

**SUCCESS STORY**

# Creating Consistent, Equitable Before and After School Programs in Every Elementary School

In school districts across the country, the demand for after school programs has surged over the last 20 years. Yet, for many small and mid-size school districts, the effort to manage and staff these programs is a concern.

**In Cedar Hill ISD, a preK-12 district that serves approximately 7,625 students in the Best Southwest region of Dallas, every elementary school ran its own after school program. Those programs, however, were very time-consuming and labor-intensive for school and district leaders.**

“It was tough to monitor the programs, and there was no consistency among the campuses,” said **Tellauance Graham**, assistant superintendent of student services and administration for **Cedar Hill ISD**. “We’re a fairly small district, which means that many people wear many hats. It was cumbersome to run the programs while trying to ensure that there was a viable curriculum — instead of it just being a daycare — and that staff were being paid on time and all those other areas that needed to be addressed.”





# Partnering with Right At School to Implement Flexible, Affordable Programs

**Cedar Hill ISD** partnered with Right At School in 2016 to offer before and after school enrichment programs for preK-5 students in all seven elementary schools, as well as care during non-school days and breaks. Right At School provides safe, engaging, and meaningful in-school and extracurricular programs to enrich the lives of students, give parents peace of mind, and enable schools to focus on their academic mission.

"Right At School provides our students with a safe, consistent environment in every school," said Graham.

In Cedar Hill ISD, parents have flexible options ranging from one to five days a week, including morning or afternoon programs or both. The district's before school program starts at 6:30 a.m. and the after school program runs until 6 p.m.

"I've gotten emails from parents saying that they appreciate us offering Right At School. They particularly appreciate the morning session and having somewhere safe they can drop their kids off before school so they can get to work," he said. "Right At School also provides break camps and summer camps, and offers care during professional development days and PTA meetings."

## CHALLENGES

- Running their own programs put a strain on district resources (time-consuming, labor-intensive)
- Difficult to maintain consistent implementation between campuses

## RESULTS

- Time and resources freed up for the district
- Equitable access to high quality programming for all students

## SOLUTION

- Right At School After School, Before School, and Summer Camps

### Grade Levels

- PreK-5

- Strategic partnership that is aligned to district needs



# Providing Engaging, Meaningful Academic **Enrichment** Experiences

“Our belief is that all students come to school with two backpacks — an academic backpack and a social-emotional backpack. We have to fill both backpacks in order to create a well-rounded student,” said Graham.



**“The Right At School curriculum is very good, and it covers the main tenets of what we expect students to do in an after school program.”**

– Tellavance Graham,  
Asst. Superintendent of Student Services  
Cedar Hill ISD

Right At School’s Disguised Learning™ preK-8 curriculum supports learning standards in English language arts, literacy, mathematics, science, social studies, the arts, physical fitness, and service learning.

Social-emotional learning (SEL) is carefully woven into the curriculum and aligned with standards from the Collaborative for Academic, Social, and Emotional Learning (CASEL). In addition, all Right At School educators are trained in SEL and trauma-informed care.

“We follow the CASEL model in our district so Right At School aligns with what we are teaching in our schools,” he said. “Students hear the same terminology before, during, and after school so they have more opportunities to learn. They can have a snack, do their homework, and learn social-emotional skills as they participate in activities and have fun with each other.”

RIGHT AT SCHOOL & CEDAR HILL INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT



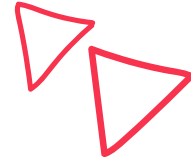
## DID YOU KNOW?

Right At School is the official after school provider of AASA and an inaugural member of their SEL Cohort.





# Proactively Assisting Administrators



**For school and district leaders, Right At School has eliminated administrative headaches by handling all aspects of program implementation, including the structure, curriculum, and hiring and training of staff.**

“In a district of our size, we don’t have the resources to dedicate a person or a team to handle activities before and after school. Right At School handles all of that for us, so we don’t have to worry about finding and hiring people, or creating a curriculum, or all of those other managerial aspects that take up time,” said Graham.

“Right At School also keeps me abreast of what’s going on. We meet monthly to talk about what we’re doing and what we need to plan. If an issue arises, they immediately make the changes that need to be made to ensure the program measures up to the expectations we have. I can call at any point and know that things will be taken care of,” he said.



RIGHT AT SCHOOL & CEDAR HILL INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT

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– Tellavance Graham, Cedar Hill ISD





# Providing **Equitable** Opportunities District-wide



**Having a consistent, high-quality enrichment program is helping Cedar Hill ISD provide equitable opportunities for students across all of its elementary schools.**

“That goes back to the quality of the Right At School curriculum and the validity of the program,” said Graham. “Right At School ensures that we get good people and a good program at all of our schools so that it is equitable for all students.”



## DISTRICT DATA & DEMOGRAPHICS

11 schools  
Grades preK-12  
7,625 students  
[www.chisd.net](http://www.chisd.net)

68% Economically disadvantaged  
66% African American  
1% Asian

25% Hispanic  
3% White  
4% Two or more races

## Creating a Partnership That Works

“Right At School runs a great program, and students have a great time because they get to use a curriculum that’s been used all over Texas,” said Graham. “I would definitely recommend Right At School to other districts that need that level of support.”

Partnering with them allows you to create a program that’s best for your district and your students. It’s not just a Right At School program; it is our district’s program. It’s a collaboration between us on what’s best for our students.”

**Bring Right at School to Your District**

**855-AT-SCHOOL**

**RIGHTATSCHOOL.COM**

