








# AISD 11-14-2024



# WELCOME!

**While you come in,  
please change your  
name to include  
your Working Group  
# or the group # you  
would like to join  
for breakout rooms.**

-  Outdoor Amenity Mapping (1)
-  Zero Waste (2)
-  Energy Engagement (3)
-  Greenies Connect! (4)
-  AI for Green Career Pathways (5)
-  Legislative Affairs (6)
-  Walk 'n' Roll to School (7)



# WELCOME!

## AISD Environmental Stewardship Advisory Committee (ESAC)

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November 14, 2024



# HELLO!



**Jeff Wacker,  
ESAC Co-chair**



**Mo Beacham,  
ESAC Co-chair**



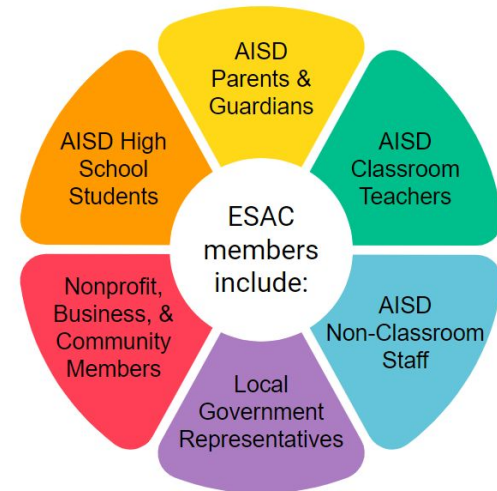
**Darien Clary,  
Director of  
Sustainability/Staff  
ESAC Liaison**



**Carsen Daniel,  
Sustainability  
Coordination  
Manager**

**ESAC Purpose:** To engage AISD students, staff, parents, and community members in advancing environmental education and sustainable operations that enhance learning and support resilient, healthy, and equitable school communities.

Learn More



### To accomplish its purpose, the ESAC shall:

- Serve as an advisory body to the Superintendent
- Foster communication & collaboration among members
- Serve as a means for members & the public to remain current in the status of sustainability and related initiatives at AISD.
- Support the [2011 Environmental Sustainability Policy \(CL\)LOCAL](#) and ongoing efforts to reach new heights for sustainability in infrastructure and operations, teaching and learning, and community engagement.

# Reminders about ESAC

## ESAC Has a listserv!

[AISD\\_esac@googlegroups.com](mailto:AISD_esac@googlegroups.com) please use it for sharing news, info, updates with your ESAC colleagues.

## ESAC has a google share drive! [tinyurl.com/ESACfiles](https://tinyurl.com/ESACfiles)

Please keep your subcommittee files here. You can also access templates and see what other subcommittees are up to! We will add members to the drive.

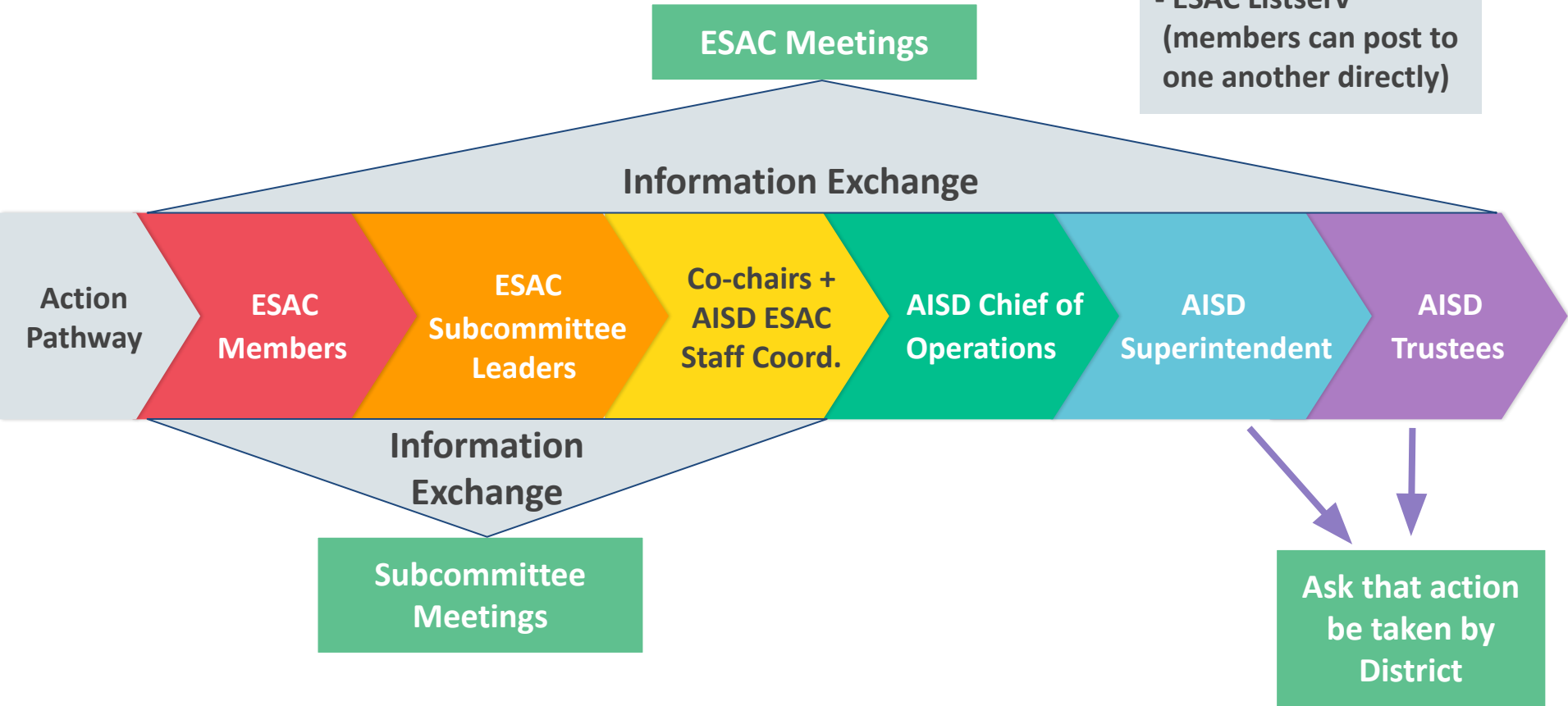
## ESAC has a website!

