



BOUNDARY ALIGNMENT COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Boundary Changes to be Implemented in the 2027-28 School Year

Austin ISD resumed its boundary alignment process in spring 2026 with a continued commitment to building strong neighborhood schools. By refining our boundaries, we are creating an opportunity to build stronger school communities and improve programmatic alignment. **Our goal is to reduce the number of times a student cohort is split into different schools, ensuring that students can stay with their peers as they grow. Along with aligned patterns, we are aiming for every campus to maintain a healthy-sized student population.** This ensures we can maximize resources and provide robust academic opportunities at every single school across the district.

Between May and October 2026 we gathered community feedback on proposed boundary changes to be implemented in the following school year, 2027-28. Engagement included virtual kickoff sessions, summer open houses, fall feedback opportunities, and 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.

Insights directly informed the refinement of two boundary proposals for implementation in 2027-28, and long-term planning for school year 2028-29 and beyond. **This report details engagement opportunities, data collected, what we learned, and how it has helped shape leader decisions on boundary alignment as the Board considers a vote on October 29.**

FOCUS ON IMPLEMENTATION IN 2027-28

Between May and October 2026, Austin ISD engaged caregivers, staff, students, and community members across the North, East, Central, and South planning areas. Initially, these efforts aimed to surface local concerns and evaluate the strengths and trade-offs of areas which might be up for boundary alignment in the 2027-28 school year. Community members viewed possibilities for their local areas, entitled "Oak" and "Elm" boundary models.

Based on feedback and current, critical needs across the district, Austin ISD shifted the scope in August 2026. Information was released to the public on [August 11, 2026](#). Rather than broad, districtwide overhauls now, boundary alignment was modified to focus on specific areas at risk of severe overcrowding for the 2027-28 school year and establishing an attendance area for General Marshall Middle School. More comprehensive boundary and feeder pattern realignment will be explored next year, to be implemented in the 2028-29 school year. **Two boundary change areas have been presented to the community as part of the reduced, re-defined scope for the 2027-28 school year: 1) initial boundary options for the General Marshall Middle School (MS) attendance catchment area, and 2) adjustments to the Linder Elementary (ES) boundary to account for residential growth.** These adjustments have been based on comprehensive assessments of available facility space, current classroom counts, portables, and staff allocations.



ENGAGEMENT OVERVIEW

The district has utilized a mixture of in-person meetings, virtual events, interactive sessions, canvassing, and online collections to help engage the Austin community in decision-making. New to this round of the process, we oriented engagement into creating opportunities for conversation rather than presentation and question sessions so that more complex and rich details could be gathered from our local experts. *To see a full list of engagement opportunities along with dates and locations, view the ENGAGEMENT ACTIVITIES table at the bottom of this report.*

WE COLLECTED NOTES AT EACH IN-PERSON AND VIRTUAL MEETING.

- **May 2026 Virtual Kickoff Meetings:** Two introductory webinars held online to outline the realignment objectives and review the process timeline.
- **Summer Open Houses & Interactive Sessions:** Six sessions held in June 2026 to discuss boundary alignment and area options.
- **Fall Open Houses & Interactive Sessions:** Three sessions held in August and September to discuss focused boundary change areas of General Marshall MS and Linder ES.
- **Fall Regional Back to School Nights:** Three tabling opportunities at existing school events to share focused boundary change information.
- **Campus Specific Informational Sessions:** Two opportunities with campus communities and administration to share focused boundary options.

WE ALSO ADDED IN-PERSON AND ONLINE DATA COLLECTION TOOLS TO PROVIDE MULTIPLE METHODS FOR COMMUNITY FEEDBACK.

- **In-Session Interactive Feedback:** Activities meant to spur conversation between community members so that priorities may be better explored and aligned.
 - **Sticky-note** exercises capturing live conversation feedback and questions between participants and district personnel on scenarios and key context issues.
 - **Values exercises** where decision priorities are explored in combination allowing community members to define their preferences and converse on hard decisions.
- **Online Boundary Comment Cards:** Public submission surveys to capture open-ended feedback on boundary options and/or the process. Two comment cards were collected:
 - **Comment Card 1** was open from June 8 through July 31, 2026 and captured feedback concurrent to summer open houses. This comment card aligns with district-wide boundary and feeder realignment work and will inform this process starting in spring 2027;
 - **Comment Card 2** launched August 28 and runs through the Board voting day on October 29. Comments collected on or before October 22 will be included as feedback for the final considerations to the Board. This comment card was specific to changes to be implemented in the 2027-28 school year.

ENGAGEMENT DATA COLLECTION

Kickoff Surveys. We collected **96 surveys** as part of the boundary kickoff process to help gather questions, comments, and understand what success would look like. View information from the planning period in our [2026 Boundary Kickoff Engagement Report \(en español\)](#).

