

Austin ISD Recommended Boundary Changes for School Year 2027-28

October 15, 2026

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Austin ISD Boundary Changes Summary

Austin ISD initially began boundary change discussions in Spring 2025 as part of a broader school consolidation process. While some consolidations were approved by the board of trustees in November 2025, the remaining boundary work was paused. The district resumed this process in Spring of 2026 with a continued commitment to building strong neighborhood schools with aligned feeder patterns.

Engagement included virtual kickoff sessions, regional and campus-specific public open houses, sticky-note feedback exercises, and two online comment card surveys. Across all channels, participants emphasized the need for transparent communication, neighborhood preservation, safety in transportation, and minimizing disruption to current students. Community members also expressed a strong desire for long-term fiscal responsibility and equity, ensuring that boundary changes properly support specialized programming and facilities across all areas of the district.

In June 2026 we communicated a change in our approach for SY 27-28 implementation to focus on schools that were severely over enrolled and providing General Marshall MS an attendance area, which was not yet established. The district will then revisit comprehensive boundary change decisions in SY 28-29. This limited scope allows for most decisions to be made comprehensively and in context with progress made on our Academic Vision and Framework without delaying needed changes now.

As we refined the scope for SY 2027-28, we wanted to save most decisions for the comprehensive realignment work starting in Spring 2027. Any change made now will impact options available in future since we don't want to reassign students twice.

Questions we asked to define which campuses may need overcrowding relief for SY 27-28:

- **Are more students enrolled at a campus than can fit, even considering use of existing portables?**
 - **If too full, is it because of transfer students or assigned students?**
- **Did enrollment increase substantially?**
- **Are there more teachers assigned than learning spaces available?**

As enrollment patterns for this school year became more clear, the only school requiring immediate overcrowding relief is Linder ES. The following document and recommendations focus solely on General Marshall Middle School and Linder Elementary. All of the remaining districtwide feedback to date will be analyzed and included in our comprehensive boundary review process, beginning in Spring 2027, to be implemented in School Year 2028-29.

Scenarios Explored and Feedback Received

General Marshall Middle School:

General Marshall Middle currently lacks a designated attendance zone, and its facility cannot accommodate all seven current feeder elementary schools. Austin ISD presented four scenarios at an open house in August, including the scenario that was included in the comprehensive boundary changes plan in 2025 that was paused. We received feedback on these four scenarios and followed up in September with a revised approach which was again updated based on community feedback.

Scenario Explored	Feedback Received
August 29, 2026 Open House at General Marshall MS <i>Community members provided feedback on a series of values statements related to boundary planning tradeoffs and reviewed four scenarios for the General Marshall MS boundary.</i> Resources provided:  General Marshall Boundary Open House Boards General Marshall Boundary Scenarios General Marshall MS Storymap	
October 31, 2025 Adjusted	- Preferred option by many community members - While more students would be assigned to General Marshall MS than can comfortably fit, the current enrollment trends and middle school choice indicate overcrowding is unlikely to be an issue in the near future. - Concern that some of Mueller is still not assigned to General Marshall
‘Oak’ Adjusted	Oppose due to splitting Windsor Park and University Hills
‘Elm’ Adjusted	- Oppose due to Jordan and Overton not being assigned to Marshall MS. - As we continue boundary discussions, these two campuses will always feed into LBJ ECHS due to proximity. Staying assigned to Dobie (versus being assigned to Marshall) would remove any opportunity for Dobie to feed 100% into Northeast ECHS. - Strong sentiment that these communities were explicitly discussed as always being a part of the Marshall long-term vision from the beginning. - A significant portion of Jordan and Overton students already choose to go to Marshall MS, due to closer proximity for a

	co-ed middle school option and shared sibling attendance. ○ Jordan & Overton's assignment to Marshall helps retain students within Austin ISD who might otherwise transition to Manor ISD for middle school before returning to LBJ ECHS for high school.
Phased Approach	● Request for Jordan and Overton to be assigned to General Marshall to better understand how many would choose this campus if it is their default option
September Open Houses and Back to School Events  Phase 1 Open House Boards	
Revised Phased Approach: ● Includes Jordan and Overton in SY 27-28 attendance area ● Andrews ES not yet assigned to promote more flexibility with comprehensive boundary realignments	● Concern that it will leave the northeast Austin feeder patterns in worse off condition if comprehensive boundary changes don't move forward for SY 28-29 ○ If we did do a phased approach, community members requested that the board vote on both SY 27-28 and SY 28-29 attendance areas in October 2026. ● Desire to maintain transportation in SY27-28 for Dobie families wanting to stay there even if reassigned to Marshall. ○ Allows for a more gradual transition, important due to accountability status of both campuses ● Some families are curious how any changes to single-gender campuses (e.g. if Gus Garcia were to relocate) could impact the recommendation. ● The Senate Hills neighborhood off of 51st (part of Pecan Springs ES attendance area) should be assigned to General Marshall MS since their only road access is to the north towards Pecan Springs ES (e.g. this neighborhood would not likely be reassigned to a different elementary school as part of our comprehensive boundary work starting in spring 2027). ● Many community members still preferred an attendance area similar to the "October 31, 2025 - Adjusted" as it maximizes the number of students assigned to General Marshall MS and according to current enrollment and choice, should not lead to overcrowding in near future.