[www.austinisd.org/advisory-bodies/esac](http://www.austinisd.org/advisory-bodies/esac) Great for knowing when meetings take place, reviewing previous meeting materials/videos, seeing general info about the committee.



# Information & Action Flow

Communication tools:  
- Board Updates  
- ESAC Listserv  
(members can post to one another directly)





## AGENDA

I. Welcome & Connect	5:30-5:45
II. Public Comments* & Announcements	5:45-5:55
III. Working Group Updates	5:55-6:20
IV. Working Groups Connect	6:20-6:50
V. Legislative Affairs & Recapture	6:50-7:20
VI. Final Thoughts and Closing	7:20-7:30





# Approve Minutes



# Public Comments

Visit [austinisd.org/advisory-bodies/esac/meetings](https://austinisd.org/advisory-bodies/esac/meetings) to submit public comments by noon the day of the meeting





# Welcome & Connect










# Announcements



# Working Group Updates

**Please change your name to include your Working Group # or the group # you would like to join for breakout rooms.**

-  Outdoor Amenity Mapping (1)
-  Zero Waste (2)
-  Energy Engagement (3)
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-  Walk 'n' Roll to School (7)



# Forming a Subcommittee / Working Group

Propose a group or join one here:  
[tinyurl.com/ESACWorkGroups](https://tinyurl.com/ESACWorkGroups)



- Any ESAC member may propose a Working Group or Subcommittee.
- The proposer should have the capacity to (co-)lead or find someone for the role.
- (Co-)lead responsibilities include:
  - Ensure meaningful participation for members
  - Organize/host meetings and communicate about activities
- Every ESAC member should serve on at least one group.

**We can help make connections!**



# 2024-25 Working Groups

Propose a group or join one here:  
[tinyurl.com/ESACWorkGroups](https://tinyurl.com/ESACWorkGroups)



# Resource List - AISD Greenies Connect!

**Who We Are:** Bobby, Bonny, Carsen, Colleen, Darien, Jeff, Jen, Matt, Yasmine + *YOU?*

**Our Goal:** To make it easier for schools to connect with each other and access resources, including ESAC members, peers at other schools, and community partners and volunteers to advance campus sustainability initiatives.

**Recent Progress:** We've launched a survey to create a directory of individuals and organizations that can offer time, knowledge, and other resources to enhance sustainability at AISD schools.

—> Take the survey: <https://tinyurl.com/AISDSustainabilityResources>





# AI for Green Career Pathways



**Team:** Mo Beacham / Mike Eggen

**Goals:** Focus on providing students with hands-on experience in AI and sustainability, promoting critical thinking about AI ethics and its environmental impact, engaging them in community-benefiting projects, and preparing them for future careers in emerging tech fields.

**Upcoming Activities:**

- Sustainability Hackathon: AI to Combat Climate Change
- Let's Talk: AI/ML Sustainability Awareness Discussions
- Learning Lab Modules: Develop hands-on lab experiences focused on AI ethics, geospatial analytics, and sustainability.

**Next Steps:**

- Initiating conversation with Darien on process for recruiting/partnering with students and or teachers for career readiness initiatives via CTE program
- Complete planning for Sustainability Hackathon, Develop and Review learning modules, Organize first Let's Talk: AIML Discussion
- Join us!



