

# FUNDING APPLICATION

## GENERAL INFORMATION

### Organization Information

<b>Legal Name:</b> Achievers Center for Education		<b>Federal Tax ID#:</b> 16-1706043		<b>Are you a 501(3)(c) charity?</b> Yes	
<b>Address:</b> 5084 DeZavala Road		<b>City:</b> San Antonio		<b>State:</b> TX	
				<b>Zip Code:</b> 78249	
<b>Website:</b> www.aceschool.org			<b>Fax:</b> (210) 379-6249		

### Head Of Organization

<b>Name:</b> Anne Zuber		<b>Title:</b> Executive Director	
<b>E-Mail Address:</b> AZuber@universitiesatx.org		<b>Phone:</b> (210) 379-6249	

### Application Contact

<b>Name:</b> Anne Zuber	<b>Title:</b> Executive Director	<b>E-Mail Address:</b> AZuber@universitiesatx.org	<b>Phone:</b> (210) 379-6249
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**Has the organization applied to the Gordon Hartman Family Foundation in the past and been declined?**

Yes  
FY2017 and FY2018

<b>Grant Amount Requested \$:</b>	<b>Total Project Budget \$:</b>	<b>Organization's Annual budget \$:</b>
\$20,000	\$217,111	\$217,111

**Mission Statement:**

The mission of Achievers Center for Education (ACE) is to educate a diverse group of students, grades 5th-12th, who are functioning two or more grade levels below age appropriate, in a safe, nurturing environment where attention is given to social, intellectual, physical, spiritual, moral and emotional development.

**PROJECT INFORMATION**

**Program / Project Title:**

General Operations of the Organization 2019-2020 School Year

**PROJECT TIMELINE**

<b>Start Date</b>	<b>End Date</b>
09/03/2019	06/05/2020

**Program / Project Description:**

ACE provides a positive environment for those learning challenged students to reach their potential. We offer a low student to teacher ratio of five (5) students to one (1) teacher. We serve 14 children at this time, and each child receives 1,150 hours of instruction per school year, for a total of 16,100 hours of instruction provided per year by our three teachers. Our teaching strategies, using the Love and Logic teaching theories, including classroom learning, on-line learning and physical exercise have proven to be very effective for students with special needs, including ADHD, autism, dyslexia, cerebral palsy, Tourette Syndrome, Down Syndrome, those with significant anxiety or depressive disorders, significant learning disabilities, and mild to moderate cognitive challenges. We also accept ALE (life-skills) and BMC (behavioral management) public school students who are academically and socially appropriate for ACE, as well as abused, neglected and bullied children.

In addition to our academic program, we partner with Kinetic Kids offers a specialized physical education program to ACE students on Monday and Tuesday each week. Kinetic Kids is an organization that provides sports and recreation programs not typically available to children with special needs. Their mission is to "foster the development of courage, self-esteem, pride and joy so children can achieve new possibilities previously unimaginable." The program is geared towards teaching the students the fundamentals of a variety of sports while allowing them to develop coordination, good sportsmanship and an appreciation for working together as a team. They meet with the students twice a week for 90 minutes. Typical "warm-up" activities take place as soon as the students arrives. Proper social interaction skills and good sportsmanship are emphasized. Sports skills (basketball, floor hockey, etc.) are the main part of every class and are rotated every 3 weeks to keep everyone interested and focused. Since every session is led by at least one licensed occupational therapist or physical therapist, the best quality help is available to assist students in becoming the best athlete possible. In addition, as many as 4-10 OT, PT interns and college students volunteer their time to work with the students during the entire session, earning required hours toward their degree programs. They interact extremely well with our students and are a constant source of encouragement to every student on an individual basis.

Additionally, we offer music, art, and fine arts classes to our students. These classes are presented by school volunteers. During the music class students have the opportunity to sing Christian songs (and sometimes hand movements as well) while Mr. Jay plays the guitar. Mr. Jay has expanded the music time to include Christian music videos. The students learn the lyrics to these requested songs. Mr. Jay also will teach the students about the artist and when known, the reason the artist created the given song. Ms. Sarah, the art teacher, has had activities that include painting, chalk art, tile art that has been glazed, marker art and wreath making. She introduces a famous artist, and examples of their work that has used the type of art which she is teaching that particular class. Mr. and Mrs. Kinsey, parents of an ACE student, have crafts class with the students. The students have made bird houses, frames, pumpkin creations and much more. Music occurs on 2 Fridays a month. Art and the crafts class occur on the remaining Fridays. These classes have been in place since Fall 2018 and all of our students participate. If they are absent, we try our best to let them complete the project during free time.

Field trips are also an integral part of our students learning experiences-providing them with opportunities they may not otherwise have. The field trips for 2018-19 were: Daily Bread Ministries, Natural History Museum, Witte Museum, Magik Theatre production of Mariachi Girl, Mission San Jose, and Institute of Texan Cultures. By providing these experiences in a group where the students feel safe and accepted, we are able to open a wider world to these special needs students-a world that they may not always feel comfortable in, but that is critical to their future growth and success.

Finally, while maintaining our excellent standards for academic instruction, ACE has expanded our program (in Fall 2018) to include comprehensive social skills training. Each week our guidance counselor diligently works with small groups and individual students to help them learn problem solving techniques, conflict resolution strategies, and works with them to develop the essential social skills required deal with their feelings and generalize appropriate behavior across various situations. This expanded segment of our curriculum has not only equipped our students with valuable skills for future success and aided them in their familial relationships but has proven an asset to their academic progress. As part of this curriculum, ACE also provides ongoing parent and family education to help the student assimilate what they've learned in real-time settings.