Comment Card 1 and Summer Open Houses. Between June 8 and July 31, **593 of our local experts came to open-house style sessions** across our North (31 attendees), East (44), Central (267), and South (126), and virtual/whole-district (125) communities. Across this time period we collected valuable details



including **774 “sticky-notes”** during meeting conversations and **3,116 online comment cards via a survey format**. The majority of survey comment card responses came from caregivers (2581 responses, 83% of the sample), but we also heard from community members (14%), students and alumni (2%), and staff or service providers (1%). **Survey submissions represented 69 campuses and central supports**. Most of the responses were from elementary schools (63%) and the top 4 campuses (Gullett ES with 555 responses, Summitt ES with 475, Austin HS with 371, and Brentwood ES with 342) made up 56% of the sample.

Comment Card 2 and Fall Feedback Opportunities. Once the announcement of the General Marshall MS and Linder ES boundary focus areas was completed in August, eight official feedback opportunities were posted, some still to be completed as of the publish date. These **feedback options have gathered more than 95+ community members**: General Marshall MS (46 attendees), central office (4 attendees), virtual (45 attendees), an uncounted number visiting a table for back-to-school nights, and TBD (to-be-determined) at upcoming opportunities. We also **gathered 193 individual dots on a values continuum activity** (between 35-43 each on 5 questions asking individuals to place their preference between sets of priorities around General Marshall MS). As time has been limited in fall feedback opportunities and set against the busy opening of school, we have **also included canvassing approaches such as community walks** to impacted areas by proposed boundary plans. This has also provided additional feedback to our boundary team as well as opportunity to share other engagement options. **Between August 28 and October 13, 96 responses were collected via the online comment card** inclusive of 89% current or future caregivers, 5% community members, 5% staff members, and 1% alumni or students. **The largest proportion desired comment on the General Marshall MS boundary changes (66%) while Linder ES (12%) and future boundary changes (18%) were other commonly selected topics.** Within the survey, respondents could provide comment specific to the boundary options which has helped leaders better identify details that make the best recommendations as well as areas to consider for implementation in 2027-28.

FEEDBACK KEY THEMES (WHAT WE HEARD)

ACROSS ALL COLLECTED DATA SOURCES THE FOLLOWING THEMES EMERGED. THEY ARE ORGANIZED IN ALPHA-ORDER SO AS NOT TO PRIORITIZE ONE THEME ABOVE OTHERS.

- **Academic Baseline & Specialized Programming:** Requests were made for guaranteed core academic offerings, Dual Language program stability, and preserved access to fine arts, special education services, and special programs.
- **Community-Centered Planning:** Strong support has been voiced for approaches that center East Austin voices, respect neighborhood history, and to actively include community leaders in planning and transition efforts.
- **Feeder Pattern Alignment & Disruption:** Strong support for eliminating split feeder patterns (targeting no more than two or three splits per campus), paired with concern over double disruptions for families recently impacted by school closures.
- **Neighborhood Culture & Equity:** Concerns were raised regarding the preservation of historic campus identities and protecting underserved student groups from disproportionate impact during boundary adjustments.
- **Neighborhood Relationships:** Longtime relationships with schools and neighborhoods will be reshaped. That fear is real but can be helped by focusing on what relationship gains may also be made earlier on.
- **Program Protection & Stability:** Families emphasized the importance of maintaining program continuity, stable staffing, and cohort consistency for students.
- **Purposeful Use of Facilities:** Participants suggested exploring repurposing, partnerships, and shared-use models rather than permanent closure or sale of school properties.



- **Success of Schools & District:** Individual decisions for a student is the most important task for a family, but families and communities also care for the long term success of schools and the district. Understanding how those decisions connect is important to final boundary decisions.
- **Transportation & Pedestrian Safety:** High emphasis was placed on safe walking, biking, and busing routes, especially where boundary shifts increase travel distance or force crossings across major traffic corridors.
- **Transparency & Improved Communication:** Desire for responsive participation included plain-language communication, timely updates, progress check-ins, clear reporting on survey results and supporting data, and sufficient time to evaluate draft plans.

GENERAL MARSHALL MS SPECIFIC COMMENTS

EARLY FEEDBACK HELPED LEAD TO ADDITIONAL PLANNING AND RECOMMENDATIONS:

- Strong consensus to ensure Overton ES and Jordan ES are assigned to General Marshall MS.
- Maintained desire for University Hills and Windsor Park neighborhoods to be assigned to General Marshall MS.
- Mueller neighborhood families would like to all be assigned to General Marshall MS.
 - Some of this includes the Maplewood ES attendance area which was not included as one of the initial ES sites potentially assigned to attend General Marshall MS when it was constructed.