# Outdoor Amenity Rehoming & Mapping

## Progress has started!

- Our team leaders are: Melody Alcazar, Yasmine Anderson, and Mandi Golman
- Our goals are:
  1. Map all the outdoor amenities in order to track them for reuse and activation. *(Initial focus on the 2022 Bond Modernization schools).*
  2. Recover outdoor features in good condition that can be reused
  3. Prevent throwing away items to the landfill
  4. Save funds by reusing items instead of buying them new
- Update:
  - Mandi Golman started a SOP for AISD to recover items and is meeting with Project Managers on bond sites to create a process for rehoming them.
  - Currently scrubbing data, then will analyze. Will develop summary letter for Board/Superintendent this winter.



## Zero Waste

**Team Leader:** Lavanya Selvam Alli

**Long Term Goal:** To establish practices that will meet AISD and the City of Austin's zero waste goal to re-circularize (e.g. recycle, compost, share) over 90% of our surplus and waste by 2040.

### Creation of Cafeteria Sustainability Initiative

An initiative across AISD schools to increase awareness among students, teachers and parents/caregivers about best zero waste practices.

- **Resources:** Use successful initiatives (Blanton, Marshall, Lasa) to replicate models across AISD through the support of external partners ([Keep Austin Beautiful](#), [Parents Climate Community](#) and [Plastic Reduction Project](#))
- **Next Steps:**
  - Reach out to schools with existing green teams and those in the process of creating one to start the conversations
  - Create or redesign new posters and templates (appealing for students) that uses similar language as Austin Resource and Recycling to ensure consistency on zero waste practices
  - Reviewing Standard Operating Procedures with the Custodial Leadership team at AISD
  - Reach out to PTA boards across AISD to gauge engagement and awareness among parents/caregivers

### AISD Stadiums

An initiative to getting zero waste practises established at AISD athletic facilities

- **Resources:** Conduct audits of these facilities to understand current practices
- **Next Steps:** Review the work that has already been done by members of this working group and update information



# Energy Engagement

**Goal:** Engage students in energy related projects in Austin and at Austin ISD.



- Tamera Tate, ESAC member and Austin Energy Education Outreach Coordinator, recently completed outreach at Pecan Springs through the [Austin Energy School Outreach Program](#). Last year, the Educational Outreach Team did 58 AISD presentations.
- Currently exploring other partnerships to support green energy career pathways and internships.
- **Host a summer intern in the green energy sector!** Local businesses can offer 10-12th grade AISD students work experience, skills, and mentorship through a partnership with the Austin Ed Fund and Austin Chamber of Commerce. While energy-related businesses are ideal, all companies are welcome. Last summer, 36 students from 7 high schools participated. The Chamber will help onboard hosts. For more details, visit the [Summer Internship Webpage](#).



# Walk 'n' Roll to School



Group Leader: Sahiti Karempudi

Goal: Create sustainable change around the biking and walking cultures at schools

- First meeting was held on Tuesday, November 12
- Determined how often we would like to meet: once a month
- Determined working group goal: **create sustainable change around the biking and walking cultures at schools**



# 2024-25 Working Groups

Propose a group or join one here:  
[tinyurl.com/ESACWorkGroups](https://tinyurl.com/ESACWorkGroups)



# Members are currently in their breakout groups. The meeting will resume at approx. 6:50pm.



# Welcome Back!





# Legislative Affairs

**Who We Are:** Catherine Martinez, Kevin Lanza, Kindal Keen, Aubrey Lethbridge, Elizabeth Harper

**Our Goal:** To make legislative advocacy more accessible, raise awareness of legislation on the docket in this year's legislative session that impact ESAC goals and priorities.

