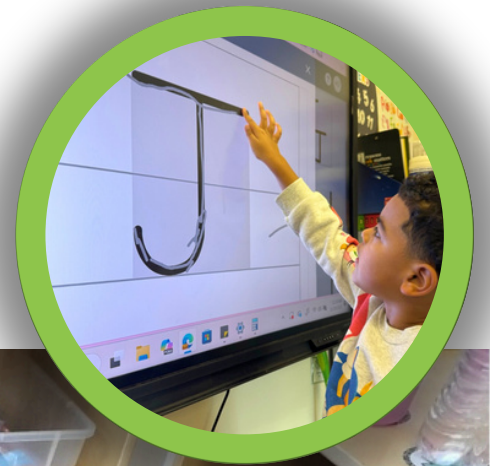




Campaign of Hope

CASE FOR SUPPORT





Building Space For Belonging

When Erin's son Harvey was diagnosed with autism, the future felt uncertain — especially when it came to school. Traditional classrooms would have overwhelmed him, and private options were either inaccessible or unable to meet his needs. Thrive changed that. For the first time, Harvey was in an environment where therapy and academics worked together, behavioral support was built into the school day, and every child was valued for who they are. Today, Harvey isn't just surviving — he's learning, growing, and finding confidence in a community designed to support him.

Thrive's impact extends far beyond one family. Last year, nearly 400 students applied for just 40 available seats. Families across the region are still waiting, hoping there will be a place where their child can learn safely and thrive. Investing in Thrive's growth means expanding access to this life-changing model — ensuring more students with autism receive the education, care, and sense of belonging they deserve.



“Harvey is not just surviving anymore. He's growing. He's learning. He's finding confidence. And maybe the most beautiful part – he belongs.”



The Growing Need For Autism-Focused Education

With the prevalence of autism growing every year, autism is becoming an epidemic.



1 in 31 children in the US were identified with autism in 2022 (compared to 1 in 36 in 2020).



More than **142,000** Texas students receive special education services for autism.



If students with autism were organized into a single school district, they would be the second-largest school district in Texas.



There are **35,000+** students with autism in Region 4 (Greater Houston area).



Children with autism are being left behind in traditional public and charter schools. There have to be better solutions for students impacted by autism and other special needs.



Our Origins

In 2019, Founder and Executive Director Elizabeth Goldsmith was searching for a better solution for her son, Sean, who was diagnosed with autism at an early age. Sean was receiving Applied Behavior Analysis (ABA) therapy—the gold standard treatment for autism—which helped him build critical independence and self-management skills. But because insurance covered therapy rather than academics, his access to meaningful academic instruction was limited.

Elizabeth knew Sean was ready to learn academically—but without the behavioral supports of ABA, a traditional school setting would not set him up for success. She began asking a simple but powerful question: What would the ideal school for my child actually look like? Her search led her to Els for Autism in Florida—a tuition-free public charter school that integrates ABA and academics in one setting, with low student-to-teacher ratios and highly trained staff. For Elizabeth, it was a revelation—and a call to action. She made it her mission to assemble a team of experts to bring this proven model to Texas, ensuring more families could access the education and support their children deserve.

A Better Child-Centered Solution

Many students with autism struggle to succeed in traditional school settings that are not designed to meet their needs. Other families must choose homeschooling, ABA clinics, or expensive and selective private schools. Without individualized support, students fall behind academically and miss critical opportunities to build independence and confidence.

Thrive offers a proven alternative. Through a model grounded in ABA, low student-to-teacher ratios, and highly trained staff, students make measurable gains in communication, behavior, and academic skills. Thrive's collaborative approach—bringing educators, therapists, and specialists together under one roof—allows students to thrive in a safe, structured environment. Expanding Thrive's facilities will make it possible to serve more students, reduce waitlists, and ensure that more families have access to a school designed for their child's success.

★ Vision

To create a revolutionary, first-of-its-kind autism-focused charter school in Texas that serves as a gold standard across the country as the best academic model for students with autism, with proven results.

