

PARAMOUNT

EDUCATION

In 2008, Paramount Education launched in one school and has since grown to be one of Austin's largest and most effective arts education organizations. Today, we have four principal programs that focus on equitable access and connection to the arts. We offer sliding scale pricing and scholarships so that cost is never the barrier to students thriving in the classroom and their communities. Our seven full-time team members and over 60 contract teaching artists and performers serve over 22,000 young people annually.

Our programs are designed to strengthen students' creativity, confidence, academic performance, and artistic abilities; they are developed in consultation with teachers and education professionals; and are aligned with Texas education standards. Our two school programs, Story Wranglers and Field Trips, prioritize serving students at Title I schools to increase their access to professional arts experiences and nurture their own creative practices.

PARAMOUNT

EDUCATION

2026-27 School Programs Will Serve...

Story Wranglers

- 1,000+ 3rd graders in classroom residencies
- 55+ classrooms across 15 Travis County elementary schools
- 3,500+ students reached with final performances
- 70% of campuses are Title I
- 30% of classrooms are bilingual



Field Trips

- 15,000+ students from 4-17 years of age
- 100+ schools and over 50% Title 1 campuses
- 7-8 Productions with 25+ performances
- Over 75 classroom pre-show workshops





THE PARAMOUNT

STORY WRANGLERS

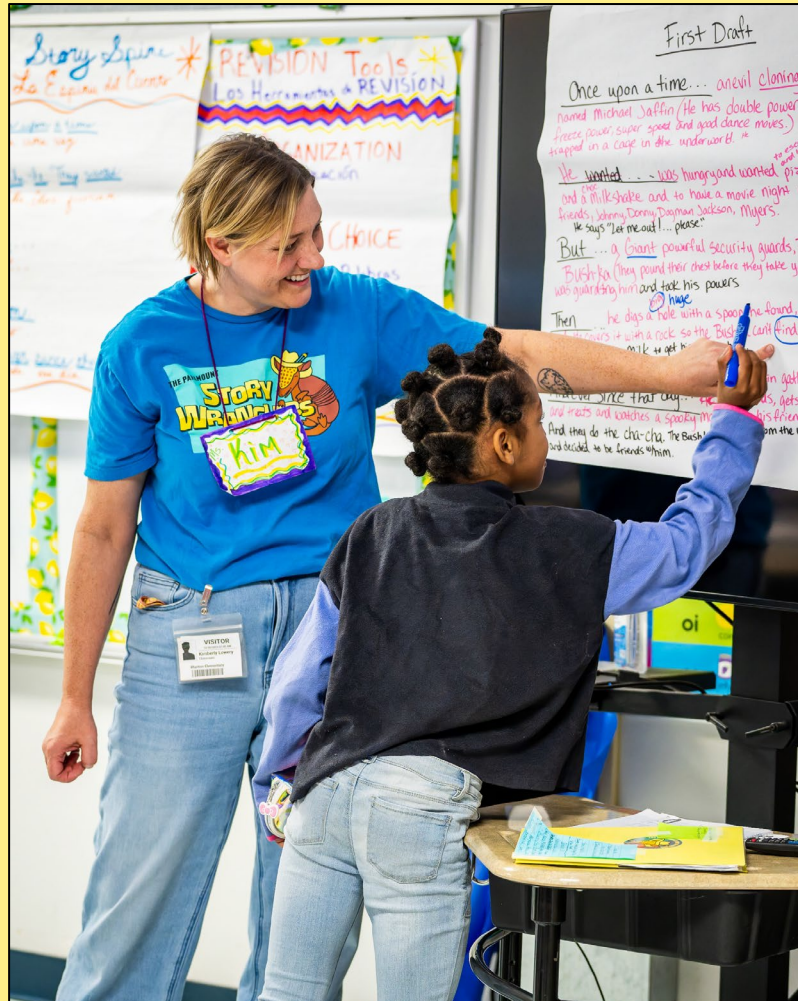


Story Wranglers Program Overview

Story Wranglers is an 8-week literacy residency provided to over 1,000 3rd grade students at 15 Travis County schools, majority Title I.