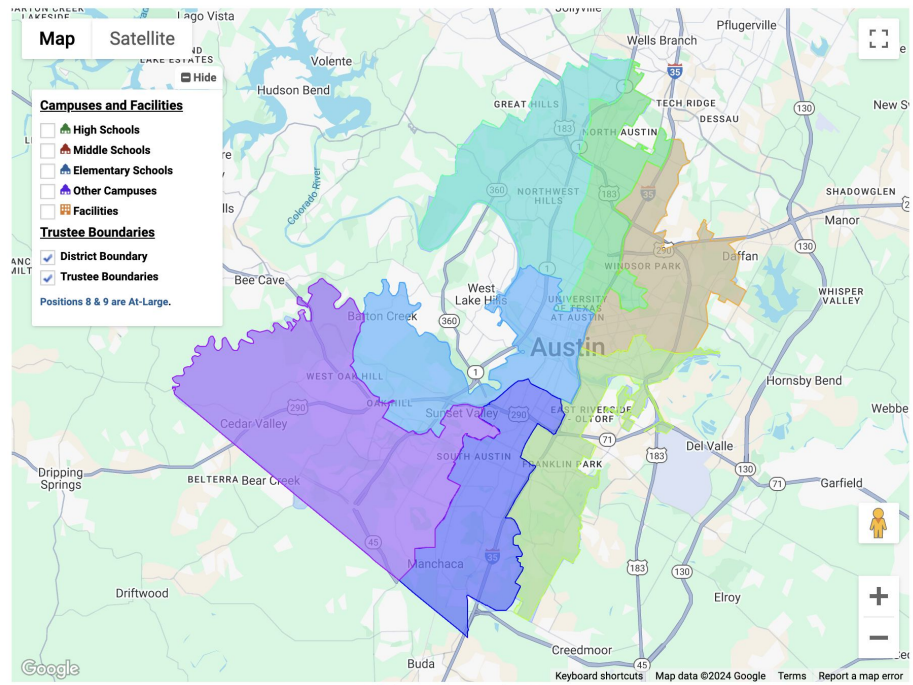
**Recent Progress:** Met with Edna Butts AISD Director of Intergovernmental Relations and Policy Oversight and Luke Metzger of Environment Texas to determine what attainable goals and strategies might look like.

**Next Steps:** Focusing priorities to get additional guidance from Luke on what is achievable



# Legislative Affairs & Recapture

Austin ISD Boundaries



Trustee Boswell - District 5

If you are interested to know who your AISD Trustee representative is, you may find these links helpful:

Look up your Trustee:

<https://www.austinisd.org/board/members>

Trustee boundary map:

<https://www.austinisd.org/board/boundaries>





# **RECAPTURE**

**INCLUDING SOME OF THE WEEDS**

WHERE DOES THE MONEY  
FOR PUBLIC EDUCATION  
COME FROM?



THAT'S THE SIZE

RAISE  
EDUCATION

#endovereducation

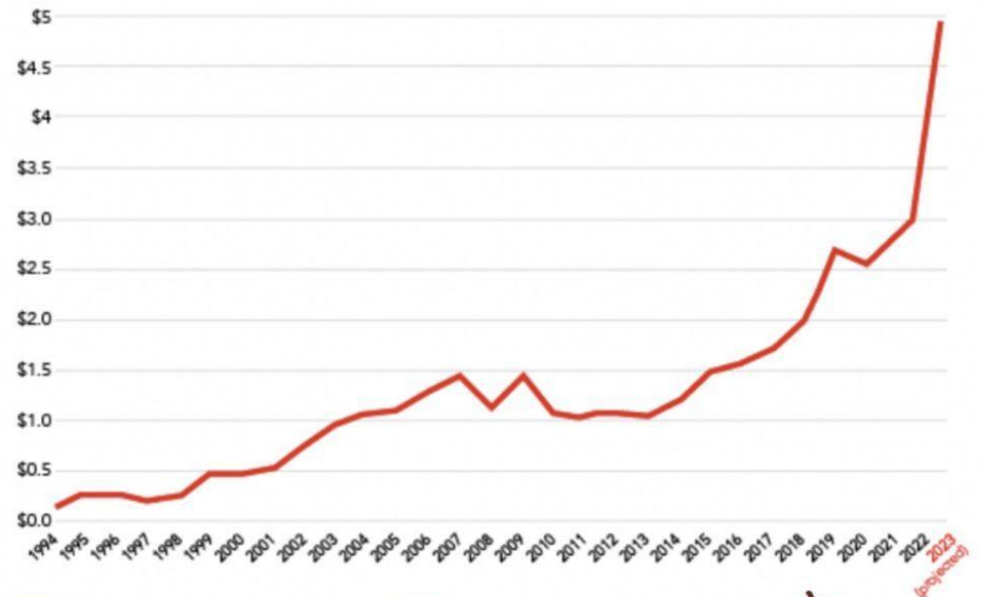
RAISE  
EDUCATION

# WHAT IS RECAPTURE?

Recapture is part of the Texas school funding system. It requires districts with high property wealth to pay a portion of what they collect to the state.

The system was created 30 years ago as a way to ensure equal funding for Texas districts. Recapture has grown much faster than public school funding, so vastly more is collected than is needed to equalize funding. That reduces the share of state funds used to pay for public education. It also creates a burden for taxpayers in recapture districts.