In August, we presented 4 scenarios and data on enrollment trends this year. You may find full materials in the list below:

- [General Marshall Story Map](#)
- [Scenarios](#)
- [Presentation](#)
- [Values Continuum Activity](#)

In September, we presented a phased scenario in which we established a portion of the attendance area to be implemented for the school year 2027-28 and which would be extended to align with other comprehensive changes we make at ES and HS levels for 2028-29.

FEEDBACK WE RECEIVED TO HELP GUIDE OUR FINAL RECOMMENDATIONS:

- Concern that if future changes (2028-29 and beyond) never happen, the phased option leaves northeast Austin in worse shape than it is now in regards to feeder splits and neighborhood divisions.
- Wanting to maintain transportation for Dobie MS families in 2027-28 (if they choose to stay for that year) if reassigned to General Marshall MS.
- Some families are curious how support for single-gender campuses (or if Gus Garcia YMLA were to relocate) could impact decisions. We have stated that those will be included in the comprehensive reviews we will do for 2028-29.

LINDER ES SPECIFIC COMMENTS

Linder ES enrollment issues were identified to the community September 7, 2026 as we better understood our full enrollment for 2026-27. Linder ES recently opened the doors to its state-of-the-art facility. However, residential growth in the immediate area required us to make proactive boundary adjustments to mitigate current overcrowding. We gathered data and identified scenarios to help alleviate potential crisis issues. We do acknowledge this abbreviated timeline limited the capacity for engagement but



we weighed clarity of enrollment and program data against extended opportunity for feedback. We specifically added community walks to impacted areas in an effort to support additional engagement given our truncated timeline. We presented scenarios involving two areas currently assigned to Linder ES. One of these could be reassigned to Travis Heights ES or Sanchez ES, the other could be reassigned to Allison ES.

- [Open House Presentation](#)
- [Linder Information Session Presentation](#)

FEEDBACK WE RECEIVED TO HELP GUIDE OUR FINAL RECOMMENDATIONS:

- Concern about losing access to modernized facilities.
- Concern about distance to Sanchez ES and/or Allison ES if chosen as reassigned school.
- Concern about the receiving school having staff that speak Spanish and similar community supports accessible at Linder ES
- Concern about access to wraparound resources such as the school-created food bank.
- Concern about Special Education and Life Skills supports.

FINAL RECOMMENDATIONS

Community engagement has been a vital part of decision-making in our two focus areas for boundary alignment. **We deeply appreciate every family, student/alumna, neighbor, and staff member who took the time to share their voice. The details and local expertise shared has made our recommended plan more complete and better focused for our students.** Our goal is to ensure boundary realignments support academic equity and facility stability without over-burdening our students, staff, and families. **Please find the recommended plans in [English](#) and in [Spanish](#) and an [Interactive Map](#) of the recommendation. We also have [General Marshall MS Maps](#) and [Linder ES Maps](#) available that showcase the recommended plan.** We are still listening as well. Additional engagement opportunities will occur leading up to the final vote (see below or visit the website to learn more).

The [Board](#) will vote on boundary changes at the October 29 meeting. Once voted, boundary changes will be implemented in the 2027-28 school year. Communication to impacted families will go out this year as we plan for implementation so you may best make plans with your students and families for academic success.

WHAT'S NEXT FOR BOUNDARY ALIGNMENT

We will be updating our community on future boundary alignment in winter 2026-27. Stay informed and involved with us as we look towards the future. **Find information at each step of the boundary alignment process at <https://www.austinisd.org/boundaries>.**



COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT ACTIVITIES

This table provides a description of community engagement by each activity date, type, and location.

DATE	ENGAGEMENT TYPE	LOCATION
May 2026	Virtual Kickoff Meetings	Online
May 11 – June 3, 2026	Kickoff Survey	Online
June 8, 2026	Public Open House	Delco Activity Center
June 9, 2026	Public Open House	Govalle ES
June 15, 2026	Public Open House	Austin HS
June 16, 2026	Public Open House	Burger Activity Center
June 22, 2026	Virtual Workshop	Online
June 23, 2026	Virtual Workshop	Online
June 8 – July 31, 2026	Comment Card 1	Online
August 28 – Oct 29, 2026	Comment Card 2	Online
August 29, 2026	Public Open House	General Marshall MS
September 10, 2026	Jordan ES Back to School Night	Jordan ES
September 14, 2026	Public Open House	Austin ISD Central Office
September 16, 2026	Public Open House	Virtual
September 17, 2026	Linder ES Back to School Night	Linder ES
September 24, 2026	Overton ES Back to School Night	Overton ES
October 1, 2026	Community Walk	Linder ES Neighborhood
October 6, 2026	Community Walk	Linder ES Neighborhood
October 13, 2026	Linder ES Information Session	Linder ES
October 19, 2026	General Marshall MS Information Session	General Marshall MS