YOUTHlaunch
Youth empowerment through service

2026 Year in Review

Dear YouthLaunch Supporters,

PALS (Peer Assistance, Leadership, and Service) started at Crockett High School in 1980, piloting the innovative idea that young people can lead, learn, and uplift one another through peer mentorship. Nearly fifty years later, YouthLaunch continues this mission to empower students to build the relationships, skills, and confidence that carry them into adult life.



Kurt Lockhart
Executive Director

Thank you for welcoming me to the YouthLaunch and PALS community in 2026. In my first year leading this organization, **we've taken exciting steps forward to develop a strategic plan for our next 3 years to continue serving thousands of students**. Wishing you and yours a wonderful holiday season, and I look forward to chatting with you in 2027.

With gratitude,

Highlights from a year of student leadership and peer mentorship

- **Trained hundreds of elementary, middle, and high school students** across Austin ISD on peer mentorship
- **Published evaluation research on the positive impact of the program** on current PALS and PALS alumni
- **Brought the PALS community together** at our End of Year Celebration (June) and the PALumni Panel & Breakfast (September)
- **Developed *PALS at 50***, our 2028–2030 strategic plan, in collaboration with an expanded board of community leaders



Middle School PALS Training

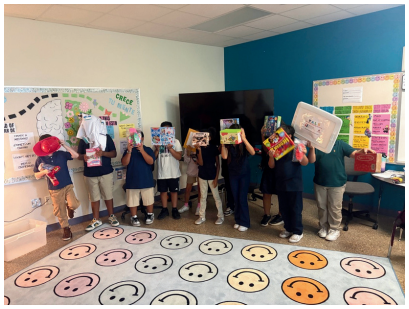


YouthLaunch Board of Directors





PALumni Panel & Breakfast



Elementary PALS with Mentorship Activities

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FYE 2028 –FYE 2030 Strategic Plan Overview

PALS at 50

In 2030, PALS turns 50! Over the next three years, YouthLaunch will strengthen Austin ISD PALS campus programs, expand the impact of Texas PALS, and build an Austin PALS Alumni Network.

PALS
Peer Assistance, Leadership & Service
AUSTIN Independent School District

TEXAS PALS
Leadership•Service•Connection

AUSTIN PALS
ALUMNI NETWORK

GOAL 1

Strengthen Austin ISD PALS campus programs

- Refresh curriculum around career skills like active listening, problem solving, and collaboration
- Facilitate annual trainings and site visits for PALS teachers, counselors, and students

GOAL 2

Expand the impact of the Texas PALS club

- Partner with Austin ISD high schools for weekly PALS visits
- Support recruitment and training
- Document a playbook of best practices for launching future collegiate PALS clubs

GOAL 3

Build an active Austin PALS Alumni Network

- Grow the Austin ISD PALS and Texas PALS alumni registry
- Host quarterly PALumni gatherings around the Austin area
- Connect alumni to opportunities across Austin's mentoring network







Strategic Plan Roadmap

2027
Publish plan, raise funds, and create implementation timeline and metrics

2028
Focus on the Austin PALS model by reviewing curriculum, transportation, and training

2029
Explore PALS expansion opportunities with other school districts and colleges

2030
Review progress, plan for the future, and celebrate PALS at 50!

Scan to give

Your support paves the road to 50!

Online: donorbox.org/youthlaunch
By check: YouthLaunch, Inc., P.O. Box 4119, Austin, TX 78765
Stock, DAF, or ACF fund: youthlaunch.org/donate

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