Austin ISD Recommended 2026–27 Budget Reductions Table			
Department Budget Reductions Note: The reductions below are in addition to the strategies listed above which will have an impact on individual departments and services to campuses.			
Item	Level	Additional Information	Projected Savings
Superintendent & Chief of Staff *(Communications and Community Engagement, Enrollment and Attendance, Office of Innovation and Development, Board Services and Intergovernmental Relations Office, Office of Strategic Planning, Ombudsman Office)*	Central	• Eliminate vacant Deputy Superintendent of Business and Operations position • Transition from external auditors to internal auditor • Eliminate TEA monitors that were previously required under the TEA Special Education Agreed Order • Use TEA Learning Acceleration Support Opportunities (LASO) grant funds to cover the contract costs of technical partner Steady State for two elementary campuses instead of paying for contracts out of the local budget. • Reduce travel, membership fees, and professional learning opportunities for department staff • Reduce overtime across all departments • Close the Austin ISD Print Shop staffing, supplies and rentals	$1M
Finance Department	Central	• Renegotiate bank fees for campus accounts and shift the responsibility for those costs directly to individual campus budgets. • Reduce property insurance cost by increasing our deductible • Reduce use of professional services related to investment	$3.2 M

		compliance reporting by shifting key monitoring functions to internal staff • Limit overtime • Reduce general supplies • Limit travel and professional learning opportunities • Negotiate contract fee for budgeting software	
Talent Strategy Department	Central	• Discontinue contract with UpBeat for the staff climate survey and move the survey internally as done previously • Reduce leadership development pipeline materials and substitute costs • Reduce professional learning reading materials and supplies • Reduce recruitment services, materials and supplies for district and external job fairs • Limit overtime • Reduce meals and snacks for trainings • Reduce travel and professional learning opportunities for department staff	$1.8 M
Technology Department	Central	• Reduce network materials and repairs budget for electrical and telecommunications vendor • Rescale master scheduling software contract scope • Reduce in-district travel reimbursements to the federal minimum for in-person technical assistance, student device management and administrative support across all campuses	$2.4 M
Office of the General	Central	• Reduce reliance on outside legal services	$296 K

Counsel		• Reduce legal settlements • Transition to lower-cost software to manage Public Information Act requests • Reduce part-time hourly support for Public Information Act support • Eliminate purchases of professional reading materials	
School Leadership Office (Includes Fine Arts & Athletics)	Central	• Reduce travel for professional learning opportunities • Reduce food and refreshments for principal interview committees, full day off-campus principal meetings, etc. • Reduce school improvement contract • Limit overtime	$1.1 M
Academics Office	Central	• Reduce general supplies, transportation, food and refreshments for end-of-year celebrations and professional learning opportunities • Rescale districtwide celebration ceremonies to campus-based events (e.g. the Latino Academic Achievement Awards and African American Heritage Celebration) • Discontinue Economic Mobility Systems Dashboard and transition to using existing College Career and Military Readiness dashboarding tools available in OnData Suite and SchooLinks	$3.4 M
Special Education Department	Central	• Reduce supplemental pay and materials for evaluation clinics, made possible by lower staff vacancy rates • Reduce supplemental pay for IEP writing at campuses, made possible by lower staff vacancy rates	$4 M

		• Reduce travel and fees for professional learning opportunities for central office and itinerant staff • Reduce reliance on contracted services for evaluations and transition services • Discontinue outside contracts for family engagement and bring services in-house	
Police Department	Central	• Reduce purchase of uniforms • Require officers to purchase their own district-sanctioned firearms, consistent with the practice of other law enforcement agencies • Explore transitioning certain roles from Police Officers to state-licensed Commissioned Security Officers (armed security). While these professionals meet state licensing and training requirements, Austin ISD would require them to undergo specialized training similar to what we provide for our police officers, focusing heavily on de-escalation tactics and supporting youth. • Reduce accreditation fees and conferences • Provide additional guidance and limitations of police vehicle use	$5 M
Operations Department	Central	• Reduce funding for campus construction, repairs and upgrades that fall outside the scope of the bond • Reduce facilities maintenance non-staffing budget by 10% • Custodial substitute restructure and overtime guidelines	$9.8 M
Additional Central Office Reductions			

Item	Level	Additional Information	Projected Savings
Forced Department Budget Reductions	Central	All department budgets will face an additional percentage-based cut. The specific details of these forced reductions will be finalized before the June 18 vote. Because many campus-wide programs and support services rely on department funding, these cuts may have broader impacts across our district.	$17 M
Real Estate/Property Sales/Monetization			
Item	Level	Additional Information	Projected Savings
Surplus Properties	District wide	Sell and/or monetize four district properties deemed surplus. Visit www.austinisd.org/repurposing/surplus-property-process for more information on the surplus property process.	$60 M
Future Staffing Reductions			
Item	Level	Additional Information	Projected Savings
Future Budget Realignment and Staffing Reductions	District wide	Currently, payroll makes up over 88% of our budget. School finance best practices recommend aligning closer to the third party recommended industry standard of 82%, which provides greater flexibility to respond to revenue fluctuations. To meet this standard, Austin ISD will reduce districtwide staffing over the 2026–27 school year. We plan to achieve this goal through departmental reorganizations, normal staff departures (attrition), and adjusting staffing levels to match student enrollment needs (leveling).	$31M

Breakdown of Budget Reductions by Category	
Category	**Total Budget Reduction**
Departments (includes $17 million in forced reductions)	$49 M
Campus staffing and non-staffing	$33 M
Districtwide	$12 M
Districtwide Staffing Reductions (restructure, attrition and leveling)	$31 M
Property Sales/Monetization	$60 M