

Austin Voices for Education and Youth *Austin, Texas*

Purpose of Mission: Founded in 2003, Austin Voices for Education and Youth is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization dedicated to encouraging school reform efforts, building a new generation of young leaders and supporting Austin families to reduce social and economic barriers for students. Under the leadership of Executive Director Allen Weeks, Austin Voices also sponsors the state-wide Save Texas Schools movement, a nonpartisan statewide volunteer coalition of parents, students, educators, and concerned citizens. Save Texas Schools' goal is to educate our state's elected officials about the importance of maintaining funding for Texas public education – from pre-K through college – to the maximum degree possible, within the context of the current state budget crisis and beyond. The Save Texas School rally drew over 13,000 people to the Capitol in March 2011.

Job Title or Position: Education Mobilizer/Researcher for Save Texas Schools

Responsibilities: Intern would work directly with AVEY Executive Director on Save Texas Schools project, a nonpartisan statewide movement aimed at maintaining support for public education in the face of massive state budget cuts. Intern would assist in planning conferences, conducting meetings with parents, teachers, students and community members in east Austin, developing voter registration drives, communicating with the 10,000+ members of Save Texas Schools through electronic and social media, and recording stories from struggling schools about the effects of budget cuts. Intern may travel on occasion with director or other AVEY staff to STS meetings around the state. Intern may also be part of policy meetings with legislators and education leaders.

Qualifications: Intern should have some understanding of the current debates surrounding public education. Strong communication, computer and writing skills are important. Intern also needs to be a “people person,” able to work successfully with people in a variety of contexts, from neighborhood meetings to the statehouse. Intern does not have to speak Spanish, though this skill is helpful.

Working Conditions: Office space and a computer will be provided. However, most work will take place out in the community. Intern will be assisted with transportation where there is not convenient bus service available.

On Site Supervisor/Mentor:

Allen Weeks

Executive Director, Austin Voices for Education and Youth

512-653-4935

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Mentorship Plan: June 11-August 3, 2012 (9 weeks, including week of July 4). Intern will work directly with ED of Austin Voices. Two weeks shadowing ED through meetings, with discussion of focused intern projects. Six weeks of working on particular projects, including conference preparation, community meetings, policy meetings and research. One week of project wrap up and presentation to AVEY team and colleagues. Intern will participate in bi-weekly AVEY staff meetings, and will debrief weekly with ED.

Preparation: List of books and articles will be sent in Spring 2012 for background preparation.