★ Mission

To cultivate a high-quality, innovative environment for individuals with autism that provides access to services needed to empower each student to thrive.

Goals



2020 to 2022 History

- ✓ Secured a charter.
- ✓ Launched the first campus with 85 students.
- ✓ Acquired a 10-acre 46,000 square foot facility as a permanent school home.

2023 to 2025 Impact

- ✓ Expanded to a K-8 campus, adding one grade level each year.
- ✓ Established Thrive as the gold standard in education, proving that children with autism can achieve significant academic gains with the right support and approach.
- ✓ Completed construction with additional classrooms, parking, safety and security updates.

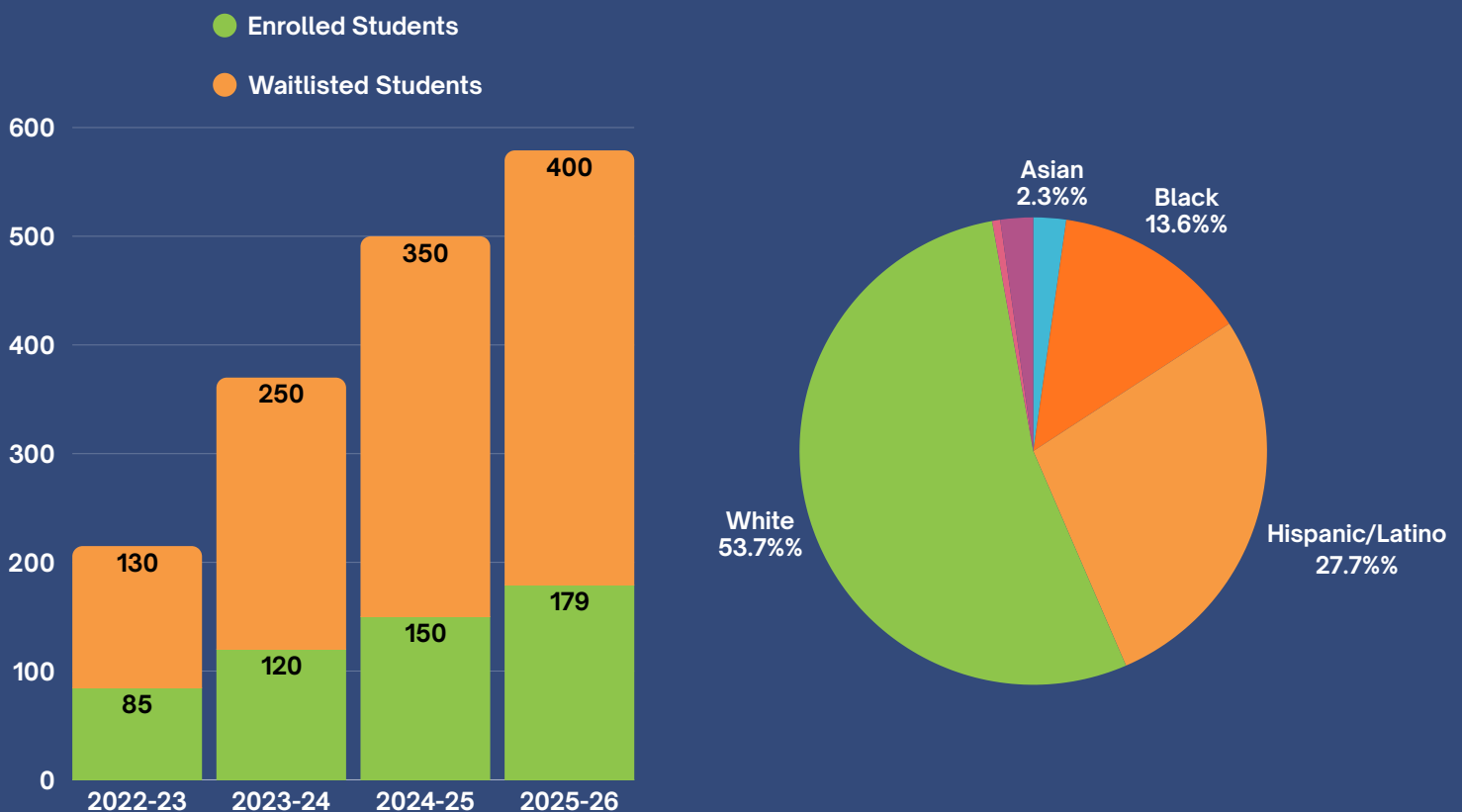
Goals for 2026 & Beyond

- ✓ Complete renovations to the Magnolia campus to serve over 300 K-12 students.
- ✓ Open first autism-focused public charter high school.
- ✓ Prepare and launch second campus in Greater Houston area to meet community need.
- ✓ Explore expansion across Texas.

Free, Public, and Open to All

Established in 2022, Thrive is a tuition-free, autism-focused public charter school currently serving students in Kindergarten through 8th grade. From its inaugural year, Thrive addressed a critical gap in public education, with more than half of enrolled students coming from ABA clinics, homeschool, or private school settings due to the lack of appropriate options. Thrive is intentionally expanding one grade level each year, with plans to open its high school program in 2025 — ensuring students can continue learning in a stable, supportive environment designed for their success.

Student Demographics



12% eligible for free and reduced meals

92% qualify for special education services



The Path to Student Success