Each week, 3-4 professional teaching artists visit the classroom for 75 minutes, engaging students in drama-based creative writing activities, including acting and improvisation exercises that help them learn to understand, create, and embody characters. Students collaborate in small groups with a teaching artist and have individual writing time to fill their journals with their unique ideas. In the 7th week, students create an original story and perform it in the classroom for their peers.

Each residency culminates with an original performance based on the students' stories and performed by our professional troupe of actors for the campus community. During the shows, the student authors stand up, introduce themselves, and tell the audience with pride, "This is my story!"

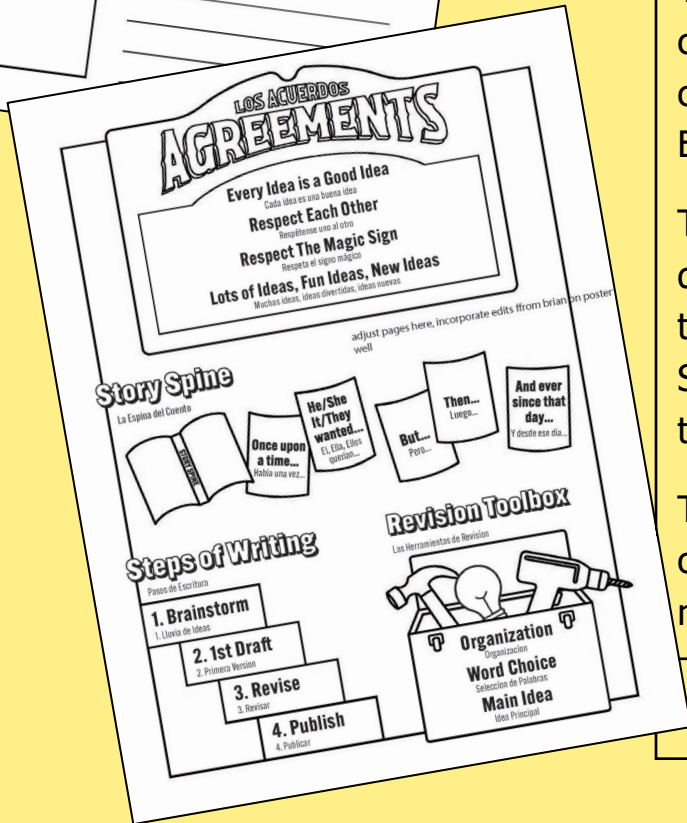
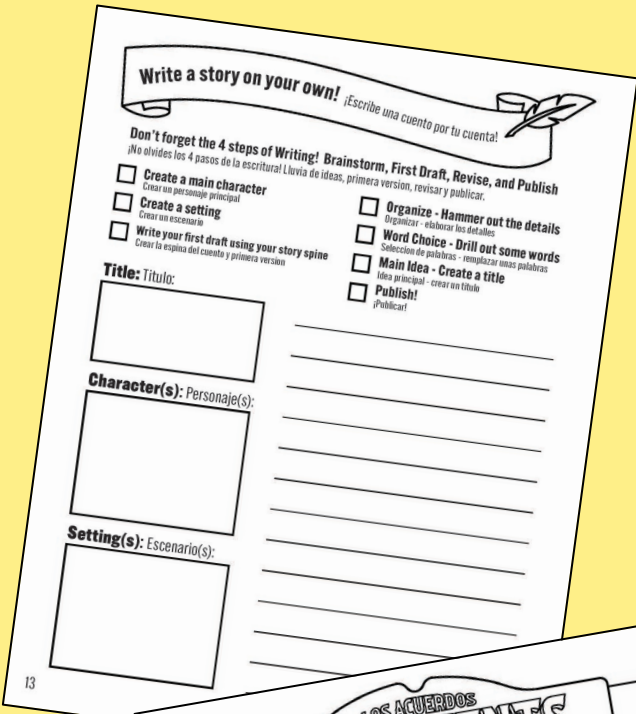


Story Wranglers in the Classroom

Story Wranglers was created to address the achievement gap between Title I and non-Title I schools in Austin. When considering school partners, our team looks first at Title I campuses with greater need. In these schools, economically disadvantaged students comprise up to 93% of the student population, at-risk students up to 89%, and Emerging Bilingual students whose primary language is Spanish are up to 72%.

