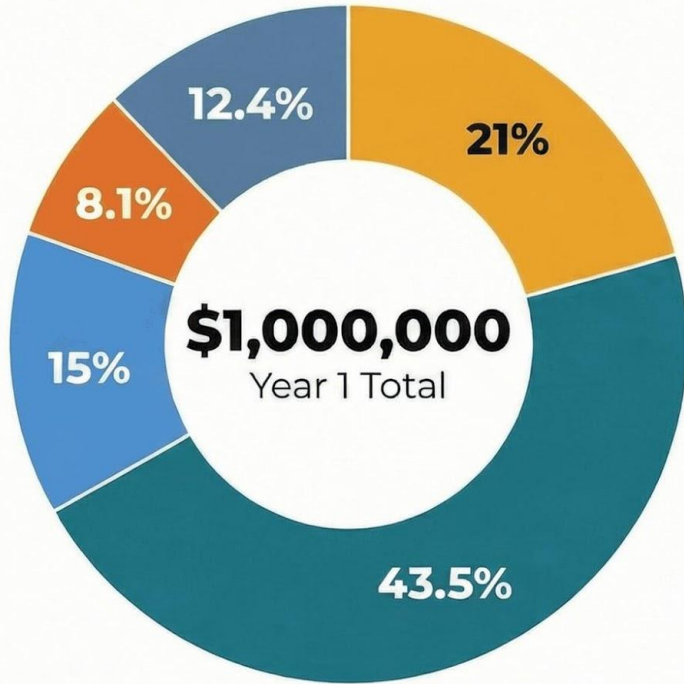
Legal rights & systems navigation + life skills development. Offered face-to-face, live virtual, and on-demand in English and Spanish.



Parent-to-Parent Mentorship

Veteran families paired with new families to build peer support networks and share lived experience.

EVERY DOLLAR TIED TO A STUDENT OUTCOME



	Personnel:	\$210,000 — 21%
	Professional & Contracted Services:	\$435,000 — 43.5%
	Supplies & Materials:	\$150,000 — 15%
	Other Operating Costs:	\$81,000 — 8.1%
	Capital Outlay:	\$124,000 — 12.4%

No Local Match Required for Southwest ISD | All Funds Managed by Southwest ISD as Fiscal Agent | Year 2 Subject to TEA Continuation Approval

This Grant Is the Foundation — The STAT Center Is the Vision.

SPRING 2026



STAT Collaborative Summit

Collaborative meeting with all four district to establish the leadership team.

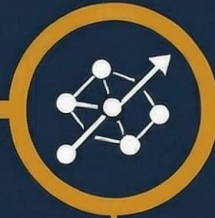
FALL 2026



Program Launch

All four districts begin Year 1 programming. Staff hired and trained. Students enrolled.

2027-2028



Year 2 Expansion

Deepen employer partnerships. Expand student enrollment. Disseminate replicable toolkit to Texas districts.

JULY 2028



STAT Team Blueprint

The STAT Team will present a plan to all four districts on next steps beyond the grant period.



Southwest ISD Is Building Bridges — Not Cliffs

Our students with autism deserve a clear, supported path to employment, independence, and community belonging.

Southwest ISD • Natalia ISD • Somerset ISD • Brackett ISD

South Texas Autism & Transition (STAT Team) | 2026–2028 Innovative Services for Students with Autism | Texas Education Agency