We reject the idea that neurological differences limit academic potential. Instead, Thrive exists to teach differently—using tailored, evidence-based instruction that challenges neurodiverse students to achieve at higher levels. Families know their children are capable of more, and Thrive is built to prove it.

Model of Hope

Thrive's academic model combines the individualized approach of a specialized school with the access and inclusivity of a tuition-free public charter—integrating ABA and academics in one setting. Based in Magnolia, Texas, Thrive serves families from 27 zip codes across Harris and Montgomery Counties.

Demand for this model continues to grow, with families relocating from across Texas and beyond in search of an education that allows their children to reach their full potential.



Our school design offers three different classroom types that address the varying needs of children

	Goal	Staff to Student Ratio	Common Assessments
Foundations	Develop foundational skills such as verbal development, attention skills, and academic essentials	3:8 staff to student ratio	ELCAR* STAAR-Alt
Transitions	Introduce TEKS-based academic learning while providing supports and interventions	3:10 staff to student ratio	ELCAR* / iReady STAAR-Alt / STAAR
Academics	Success with grade-level academics	2:12 staff to student ratio	iReady STAAR

*ELCAR: Early Learner Curriculum and Achievement Record

Built On Research. Designed For Students.

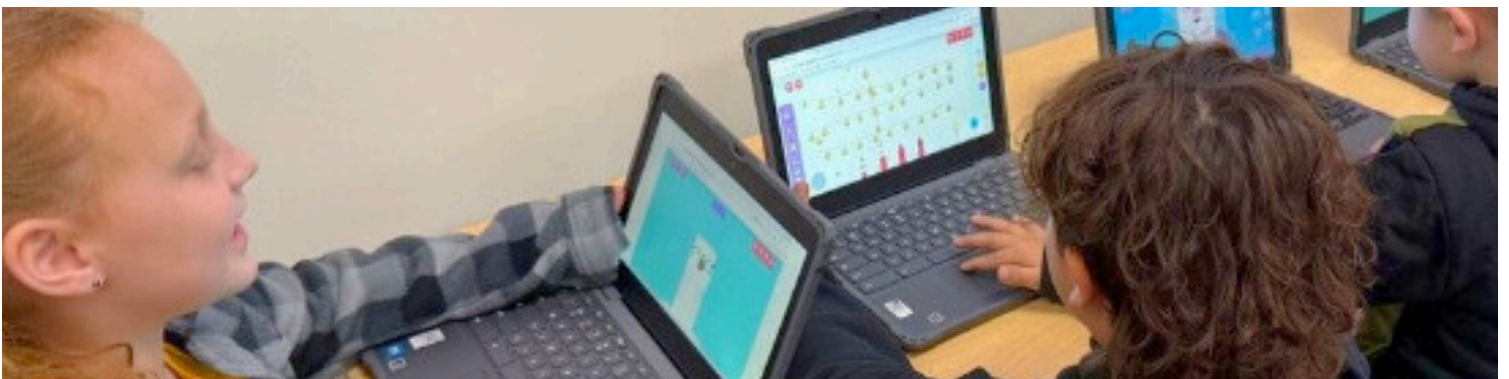
Thrive's instructional approach is grounded in the Comprehensive Application of Behavior Analysis to Schooling (CABAS)[®], a research-based model with more than 30 years of evidence supporting student success. Rooted in Applied Behavior Analysis and the science of teaching, Thrive's data-driven model prioritizes student engagement, individualized instruction, and measurable progress — ensuring each student builds essential skills while mastering academic content at the right pace.

