

Austin ISD

# Reopening Conversation Circles



*Moving Forward >>>*

# Welcome!



# Why are we here?

- Share what we know and do not yet know about the 2020-21 school year
- Listen to our students families and staff to better understand:
  - What are your concerns?
  - What is important to you?
  - What might we not be thinking about?



# Agenda

- Provide update on reopening planning
- Facilitate small group conversation circles
- Report out
- Q&A



# Planning Process: Reopening Task Force

- Made up of teachers, parents, community members, campus-based leadership, and central office staff including professional and classified
- Charged with exploring options to ensure that we are prepared to begin the 2020-21 school year under a variety of conditions
- Created considerations and implications for 28 key areas



# Key Areas Considered

- Academics
- Accountability
- Athletics
- Communication & Community Engagement
- Early Childhood
- Equity
- Elementary Schools Systems
- Finance/Budgetary Impacts
- Food Services
- Health Services
- High Schools Systems
- Human Capital/Staffing
- Humanities
- Life Safety and Police
- Library Media
- Middle Schools Systems
- Multilingual Education
- Music, Art, PE
- Operations/Facilities
- Parent Support
- SEL
- Special Education
- State & Federal Compliance
- STEM
- Student Safety
- Student Services
- Transportation
- Technology & Equipment



# What will next school year look like?



# What we still don't know:

- What Federal, State and Local regulations will be in place
- How social distancing will limit capacities of classrooms, busses, etc.
- What testing and cleaning protocols will be required
- What future months will look like in terms of COVID cases in Travis County



# What we know:

- We have an approved calendar - First day of school: August 18
- COVID-19 will still continue to exist in our community
- It is unlikely a vaccine will be available by fall
- Preparing for 2020-21 is going to take a collaborative effort among students, families and staff





# No matter what model of education we implement, we will...

- Maintain the ability to quickly shift to virtual learning with increased accountability for student engagement
- Continuous electronic accessibility for students, staff and families to offer **choice!**



# Health Authority Guidance

AlSD is committed to following federal, state, and local health authority guidance from:

- Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)
- Department of State Health Services (DSHS)
- Travis County Health & Human Services
- Austin Public Health

We will continue to adapt our protocols and plans with the direction of the health experts in the district, utilizing guidance from the above health organizations.



# Small Group Conversation Circles



# Agreements:

- Hear the experiences of others
- Respect others' opinions, even if they are different from yours
- Speak from your own experience (no advice-giving or arguing w/someone's experience)
- What is said here, stays here, what is learned here, leaves here



# Guiding Questions:

1. What would you need to feel comfortable returning to school and/or work in-person?
2. What would you need to be successful if the district must continue some form of distance learning?
3. What is something you were hoping to learn or discuss today that hasn't yet come up?

Optimistic closure: Share with us an unexpected or joyous learning moment from your distance learning experience.



# Keep in mind:

- No one shares twice until everyone has had the opportunity to share once per question
- Speak one at a time to ensure everyone has an opportunity to be heard
- Accept and expect “non-closure”-we’re not here to resolve issues and concerns. **We’re here to listen.**



# Reminder: Fill out the 2020 Census

CENSUS 2020



CENSO 2020

EVERYONE COUNTS  
TODOS CONTAMOS

Learn why your response matters  
Descubra por qué es importante su respuesta

[www.my2020census.gov](https://www.my2020census.gov)

