



March 29th Presentation

Transportation



Kris Hafezizadeh: Transportation Executive Director



State of the Department

- Austin ISD busses transport 23,000+ students daily
- 500+ busses traveling about 6M miles per year with roughly 600 employees.
- 345 routes, about 8,000 after school trips, district wide bus options, ACC and high school sharing, McKinney Vento out of town trips (homeless students).
- **Mission:** To provide safe, reliable and professional transportation for students.
 - **Strategic plan 7.1e:** Provide and maintain safe schools, facilities, transportation, and food services.



- **Strength:** Our department has been an integral part of the district efforts during challenging times. We step up to the plate and make it happen when needed.
- **Weakness:** Shortage of drivers to make sure we meet our mission.

Priorities



- Safe, reliable and effective transportation
- Equitable transportation
- Effective school sites, equipment and terminal buildings

Austin ISD Transportation

7 Conditions for Student Success

We operate with the understanding that equitable systems of education strive to create the following conditions in order to promote student success:

- Culturally proficient, experienced teachers and staff
- Recognition and cultivation of gifts, talents and interests
- High expectations and support to meet those high expectations
- Positive relationships with teachers and peers
- A sense of belonging, empowerment, connection and identity safety
- Rigorous, relevant and inclusive curriculum centering their language, racial and cultural identities
- Well-maintained facilities that support state of the art instruction and support cultural identities and safety

Safe, Reliable and Effective Transportation

- **Safety:** Our goal is fewer accidents and incidents. We have an accountability process including if students are onboard. No matter the type of accident, we call EMS, District Police, APD and supervisors to make sure all students are checked out prior to releasing the bus. School messenger goes out to the families of that specific route.
- **On time:** We want to make sure students arrive to school at least 20 minutes prior to morning bell times to have sufficient time for breakfast. Our goal is to have an on-time performance of 95% or better. Most of the times, we meet our goal. Driver shortage does not help the situation.
- **Effective & Reliable:** Having a safe bus fleet plays a big part. Our average age of the fleet at this time is 5.87, we have a replacement plan of 12 years. Industry standard is 12-15 years. Our buses are purchased through the Bond funds. All busses are equipped with live GPS, seat belts and digital cameras. Parents have access to “Where’sTheBus” app.

Safe, Reliable and Effective Transportation

Which of the 7 Conditions for Student Success does this support?

- High expectations and support to meet those high expectations

Which problem statement does this address?

- All students need access to equitable transportation services to provide consistent, reliable, and safe access to school facilities.
- Students who walk, bike, or take public transit need safer routes to and from school to ensure student safety.

Which additional committees does this impact?



Equitable Transportation

- Some families, especially those with no other mode of transportation, have asked to reduce the 2-mile distance walking policy.
 - District follows TEA funding formula for providing transportation.
 - This year, we have reduced the walking distance policy for 24 under-enrolled schools to serve them better. Hoping this change will increase enrollment and assist families (not funded by TEA).
 - Plus no students cross IH-35 under or over bridges.
- Families have asked for better access to and from school if they are walking or biking.
 - We work with the City of Austin Safe Routes to school to provide additional sidewalks, crossing guards and training.

Equitable Transportation

Which of the 7 Conditions for Student Success does this support?

- High expectations and support to meet those high expectations

Which problem statement does this address?

- All students need access to equitable transportation services to provide consistent, reliable, and safe access to school facilities.

Which additional committees does this impact?



Effective school access sites, equipment and terminal buildings

- Lack of safe and effective pickup and drop off at the schools.
 - This causes issues for staff, families, and students with insufficient or outdated site access to arrive or leave school safely.
 - New campuses were designed to provide safe and efficient access.
- Our three bus terminals and service center vehicle maintenance shop need additional renovations and upgrades.
 - Steel fences for maximum security is a priority.
 - We have recommendations for each terminal.
- Nelson terminal, which predominantly serves majority of routes north of the river is undersized and insufficient for the employees that provide services for students.

Effective school access sites, equipment and terminal buildings

Which of the 7 Conditions for Student Success does this support?

- High expectations and support to meet those expectations

Which problem statement does this address?