## TEXAS RECAPTURE GROWTH 1994-2023

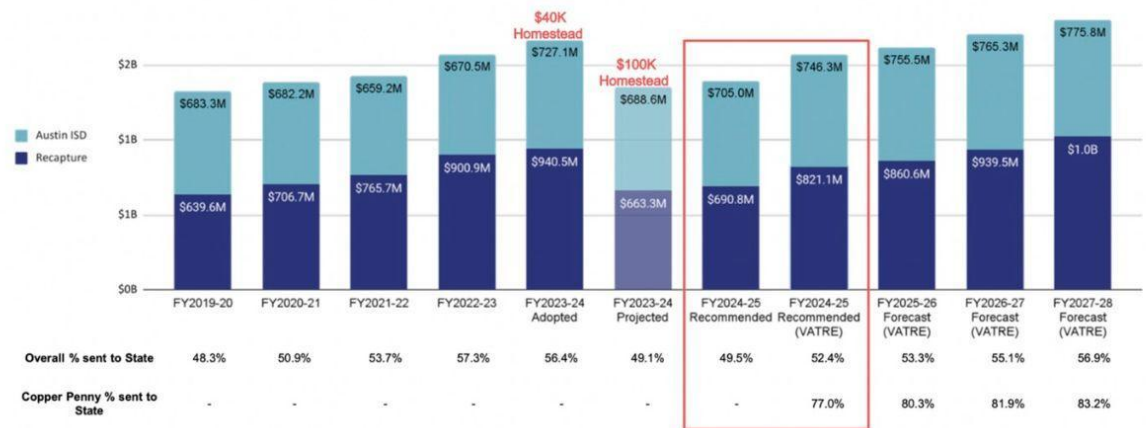


# RECAPTURE IN AUSTIN ISD

Austin ISD is the state's largest recapture payer, contributing more than the next several districts combined.

In the past, we have paid as much as \$940M and as much as 57% of our total tax collections. Last year, we paid \$660M. With the passage of Prop A, our recapture rate will go from about 49% to about 51%.

## General Fund: Tax Collections v Recapture



*Note: During the 88th Texas Legislative session, SB2 was passed to increase residence homestead property tax exemption; therefore decreasing Austin ISD's tax collections as well as Recapture.*

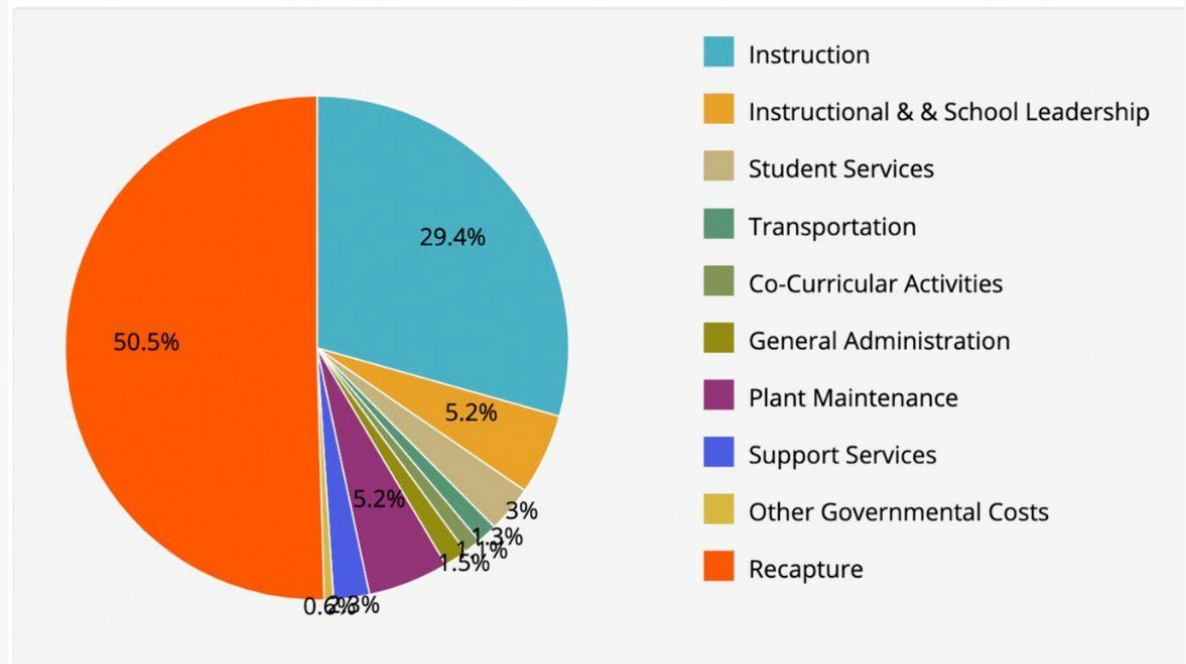


# RECAPTURE IN AUSTIN ISD

Austin ISD has an online property tax calculator that shows you exactly how much you pay in recapture, if you pay property tax.

It also shows where the rest of our funding goes. About 87% of all spending goes to paying the people who serve our students and support our schools.

Your AISD Property Tax Dollars by Function



# WHO ELSE PAYS RECAPTURE?

Austin ISD is the state's largest recapture payer, contributing more than the next several districts combined.