Key Elements of Thrive's Model Include

- Integration of ABA and academics throughout the school day.
- Individualized learning plans tailored to each student.
- Low student-to-teacher ratios based on student needs.
- Flexible, multi-age classroom groupings.
- Highly trained educators and on-site specialized therapists.
- A collaborative team approach with regular family communication.
- Thoughtful transitions to neighborhood schools for students who are ready.
- Preparation for success in careers and life for students who are ready.

Preparing Thrive Students For the Future

In addition, Thrive is growing a robust school library, STEAM lab with 3D printer, science lab, music program, art program, gym, and more. New facilities additions include a new sensory room for practicing self-regulation and a CTE lab to prepare students with skills for future success.

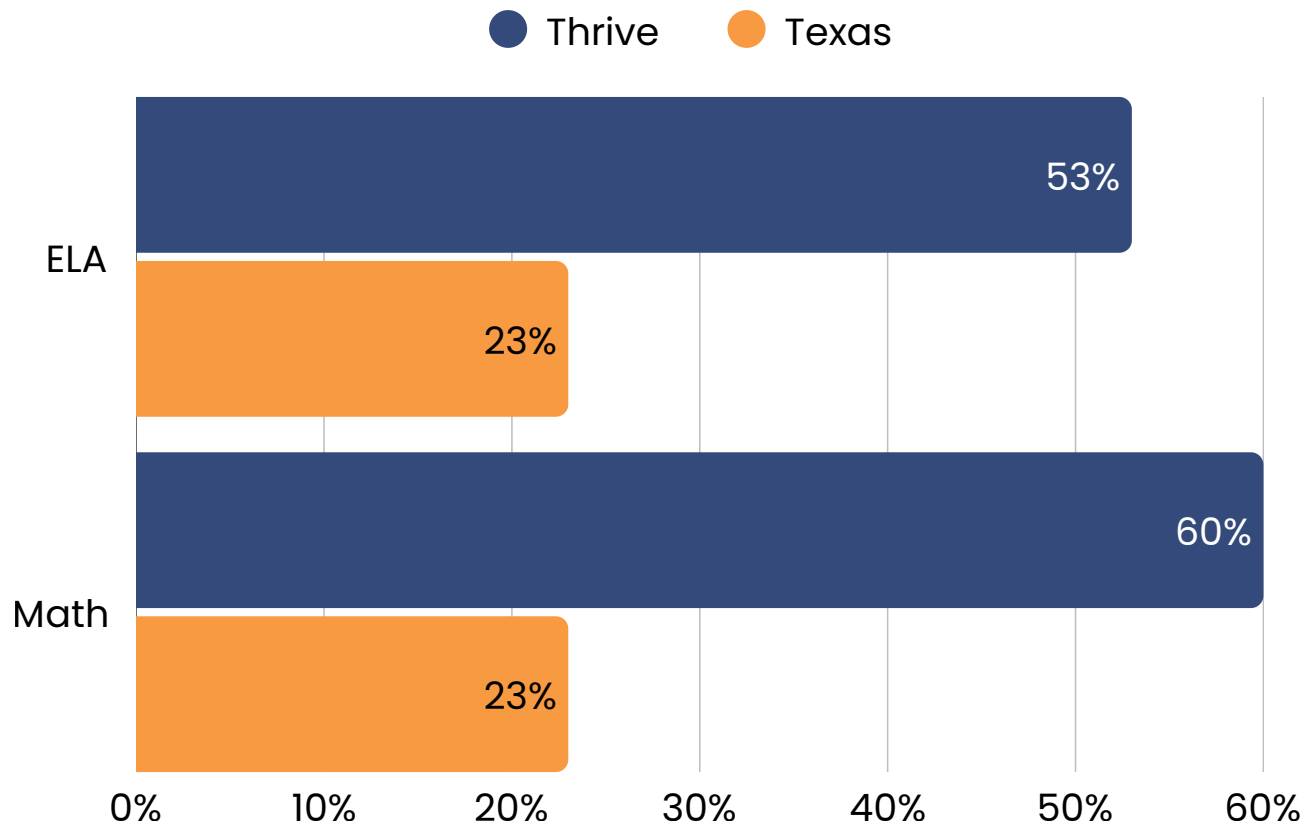


Results & Recognition

Our students have made tremendous progress in both reading and math scores. Of our Academics/Transitions students who were assessed using the nationally normed **iReady assessment, 89% mastered or demonstrated significant growth in Math** and **82% mastered or demonstrated significant growth in Reading.**

For our students more impacted with autism, we use the CABAS assessment called the Early Learner Curriculum and Achievement Record (ELCAR*). Of our Foundations/Transitions students who were given the **ELCAR, 97% of students mastered or demonstrated significant growth on ELA/Reading goals, and 93% of students mastered or demonstrated significant growth on Math goals.**

2025 STAAR: 3rd–7th Grade Special Education Students Meets or higher





Growing to Meet Community Needs

Because of the strong student outcomes, the uniqueness of our model, and strong parent referrals, Thrive's waitlist continues to grow rapidly with families applying from across the nation and beyond. To meet these demands, Thrive plans to build out its Magnolia campus and replicate its proven model to open a second campus.

