

Outdoor Leadership Schools

Austin ISD will create Outdoor Leadership Schools at Widén and Perez elementary schools and at Paredes Middle School by leveraging nearby natural resources, parks and green spaces. The schools will offer experiential learning, and provide additional cognitive, physical, academic, mental and emotional benefits to students through increased time spent outdoors. Palm Elementary School will close, and resources will be combined and reinvested to enhance academic programming. If capacity is needed to serve both school communities, it will be provided within a modernized addition. Students from Palm will attend Perez and some Perez students will be reassigned to Langford Elementary School.

Serving Students

Students at elementary schools in Southeast Austin will learn in green spaces and natural landscapes while embarking on a leadership pathway with expanded academic programs in modern facilities.

Preparing Our Kids To Succeed By

- Increasing time outdoors, which leads to multiple positive improvements in health, well-being, cognitive and academic abilities, and mental, physical and emotional states.
- Addressing student interest in, and community need for, conservation and stewardship of natural resources.
- Providing opportunities for students to participate in outdoor discovery and leadership curriculum.
- Allowing students to engage multidisciplinary projects in green spaces.
- Creating modern, flexible, inspiring academic spaces.
- Combining resources and talents to expand academic programs, improving student outcomes and success.
- Adjusting boundaries and feeder patterns to meet the needs of students.

SCENARIO Summary

Meets Guiding Principles



Anticipated Date

Timing will be determined upon a comprehensive assessment of complete School Changes project phasing

Campuses in this Scenario

Langford Elementary
Palm Elementary
Perez Elementary

Widén Elementary
Paredes Middle

Financial Implications

Academic Program Cost	TBD
Reinvested 2017 Bond Funds	\$1.66 MILLION
Deferred Maintenance Savings	\$14.83 MILLION
Annual Operations & Maintenance Savings	\$500,000

Summary of Changes

	Districtwide Changes	
✓	New Program	Outdoor discovery and leadership curriculum
	Enhanced Program	
✓	Campus Consolidation	Students from Palm will attend a modernized Perez
	Campus Repurpose	
✓	Facility Improvement	Modernize Perez
✓	Boundary or Feeder Implications	Langford, Perez, Palm

To give feedback on this scenario visit <https://tinyurl.com/AISDScenarios>.



Green Tech at Paredes

Paredes Middle School will serve as the bridge between the outdoor leadership programs at Perez and Widén elementary schools and the Green Tech program at Akins Early College High School. The program will promote community service, allow students to engage in real-world challenges facing our environment and improve students’ mental, physical and emotional states through extended time outdoors.

Serving Students

Students with a passion for engaging with the outdoors will be guided by their curiosity to explore sustainable practices that foster living harmoniously with the environment.

Preparing Our Kids To Succeed By

- Creating new, visionary elective options, including outdoor learning, project-based learning and team collaboration among students.
- Developing hands-on learning experiences, including composting, recycling and water harvesting; raising a variety of animals; and gardening plants and vegetables that can be donated to local food banks.
- Applying math, reading, writing and technology skills learned in core content classes through environmental issues research and study.
- Exploring green tech career interests through Akins career pathways in veterinary medicine, horticulture/floral design and the wildlife management/park ranger cadet program.
- Aligning with Outdoor Leadership Schools at Palm and Perez (see Outdoor Leadership Schools scenario on page 29).

Scenario Summary

Meets Guiding Principles



Anticipated Date

Timing will be determined upon a comprehensive assessment of complete School Changes project phasing

Campuses in this Scenario

Paredes Middle School

Financial Implications

Academic Program Cost	TBD
Reinvested 2017 Bond Funds	N/A
Deferred Maintenance Savings	N/A
Annual Operations & Maintenance Savings	N/A

Summary of Changes

	Districtwide Changes	
✓	New Program	Green Technology
	Enhanced Program	
	Campus Consolidation	
	Campus Repurpose	
✓	Facility Improvement	Greenhouse
	Boundary or Feeder Implications	

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Cultivating Tomorrow's Teachers

The Cultivating Tomorrow's Teachers program will create pathways for AISD students currently participating in the Ready, Set, Teach programs at Akins and Navarro Early College High Schools. Cultivating Tomorrow's Teachers facilitates students returning to AISD and serving the school communities where they received their own education. AISD will partner with universities, both local and throughout the state, to accelerate the teacher certificate process and bring former AISD students into our classrooms. They will be student teachers and fully certified teachers at Paredes Middle School and Burnet Middle School in as early as three years following high school graduation. Cultivating Tomorrow's Teachers will provide continued mentoring and support to novice educators.

Serving Students

Students who are inspired to become teachers themselves will have early exposure and high-quality teacher training that sets the stage for their professional careers. Getting their start in a supportive environment enhanced by strong partnership helps instill a commitment to urban education and the value it brings to the community.

Preparing Our Kids To Succeed By

- Increasing the diversity of our educators so students can see themselves reflected in their teachers.
- Allowing students to learn from educators who trained with the district's core values of equity, cultural proficiency, diversity and inclusion, student-centered learning, and social and emotional learning, and brain-based trauma-informed instruction.
- Growing the pool of bilingual educators.

Scenario Summary

Meets Guiding Principles



Anticipated Date

Timing will be determined upon a comprehensive assessment of complete School Changes project phasing

Campuses in this Scenario

Akins ECHS
Navarro ECHS
Burnet Middle
Paredes Middle

Financial Implications

Academic Program Cost	TBD
Reinvested 2017 Bond Funds	N/A
Deferred Maintenance Savings	N/A
Annual Operations & Maintenance Savings	N/A

Summary of Changes

	Districtwide Changes	
	New Program	
✓	Enhanced Program	Developing and supporting future educators
	Campus Consolidation	
	Campus Repurpose	
	Facility Improvement	
	Boundary or Feeder Implications	

To give feedback on this scenario visit <https://tinyurl.com/AISDScenarios>.

