

Overview of Recommended Budget Reductions with Campus Impacts

Campus Budget Reductions

Item	Level	Additional Information	Projected Savings
Planning Time	Secondary	<p>Reduce planning time built into some secondary teachers' schedules based on which courses and where they teach. Currently, all secondary teachers get approximately double the state-mandated planning time in their schedules. Under the new plan, some teachers will only receive the state-required planning time (one planning period out of 8 or 450 minutes every two weeks), while others will keep two.</p> <p>Principals will make the campus schedule based on student needs, but teachers at schools undergoing academic Turnaround plans will keep their extra planning time.</p> <p>Reduces the number of instructional positions allocated across secondary campuses by 150.</p>	\$12.4 M
	Elementary	<p>Reduce planning time built into some elementary teachers' schedules based on where they teach. Currently, all general education classroom elementary teachers get approximately double the state-mandated planning time. Under the new plan, teachers will return to a traditional, once-daily state-required planning period at some elementary schools:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Elementary Band 1, 2 and 3 will retain additional planning time. 	\$3.5 M

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All band 4 campuses will return to a traditional, once daily planning period. <p>While these changes affect the amount of time students spend in essential areas classes (Music, Art and PE), all students will continue to receive at least a baseline level of access to these essential courses.</p> <p>Reduces the number of instructional positions allocated across elementary campuses by 53.5.</p>	
Class Sizes	Elementary	<p>Some campuses will change student to teacher ratios to increase class sizes based on academic need and performance of the school:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> All Band 1 campuses (which will include all campuses that currently have a TAP or will receive a TAP in 2026–27) will retain current ratios. Band 2 campuses with an Unacceptable Rating will retain current ratios. <i>Additional Band 2 campuses may retain current ratios at the discretion of the superintendent.</i> Band 3 and 4 will move to the new ratios <ul style="list-style-type: none"> PK3 Teachers 17:1, <i>(no change)*</i> PK4 Teachers 22:1, <i>(no change)*</i> Kinder–1st Grade Teachers 22:1, <i>(no change)</i> 2nd–4th Grades 24:1 <i>(currently 22:1)</i> 5th Grade 27:1 <i>(currently 25:1)</i> <p><i>*Each PK3 and PK4 teacher maintains one Teaching Assistant (no change)</i></p> <p>Reduces the number of teacher positions allocated across elementary campuses by 79.</p>	\$6.5 M

<p>Non-classroom staffing ratios</p>	<p>All</p>	<p>Librarians: Adjust allocations based on new enrollment-based ratios:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● TAP Campuses - 1.0 full-time librarian (<i>no change</i>) ● Non-TAP Campuses Based on enrollment: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ 1-399 students = 0.5 (half-time) librarian (<i>Librarians split time between two schools</i>) ○ 400+ students = 1.0 full-time librarian <p>This means reducing the minimum campus librarian allocation from 1 full-time librarian to 0.5 (half-time) librarian. Reduces the number of librarian positions allocated across all campuses by 11.5.</p>	<p>\$897 K</p>
	<p>All</p>	<p>Counselors: Reduce allocations by eliminating the use of weights for students receiving Special Education services. Previously, the district used a "weighted" system where a student receiving Special Education services counted extra toward the school's total enrollment numbers. This helped schools qualify for more overall counseling staff. Bring back the option for schools to receive a half-time counselor when they don't have enough students to qualify for an additional full-time counselor.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Continue with 450:1 ratio at elementary, 350:1 ratio at secondary. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ EXCEPTION: Consolidating campuses (www.austinisd.org/consolidate) will continue with 	<p>\$2.1 M</p>