Strategic investments in facilities enable us to serve more students, reduce waitlists, and provide long-term stability for families seeking a high-quality public education tailored to students with autism.

Philanthropic Partners

- Apricity Foundation
- Baxter Trust
- The Brown Foundation
- Charter School Growth Fund
- Cynthia Woods Mitchell Pavilion
- Greater Houston Community Foundation
- Guill Family Foundation
- Houston Endowment
- Montgomery County Community Foundation
- Moody Foundation
- O.P. Decker Memorial Foundation
- Sarofim Foundation
- Thrive Foundation with Autism Board of Directors
- Thrive Parent Ambassadors
- Tomball Regional Health Foundation
- Waste Connections

Campaign Leadership



Elizabeth Goldsmith
Founder & Executive
Director

Elizabeth founded Thrive Center for Success and led its growth into a K-8 school. She is also responsible for guiding Thrive's expansion to a high school and planning for the future opening of a second campus.



Bob Abendschein
Campaign Chair

Bob serves on community boards, including the Cynthia Woods Mitchell Pavilion Board. He has extensive experience in executive leadership roles at multiple oil and gas companies, including Anadarko and Talos Energy.



Dr. Ann Ziker
Thrive School Board Chair

Dr. Ziker serves as Executive Director of The Brown Foundation and sits on multiple boards. She brings many years of experience in education leadership and strategic consulting.





The Opportunity

The Magnolia Campus

In 2022, Thrive secured land and a permanent school home in Magnolia, Texas. **The Magnolia campus includes 46,000 square feet on 10 acres**—an extraordinary step forward for families who have long struggled to find a safe, supportive public school option designed for students with autism.