Linder Elementary:

Linder Elementary recently opened its new modernized building; however, growth in the immediate area requires us to make proactive boundary adjustments to mitigate overcrowding. The following are the questions we asked when defining our scope, leading to Linder ES being included in SY 27-28 changes.

Are more students enrolled than can fit?

- No - campus has capacity for up to 630 students (increased from original 532 capacity budgeted in the 2022 bond)

Did enrollment increase substantially?

- No - Fall 2025 snapshot was 621 students. Current enrollment is ~583.

Are there more teachers assigned than learning spaces available?

- **Yes** - currently 2 makerspaces, a PLC, and a their Sensory Motor Lab have been converted to learning studios (i.e. classrooms)

Three scenarios were considered to relieve overcrowding at Linder ES. All three are viable options with their own strengths and considerations. The below represents feedback received to date from community members and impacted Austin ISD staff.

September Open Houses and Back to School Events  Phase 1 Open House Boards

General Feedback received:

- Concern of losing access to the new modernized building constructed for the current attendance area → this led to the below recommendation to apply the Expanded Continuation Transfer policy.
- Want to ensure the receiving school has front office staff, campus leadership, and educators able to engage with families and students in Spanish.
- Ensure that Austin ISD transportation is provided to students.
- Maintain access to dual language programming.

'Area A' to Travis Heights ES <i>598 capacity</i> <i>566 currently enrolled (95%)</i> <i>430 currently assigned (72%)</i>	'Area A' to Sanchez ES <i>532 capacity</i> <i>368 currently enrolled (69%)</i> <i>292 currently assigned (55%)</i>	'Area B' to Allison ES <i>532 capacity</i> <i>308 currently enrolled (58%)</i> <i>228 currently assigned (42%)</i>
(-) Travis Heights ES is in an older building with less space on site for buses and parking	(+) Sanchez ES is in a modernized building with ample parking and access	(+) Allison ES is in a modernized building with ample parking and access

(-) Does not have current front office staff who speak Spanish. (+) Dual language currently offered (+) Close proximity and access (<2 miles driving distance) (+) Current 'B' accountability rating (+) Linder ES and Travis Heights ES already serve the same geographic area (+) Austin ISD bus transportation provided according to current policy	(+) Students would be transitioning to a more similar demographic with Spanish-speaking front office staff (++) Expanded dual language program (-) Concern of travel distance compared to current distance to Linder ES (-) 3 UA accountability ratings (+) Linder ES and Sanchez ES already serve the same geographic area (+) Austin ISD bus transportation provided according to current policy	(+) Students would be transitioning to a more similar demographic with Spanish-speaking front office staff (+) Dual language currently offered (-) Concern of travel distance compared to current distance to Linder ES (-) 2 UA accountability ratings (-) Would add an additional school zone in an area already assigned to three different elementary schools (+) Austin ISD bus transportation provided according to current policy
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School Specific Recommendations

General Marshall Middle School

Attendance Area Recommendation

 Marshall MS SY 2728 Boundary Recommendation.pdf

Interactive Map:

<https://experience.arcgis.com/experience/b7de9f6b388b4b58938ebd6e749dcf10>

Austin ISD is recommending the following attendance area be implemented in SY 27-28:

- Families living within the following current elementary school attendance areas will be assigned to General Marshall Middle School starting in SY 2027-28:
 - Blanton ES
 - Harris ES
 - Jordan ES

- Overton ES
- Andrews ES (south of 290)
- Pecan Springs ES (north of 51st plus the Senate Hills neighborhood)
- Families living within the current Norman-Sims ES attendance area will be assigned to Kealing MS starting in SY 2027-28.
- Some portions of Andrews ES (north of 290; currently assigned to Webb MS) and Pecan Springs ES (south of 51st excluding the Senate Hills neighborhood; currently assigned to Kealing MS) will continue to have a choice between an assigned school (Webb or Kealing) and General Marshall MS. Official assignments of these areas will be included in the comprehensive boundary review process and implemented in SY 28-29.

Transfer Policy & Transportation Recommendation:

Continuation Transfers:

Per FDB Local, we recommend the Expanded Continuation policy.

