



AISD FUTURE: 2017 BOND NEWSLETTER

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Every five years, Austin ISD historically develops a new strategic plan to provide focus and direction to the district. The strategic plan also provides a strong foundation for our progress in educating students, hiring and retaining the best teachers and team members, using our facilities wisely, and tackling big issues facing public education.

The [2020-2025 Strategic Framework](#) addresses AISD's mission, goals and priorities with the aim of creating inclusive, equitable and innovative educational experiences. We are re-energized by our new district vision that we are Austin's home for inclusive learning with high expectations for all children and high outcomes for every student.

This vision represents AISD's renewed commitment to Every Child, Every Day. We aim to ensure academic success through a holistic lens that includes social and emotional learning, educational equity and more. Our renewed commitment to Every Child, Every Day is particularly important as we continue to navigate COVID-19 and the new reality of instruction in remote and on-campus settings.

The 2017 Bond Program and any future bond initiatives always tie back to the district's Strategic Plan. Doing so will help ensure the spaces we create support the evolving needs of our students. Throughout bond planning, the district prioritizes the unique needs of every child, with the understanding that each student learns differently.

The district's [Educational Specifications](#), redesigned for the 2017 bond, create the framework for a learning environment that becomes a tool customizable to different teaching styles and individual student preferences. Traditional classrooms with rows of desks facing a wall and a single instructor are better suited for lecture-style teaching. Modernized spaces allow for group collaboration, one-on-one time with teachers and increased student independence as they prepare to become engaged members of the global community.

We invite you to stay engaged in the progress of the current bond program at AISDFuture.com.

Today and every day, thank you for your support of AISD as we continue the important work on the 2017 Bond Program to create 21st-century learning spaces for our students.

Matias Segura
Operations Officer

Larry Thom
Chief Business Officer

BOND UPDATES

NEWS FROM ACROSS THE DISTRICT

MILESTONE CEREMONIES

We are #AISDProud to celebrate the opening of three more modernized campuses. Norman-Sims Elementary School, Murchison Middle School and the Ann Richards School for Young Women Leaders opened on Jan. 6 to start our Spring 2021 semester. We have successfully modernized and opened nine new schools as part of the 2017 Bond Program.

AISD held a virtual grand opening ceremony for **Norman-Sims Elementary School**, featuring special performances by students, remarks from district leadership and a ribbon-cutting moment with the principal. For the health and safety of the AISD community, this event was held virtually. You can view the full event recording at the [AISD Future blog](#).

We look forward to commemorating the grand openings of the modernized **Murchison Middle School** and **Ann Richards School for Young Women Leaders** with the community.

- Norman-Sims Elementary School Grand Opening — Feb. 11
- Murchison Middle School Grand Opening — March 31
- Ann Richards School for Young Women Leaders Grand Opening — Fall 2021

EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION

Pre-K is a critical growth period for young learners, helping them develop important skills that directly correlate to future academic success. AISD provides a nurturing, rigorous environment for students through purposeful play, social activities and research-based curriculum. Through the 2017 Bond Program, AISD is renovating and modernizing pre-K spaces across the district, including Govalle and T.A. Brown elementary schools. These 21st-century learning spaces benefit our youngest students in numerous ways, providing flexible furniture, increased outdoor learning opportunities and a more creative environment to grow and socialize.



Murchison MS Media Resource Center



Norman-Sims ES Media Resource Center



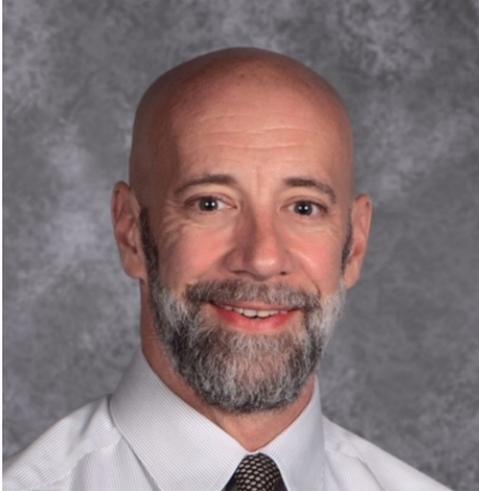
Ann Richards School for YWL Collaboration Space



T.A. Brown ES Outdoor Learning

MEET YOUR BOND TEAM

MODERNIZATION PRINCIPALS



David Crissey - Principal, Bear Creek Elementary School

Principal Crissey has led the new Bear Creek Elementary School since 2019. He previously served as the principal of nearby Kiker Elementary School and was assistant principal at Travis Early College High School. One of his favorite features of the new Bear Creek campus is the outdoor spaces. "Having outdoor classrooms designed specifically for our school will make a huge impact," he said. "Being in nature inspires students, helps them focus and makes them happier to be at school!"