- Students arriving and departing from school via all modes of transportation need safer locations and protocols for pickup / drop-off at school to ensure student safety.
- The district needs improved transportation service centers to support safer and more efficient working conditions and operations for AISD employees and the communities we serve. Our Nelson terminal serves more schools and employees but it is much smaller than the other two terminals.

Which additional committees does this impact?



Question and Answer Session

Next Steps

Post-meeting Survey Link: <https://bit.ly/3q7Oruo>

Future Meetings

Committee Meetings

- Tuesday, April 19 (6:00 pm - 8:30 pm)
- Saturday, April 30 (9:00 am - 12:30 pm)
- Tuesday, May 10 (6:00 pm - 8:30 pm)
- June date TBD

Resources

- [Comprehensive resource list](#)



March 29th Presentation

Food Service



Christine Steenport, Executive Director of Food Service & Warehouse Operations



State of the Department - Food Service

Department Vision

Austin ISD cafes are desired dining destination for all students. The foods we serve are a reflection of our community, balancing current trends with operational realism. Our menus positively impact student health, food culture, and food systems in Austin, Texas, and the nation.

Department Mission

At AISD, our mission is to support the achievement of all students by expanding food access, serving healthy, tasty meals, and providing learning opportunities about nutrition, cultural foodways and the food system.

State of the Department - Food Service

Strengths

- Food Accessibility: *Breakfast, Lunch, Afterschool Meals & Snacks, Summer Meals*
- Menu Planning: *Nutrition, Balance, Creativity, Variety, Compliance*
- Procurement: *GFPP + Label Standards, Managing Ongoing Supply Chain Issues*
- Sustainability: *Commitment to quality, Local purchasing, Zero Waste Focus*
- Training: *Hands-on, On-boarding, Continued opportunities = Retention*

Areas of Improvement or Concern

- Opportunity to feed more students: Currently feeding ~25% enrollment at breakfast, 50% at lunch
- Inequities and insufficiencies in the time allotted for students to eat at school
- Aging kitchens and equipment

Department Updates

- 600+ cafe team members at 112 kitchens serving around 62,000 meals per day
- Continuing to reintroduce programs paused due to the pandemic
- U.S. Department of Agriculture waivers ending this SY

7 Conditions for Student Success

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- Rigorous, relevant and inclusive curriculum centering their language, racial and cultural identities
- Well-maintained facilities that support state of the art instruction and support cultural identities and safety

Department Priorities



Austin ISD Food Service

- Expanding Healthy Food Access
- Equitable and Sufficient Meal Times
- Nutrition - Creating a Healthy Relationship with Food
- Modernized Dining - Equipment Maintenance and Upgrades
- Sustainability

Expanding Healthy Food Access

The Facts

1 in 4 children in Travis County are food insecure,

meaning they do not know where their next meal is coming from

Pre Pandemic

More than $\frac{2}{3}$ of Austin ISD students relied on school meals

Food Access is our #1 priority.

Our Meal Programs

Breakfast

Served daily at all Schools

.....
Breakfast in the Classroom at 50+ schools

Lunch

Served daily at all Schools

After-School Meals

Free meal or snack for students in enrichment activities

.....
Currently at 70+ schools

Summer

Free meals for any children 18 and younger

.....
Typically 50+ sites

Other: Fresh Fruit & Vegetable Program

Fresh fruit & vegetable snack served 2x per week
10 campuses selected by Dept. of Agriculture to participate this SY

Brown, Galindo, Govalle, Harris, Norman-Sims, Oak Spring, Pecan Springs, Rodriguez, Uphaus, Zavala

Expanding Healthy Food Access

Which of the 7 Conditions for Student Success does this support?

- High expectations and support to meet those high expectations

Which problem statement does this address?

- Families struggling with food access and food insecurity need access to healthy, fresh food to meet the nutritional needs of students and their families so they can learn.

Which additional committees does this impact?