- Any 6th or 7th grade student currently enrolled at Dobie, Webb, Kealing, or Lamar as their zoned school will be allowed to stay at that school for the remainder of middle school.
 - Families will need to apply for a transfer in Round 2 Registration window, but these transfers will be guaranteed acceptance under the Continuation policy. Applying for the transfer is how families let us know they would like to stay.
- Any current 6th and 7th grade students newly assigned to Marshall may register to attend Marshall, regardless of where they currently attend.
 - Families will need to register for their zoned school, Marshall, in the Round 2 Registration window. Registering is how families let us know they would like to enroll at Marshall.
- Incoming 6th graders would attend their newly assigned school or apply for a program or a general transfer during the regular enrollment/registration rounds in the spring of 2027.

Policy Review Recommendation:

As discussed above, the boundary for Marshall may result in the potential for overcrowding. We recommend a new policy be considered as part of the comprehensive boundary review for SY 28-29 to address overcrowding of zoned students in case this becomes a problem in the future.

Transportation:

Currently, students who reside in the attendance areas for Andrews ES, Blanton ES, Harris ES, Jordan ES, Norman-Sims ES, Pecan Springs ES, and Overton ES are eligible for transportation to both their zoned school (either Dobie, Kealing, Lamar, Webb, or General Marshall depending on their address) and General Marshall MS if they qualify under our current transportation policy (e.g. more than 2 miles away or along a hazardous route). The following are changes to transportation recommended for SY 2027-28.

- Students living in the following attendance areas will only be eligible for transportation to General Marshall MS:
 - Blanton ES
 - Harris ES
 - Andrews ES (south of 290)
 - Pecan Springs ES (north of 51st plus the Senate Hills neighborhood)
- Students living in the following attendance areas and currently enrolled at Dobie MS will continue to be eligible for transportation to Dobie MS in SY 2027-28.
 - Jordan ES
 - Overton ES
- Students living in the following attendance areas will continue to be eligible for transportation to either their zoned middle school or General Marshall MS for SY 2027-28.
 - Andrews ES (north of 290; currently assigned to Webb MS)
 - Pecan Springs ES (south of 51st excluding the Senate Hills neighborhood; currently assigned to Kealing MS)
- Students living in the Norman-Sims ES attendance area are only eligible for transportation to Kealing MS.

Linder Elementary

Attendance Area Recommendation

 Linder ES SY 2728 Boundary Recommendation.pdf

Interactive Map:

<https://experience.arcgis.com/experience/b7de9f6b388b4b58938ebd6e749dcf10>

Austin ISD recommends that the portion of Linder ES's attendance area north of E Oltorf Rd and west of Willow Creek Dr. be reassigned to Travis Heights Elementary School, effective for School Year 2027-28.

Note: Since this recommendation was made, we received significant community feedback regarding which trade-offs should be prioritized when identifying the receiving campus (see section above). We may refine the recommendation following the board information session on October 15, 2026.

Transfer Policy & Transportation Recommendation:

Continuation Transfers:

Per FDB Local, we recommend the Expanded Continuation policy.

- Any PK-4th grade student currently enrolled at Linder as their zoned school will be allowed to stay for the remainder of elementary school.
 - Families will need to apply for a transfer in Round 2 Registration window, but these transfers will be guaranteed acceptance under the Continuation policy. Applying for the transfer is how families let us know they would like to stay.
- Any current Linder students newly assigned to Travis Heights Elementary may register to attend Travis Heights.
 - Families will need to register for their zoned school, Travis Heights, in the Round 2 Registration window. Registering is how families let us know they would like to enroll at Travis Heights.
- Incoming PK and Kindergarten students would attend their newly assigned school or apply for a program or a general transfer during the regular enrollment/registration rounds in the spring of 2027.
- **Justification:**
 - **Access to modernized building:** Linder ES just opened a new modernized building, constructed for families living within its current attendance area. The Expanded Continuation policy would allow them to continue to have access to this building if desired.
 - **Concern with enrollment loss:** We do not want to prioritize the 38 current PK-3 transfer students enrolled at Linder ES over neighborhood students being reassigned. Thus, the more conservative transfer policy would also involve requiring these transfer students to return to their zoned campus or apply to general transfer elsewhere. This creates a concern of overall enrollment loss in Austin ISD if families are not allowed a choice, especially with Linder ES's new modernized building just opening.
- **Trade-off:** Depending on how many students choose to continue at Linder ES through a continuation transfer, Linder ES may need to continue using maker spaces as learning studios (e.g. classrooms) for SY 27-28. Some teachers may also be located in different parts of the building from the rest of their grade level. We will control for additional transfers during the enrollment process to limit any additional overcrowding.