ONLINE /  
EN LÍNEA



PHONE /  
TELÉFONO



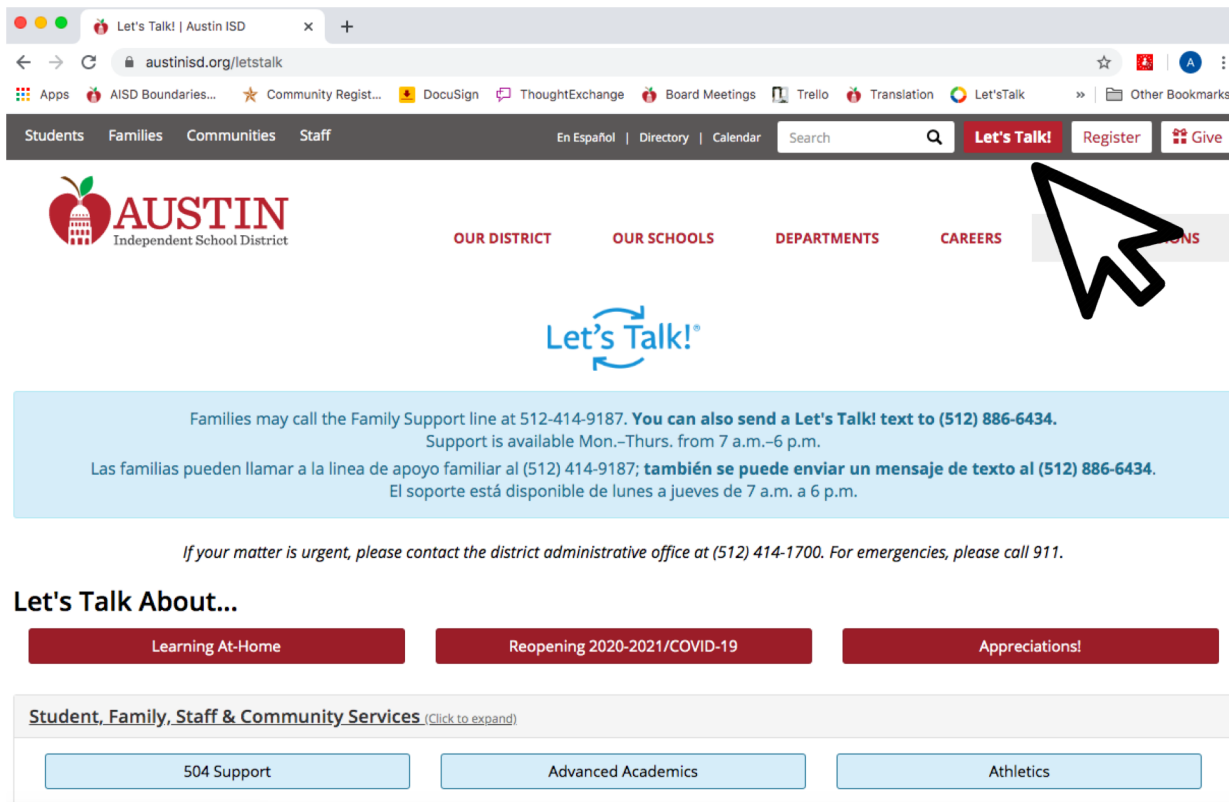
BY MAIL /  
POR CORREO



United Way for  
Greater Austin



# Let's Talk & Family Support Line: 512-414-9187



The screenshot shows the Austin ISD Let's Talk! website. The browser address bar displays 'austinisd.org/letstalk'. The navigation bar includes links for Students, Families, Communities, and Staff, along with a search bar and buttons for 'Let's Talk!', 'Register', and 'Give'. The main header features the Austin ISD logo and a navigation menu with links to 'OUR DISTRICT', 'OUR SCHOOLS', 'DEPARTMENTS', 'CAREERS', and 'PARENTS'. A large blue banner contains the following text: 'Families may call the Family Support line at 512-414-9187. **You can also send a Let's Talk! text to (512) 886-6434.** Support is available Mon.-Thurs. from 7 a.m.-6 p.m. Las familias pueden llamar a la linea de apoyo familiar al (512) 414-9187; **también se puede enviar un mensaje de texto al (512) 886-6434.** El soporte está disponible de lunes a jueves de 7 a.m. a 6 p.m. If your matter is urgent, please contact the district administrative office at (512) 414-1700. For emergencies, please call 911.' Below the banner, the 'Let's Talk About...' section includes three red buttons: 'Learning At-Home', 'Reopening 2020-2021/COVID-19', and 'Appreciations!'. At the bottom, a section titled 'Student, Family, Staff & Community Services (Click to expand)' contains three light blue buttons: '504 Support', 'Advanced Academics', and 'Athletics'. A large black mouse cursor icon is positioned over the 'PARENTS' link in the navigation menu.

Let's Talk!®

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Let's Talk About...

Learning At-Home   Reopening 2020-2021/COVID-19   Appreciations!

Student, Family, Staff & Community Services (Click to expand)

504 Support   Advanced Academics   Athletics





# Let's Talk now available through text

**READY.  
SET.  
TEXT!**

Austin ISD is here to serve you. We know it's not always easy to find time to reach out and that other unforeseen obstacles can present additional challenges.

That's why we've made it even easier for you to reach out by doing something you already do every day: Texting! Powered by our Let's Talk! customer service solution, our new texting option enables you to reach out anytime, from anywhere—and a timely response is guaranteed.

**Here's how it works:**



## **Submit your feedback**

Text your question, comment, concern, suggestion, or compliment to the number below. Be sure to include any essential information, such as your name and the school you or your child attends.



## **Receive a thank-you message**

You'll get an automatic confirmation from the district letting you know your submission has been received.



## **The right person is notified and responds**

Your text will be automatically routed to the appropriate person or department in Let's Talk! where team members can then collaborate to compose and send responses.



## **Receive a text response**

You'll receive a timely response via text message that is complete, accurate, and courteous.



## **Share feedback on your experience**

After your conversation is finished, you'll have an opportunity to rate your experience. We use that feedback to determine what we're doing well and identify opportunities to continue improving our customer service.



**What are you waiting for?**  
**Text us today at (512) 886-6434.**



# Family Summer Support



The graphic features a blue sky background with a yellow sun in the top left corner. In the center, the year '2020' is stylized with the '0's as large, black-rimmed glasses. Below the year, the words 'Summer' and 'Family Support' are written in a large, white, outlined font. 'Family Support' is in a slightly larger font and has an orange shadow effect.

*Moving Forward >>>*

**We're here to help with your needs this summer.**

To do that, 30 of our Parent Support Specialists will be available through July 31 to:

- connect families in need with internal and external resources;
- provide and coordinate educational opportunities for parents and guardians so that they can assist their child in summer learning; and
- communicate with and engage families in multiple ways to keep them informed of district activities.

To connect with a PSS in your area, please contact Jennifer Vasquez with the Parent Engagement Support Office at 512-414-0726 or at [jennifer.vasquez@austinisd.org](mailto:jennifer.vasquez@austinisd.org).



The logo consists of a stylized apple with a green leaf on top. The apple's body is a black silhouette of the Texas state map, and inside the map is a white outline of the Texas State Capitol building. To the right of the apple, the word 'AUSTIN' is written in a bold, black, sans-serif font, with 'Independent School District' in a smaller font below it.



# Reopening Updates: Summer Vision

Visit [www.austinisd.org/covid19](https://www.austinisd.org/covid19) click "Communications > Reopening News and FAQs"



Q&A



# Thank You!

For the privilege of your time

Thank you for sharing your

time

talent

resources

with our students, our families and schools.

