

Austin ISD *Plans* Long-range ● ● ● Planning

Frequently Asked Questions



What is a Long-range Plan?

A long-range plan is a list of goals and strategies mapped out over a period of time, typically 10 years or more that helps identify where we want to be in the future, and how we can get there. Our Long-range plan will include an equity-based decision-making framework that will help us prioritize our strategies in a transparent way.

Why do we need a Long-range Plan?

As time passes, we learn more about the needs of our students, our facilities and technology age, and our city and the people who live in it change. Long-range planning allows us to anticipate those changes and align our resources to better serve our students.

How will you develop the Long-range Plan?

We are collaborating with seven planning committees made up of parents, community members, students, and staff who represent different parts of the community. We are using a planning model called Equity by Design to ensure that we are creating the conditions for all students to succeed in our education system.

Why seven planning committees?

We are taking a comprehensive look at the educational experience we provide. To do this, each committee is analyzing a different aspect of our students' education: Academics & Career and Technical Education; Athletics; Visual & Performing Arts; Facilities; Safety, Security & Resiliency; Transportation, Food Service & Maintenance; and Technology.

What is Equity by Design?

Equity by Design is a planning process used to support equitable decision-making. It involves using data to understand who our education system has historically underserved and why by engaging them throughout the process. The idea is to plan with our communities, not for them.

Does this mean that the Long-range Plan will only benefit historically underserved communities?

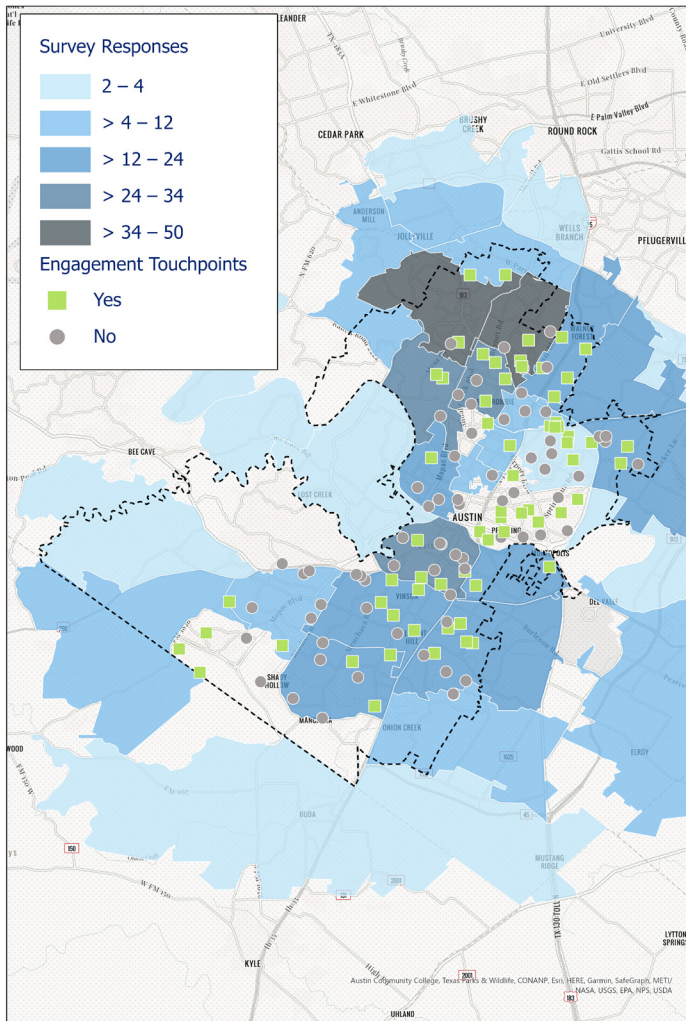
No. We are committed to creating the conditions for all students to succeed. There are unmet needs throughout our district and the Long-range plan will include strategies and investments that benefit students and staff districtwide.

How did the district engage students, families and staff in the planning process?

The district has engaged extensively throughout the process. Our efforts have included:

- Phone interviews,
- School events such as PTA and CAC meetings, Principal Coffees, staff meetings, field days, etc.
- Neighborhood and community organization meetings
- Online surveys

Visit <https://bit.ly/LRPMap> to view an interactive version of the engagement map below.



What is the timeline for the LRP?

Early planning began last summer and the Long-range Planning Committees began meeting in the fall. The LPCs will wrap up their work Summer 2022.

What will the Long-range Plan look like?

The Long-range Plan will consist of seven lists of prioritized strategies for each of the planning committee categories. Strategies will range from recommended policy changes to facility upgrades. The strategies that would require bond funding will also include a list of schools or district facilities recommended to receive those strategies. The plan will also include a list of schools recommended for full modernization.

What happens once we have a Long-range Plan?

The prioritized strategies in the Long-range Plan that would require a bond investment will be passed on to the Bond Steering Committee to develop a recommended 2022 bond package.

Strategies that would not require a bond investment will be passed on to the appropriate district administrator who will be responsible and accountable for implementing strategies that are within their purview.

How can we be sure the Bond Steering Committee will be faithful to the recommendations of the Long-range Planning Committees?

The make-up of the BSC was intentionally designed to ensure that the work of the LPCs was carried out with fidelity. One of the co-chairs of each of the planning committees is also serving on the BSC along with nine board-appointed members and one student representative.

Additionally, the Long-range Planning Committees' equity-based decision-making framework will provide transparency in how projects are prioritized and why.

How will we make sure the work gets done?

Projects that are part of an approved bond will be monitored by the Community Bond Oversight Committee. We will periodically report on our progress on the goals and strategies that do not require a bond investment.