

## FAQs: SFA Elementary Staffing Redesign

### Why does the staffing at SFA need to be redesigned.

- Due to the low student enrollment, BISD is not meeting the **Campus Comparable Spending Guidelines** required by the Texas Education Agency.
- If BISD does not meet the required threshold for Campus Comparable Spending, the **Texas Education Agency could withhold \$2.4 million dollars** of Federal Title Money allocated to Brazosport ISD campuses.
- To be in compliance with the Texas Education Agency's Campus Comparable Spending threshold, **\$250,000 dollars of spending must be reduced at SFA or risk losing \$2.4 million dollars.**
- For additional information go to this [SFA Staffing Redesign Presentation](#) link.

### Why not just close SFA?

- BISD understands the importance to the residents of Jones Creek to have their own school that serves pre-kindergarten through 6th grade. This plan shows the commitment of the district to keep the school open.

### Will the instruction be provided by a certified teacher?

- Yes. The certified teacher, resident/apprentice, and paraprofessional would all be responsible for delivering instruction for every student. They will be following the same curriculum and pacing guidelines as all the other BISD campuses.

### What is a Resident/Apprentice Teacher?

- Resident/apprentice teachers are degreed and within one year of obtaining their teacher certification.
- SFA residents/apprentices will have a Success Coach on site each week to help plan, co-teach, model, coach, etc.
- Instructional content delivered to students will be delivered **along with the Lead Teacher** (co-teach model).
- Residents/apprentices would be solo with students during "facilitation" of activity/assignment after instructional content was delivered through a co-teaching model with a master teacher.
- Both the resident/apprentice and mentor/lead teacher will go through extensive co-teaching training prior to the start of the 2024-2025 school year.

### What is the solution to reduce costs and keep SFA open?

- Each grade level at SFA will have certified teachers and apprentice teachers in their last year of residency teaching.

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- A paraprofessional will also be assigned to assist grade levels in supporting student learning.
- Grade level teachers will be designated as Lead/Mentor teacher and will receive a \$10,000 grant funded stipend each year.

### **Will the SFA students' quality of education decline?**

- We do not expect student learning outcomes to be negatively affected by this plan. There will be supports in place for teachers and students.

### **What has the bond money been spent on at the school?**

- Bond funds that were designated for SFA have been utilized to maintain and improve the current school:
  - New flooring installed
  - Classroom and library furniture purchased
  - Updated classrooms in the breezeway
  - Awning replacement
  - Resurfaced walking track
  - New playground equipment installed
  - Resurfaced parking lot
  - Replaced water tank
  - Replaced backup generator
  - In the summer of 2024 all exterior doors will be replaced
- Bond funds remaining for SFA are \$15 million.
- Bond money cannot be allocated for funding of staff.

### **What is the student enrollment number SFA would have to drop to in order for the campus to be closed?**

- The exact number would be difficult to determine due to the comparison of enrollment to other campuses. This is an innovative measure to keep the school open and be in compliance with the campus comparable spending requirements.

### **What if 6th graders want to transfer to FIS?**

- They will be allowed to transfer and transportation services can be provided. Removing only 6th grade students would still not bring the Comparable Spending into alignment. It would actually cause a larger spending discrepancy as it would further reduce the number of students on the campus.

### **Why hasn't a new SFA been built?**

- The new school went out for bid in March 2020, which is when the worldwide pandemic created a lot of uncertainty. In January 2021, the area the campus is on was designated to be in Floodplain A. There was not enough land at the current site to build the new school due to

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new retention area requirements. BISD worked with property owners in Jones Creek for another location to build a new school. The cost of construction and materials continued to escalate as Texas experienced record inflationary rates and the projected cost estimates for new construction on a new site exceeded available funds from the 2019 bond by over \$9 million, making it cost prohibitive to move forward.

### What are other cost comparisons per student at other BISD schools?

- The table below shows the cost per student for the elementary campuses within our district.

Campus	# of Students	Cost Per Student
SF Austin Elementary	251	\$7,936
Beutel Elementary	602	\$6,275
Brannen Elementary	726	\$5,799
Freeport Elementary	619	\$5,949
Griffith Elementary	515	\$6,762
Lanier Elementary	618	\$6,730
Ogg Elementary	563	\$6,951
Polk Elementary	397	\$6,970
Roberts Elementary	689	\$5,844

### What happens after two years?

- The district will evaluate the cost effectiveness of keeping SFA open or not. Again, it is the desire of the district to keep the school open.

### Will students still have electives?

- Yes, they will have Art, Music, PE, Stream, and Robotics.

### What is the plan to increase enrollment?

- Declining enrollment is occurring at every BISD campus. The major factor in declining enrollment is lack of housing options and fewer industry projects that typically bring work to the community. Our communities are now competing with the master planned communities along the Highway 288 corridor for residents.
- BISD will continue to promote SFA as a small school where students receive a quality education with kind, caring, and compassionate staff.
- BISD will continue to allow in-district and out-of-district transfer students to enroll in SFA without a tuition fee.

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- BISD will continue to work with our communities to attract more housing in the Brazosport area.

### Informational Links:

- [SFA News Release Regarding Staffing Redesign](#)
- [SFA Staffing Redesign Presentation](#)
- [SFA Parent Letter](#)