

## IN-DISTRICT CHARTER: COLLEGE PREPARATION CHARTER

### DELIVERY MODEL:

The recommended delivery model for this scenario is the establishment of:

A K-12 college-preparatory, in-district charter program with a proven record of success guided by a contractual agreement. This college-preparatory design emphasizes core curriculum, results-driven culture, core values and a no-excuses culture that prepares students for success in college and citizenship by developing academic, social and leadership skills needed to succeed in a four-year college.

The structure of the model is:

- Begin with K-2 and 6<sup>th</sup> grade at Allan Elementary in 2012-13
- K-2 Allan grows yearly to K-5 by 2015-16
- Students in the current Allan attendance zone in grades 3-5 will attend Govalle or Ortega based on their residence address with transportation.  
Students from the current Allan attendance zone will attend IDEA Allan. K-2 students who do not choose to enroll at IDEA will be assigned based on their address to either Govalle or Ortega and 6<sup>th</sup> grade will be assigned to Martin with transportation, or may request a transfer to another AISD school without transportation.
- The 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> grade will move to Eastside Memorial in 2013-14 and will grow yearly until 2018-2019 when it will be a 6-12<sup>th</sup> grade school.
- Students attending Eastside Memorial will co-locate with IDEA from 2013-14 until 2016-17 as the IDEA program is phased in.
- Students from Eastside Memorial HS Vertical Team (Martin attendance zone) will have Preference to attend the secondary IDEA program (612) at the Eastside Memorial campus.
- Middle school students who do not enroll at IDEA at the Eastside Memorial campus will be assigned to Martin MS. High school students who do not enroll at IDEA at the Eastside Memorial campus will continue to have the choice of attending Crockett HS, Travis HS, LBJ HS or Reagan HS.
- AISD will continue to operate the Pre-Kindergarten program at Allan for 2012-2013.

### STRATEGIC PLAN & BOARD PRIORITY INITIATIVE ALIGNMENT:

*Strategy 1:* Provide a high-quality, well-rounded, educational experience to all students that is rigorous, culturally relevant, healthful, and engaging.

*Key Action 1.22:* Develop a plan to effectively serve East Austin schools and their communities.

- Additional Key Actions: 1.6, 1.14, 1.20
- Develop academic achievement and support strategies for at-risk populations.

Explore/establish new delivery models to provide an enhanced portfolio of academic options.

**RATIONALE:**

AISD is committed to raising the achievement of all students. The East Austin Schools Plan clearly outlines specific strategies for academic improvement in east Austin schools. Economically Disadvantaged and Hispanic subgroups continue to lag behind White and non-economically disadvantaged peers. Though there have been gains in specific content areas we continue to have few to no Exemplary campuses in the east Austin. Some charter schools have a record of success with Hispanic, economically disadvantaged students, and have consistently been rated as an Exemplary district.

**PROGRAM DESCRIPTION:**

College Prep, K-12 program focused on STEM education. Strong emphasis on core curriculum, results-driven culture, core values and a no-excuses culture. Prepares students for success in college and citizenship by developing academic, social and leadership skills needed to succeed in a four-year college.

School Year	IDEA at Allan	Sts @125 per grade (K-5)	Current Allan	IDEA at Eastside	Sts @225 per grade	Current Eastside will co-locate	Projected Eastside Students to continue ESMHS Program
2012-2013	K-2 & 6	600	AISD PreK at Allan & 3-5 to Govalle & Ortega	_____	_____	_____	_____
2013-2014	K-3	500	4&5 Assigned to Govalle and Ortega	6-7	450	9-12	600
2014-2015	K-4	625	5 Assigned to Govalle and Ortega	6-8	675	9-12	600
2015-2016	K-5	750	_____	6-9	900	10-12	450
2016-2017	_____	_____	_____	6-10	1,125	11-12	_____
2017-2018	_____	_____	_____	6-11	1,350	12	_____
2018-2019	_____	_____	_____	6-12	1,575	_____	_____