Because of our supportive community and donors, Thrive transformed this space into a campus tailored to how our students learn best. Renovations created new learning environments, including a sensory lab, music room, indoor gymnasium, CTE lab, and STEAM room, along with critical updates to safety, security, and core infrastructure. The result is a school that feels calm, structured, and purpose-built—so students can focus, regulate, and make meaningful academic and developmental gains.

Demand Grows

Thrive currently serves students in grades K–8 and is expanding one grade level each year on the path to K–12. With nearly 180 students enrolled and **more than 400 students on the waitlist**, many families are still waiting for the environment and community Thrive creates.

Now, Thrive’s Campaign of Hope enters its next chapter. **We will expand the Magnolia campus to launch Thrive’s high school and prepare students for careers and adulthood**—without compromising the individualized supports that make Thrive work.

Public funding alone does not cover the true cost of a school designed for students with autism—especially when low ratios, specialized staff, and therapeutic supports are essential. Philanthropic investment enables Thrive to grow responsibly, protect quality, and ensure more students have access to a school where they can learn safely and thrive.



Project Timeline

2026–2027

We will secure Thrive’s long-term stability and create the additional space to serve older students as we expand into high school. This work focuses on campus ownership, safety, and the purpose-built learning environments that support career-readiness and independent living skills. Our priorities include:

- Final land and building acquisition to complete campus ownership
- High school expansion designed for Thrive students
- Playground and enhanced outdoor learning/recreation areas
- Campus security improvements

2028

We will complete key buildout needs to support Thrive’s oldest students and long-term growth, including:

- Upstairs renovation in the main building to add five classrooms for career and living-skills programming
- Additional restrooms
- Large parking lot to accommodate additional students and staff
- Transition Fund to ensure Thrive can scale responsibly as enrollment grows

Budget & Financial Impact

The Campaign of Hope positions Thrive to serve ~320 students—and to deliver the continuity, stability, and specialized environment families need as their children grow into adolescence and young adulthood.

Thrive Center for Success is committed to responsible growth and strong stewardship. Thanks to thoughtful leadership and board oversight, Thrive has earned a superior financial rating from the state of Texas for two years in a row, reflecting the strength of the school's operational foundation as we expand.

Campaign	\$16.8M
Funds Raised	\$5.3M
Remaining	\$11.5M

Funding Our Vision

This goal will be achieved through a combination of foundation support, corporate investment, and individual philanthropy. Thrive has already demonstrated what donor partnership makes possible—transforming a former commercial facility into a safe, beautiful school designed around students with autism. We will bring the same discipline and care to the next stages of expansion.

The Campaign Committee is leading this effort through focused outreach and relationship-building with prospective partners who share Thrive's belief that students with autism deserve a free public school built for their success.

Your support fuels what public funding cannot: the spaces, security features, and specialized learning environments that allow Thrive to grow toward K-12 while protecting quality and meeting urgent family demand.

Ways to Give

- ✓ Naming opportunities for major donors, including classrooms, therapy spaces, and outdoor areas.
- ✓ Corporate, Individual, and Foundation giving: These can be a one-time gift or a pledge made over three years.
- ✓ Gifts of securities: Thrive welcomes gifts of stock and other securities.
- ✓ In-kind donations: Gifts of donated services are also a valuable way to contribute expertise, services, resources, or materials to the campaign.



Contact Us

For more information on how you can make a life-changing gift, please contact Elizabeth Goldsmith, Founder and President, Thrive with Autism Foundation.



713.501.0052



e.goldsmith@thrivewautism.org



www.thrivesuccess.org



Foundation EIN: 84-4739547

Thrive With Autism Foundation Board Members

Elizabeth Goldsmith, Chair
Adrienne Sodemann, Vice Chair
Robin Newkirk, Secretary
Bob Abendschein

Stacy Grimes
Robert Morrison
Dr. Alan Seay
Dr. Ann Ziker