

Biography

Nicole Conley Johnson

Chief Business and Operations Officer

Nicole Conley Johnson is the chief business and operations officer for the Austin Independent School District, where she is responsible for managing a more than \$1 billion budget, which includes 130 school communities serving more than 80,000 students, including her two sons.

AISD is the heart of public education in Austin, Texas—a city of ideas and innovation that tops the nation's rankings of the best communities in which to work and live. And, the future economy of Austin, as well as its diverse communities, is being shaped in AISD classrooms today.

Nicole has more than 15 years of financial management experience, more than a decade of which has been in an executive role. She has amassed a breadth of knowledge from serving large, complex urban systems, including: the New York City Department of Education, District of Columbia Public Schools, Fairfax County Public Schools and Atlanta Public Schools. She is nationally recognized for her deep expertise in school finance and for turning around troubled financial systems.

At AISD, she leads and manages the district's business and operations division, which comprises more than 1,600 team members and includes finance, as well as the bond program, construction management, facilities, HUB program, nutrition and food services, purchasing, service center, transportation, and warehouse operations. Recently, Austin voters approved \$1 billion bond program to modernize AISD schools and address critical deficiencies.

Under her leadership, Nicole has earned some of the highest financial ratings in the state by multiple ratings agencies, including a superior rating by the State of Texas. The district also has earned awards and accolades such as the Government Finance Officers Association's Distinguished Budget Presentation Award, the Texas Comptroller of Public Accounts' Leadership Circle Award for Budget Transparency and the Association of School Business Officials International's Certificate of Excellence in Financial Reporting, as well as its Meritorious Budget Award.

Speaker of the Texas House Joe Straus recently appointed her to the Texas Commission on Public School Finance, which will recommend ways the legislature can reform and improve the state's system of paying for public education. In 2011, she was named the Non-profit CFO of the year by the Austin Business Journal and she earned the Umstattd Award from Phi Delta Kappa, University of Texas Chapter for outstanding service to public education.

As a mom and financial professional, Nicole brings community perspectives into the business and operations of Austin's school district, while remaining keenly focused on the bottom line: student success.