Highlighted elements of the contractual agreement with IDEA will include:

1. Begin with K-2 and 6<sup>th</sup> grade at Allan campus in 2012-13.
2. The K-2 program at Allan will grow yearly to PK-5 by 2015-2016 with minimum 112 to maximum 125 students per grade.
3. Current students from Allan will attend IDEA Allan.
4. The 6<sup>th</sup> grade program will move to Eastside Memorial in 2013-14 and will grow yearly until 2018-2019 with minimum 112 to maximum 225 students per grade.
5. Students from the ESMVT/Martin Middle School attendance zone will attend the secondary IDEA program (6-12) at the Eastside campus unless they choose to attend Martin Middle School (grades 6-8) or Travis HS (grades 9-12) or request a transfer to other secondary schools based on space availability.
6. Students from the current Allan attendance area (K-5) and Martin attendance area (6-12) will be assigned to attend IDEA Allan.
7. Students in the Eastside Memorial VT will be eligible to be part of a lottery for additional spaces in K-5 only after current Allan students fill spaces. If spaces remain available in K-12 a district-wide lottery will be used to fill spaces.
8. IDEA Allan would not have Pre-K but AISD PreK will remain on the Allan campus for 2012-13.
9. No student will be involuntarily removed from IDEA without the review and approval of AISD's superintendent or designee.
10. IDEA Allan will operate on a 178 day school year, longer school days, and additional Saturday school as needed.
11. IDEA Allan will inform AISD of any repairs, improvements or repurposing of the school site needed.
12. IDEA Allan will pay for utilities, routine care, cleaning and maintenance.
13. AISD will provide security services and resource officers in a manner equal to services provided other AISD students at a cost to IDEA.
14. AISD will provide furniture and equipment during the start-up of the IDEA program. IDEA will be permitted to use existing AISD furniture during the first year for each grade of start-up.
15. IDEA will identify and service ELL, Special Education, and 504/Dyslexia students.
16. All staff at Allan or Eastside Memorial, interested in working for IDEA Public Schools, will be guaranteed an interview with the IDEA Human Assets Team.
17. Current classified personnel will be interviewed for employment with IDEA Public Schools, specifically in office, clerical, and custodial services.
18. IDEA will provide enrichment opportunities, to eligible students, including academics, clubs, sports, and UIL events based on student interest and at the discretion of IDEA.
19. IDEA Public Schools will create a schedule to meet regularly with other Eastside Memorial HS Vertical Team elementary staff to assist and support in alignment of programming into 6-12 program, and will be available for professional development as requested.
20. AISD will monitor the performance and services, provided by IDEA, in accordance with AISD identified performance criteria.
21. IDEA would be considered as a partnering entity to help the district assure success in implementation of the research-based tenets outlined in the 2011-12 Eastside Memorial Reconstitution Plan.
22. IDEA will be paid per student allotment of \$7,711.83 (Year 1) to operate campuses.
23. AISD will provide food service and transportation based on regular calendar days.



**DISTRICT NEEDS:** To increase academic achievement of students, especially ELL secondary students in East Austin in math and science.

#### **SUPPORTING RESEARCH:**

The charter school movement was born in the late 1980's as an innovative answer to closing the achievement gap in the United States. Charters were originally conceived as moderate, market-based solutions to achievement issues within urban educational systems (Merseth, 2009). They are distinctly different than a voucher system in that they remain inside the public system and are subject to public regulation, yet they are free or loosely controlled by district bureaucracies. Designed as autonomous, independent, client-centered public schools, free from local bureaucratic policies, they provide real choices for families and are excellent models or "test beds" of effective innovative practice for the mainstream public education system (Merseth, 2009).

Considered one of the most significant education reforms in the state's history, Texas lawmakers first launched public charter schools in 1995 under Texas Education Code, Section 12.001 (Trevino, 2006). District policy (EL local) regarding in-district charter campus or program was first issued in Austin ISD in June 2001. It authorized applications for a charter campus or program. This policy was updated in 2005. Changes approved by the Board of Trustees in January 2011 clarified the creation of an in-district charter on an existing school campus.