Equitable and Sufficient Meal Times

- According to the JAMA Network Open 2021 study, "[Disparities in Diet Quality in School-Age Children—Opportunities and Challenges](#)," schools provide the **healthiest** and **most equitable** access of all US food sources.
- We serve the same menus at each level across the district, providing all students with healthy, tasty, high-quality options.
- Our menus are balanced and reflect our diverse communities.
- We want our students' dining experience to be welcoming and remind them that they belong to a community that values them.

Meals times vary by principals master schedule and vary by campus

Goal is to ensure that mealtimes are adequately planned for with transition times so students have time to get food and eat.

Time to walk to serving area, get meal, wash hands, eat meal and bus table, etc.

School Name	Enrollment	Economically Disadvantaged %	Bfast Avg Per Day	Bfast Participation % of Enrollment	Bfast Time	Breakfast	Lunch Participation Avg Per Day	Lunch Participation % of Enrollment	Time Allotted Per Lunch Period	# of Lunch Periods	Est # Students Per Lunch	Lunch I
	2391	23%	91	4%	0:55	8:10-9:05	421	18%	0:45	1	2391	12:40-1:25
	1660	82%	159	10%	0:45	8:15-9:00	579	35%	0:45	1	1660	12:40-1:25

Equitable and Sufficient Meal Times

Which of the 7 Conditions for Student Success does this support?

- High expectations and support to meet those high expectations
- A sense of belonging, empowerment, connection and identity safety

Which problem statement does this address?

- Students across all campuses need sufficient time to eat and equitable access to sufficient food portions for breakfast, lunch, and snack/dinner because hungry kids can't learn.

Which additional committees does this impact?



Nutrition - Creating a Healthy Relationship with Food

Our menus and recipes reflect the authenticity of cultural foodways, providing the feeling of home and inclusivity for students, while connecting students to other cultures.

- **Active Sampling** to introduce new items/recipes and flavors.



Salads offered daily, themes rotate weekly



Sunbutter & jelly sandwiches offered daily (vegan option)



Scratch prepared favorites, example NAE chicken drumsticks



Global dishes, example Chicken Lo Mein



Hamburgers, veggie burgers, hot dogs served on New World Bakery Buns



Healthy version of student favorites like chicken tenders & pizza



Tasty vegetables, example sweet potatoes from Fredericksburg Peach Co.



A variety of fresh fruit, often Texas-grown

Nutrition - Creating a Healthy Relationship with Food

Which of the 7 Conditions for Student Success does this support?

- Culturally proficient, experienced teachers and staff

Which problem statement does this address?

- All students need access to appealing, healthy, tasty food (regardless of dietary restrictions) to support students' social-emotional learning.

Which additional committees does this impact?



Modernized Dining - Equipment Maintenance and Upgrades

It is crucial that our kitchens and service areas are well-maintained and safe for our staff and students. Our prep and service areas must support a more efficient work environment for staff and a modernized, inclusive dining experience for students.

- Old facilities & aging kitchen equipment (steamers, ovens, hot boxes, serving lines, etc)
 - The serving lines, and other cooking equipment ages. Keeping hot food hot and cold food cold is sometimes a challenge with aging equipment that can't be serviced by our repair vendor if they don't make the parts anymore.
 - Food offerings by **type** differ when the serving line is set up consistently.
 - Food presentation and student acceptability changes with newer serving lines
 - Self Serve salads bars, etc.



Modernized Dining - Equipment Maintenance and Upgrades

Which of the 7 Conditions for Student Success does this support?

- Well-maintained facilities that support state of the art instruction and support cultural identities and safety

Which problem statement does this address?

- Students across all campuses need sufficient time to eat and equitable access to sufficient food portions for breakfast, lunch, and snack/dinner because hungry kids can't learn.
- All students need access to appealing, healthy, tasty food (regardless of dietary restrictions) to support students' social-emotional learning.

Which additional committees does this impact?



Sustainability

Sustainability: *Commitment to quality, Local purchasing, Zero Waste Focus*

Curriculum empowers students to build a culture of environmental awareness and action within our schools and community. We continue this focus within our menus, facilities, and kitchen operations to support sustainability as an economic, environmental, and social priority.