		<p>initial counselor staffing allocations during 2026–27 to support transitions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Staffing baseline: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ At least one certified counselor at every campus ○ Middle Schools will receive 2 counselors EXCEPT when the overall student enrollment is below 350 ○ High Schools will receive 3 counselors <p>Ann Richards School (6th-12th grade) will receive 3 counselors aligning with the identification as a high school for state accountability.</p> <p>Reduces the number of counselor positions allocated across all campuses by 22.</p>	
	All	<p>Assistant Principals: Reduce allocations based on new enrollment-based ratios. Bring back the option for schools to receive a half-time AP when they don't have enough students to qualify for an additional full-time AP.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Continue applying special education “weights ● Minimum 1 ES, 2 MS, 3 HS ● Campuses with the following populations of Emergent Bilingual (EB) students receive an additional Assistant Principals due to increased compliance requirements <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Elementary: over 80% and 400+ EB students ○ Middle: over 70% and 600+ EB students 	\$1.2 M

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> High: over 60% and 800+ EB students <p>Reduces the number of assistant principal positions allocated across all campuses by 11</p>	
Centralized Budgets with Campus impact			
Item	Level	Additional Information	Projected Savings
Technology	All	Begin transitioning away from 1:1 devices for students. Develop guidelines in alignment with the academic framework.	TBD (Savings realized in bond funds)
		Develop an evaluation process to review and discontinue software based on usage and alignment with academic framework.	TBD
Transportation	Elementary & Secondary	<p>Return to a standard 2-mile transportation policy, removing current 0.4 mile distance exceptions for 14 elementary schools:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Andrews, Blackshear/Oak Springs, Campbell, Harris, Jordan, Sanchez, Norman-Sims, Odom, Pecan Springs, Montessori, Zavala <p>Return to a standard 2-mile transportation policy, removing current 1-mile distance exceptions for 10 secondary schools:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> High Schools: Crockett, Eastside, Northeast, Travis Middle Schools: Burnet, Dobie, Gus Garcia, Martin, Sadler Means, Webb <p><i>Transportation for hazardous routes will continue to be provided.</i></p>	\$391 K

	Secondary	Transition to hub model for middle and high school student transportation to or from a neighborhood elementary school instead of previously identified stops.	\$2.2 M
		Discontinue middle and high school late activity buses	\$1 M
		Transition from traditional bus service to campus-based activity buses supported by campus staff drivers for Community Based Vocational Instruction (CBVI) at secondary campuses; scale up partnership with CapMetro.	\$300 K
		Discontinue traditional bus service for Go Project. Expand Austin ISD partnership with CapMetro to optimize transit options utilizing public transportation and increase opportunities for students to gain experience utilizing public transportation services.	\$300 K
	Magnet/ Choice programs	Transportation hubs for Ann Richards, Lively, LASA, and Kealing will continue while the district develops a fee-based model based on family economic status.	TBD
	Districtwide	Discontinue districtwide transportation for Campbell Elementary School, Eastside ECHS, Gus Garcia YMLA, Sadler Means YWLA, and Montessori. Transportation will continue for zoned students following the standard 2-mile transportation policy.	\$433 K

	Alternative Learning Center (ALC)	End districtwide bussing (to/from) for students assigned to the Alternative Learning Center.	\$500 K
	Special Olympics	Develop campus capacity building model to reduce transportation costs for weekly off-site events while increasing access to Special Olympics opportunities for eligible students	\$59 K
Software	Secondary	Discontinue Naviance student transcript software and transition to existing SchoolLinks transcript management system	\$35 K
	All	Transition away from current Enroll Austin enrollment software to a more family-friendly, lower-cost enrollment system for the 2027-28 cycle	\$600 K
Student Support Services	All	Rescale Communities in Schools contract focused on maintaining services at Band 1 and 2 campuses; from 55 to 30 campuses The Student Support Services Office will partner with campus leadership, Communities In Schools staff and principal supervisors to determine standards of service.	\$1 M
		Rescale Seedling contract by capping at 250 students	\$20 K
		Rescale Con Mi Madre contract based on matriculation of seniors and limiting new pairings	\$50 K
	Secondary	Rescale UT Project Males contract focused on maintaining	\$20 K