Loss of students within AISD to charter schools amounts to a loss in revenue of approximately \$26,100,000 yearly (Conley-Abrams, 2011). Local charters have been viewed as competition to our district's educational programming; draining state ADA funds, and recruiting motivated students and teachers from our district. To date, Austin ISD has not strategically collaborated with local charter schools, nor have we identified existing charter programs with successful records that could address our district's defined needs.

Our goal in re-examining district policy (EL Local) and the role of charter schools in our district at this time is to provide a rich portfolio of options and choice in program design such as time, flexibility, and smaller learning communities. This work is aligned to the AISD Strategic Plan and progressive thinking on academic models to shape a "new vision" for how capital improvements and academic planning can improve academic outcomes. The administration has identified existing charter programs, with proven success records, that may enhance the quality of programs and address defined district needs such as chronically underperforming schools, dropout and completion rates, and alternative education programming.

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**EXAMPLE IMPLEMENTATIONS:**

IDEA Public Schools in South Texas have five Exemplary-rated 6-12 campuses. Results for low-income, minority students are above the average for Region 1 and the state.

- IDEA Campuses include:
- IDEA Donna, IDEA Frontier (Brownsville)
- IDEA Quest (McAllen/Edinburg)
- IDEA Mission, IDEA San Benito
- IDEA San Juan, IDEA Alamo
- IDEA Pharr, IDEA Edinburg
- IDEA Weslaco

**FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS FACILITY IMPLICATIONS**

<b>Annual Operating Costs</b>	<b>Amount</b>
Per Student Entitlement	7,711.83
<i>(Based on AISD formula entitlements)</i>	
Projected No. Students	600
Projected IDEA Allocation	4,627,100
Transportation	396,703
<b>Subtotal IDEA (General Funds only, excluding food)</b>	<b>5,023,803</b>
Projected Transportation Costs for Grades Pre-K, 3, 4, 5 for Govalle or Ortega (4 buses)	80,000
Less:	
Staffing Savings (Allan Admin and Grades, K-2)	(2,747,870)
Projected Staffing Savings ESVT Grades K, 1,2 Transfers	(385,959)
Projected Staffing Savings ESVT 6th Grade Transfers	(330,822)
Private Grant and Support	(1,500,000)
<b>Net Total Annual Operating Cost to District</b>	<b>139,152</b>
<b>On-Time Costs</b>	
Start-Up	0
Facilities Improvements	430,040
<b>Total One-Time Costs</b>	<b>430,040</b>
<b>Total Year 1 (General Fund)</b>	<b>569,192</b>

Although Allan was originally designed and constructed as a junior high school, it has been used as an elementary school for over 30 years. In addition to serving as an elementary school, Allan houses several administrative functions, including the District's Library Media Center. This study anticipates that the current administrative functions housed in the 150-classroom wing will be relocated to another District facility, but that the Library Media Center and Pre K program will continue to operate at Allan Elementary School.

Since the school is currently being used as an elementary school, few modifications to the facility will be necessary to satisfy the requirements of an elementary school. The primary improvements will be the conversion of the 150-classroom wing, from its present use as District administrative space, into 8 kindergarten and first grade classrooms. To accommodate the fully implemented program for 750 (125 per grade level) students in grades K through 5, four portable classroom buildings will need to be moved onto the campus.

To accommodate the proposed middle school and high school student populations, totaling 1,575 students (225 per grade level), few renovations or improvements to the Eastside Memorial High School campus will be required. All physical education, cafeteria, fine arts, and library functions can be shared by the middle school and high school programs.

Presently, the International High School is located at Eastside Memorial High School, and will need to be relocated to Reagan High School.

<b>Projected Food Costs</b>	
Projected Food Expenditures	235,999
Projected Food Reimbursements	(250,244)
Net Food Costs	(14,245)
<b>Grand Total Yr 1</b>	<b>554,947</b>

(Food costs for AISD Pre-K at Allan not included)