Transportation:

- Transportation is not provided for students who continue at Linder ES through a Continuation Transfer.
- Reassigned students will receive transportation to their newly assigned school according to current policy. Due to Travis Heights ES being located across I-35, all reassigned students would be eligible as this is a hazardous route.

Frequently Asked Questions

Why didn't we build Linder ES bigger in the first place since it was recently modernized?

We did. The original capacity for Linder ES was 532 students (aligning with the “small” size Elementary School in our Educational Specifications). In collaboration with our Enrollment department and School Leadership, we increased this capacity to 630 students based on the current enrollment trends and staff allocations. However, current staff allocations are outpacing these estimates and more learning studios (e.g. classrooms) are needed than currently available.

What will happen if General Marshall MS becomes overcrowded?

Since it is a modernized building, there is natural flexibility in the number of students which can fit at Marshall MS depending on how the space is utilized (e.g. open collaboration spaces, group rooms, and Professional Learning Centers allow us to schedule teachers and students in spaces differently if needed). In the case of enrollment increasing beyond what this flexibility can accommodate (approximately 915 students), a new policy needs to be considered as part of the comprehensive boundary review for SY 28-29 to address overcrowding of zoned students as there is no room on the site to accommodate portable buildings or building expansion. We will also include scenarios like this in our regular boundary and program review process, to be approved alongside the SY 28-29 realignment work.

How many students will be impacted by these reassignments and changes?

General Marshall MS: As of Oct 1, 2026, a total of 965 current 5th, 6th, and 7th grade students are proposed to be assigned to General Marshall for SY 27-28. Of these students, 96 are already assigned to General Marshall MS following the closure of Martin MS.

- We can assume that students attending Kealing MS (Magnet), Garcia YMLA, and Sadler Means YWLA will continue to do so since these are special programs. Other reassigned students will still have the choice to continue at their campus through a Continuation Transfer or attend General Marshall MS.

Linder ES: As of Oct 1, 2026, a total of 111 current PK-5th grade students live in the area being reassigned from Linder ES to Travis Heights ES (27 of these are 5th grade students who will not technically be impacted; middle school assignments are not changing). Of these reassigned students, 69 PK-4th grade students are currently enrolled at Linder ES. Others choose other elementary school options.

How will the other middle schools in northeast Austin be impacted by the new General Marshall MS boundary?

The new General Marshall MS attendance area reassigns students from Lamar MS, Dobie MS, Kealing MS, and Webb MS. The number of students assigned to these middle schools will be

reduced. During our district-wide boundary realignment efforts, we will realign these attendance areas as needed for SY 28-29 to ensure the number of students assigned to all middle schools aligns with the capacity and intended programming.

How will you evaluate the “success” of these boundary changes? Is there an enrollment, utilization, or boundary capture rate goal for General Marshall MS and Linder ES?

Our goal for General Marshall MS is for enrollment to stabilize around 800 students. This would reflect a capture rate of 83% of assigned students (based on current Austin ISD enrollment of 5th, 6th, and 7th graders). We will monitor enrollment and can consider additional expansions to the General Marshall attendance area in the future to align with other district-wide changes if space allows.

Our goal for Linder ES is for the teacher allocations to align with the number of learning studios (e.g. classrooms) available on campus. Their overcrowding issue does not stem from the overall quantity of students but the number of teachers who need their own learning studio due to the distribution of enrollment between dual language and ESL classes. Since we are recommending the ‘expanded continuation transfer’ policy be implemented, this may not happen right away in SY 27-28.

How many community members, family members, and school staff provided feedback?

A full engagement report will be provided by October 15, 2026.

What happens to siblings of currently enrolled students under the continuation transfer policy?

Continuation transfers only apply to students who are enrolled when the boundary was changed. Once the continuation transfers are granted, all regular general transfer rules apply. This means that sibling transfers are guaranteed as long as a sibling will be in attendance at the same time. This is not a part of the continuation rules, as it is standard district procedure.

What after school programming is offered at Marshall MS and Travis Heights ES?

More information on after school programming to be provided.

How does the continuation transfer policy apply to out of district transfer students?

The expanded continuation policy does not distinguish out-of-district transfer students from any other groups of students. All currently enrolled students qualify.

What does the registration process look like at a middle school level?

Registration is substantially the same at all levels. Middle School is the first time that students can apply for magnet and admissions based programs, which will be open in Round 1. Students enrolling at their zoned school, continuing on an established transfer, applying for a new general transfer, or applying for continuation transfer will register/apply during Round 2.

How often will Austin ISD evaluate and propose changing boundaries in the future?

This process is still being determined. The community will have an opportunity to provide feedback on a proposed process during the comprehensive boundary realignment in Spring 2027.