The program serves schools with high percentages of Spanish-speakers by providing a dedicated team of bilingual teaching artists, including a conversationally fluent lead TA to facilitate lessons in Spanish and English. All materials are available in English and Spanish; with journals provided with Spanish as the lead language where needed. The team does its best to incorporate any other languages represented in the classroom.

The Story Wranglers curriculum is based in arts-integrated, kinesthetic activities that offer full-body engagement in the learning process, which is especially impactful for neuro-divergent students and students for whom English is not their primary language.



Story Wranglers Classroom Curriculum

Week 1 – Introduction and Brainstorm

In the first week, students are introduced to the program and classroom agreements, and they begin to think about the types of stories they want to write. Students learn the 1st Step of Writing – Brainstorm, and they brainstorm a character and setting as a class and then independently in their journals.

Week 2 – First Draft and Organization

In the second week, students learn the 2nd Step of Writing - First Draft, using the Story Spine and the 1st Revision Tool – Organization. Students have time at the end to continue writing in their individual journals.

Week 3 – Revise and Publish

Students will review Brainstorm, First Draft (Story Spine), and Organization. They are introduced to Revision Tools - Word Choice/Main Idea and Publish. Students begin to work in small groups lead by a Story Wrangler. In their individual journals, they work on completing a First Draft and start Revision.

Week 4 – Review Steps of Writing

Students review the Steps of Writing by creating a speedy class story. They discuss Organization and complete their small group story. In their journals, students complete their First Draft and Revision Activities, and begin writing a new story.

Week 5 – Word Choice

In the fifth week, students focus on Word Choice using a picture prompt to inspire their group story. Students then write a small group story and finish the lesson with independent journal time where they can continue their stories.

Week 6 – Main Idea

Students will explore Main Idea. They use a writing prompt to guide the Main Idea of their small group story and students will then get to Publish (perform) their small group stories.

Week 7 – Publish and Reflection

On the last classroom day, students will review the Steps of Writing, review their group stories and choose their favorite to be produced in the show. In the remaining time they will Publish by performing one of their small group stories for the class.

Story Wranglers in the Classroom



Example Story...

The Lone Tree and the Little Vegetable Friends

Written by José, Belen, Diego, Marley, José & Radhika at Sunset Valley Elementary

Once Upon a Time there was a tree named Terry who lives on a deforested farm, and it is the last tree on earth. All the other trees were used for buildings and houses and toothbrushes.

It wanted friends because it was lonely on the farm for 9 million years. "And I don't have a shower so I stink, and no one even knows!"

But there were no more trees because it was the last tree on earth.

Then it tries to get to a shop named Wood Market in a bus to buy seeds to plant friends. It cost \$5 for 20 seeds. Then, Terry drove back to the deforested farm and plants the seeds. "This is the last moment I won't have friends." And it waited.

And Ever Since That Day it can't grow tree friends because it accidentally bought carrot seeds and they grew. They all became friends and started a farm for vegetables and skateboarded to the beach and drank coconut water to celebrate.

The End!

Story Wranglers Performance Troupe

In the final week of the program, our professional troupe of actors and musicians produce an original, hour long musical-sketch revue based on the students' classroom stories.

Under the direction of the Musical Director and Associate Production Director, a team of 6 to 10 local artists spend a week preparing the performance. These performances contain between 10 and 24 stories and the original music and choreography for each story are created and taught over three days and rehearsed for two additional days before the performance.

This past year, more than 150 stories were taken from page to stage and the student authors' creativity celebrated in front of their school community!



Story Wranglers Performance

Our partner campuses are from diverse communities, and it is important that the ensemble assigned to each campus is representative of the student body. Ensembles are cast with school demographics in mind. For example, if a campus is 70% Spanish bilingual, we strive to cast 70% Spanish bilingual actors. If a story is written in Spanish, it will be performed in Spanish as written by the students.

We practice identity-conscious casting and model a sense of self-confidence and pride that we hope the young people will carry with them after the show. The team takes great care to honor student's word choice to ensure the intention and emotion behind their stories aren't altered.



Field Trips

STEP AFRIKA!
WELCOME CENTRAL TX SCHOOLS!