We currently have 14 students enrolled for the 2019-2020 school year. We are strategic in our growth, as every five students we add requires us to hire another teacher in order to maintain our 5:1 student/teacher ratio. We receive daily inquiries regarding our educational program, however, finances are a barrier for many families. We carry full accreditation through AdvancED (one of the world's largest US-based accreditation agencies) and the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Council on Accreditation and School Improvement (SACS CASI). AdvancED accreditation is accepted nationally and recognized by US Department of Education. This means that credits earned at Achievers may transfer to any public-school system.

#### **Evaluation Plan:**

The students at ACE not only struggle academically but behaviorally. Our students are given the opportunity to develop appropriate social skills while at the same time advancing academically. Many districts are now implementing services for special needs student in the general education classroom (inclusion). This is a very successful program for many students, especially those who are 6 months to a year behind. For other students, those more than two years behind or that have behavioral difficulties (such as ACE students), this programming is not as successful. Many general education teachers still struggle to meet the needs of students requiring academic modifications and behavioral interventions. In San Antonio, each district has approximately 10% of their population receiving special education services. In the Northside district alone, for example, this equates to 10,000 students. At Achievers, all the students can progress at the ability level at which they are performing. More importantly, their peers are very accepting of each other's differences. This creates a positive atmosphere which in turn helps each of the students grow and learn positive behavioral strategies and maximize their academic achievement. We believe it is our responsibility to equip our students to make a positive impact in the world and to live out our motto, "Every student deserves the opportunity to shine." The students will be prepared for the rigors of life beyond school through instruction that is appropriate and beneficial, and guidance into the possibility of independent learning and living. Character, leadership, and teamwork skills will be strengthened through rich student activities? athletics, fine arts activities, community service, onsite job experiences, and field trips. Students will be given the opportunity to have a strong work ethic and high moral standard, as well as, be equipped academically and emotionally to begin changing their world.

Woodcock Johnson III is used as a tool at Achievers to determine growth in academics and areas of stagnation or regression. The test is administered to new students in the fall and to all students in the month of May each year. Individual tests focus on math, reading, reading comprehension, math, and science. Tests are selected for each child based on their abilities not their expected age or grade level. Scores can be reflected as "age" and "grade level" as a comparison to a traditional testing environment. Parents are given copies of the scores with a typed summary from the Guidance Counselor/Test Administrator. Teachers use the information gleaned from the tests as a tool for making their curriculum more appropriate for each student when feasible.

Additionally, through constant contact with parents, other staff, observation of individuals, quarterly Progress Reports guide the faculty with determining level of progress with each student. Job Coach Evaluations/Rubrics reflect job/social skills in a real-world environment. While results with this student population are hard to measure in a quantitative manner, our goal always is to see positive forward progress for our students at regular intervals.

**Plans to sustain project beyond the term of this request:**

We will continue to sustain our program through tuition, special events, corporate and foundation grants and individual donors. Just a note about Tuition--"full" tuition is \$9,750 per year; some students pay "full" tuition, others pay only part of the \$9,750--however, the \$9,750 "full" tuition does not cover the cost of educating a student at Achievers.

Based on our 2019-2020 budget of \$217,111--if we have a full 15 students (which is the max we are staffed for given our 5:1 student:teacher ratio), it would cost \$14,474 to educate each student. However, we rarely have 15 students, and in 2019-2020 we have 14--therefore the cost of educating each student is \$15,507 per student - far above the \$9,750 charged to those who can pay "full" tuition, and very far above what several of the students pay based on the economic circumstances of their families. Bottom line--we only collect, through "full" or "partial" tuition-only a fraction (around 50%) of what it costs to educate our special students.

At Achievers, we believe that, while our students may have special needs, they also have very special abilities. Success for our students looks different than success for a student in a mainstream public-school situation. Success at ACE can be academic success, social success, behavioral success, or a combination of all three; every success is celebrated, and our students are given a safe and nurturing environment in order to be themselves with no harsh judgments. Ongoing fundraising insures that we can continue serving our current student population, as well as assist us in achieving our goal of serving a larger number of students, many of whom are under-served in their current educational situation. Every dollar that we are able to raise helps cover the annual cost of providing an exceptional educational opportunity for an under-served special needs child living in San Antonio, a child who might have only known failure, but who now is given an opportunity to shine!

#### Line item Budget:

Line Item Description	Total Project Funds Allocation	Gordon Hartman Funds Allocation
Employee Salaries/Taxes and Contract Workers	\$182,352	\$15,000
Extra Curricular and Sports (Kinetic Kids), Special Events/Field Trips	\$4,900	\$0
Accreditation, Continuing Ed, Misc	\$3,650	\$0
Curriculum/Books, Student Supplies	\$5,000	\$0
Facility lease	\$7,200	\$5,000
Insurance, Bank Fees, Tax Reporting	\$6,679	\$0
IT, Copier, Website Adverstising	\$5,330	\$0
Office Supplies	\$2,000	\$0
<b>TOTAL:</b>	<b>\$217,111</b>	<b>\$20,000</b>

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

### LIST OF BOARD DIRECTORS

Name & Office Held	Corporate Affiliation
Chris D. Rollins, Chair	Longhorn Solutions
Kathy Ogletree, Secretary	Homemaker
Carrie McCravy	Homemaker
Joanne Clyne	NISD Retired Principal

Dr Danny Trevino	Pediatrician
Drew Harris	NISD Teacher