Dr. Nathan Steenport - Principal, Doss Elementary School

Principal Steenport has led Doss Elementary School since 2019, following a nearly 20-year career at Pflugerville ISD. He has served as an elementary teacher, assistant principal and principal. He is looking forward to the day when all Doss students can gather in one of his favorite spaces—the cafeteria. He recognizes and celebrates that students learn in their own unique way and the modernized campus allows for growth and exploration. "The flexible furniture, the flexible spaces allow all of our students to be able to learn in a way that supports their learning," he said.



Kristina Waugh - Principal, Ann Richards School for Young Women Leaders

Principal Waugh served as the Ann Richards School's academic dean for 10 years before being named principal in 2018. She has been instrumental in developing the school's innovative curriculum and practices. With her 30-year career in education, she demonstrates a passion for designing and implementing creative programming, guiding the Ann Richards School to the forefront of STEM education, leadership development and college readiness. She is leading her school community during an exciting time. The Stars are moving into their new school this year as they celebrate an important milestone in their history: 2021 marks the 30th anniversary of Ann Richards' inauguration as Governor of Texas.

PROJECT SPOTLIGHT

The 2017 Bond Program included modernization projects for three Northwest Austin schools: Doss ES, Hill ES Phase I and Murchison MS Phase I. These modernization projects were strategically planned to alleviate overcrowding at the campuses, which ranged from 122 to 162 percent of existing capacity as identified by the 2017 Facility Master Plan. The new facilities increase capacity, allowing for a safer, better functioning campus, and accommodate projected future campus growth.

Doss Elementary School

As part of the 2017 Bond Program, Doss Elementary School received a full campus modernization, increasing campus capacity to 870 students. The vision for the Doss treehouse design was inspired by its location among the trees — and as the home to the Owls. Doss celebrated its grand opening in October 2020 with a virtual event featuring a campus tour, student video and a special proclamation from the City of Austin.

Hill Elementary School - Phase I

Hill Elementary School will receive additions and renovations to permanently increase school capacity to alleviate overcrowding and allow for future growth, as well as technology improvements and new teacher computers. As part of the 2017 Bond Program, Hill will receive a new addition with studios and a fitness space, and renovations to the outdoor greenspace. Construction began in April 2020 and is scheduled to be completed by August 2021.

Murchison Middle School - Phase I

Murchison Middle School received a new administrative space, media center and 6th-grade addition from the 2017 Bond Program. Inspired by rock formations and cliff dwellings, the design of the modernization reflects the terrain of the former quarry where Murchison and Doss Elementary School are located. Construction of the addition and in the main building wrapped up in December 2020 and teachers moved into the new building during the winter break. Parking, site, and portable work is still ongoing. The Murchison community will gather virtually for a grand opening event on March 31, celebrating the occasion with a performance by the school's band and cheerleaders, and sentiments from the Murchison Matadors.

DID YOU KNOW?

An important component of educating Every Child, Every Day is placing an emphasis on health and well-being. Each of AISD's modernized campuses includes expanded outdoor spaces, maximizing wellness and productivity with outdoor views, daylight and flexible learning. These spaces are designed for easy access and are great for hands-on, experiential learning such as art and science projects.

The district's [Educational Specifications](#) provide design standards and concepts to guide new facility construction. While these specifications require outdoor learning areas at each new school, individual school communities can tailor how these spaces are built and used at their campus. For example, T.A. Brown Elementary School has a pen with live goats that provides students with a hands-on, problem-solving learning approach. Doss and Menchaca elementary schools have outdoor learning spaces adjacent to their art rooms, encouraging creativity inspired by nature.

The health and well-being of students is linked to the learning environment and relationships with educators. These positive relationships paired with a learning space full of natural light, connections to the outdoors and space for movement creates a learning experience focused on whole health and wellness.

GET INVOLVED

AISD WELCOMES STUDENTS, FAMILIES, TEAM MEMBERS AND THE GREATER AUSTIN COMMUNITY TO BE INFORMED ABOUT AND ENGAGED IN THE BOND IMPLEMENTATION PROCESS.

Learn about districtwide and campus-specific community meetings and sign up for [email](#) notifications by visiting [AISDFuture.com](#).