Field Trips Program Overview

Field Trips will reach more than 16,000 students ages 4-17 during the 2026-27 school year. Our Director of Education finds the very best touring international, national, and local works to bring to our theatres.

Over 50% of participating students will come from Title I campuses. We offer a sliding pay scale and underwrite expenses for schools who don't have the budget to cover tickets or buses.

Field Trips

Connections Beyond the Stage

Pre-Show Workshops

We offer pre-show workshops by request for all Field Trip performances. These opportunities bring our team to the classroom for a TEKS-aligned interactive lesson that connects their curriculum to the upcoming field trip and prepares students to for visiting the theatre.

We collaborate with local arts non-profits or artists from the Field Trip performances when possible to deliver workshops.

Last year, the team delivered over 100 in-school workshops!

Post-Show Activity Guide

Each student receives a custom, Paramount-produced activity guide after the show. These TEKS-aligned workbooks contain activities that engage students in the themes and ideas from the show to reflect on and discuss after their Field Trip.



Field Trips 2026-27 Season

Zak Mirz - 4 shows, October 4-6, 2026 (2nd – 6th grade)

A world-renowned magician will bring his innovative magic show for youth audiences.

Treasure Island - 6 shows, November 18 – 20, 2026 (3rd – 8th grade)

In this adaptation of the classic tale, four performers provide all the voices, sound effects, and cinematic score live as more than 1,200 larger than life comic-book panels are projected to tell an on-the-edge-of-your-seat tale of danger and adventure.

Laboratorio – Youth Edition – 4 shows, December 13-15, 2026 (3rd – 8th grade)

These performances of Carrie Rodriguez' Laboratorio, a celebration of Latine culture, will explore holiday music and traditions from different Latin American countries.

Collision of Rhythm – 4 shows, January 8-10, 2027 (1st – 5th grade)

A show that features the talents of Bronkar Lee and Aaron Williams who collectively, play 17 instruments and engage with the audience in a high-energy performance that includes dancing, beatboxing, instrumentation, juggling and more.

Huston-Tillotson Jazz Collective – 4 shows, February 16-17, 2027 (1st – 5th grade)

A 15-member instrumental and vocal contemporary urban jazz ensemble within the music program at Huston-Tillotson, Austin's only HBCU.

Marooned – 4 shows, February 21-23, 2027 (1st – 5th grade)

From the award-winning team Alex and Olmsted, in this show elegant puppetry design meets joyful, meaningful storytelling.

Cirque Kalabante – 1 show, April 4-5, 2027 (3rd – 12th grade)

This vibrant show by Yamoussa Bangoura, combines breathtaking acrobatics with live music played on traditional Guinean instruments.

An additional Field Trip performance is planned but not yet confirmed for May 2027.



Program Impact

Story Wranglers 2024-25

- 85% of students had significantly increased comprehension of vocabulary and writing skills.
- 85% of students exhibited improved attitude about writing
- Story Wranglers students tested better than 59% of students who did not receive the curriculum in terms of creativity.
- 100% of participating teachers plan to continue to use Story Wranglers' arts-based techniques in their teaching.
- 80% of students served in classroom residencies were from Title I campuses.

Field Trips 2024-25

- Provided reduced fees to 82 Title I schools
- Delivered 130 pre-show workshops
- Brought over 18,000 students and educators to experience a professional, live theatrical show.





Program Feedback

Story Wranglers 2024-25

"The story spine is SO helpful as a framework for writing. It also helps them understand that we use different frameworks, or spines, with different types of writing throughout the year. :)" – Classroom Teacher

"They love the different revision tools and make connections to those whenever we are writing!" – Classroom Teacher

"I feel like I can write anything that comes to my mind. And also before this, like, in the summer, I just hated writing and was just like, I don't want to write, and now I'm just like, I feel like writing is really fun." – Participating Student



Field Trips 2024-25

"Everyone involved in bringing shows for a younger audience is doing a fantastic job, and we are so grateful to be able to attend shows that ignite a passion for appreciating the arts for many of our early learners who probably have their first theater experience by going with their class!" - Field Trip Attendee

"Thank you for having Frost Elementary School and letting our students have this great experience. This may be the only chance our students get to see a live play/performance in their lifetime and it was such a great experience." - Field Trip Attendee