In the past, we have paid as much as \$940M and as much as 57% of our total tax collections. Last year, we paid \$660M. With the passage of Prop A, our recapture rate will go from about 49% to about 51%.

Some districts pay a far larger share - especially in resort areas and areas that extract or refine oil and gas.

## The following public school districts are members of the Texas School Coalition:

Alamo Heights ISD	Deer Park ISD	Kenedy County Wide CSD	Pringle-Morse CISD
Aledo ISD	Denver City ISD	Lake Dallas ISD	Rankin ISD
Allen ISD	Devers ISD	Lake Travis ISD	Richardson ISD
Andrews ISD	Dripping Springs ISD	Leander ISD	Robert Lee ISD
Aransas County ISD	Eanes ISD	Lefors ISD	Rockport-Fulton ISD
Argyle ISD	Evadale ISD	Lewisville ISD	Round Top-Carmine ISD
Arlington ISD	Fort Elliott CISD	Llano ISD	Sabine Pass ISD
Austin ISD	Fort Stockton ISD	Loop ISD	Sands CISD
Barbers Hill ISD	Franklin ISD	Lovejoy ISD	Schulenburg ISD
Bellevue ISD	Frisco ISD	Malakoff ISD	Seminole ISD
Blackwell CISD	Georgetown ISD	May ISD	Sivells Bend ISD
Boerne ISD	Glasscock Co. ISD	McCamey ISD	Snyder ISD
Borden County ISD	Glen Rose ISD	McMullen County ISD	Spring Branch ISD
Brazosport ISD	Goose Creek CISD	Miami ISD	Stafford MSD
Brookeland ISD	Grady ISD	Midland ISD	Sterling City ISD
Burnet CISD	Graford ISD	Midway ISD (McLennan)	Sudan ISD
Burton ISD	Grandview-Hopkins ISD	Moulton ISD	Sundown ISD
Calhoun County ISD	Grapevine-Colleyville ISD	Muenster ISD	Sunnyvale ISD
Canadian ISD	Greenwood ISD	Northwest ISD	Tatum ISD
Carthage ISD	Gregory-Portland ISD	Palacios ISD	Throckmorton Collegiate ISD
Chireno ISD	Guthrie ISD	Palo Pinto ISD	West Orange-Cove CISD
Cornstock ISD	Highland Park ISD (Dallas)	Pecos-Barstow-Toyah ISD	Westhoff ISD
Coppell ISD	Hunt ISD	Pflugerville ISD	White Deer ISD
Crane ISD	Iraan-Sheffield ISD	Plains ISD	Wimberley ISD
Crockett County CCSD	Jayton-Girard ISD	Plano ISD	Wink-Loving ISD
Culberson County-Allamore ISD	Jourdanton ISD	Plemons-Stinnett-Phillips CISD	Yorktown ISD
Dallas ISD	Keller ISD	Point Isabel ISD	
Darrouzett ISD	Kelton ISD	Port Aransas ISD	



# **WHAT RECAPTURE IS NOT**

- **Austin ISD does not have less money because of recapture.**
- **Recapture does mean that AISD taxpayers pay more for the school funding we have.**
- **Under Texas school funding formulas, all Texas districts get a similar amount of per-student funding - a figure that's set by the state legislature. That figure is effectively a cap on the funds we are allowed to have.**
- **We could end recapture tomorrow and not have another dollar to spend in our schools.**

# PER-STUDENT FUNDING

Recapture does not impact Austin ISD's per-student funding. That's because every district in Texas has roughly the same per-student revenue - determined by a statewide funding formula controlled by the Texas Legislature.

Figure 8 below presents the district tax revenue for the 2022-23 school year for the District, the peer district average, and the state average.

The District receives \$13,802 in total revenue per student, which is higher than both their peers and the state, primarily due to the higher yield for golden pennies the district receives.

**Figure 8. District Tax Revenue**

	DISTRICT		PEER DISTRICTS AVERAGE		STATE AVERAGE*	
	Per Student	% of Total	Per Student	% of Total	Per Student	% of Total
Local Net M&O Tax Revenue	\$9,112	66.0%	\$5,841	49.3%	\$5,612	44.1%
State Revenue	\$646	4.7%	\$3,034	25.6%	\$3,835	30.1%
Federal Revenue	\$3,038	22.0%	\$2,341	19.8%	\$2,559	20.1%
Other Local / Intermediate Revenue	\$1,006	7.3%	\$626	5.3%	\$733	5.8%
<b>TOTAL REVENUE</b>	<b>\$13,802</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>\$11,843</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>\$12,739</b>	<b>100.0%</b>

Source: TEA PEIMS Actual Financial Reports 2022-23

\* State average does not include charter districts.

