Educational Suitability Summary Report

Allan Facility

Date: 08/29/2016

The Allan Facility is currently a mixed-use campus that assists district wide academics from early childhood through post-secondary, with an emphasis on STEM and Pre-K Services. The facility also includes office space for outside nonprofit organizations housed in converted classrooms. Austin Voices is a nonprofit organization that created a plan to reopen this school. The original plan included an early childhood center, a STEM center, and office space for nonprofit organizations. The second year of the plan included the STEM center for the vertical team, but this was delayed due to funding. The current idea is to open a STEM based maker space with partners to assist with funding. There is a desire for the Allan Facility to be a community center, not just a school. This was a request made by the community, reviewed by the board, and made into a policy.

Survey Overview

The survey for administrators was not completed. The educational suitability for most major spaces was determined by a staff interview and field assessment.

Interview Overview

This campus originally was built as a junior high school and was converted to serve elementary students. The elementary school was closed and a private charter school used the facility for a year. Current facility uses include nonprofit offices, Child Inc. Pre-K services, and a developing STEM program. The campus is also used as a spare school, police dog training, media center, and professional development facility. In this multi-use campus, there are currently less than 10 rooms in the building that are not in use. Due to a lack of furnishings, the cafeteria, library, and gym are only used for events, while a majority of the classrooms are used by nonprofit organizations. This campus also houses the Library Media Services Center.

Nonprofit organizations rent the former classrooms as converted office space. AISD gives the organizations a reduced rental price, which allows collaboration between AISD and the community. Organizations such as Austin Voices, Avance, Child Inc., Literacy Coalition of Central Texas, and Skillpoint Alliance are housed at the facility.

The STEM and Pre-K programs are a current focus at this campus. The STEM program is working on a strategic plan for the program and future growth at this facility. The goal for this campus will be a STEM center for the vertical team. Use initially will be mainly for field trips and robotics competitions. As the program grows, the facility would support much more. This facility would not just be limited to students, but their families and the rest of the community could use the campus as a library or hub of information. STEM at Allan will not be a duplicate of the programs on campuses, but supplement the existing campuses in the vertical team.
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The STEM program needs renovations of existing spaces to create different types of maker spaces. The new spaces include audio visual production, 3D Printing, wood shop, laser cutters, and robotics spaces. Maker spaces will need power, ventilation, and dust control. These requirements will require funding to help grow the program. The renovations will trigger code issues for power, fire, and ADA just to name a few. Until the program is fully developed, there were discussions that a ‘STEM truck’ could take the supplemental lab to the schools.

The Early Childhood program at the Allan Facility is run by Child Inc. The community wanted the early childhood center to connect early childhood to higher education in the STEM program. Child Inc. is grant funded and currently teams with AISD on many campuses throughout the district. Within the district, they have funded Pre-K and a tuition-based option. Some of these classes include Head Start and some are AISD students. At the Allan facility the early childhood program is exclusively Child Inc.

The Pre-K program at this facility has many services, including food training on family-style eating, toilet training, and disabilities training for OT and Speech. The average class is 17-20 students with 2 teachers. They serve ages 3-5. Each classroom has a restroom, and the kitchen is used to prepare meals for students. It is reported that the kitchen is adequate in size and meets current requirements. Items that could be added are a shower to clean soiled children, additional tack spaces, and some safety improvements. Staff requested installing a trike track and an ice machine. Overall the facility is meeting the needs of the program, but staff restrooms are desired.

In addition to Child Inc., there are some other early childhood programs taught here by Avance Austin. Some 6-7 rooms are used throughout the year for parent training sessions. These programs are supporting students and the surrounding community. There is some room for growth, but there is no demand for additional space at this time.

As the STEM program develops, furnishings will need to be purchased so that the facility can be used by different sizes of community and campus groups. The lack of furnishings at this campus currently limits its full potential.
Photo 3. PreK Classroom
Photo 4. Cafeteria
Photo 8. Exterior Courtyard
Photo 9. Existing Gym