

2017 Bond Questions/Responses

Specific FAQs for the LBJ, LASA, Eastside Memorial/IHS and Original Anderson Projects:

1. Can you explain more about the Eastside Memorial and LASA High School moves?

The proposal would move Eastside Memorial High School (EMHS/International High School (IHS) to the Original Anderson site and start an early college high school program plus partnerships with and near the conveniently located Austin Community College (ACC) Eastview Campus. This would prompt the Liberal Arts and Science Academy (LASA) to move to the Johnston Campus, allowing room for growth. Additionally, the bond proposes the creation of a health magnet program in collaboration with Seton Healthcare Family at the LBJ campus while continuing the early college high school model and career launch program

2. What is an early college high school?

In an early college high school program at Austin ISD, students are not only preparing for college tomorrow, they are attending college today. The program offers students the opportunity to graduate with a diploma in one hand and an associate degree in the other—for free. Through an exciting and innovative partnership with Austin Community College, every student has the opportunity to enroll in college-level classes. In addition to earning college credit, students are preparing to compete in the workforce, while saving thousands of dollars in college costs.

3. What is the career launch program?

The Austin Independent School District, in collaboration with Austin Community College, Dell Technologies and Seton Healthcare, will offer two new programs for the 2017-2018 school year! Through a partnership with Dell, the Careers in Technology program will be located at Reagan Early College High School. Likewise, Seton Healthcare will support the Careers in Health Sciences program at LBJ Early College High School. Successful students in either Career Launch program will exit high school with the following: a diploma, complete with endorsements; an associate's degree in Computer Sciences or Health Sciences; applicable workplace experience; and a guaranteed interview for post-secondary employment with one of our industry partners!

4. What is the Liberal Arts Science Academy (LASA)?

The Liberal Arts and Science Academy (LASA) High School is a four-year comprehensive, public, urban, advanced academic magnet high school of 1,122 students. The class of 2017 numbers 251 students. The program recruits the most academically advanced students from public and private middle schools in Austin; as such, admission to LASA is competitive, based

on test scores, previous accomplishments and teacher recommendations. The LBJ Science Academy, Austin's first magnet program, was created in 1985. The Liberal Arts Academy at Johnston High School opened in 1987. The two programs were merged in 2002 and became the Liberal Arts and Science Academy (LASA), housed on the Lyndon Baines Johnson High School campus. In 2007, the school board voted to make LASA its own high school. The two high schools, LASA and LBJ, are housed on the same campus and still share fine arts and athletics classes. They compete in UIL events as one school. LASA educates socially responsible leaders, problem solvers, and thinkers through a nationally recognized, rigorous, innovative, interdisciplinary curriculum.

5. What is the Health Science Magnet Program at LBJ?

The Health Science Magnet Program will provide students opportunities to explore and learn about the many facets of the health science field in collaboration with local teaching hospitals and other health institutions in Austin, Texas. The program design will prepare students for entrance into Tier 1 research university programs and medical schools. Students will have the opportunity to explore health related topics in their selected medical pathway, highlighted by a practicum in health science and a capstone research project. The program will allow students to survey and prepare for the different options in health careers including:

- Working in a medical laboratory;
- Patient Care Science;
- World Health Biomedical Engineering;
- Anatomy and Physiology; and
- Preceptorship.

6. When would LASA move into the EMHS/IHS facility at the Johnston Campus and when would EMHS/IHS move to the Original Anderson site?

Estimated construction timelines suggest breaking ground over a year from now and new sites would be projected to be ready for students by 2020-2021. Along the way, Austin ISD will meaningfully involve campus and surrounding communities around the design process and ensure feedback is considered and incorporated where appropriate. We will ensure the continuity of each school's programming will not be affected.

7. What would happen to the Alternative Learning Center (ALC) that is currently housed at the Original Anderson site?

The reconstituted and restructured ALC would be relocated to other district facilities and will continue to serve students in grades 6-12.

8. How is Austin ISD addressing important issues of equity and historical inequalities?

Austin ISD takes very seriously its vision and mission to prepare ALL students for college, career and life. The facility master plan (FMP) and bonds are only some tools out of many in an extensive toolbox that Austin ISD will use to confront the challenges of undoing systemic inequities and inequalities throughout our the district. Austin ISD is diligently working on reassessing its magnet program admissions process and reevaluating enrollment criteria in efforts to mitigate barriers to entry and increase diversity. Austin ISD leadership is very mindful to collaborate with other entities that are invested in making it less burdensome for families to live affordably in Austin.

9. What if my student is not interested in the medical field but attends the Lyndon Baines Johnson (LBJ) Early College High School (ECHS)?

The proposed, new medical high school at the LBJ ECHS campus will be designed and integrated with the ECHS such that students would have the option to pursue a specialty career track. Core classes such as biology, anatomy and physiology, chemistry, etc. would be offered and taken by all students at the campus regardless of program. Students who attend the LBJ ECHS, Career Launch or the Health Science Magnet program would take courses together. Student rosters will consist of students from all three programs when the “crosswalks” align to ensure students will take classes together.

10. Why does Liberal Arts and Science Academy (LASA) need to grow?

The Liberal Arts and Science Academy has received national recognition. There is a demand for providing more seats for prospective students because we turn away over 150 qualified students every year. LASA needs to grow because Austin ISD realizes the importance of offering opportunities to more and diverse students across the district and the region.

11. How will Original Anderson’s history be preserved?

Austin ISD has engaged with stakeholders of the Original Anderson community around the best ways to respectfully honor the legacy of Original Anderson. Austin ISD has taken steps to ensure historical preservation through a designation in addition to including community space and museum/gallery area in a new Eastside Memorial High School (ESMHS)/International High School (HIS) campus that celebrates, memorializes and honors the Original Anderson community.