



04/01/2020- For immediate release

AUSTIN TEXAS: AISD has contracted a data analytics firm to create home-based learning opportunities for students. Procyon Analytics, the firm, has developed technology that will allow students to experience a classroom-like atmosphere at home. “Ready for College,” the name of the instructional program designed by Procyon Analytics, creates a teacher-like figure that can be projected onto a computer screen of any size and interactively take questions from students. In lieu of actual teachers, the “Ready for College” program can provide a sufficient learning experience for students tantamount to that a school would provide, tailored to their needs and specific instructional requirements. Large trial-based studies have been conducted with the “Ready for College” program that demonstrate acquisition of skill sets necessary to exceed state standards. Following the success of these trials, AISD has made the decision to phase out human teachers by May 6<sup>th</sup> and rely solely on the “Ready for College” program in the academic nurturing of students. Other school districts will evaluate the performance of the AISD pilot at that point and, in expectation of success, the program will be rolled out across Texas at that point. Organizations not affiliated with AISD have been hired to conduct third party audits to ensure that the “Ready for College” provides equal learning opportunities to all students. Lots of questions are of course anticipated, and although the district will respond to all enquiries as soon as possible, this document provides a preliminary FAQ. Supposing that the FAQ doesn’t suffice in information, more information is directed to our media contact, sloof.lirpa [at] austinisd.org.

### **Frequently Asked Questions**

Is the program compatible with AISD 1:1 Chromebooks?

- Unfortunately, at this time, the program is blocked on all AISD devices. Technology personnel are working to fix this, although the timeline is uncertain at this point.

Will there be transparency in how the technology works?

- Mirroring the philosophy of our district overall, the details of the “Ready for College” program aren’t publicly available

Can we opt out of the program?

- The program may be opted out of by parental permission. In this scenario, alternative learning opportunities (commonly called “Books”) will be provided.

What if my kid isn’t productive when learning from technology?

- The “Ready for College” program is designed to meet the accountability standards already in place at AISD. That is, we will check in on district progress every couple of years or so

Isn’t hiring teachers cheaper then paying for this technology that I heard cost \$103 million?

- We are #AISDProud not to comment on this for now