



THE GO PROJECT

What is the GO Project?

The GO Project is a community-based transition program for students with disabilities who are 18-22 years of age. The program enables students to move beyond the high school setting and finish their education in a college or work environment. The GO Project promotes adult living skills and allows students to participate in activities related to all transition areas and develop relationships with same-age peers.

What is the goal of the GO Project?

The program's goal is to provide a mixture of hands-on experiences in the community to prepare students for adult life. The desired outcome of the GO Project is that students will have the skills, resources, and opportunities they need to lead a full and meaningful life. The GO Project staff will work with students and their families to complete person-centered plans to develop schedules for students after graduation that will piece together all things important to the student, including paid employment, access to post-secondary education, recreation and leisure opportunities, and social opportunities.

How does the program work?

Community sites host classrooms for students. The program focuses on the transition life domains of employment, recreation & leisure, post-secondary education, and independent living.

Students:

- participate in volunteer work internships
- practice travel training via public transportation
- access the community for recreation and leisure opportunities
- explore continuing education opportunities
- practice adult living and job skills
- connect with adult agencies
- explore living options
- seek paid employment through AISD's Supported Employment services



Austin
Independent School District



- Develop on-the-job vocational skills
- Connect with Austin ISD Supported Employment (Job coaching)
- Connect with the Texas Workforce
- Daily community vocational experiences throughout the city
- Support students in paid employment
- Train students on skills necessary for paid employment
- Practice Interviewing and writing resumes



- Practice the skills necessary to be more independent in your environment at home
- Practice activities of daily living
- Practice using public transportation
- Learn to schedule activities and appointments independently
- Learn healthy habits such as routine exercise and healthy eating

GO PROJECT CONTACTS:

Samantha Marion M.Ed., BCBA
Samantha.Marion@austinisd.org
512-414-3617 ex 53172

Tammy Smith
Tammy.Smith@austinisd.org
512-414-3617 ex 53246

ABOUT THE GO PROJECT

How did the GO Project originate?

In 1991, students from Rosedale School began a recycling work internship at Concordia University. The program grew, with students staying after completing their work and eating lunch in the Concordia cafeteria. Eventually, Concordia provided a classroom space, and Rosedale students spent their entire day at the university. In the fall of 2002, what we now know as the GO Project began at St. Edwards University. Currently, The GO Project has six community classrooms. These classrooms include locations at Goodwill (North), St. John's Community Center (North), YMCA Town Lake (Central), Dawson Elementary (South), St. David's Church (Downtown), and St. Edwards University (South).

Who can participate in the GO Project?

Any student in special education between the ages of 18-22 who has met all graduation requirements is eligible to submit an interest-based application. The current students have a variety of abilities and varying levels of self-help, communication, and vocational skills. Students will be admitted on a case-by-case basis, depending on the student's needs. Students must demonstrate the ability to make safe choices when traveling in the community (including safety awareness when walking near busy streets and through parking lots, maintaining safe behaviors with staff, peers, and community members, staying with the group with minimal support, and require limited supports with hygiene). The GO project sites do not have a nurse on staff, so students must not require medications that need to be administered by a staff member, and if extensive help is required with toileting (such as the need for a changing table), there will not be access at these sites. The GO Project is looking for students willing to develop their skills within the community whose family members and caregivers want to be active in creating a life plan for their student's future.

How do I start the application process for the GO Project?

If you are interested in the GO Project, please get in touch with the Rosedale GO Project staff to learn more about the program and see if it would fit your student. If you are interested in the TLC program:

- The student's case manager must complete the GO Project application by the February deadline
- The GO Project teachers will observe the students at their home campus and in the community.
- Students and caregivers must tour the program and discuss needs with the GO Project staff.
- The GO Project Staff will contact the student's current teacher to set up an ARD for the placement change if the student is accepted.
- The GO Project applicants will automatically be considered for the TLC program if the GO Project staff feels that this is a better fit (the decision to go to TLC if accepted is entirely the



- Learn skills necessary to engage in post-secondary education
- Learn about different programs in Texas and the requirements for admissions
- Practice social skills and self-advocacy
- Learn about recreational classes and how to enroll



- Weekly community recreational outings
- YMCA gym access
- Special Olympics participation
- Connect with Texas Workforce
- Explore recreation opportunities in the student's areas of interest, how to plan for activities, and how to invite peers
- Practice the social skills necessary to engage in regular recreation and leisure opportunities throughout the community

GO PROJECT CONTACTS:

Samantha Marion M.Ed., BCBA
Samantha.Marion@austinisd.org
512-414-3617 ex 53172

Tammy Smith
Tammy.Smith@austinisd.org
512-414-3617 ex 53246