



# Arlington

INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT

*More Than a Remarkable Education*

## TCU Liink Project Participation Facts

As a part of the performance objective of academic achievement in the district's *Achieve Today. Excel Tomorrow.* strategic plan, the Arlington ISD will participate in TCU's innovative Let's Inspire Innovation 'N Kids, or Liink, Project beginning in the fall of 2016.

The Liink Project, founded by Dr. Debbie Rhea, an associate dean of the Harris College of Nursing and Health Sciences at TCU, strives to improve academic achievement, social and emotional behaviors, and focus in children through multiple recesses and exposure to character development curricula.

The Arlington ISD, one of seven local public or private schools or districts participating in the study, will have two intervention sites and two control sites with similar demographics participate in the Liink study. Ashworth and Butler elementaries will be intervention sites that will engage in four 15-minute recesses daily and a 15-minute age-appropriate lesson focusing on empathy, trust and cooperation three times per week. Percy and Ditto elementaries will be control schools that follow the traditional time allotments for recess breaks and character education exposure.

These schools will participate over the next three years. The study will include kindergarten and first grades in 2016-2017, first and second grades in 2017-2018, and second and third grades in 2018-2019. Professional development for the effective implementation of each component will be provided to teachers and campus leadership by TCU.

The Liink Project launched in 2013 with just two private kindergarten and first-grade classrooms in Fort Worth, and it has expanded since. In the first year alone, schools saw classroom behaviors and focus improve, academic performance on reading and math significantly increase, misbehavior during recess significantly decrease, and the time it took students to get to and from recess decrease from three to four minutes each way to less than a minute each way.