		services at Band 1 and 2 campuses	
Academic Readiness	Elementary	Rescale Literacy First Americorp Model focusing on maintaining service at Band 1 campuses The Student Support Services Office will partner with campus leadership, Literacy First staff and principal supervisors to determine standards of service.	\$288 K
	Secondary	Pause AVID implementation at 13 campuses based on how established the program is on the campus and throughout the vertical team	\$266 K
		Move away from the PTECH model toward an ACC Career Academy model, offering students greater flexibility in their high school careers	\$15 K
Physical Education	All	Discontinue Interactive Health Technologies (IHT) Physical Fitness Assessment (PFA) Software and transition to new TEA-approved platform	\$11 K
Athletics & Fine Arts	Secondary	Reduce funding for student meals and uniforms for UIL and Fine Arts Events	\$27 K
	High School	Discontinue water polo program due to low participation	\$89 K
	High School	Move UIL Cheer registration to the campus level, with travel limited to district events	\$45 K
	Secondary	Reduce district funding for student transportation to UIL and fine	\$70 K

		arts events with priority given to Band 1 and 2 campuses	
	All	Reduce transportation, meals and program days from Fine Arts summer camp budgets: Art Camp, Summer Theater Series, Dance Camp, All-star Band	\$30 K
Districtwide (<i>Campus and Central</i>)			
Substitutes	Districtwide	Rescale professional development substitutes and only provide for Restart/TIP/TAP campuses	\$5 K
	Districtwide	Reduce the number of non-teaching positions eligible for substitute coverage in order to prioritize roles that provide direct student services. Introduce minimum number of consecutive absences for non-teaching positions before providing substitute coverage	\$2 M
	Districtwide	Streamline substitute incentive pay categories while prioritizing incentives for serving at Band 1 and 2 campuses. View the side-by-side 2025–26 vs. recommended 2026–27 substitute incentive table .	\$1.7 M
Benefits	Districtwide	Reduce district contribution to employee health benefits and renegotiate health benefits with current and prospective providers. Updated benefit options will be shared in October 2026 during open benefits enrollment and would go into effect January 2027.	\$4 M
Stipends	Districtwide	Establish firm criteria for staff to qualify for Bilingual Education stipends. This means some staff will receive a reduced stipend	\$897 K

		and some will no longer qualify. View the side-by-side 2025–26 vs. recommended 2026–27 bilingual stipend table .	
Districtwide		Establish firm criteria for staff to qualify for Special Education stipends. This means some staff will receive a reduced stipend and some will no longer qualify. View the side-by-side 2025–26 vs. recommended 2026–27 special education stipend table .	\$1 M
Districtwide		Eliminate Extended School Year (ESY) stipends for special education teachers and teaching assistants	\$60 K
Districtwide		Reduce Teacher Mentor Stipend from \$400 to \$200 per mentee, per year	\$400 K
Districtwide		Eliminate Professional Pathways for Teachers (PPfT) campus contact stipend. Limit Lead Teacher Mentor campus contact and limit it to one person.	\$89.5 K
Districtwide		Adjust travel stipend to apply only to positions that require travel to provide on-site support to campuses	\$215 K
Districtwide		Eliminate all Cell Phone stipends	\$235 K
Departments		Reduce Department and Grade-level Chair stipends, including special education department chairs, by 50%	\$935 K
Departments		Eliminate mentorship stipends for lead speech and related service providers	\$53 K
Departments		Eliminate mentorship stipends for educational diagnosticians	\$13 K

	Secondary	Restrict Athletic stipends solely to UIL sports	\$68 K
Non-duty Days	Districtwide	Certain positions currently contracted for 197 or more duty days have been identified for a reduction of 5 duty days. While hourly and daily pay rates will remain the same for affected employees, annual salaries will be adjusted to reflect the reduced number of days worked.	\$3 M