Source: AISD Efficiency Audit, presented at the 9/26 board meeting

**Figure 8. District Tax Revenue**

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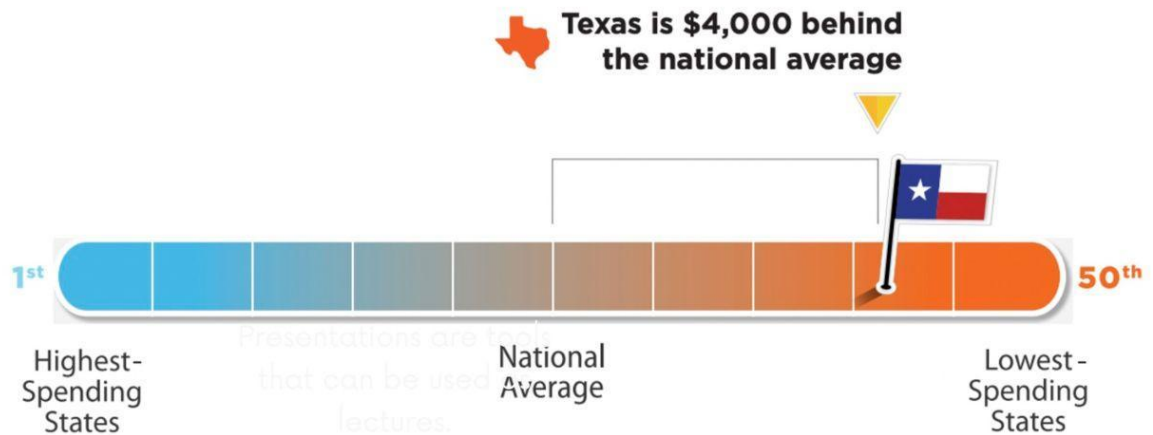
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PEER DISTRICTS AVERAGE		STATE AVERAGE*	
Per Student	% of Total	Per Student	% of Total
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\$3,034	25.6%	\$3,835	30.1%
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\$626	5.3%	\$733	5.8%
<b>\$11,843</b>	100%	<b>\$12,739</b>	100.0%

Source: AISD Efficiency Audit, presented at the 9/26 board meeting

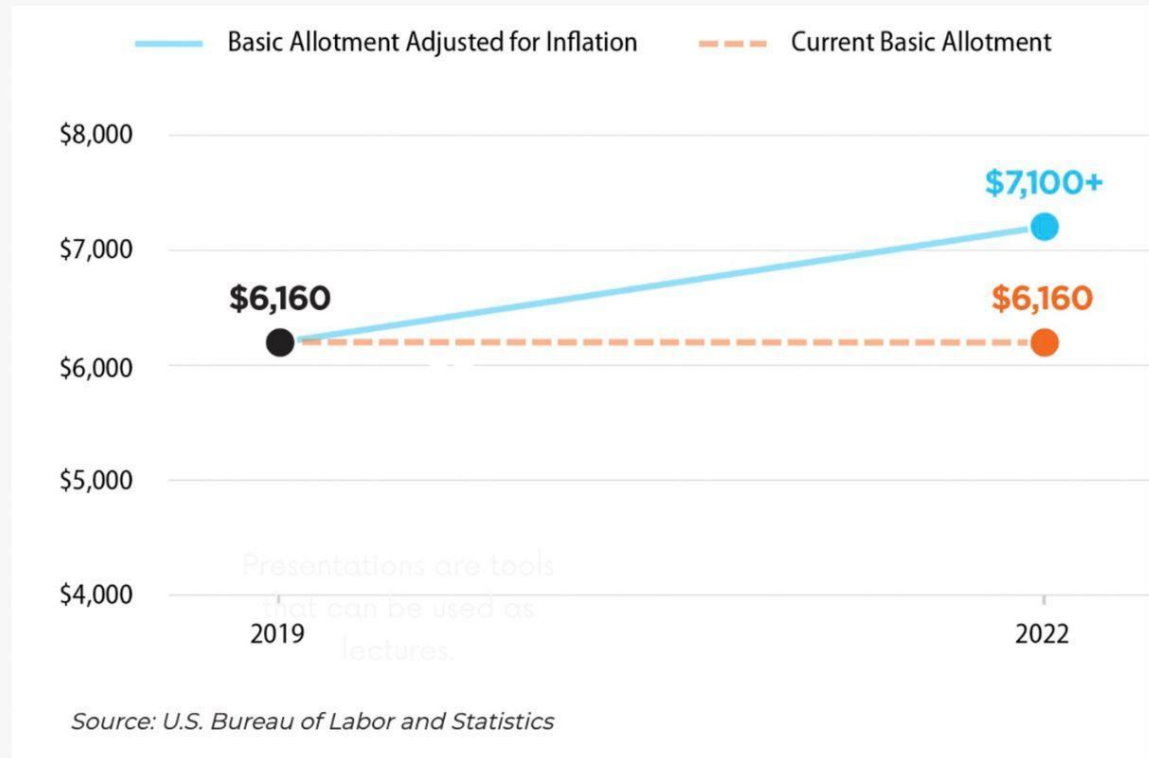
**IF WE HAVE  
MORE THAN  
OTHER TEXAS  
DISTRICTS,  
WHY ARE WE  
STRUGGLING?**