- Commitment to quality foods and whole foods that are minimally processed balancing the nutritional value and student acceptability. Providing less processed food supports higher levels of nutrition, improved academic achievement and environmental sustainability.
 - **scratch cooking:** The preparation of meals using ingredients that are unprocessed and/or minimally processed, as close to their origin as possible.
- GFPP- The Good Food Purchasing Program transforms the way public institutions purchase food by creating a transparent and equitable food system built on five core values: local economies, health, valued workforce, animal welfare, and environmental sustainability
- Food service has eliminated plastics containers/serving ware up to 95% compostable
 - Dishmachines and/or facility aged plumbing inhibit using reusable/washable trays



Sustainability

Which of the 7 Conditions for Student Success does this support?

- Well-maintained facilities that support state of the art instruction and support cultural identities and safety
- High expectations and support to meet those high expectations

Which problem statement does this address?

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Maintenance



Louis Zachary, Executive Director Facilities Maintenance

State of the Department

- **Mission:** The Austin ISD Facilities Maintenance Service Center is committed to providing exceptional customer service that contributes to a clean, safe, cost-effective, and instructionally supportive school environment that adheres to the districts mission.
- **Department Vision:** The Facilities Maintenance Service Center contributes to student success through maintaining the learning environment. Our staff supports campus administration by ensuring that we do our best to take care of facility, maintenance, and custodial services so they can stay focused on student achievement by managing requests, developing the appropriate course of action and then implement the action plan with a timeline to resolve the issue.

State of the Department

- **Department Updates:** The Facilities Maintenance and Housekeeping departments consists of 271 employees servicing 125 campuses plus 15 facilities. We are in the process of a reorganization that will include district custodians, Life Safety, and Athletics Ground Staff.
- **Strengths:** The Facilities Maintenance Service Center Staff takes responsive action to resolve immediate issues and follows up to ensuring customer satisfaction.
- **Areas of Improvement or Concern:** Having adequate funding to perform preventative maintenance and repairs.

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Top Priorities



Austin ISD Facility Maintenance

1. Safe and healthy facilities for students and staff
2. Equitable access to safe and well-maintained resources
3. Maintenance department professional development

Safe and healthy facilities for students and staff

- Continuous monitoring of Housekeeping protocols.
- We provide maintenance support for 125 campuses and 15 facilities.
- We received 54,607 work orders for the 2021 calendar year. 90% of work orders are closed within an average of 10 days.
- We are upgrading our HVAC controls district-wide, which will improve efficiency and response time.
- We are working to implement indoor air quality program that will provide monitoring and predictive HVAC performance enhancements.

Safe and healthy facilities for students and staff

Which of the 7 Conditions for Student Success does this support?

- Well-maintained facilities that support state of the art instruction and support cultural identities and safety.

Which problem statement does this address?

- Students, educators, and staff in aging facilities need funding for timely maintenance and infrastructure replacement to ensure health, safety, welfare, and educational success.

Which additional committees does this impact?



Equitable access to safe and well-maintained resources

- Provide subject matter experts to maintain and oversee annual inspections of AISD resources (elevators, playscapes, chair lifts, donated items, and athletic facilities) for the safety of all students.

Equitable access to safe and well-maintained resources

Which of the 7 Conditions for Student Success does this support?

- High expectations and support to meet those high expectations.
- Well-maintained facilities that support state of the art instruction and support cultural identities and safety.

Which problem statement does this address?

- Campuses and community members that donate resources need consistent and clear processes and procedures around donated resources so all campuses have equitable access to safe and well-maintained resources.

Which additional committees does this impact?



Maintenance Department Professional Development

- Training is provided for new equipment installs at our new facilities
- State-required continuous education/re-certification for various departments such as Plumbing, Electrical, Asbestos, IPM
- Yearly in-house custodial training is provided
- Driver safety training
- Playscape training every two years

Maintenance Department Professional Development

Which of the 7 Conditions for Student Success does this support?

- Well-maintained facilities that support state of the art instruction and support cultural identities and safety.

Which problem statement does this address?

- The Maintenance department needs improved professional development opportunities in order to retain skilled staff and keep up with changing systems and technologies in AISD schools and facilities.

Which additional committees does this impact?



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