### Texas Ranks in the Bottom 10 in Per-Pupil Spending



Source: Raise Your Hand Texas

# IF WE HAVE MORE THAN OTHER TEXAS DISTRICTS, WHY ARE WE STRUGGLING?



Source: Raise Your Hand Texas

# HOW DOES PROP A FIT INTO THIS?

Prop A allows us to have the most funding that Texas law allows. Voters approved using copper pennies - an increase in our local property tax that's subject to recapture. We get more funds to spend in our schools - about \$550 more per student. But we also pay more recapture.

## Tax Rate and Recapture

### Maintenance and Operations (M&O)



#### Tier 1

\$0.6575

Subject to recapture  
Maximum Compressed Rate



#### Tier 2 - Golden

\$0.079 (\$0.08)

Not subject to recapture



#### Tier 2 - Copper

(\$0.09)

Subject to recapture

**Interest and Sinking (I&S) = \$0.1230**

**Recapture = \$691M (\$821M)**



# WHAT CAN WE DO?

Austin ISD's board is in charge of making the best use we can of the funds we have available.,

The Texas Legislature determines how much funding Texas public schools have. The budget they pass and the laws they create determine how schools are funded in Texas, how much schools receive, and how some of those funds must be used.

## **Learn how funding works**

Understanding the basics of how funding works and where decisions are made are key to effective advocacy.

## **Understand where Texas stands**

Texas ranks near the bottom in per-student funding nationwide, year after year. We can do better.

## **Share what you know**

Communities across Texas value their public schools. Change requires knowledge and action by public school supporters across Texas.

## **Advocate**

5.5 million Texas students are counting on us to use what we know to support our state's public schools.



# ADVOCACY IN AUSTIN ISD

The Austin ISD Board of Trustees adopts advocacy priorities before each legislative session. Those priorities always include an emphasis on increasing per-student funding in our state.

That would reduce recapture by allowing us to keep more of what we collect. And it would also put more funds into our schools.

## FAIR FUNDING

- Increase the basic allotment and add a requirement that the basic allotment be adjusted each biennium based on the rate of inflation.
- Require that all recapture dollars be spent on education, ending the practice of the state supplanting its investment in education with recapture dollars.
- Commission a study that identifies the true cost of educating all students, including the cost of complying with state mandates.
- Update the Foundation School Program allotments to reflect the actual costs of programs associated with each allotment.
- Increase funding for students receiving special education services to cover the actual district costs for providing needed services.
- Fund school districts on the basis of enrollment rather than attendance.

# ADVOCACY IN AUSTIN ISD

Each year, our advocacy also includes priorities that are specific to recapture.

## RECAPTURE REFORM

- Institute a formula to determine the amount of recapture paid by districts that takes into account the demographics of the student population.
- Commission a study of the impact of recapture on housing affordability.
- Commission a study of the recapture system to examine whether the current operation of the system aligns with the original goals when created in 1993.
- Restore a discount for districts that make early payments.
- Convert two copper pennies to two golden pennies.

# RECAPTURE RESOURCES

**TEXAS SCHOOL COALITION**  
TXSC.ORG

**RECAPTURE TEXAS**  
RECAPTURETEXAS.ORG

**EVERY TEXAN**  
EVERYTEXAN.ORG/WP-CONTENT/UPLOADS/2022/07/RECAPTURE\_JULY2022\_FINAL.PDF

**AUSTIN ISD PROPERTY TAX CALCULATOR**  
AUSTINISD.ORG/BUDGET/CALCULATOR

**AUSTIN ISD LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES**  
AUSTINISD.ORG/LEGISLATURE

**WHO DOES WHAT IN PUBLIC EDUCATION?**  
TEXASEDUCATORSVOTE.COM/WHO-DOES-WHAT-IN-PUBLIC-EDUCATION/

**RAISE YOUR HAND TEXAS YOUTUBE**  
YOUTUBE.COM/@RAISEYOURHANDTEXAS

# QUESTIONS?

Thank you, Trustee Boswell!

# FY 24-25 Meeting Dates

All meetings are 5:30-7:30pm.

- September 19, 2024 (in person)
- November 14, 2024 (virtual)
- January 29, 2024 (virtual)
- March 26, 2025 (virtual)
- May 21, 2025 (in person)



# Next Meeting Poll



What is your preference for the January meeting: Virtual or in person?





**THANK YOU for all you do to help AISD be green!**

