

# AISD Consolidation Key Dates & Milestones (2025–2026) (attend yellow and red)

| Date           | Event / Milestone                                                       | Notes / Links                                 |
|----------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------|
| May 2          | <b>Special Board Meeting – Turnaround Plans</b>                         | <a href="#">Austin ISD</a>                    |
| May 13         | AISD announces input gathering for consolidations (2026–27)             | <a href="#">Austin ISD News</a>               |
| Aug 7          | Special Board Workshop / Meeting (consolidation / planning)             | <a href="#">AISD YouTube Live</a>             |
| Aug 11         | Release of Data Rubric scores guiding consolidation                     | <a href="#">AISD Consolidation Page</a>       |
| Sept 9, 10, 15 | Virtual community meetings on consolidation process (6–8 p.m.)          |                                               |
| Oct 3          | <b>Draft Consolidation Package released</b>                             | <a href="#">AISD Consolidation Updates</a>    |
| Oct 6          | <b>Draft Turnaround Plans (TAP) posted</b>                              | AISD BoardDocs                                |
| <b>Oct 9</b>   | <b>Board Info Session: Draft consolidation / Draft TAP - 6 PM</b>       | <a href="#">AISD Board Agenda &amp; Video</a> |
| Oct 14         | Preliminary Plan Open House (Virtual, English/Spanish)                  | 6–7:30 p.m. – South Region                    |
| Oct 16         | Preliminary Plan Open House (Virtual, English/Spanish)                  | 6–7:30 p.m. – North Region                    |
| Oct 27 + Nov 1 | Preliminary Plan Open House (Virtual, English/Spanish)                  | 5:30 p.m. – South   North 7:00 p.m.           |
| <b>Oct 30</b>  | <b>Austin ISD Board Meeting*</b>                                        |                                               |
| <b>Nov 6</b>   | <b>Board Session – Consolidation proposals &amp; Vote on TAP - 6 PM</b> | <a href="#">Austin ISD Board</a>              |
| <b>Nov 20</b>  | <b>Board Vote – Budget + Consolidation + Closures - 6 PM*</b>           | <a href="#">Austin ISD Board</a>              |
| <b>Nov 21</b>  | <b>Deadline to submit board-approved TAP to TEA</b>                     |                                               |
| 2026–27        | Earliest effective date for consolidations, closures, merges            | <a href="#">Austin ISD</a>                    |

\*Austin ISD Board Meetings are located at the AISD Board Auditorium at 4000 South Interstate 35 Frontage Road; You cannot just walk in and speak. You need to call 512-414-0130 and register ahead of time—the day before → 3:30–4:45 p.m. or day of → 7:45 a.m.–4:30 p.m. You can also send longer written comments anytime to [trustees@austinisd.org](mailto:trustees@austinisd.org). You can always show up with a sign.

# How to Give Public Comment at AISD Board Meetings

## Two Ways to Speak

| Option                | What to Do                                                                   | When You Can Do It                                                            |
|-----------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Speak in person       | Attend the meeting and take the microphone during the public comment portion | During regular Board meetings (4th Thursday) or special meetings listed below |
| Record your testimony | Call 512-414-0130 and leave a 60-second message                              | The day before → 3:30–4:45 p.m.<br>The day of → 7:45 a.m.–4:30 p.m.           |

- If your call doesn't connect, try again until a staff member picks up.
  - After the beep, state your **name** and which **agenda item or topic** you're speaking about.
  - Keep your comment within **60 seconds** (some extra time allowed for name/top
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## Board Meeting Schedule & Special Sessions

- **Regular Voting Meetings:** 4th Thursday of each month, 6:00 p.m.
- **Information / Study Sessions:** 2nd Thursday of each month
- **Special Board Meetings / Workshops:** Called as needed (check AISD's Board calendar)

**Tip:** The **draft consolidation / boundary proposal** is expected Oct. 3, 2025, and will be presented Oct. 9, 2025. Any public comments about consolidation should be timely around those dates.

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# What's the news saying:

A recent Community Impact story specifically flags uncertainty about **dual-language (wall-to-wall) campuses** under consolidation. It reports AISD is considering merging or relocating programs to achieve a 50/50 emergent bilingual to English-proficient balance. [Community Impact](#); The article also says AISD is being “vague” in its public statements and that transition planning is still in early stages (how is it in early stages when they are making decisions in November?)

KUT published an article titled “*Austin ISD says it's not a question of whether schools will close, but which ones*”. The district is explicit: closures are expected. [Kut](#)

In *Bracing for School Closures* (Austin Chronicle), a reporter notes that although AISD claims every school is under consideration, the likely candidates are older buildings, underperforming, low-enrollment schools — often in poorer areas — signaling that “level playing field” claims may not hold in practice. [The Austin Chronicle](#); the Chronicle also questions whether projected savings take into account real costs (transportation, facility maintenance, transition costs).

**12 AISD campuses face urgent risk** because they've earned **three consecutive F ratings** from the Texas Education Agency (TEA). These include Barrington, Dawson, Linder, Oak Springs, Pecan Springs, Sanchez, Widen, Winn Montessori, Woolridge, Bedichek MS, Martin MS, and Paredes MS. [Community Impact](#)

- AISD has launched a **consolidation process** in parallel with required **turnaround plans** for underperforming schools, aiming to **close, merge, or restart** campuses in the 2026–27 school year.  
The district must submit **turnaround plans by Nov. 14** for **23 campuses with two or more consecutive unacceptable (D or F) ratings. Of those, the 12 most consistently failing will require the most immediate action (closing, restarting, or external partnerships).**
- In August, AISD used a **data rubric** to evaluate schools on metrics like use, facility condition, educational suitability, and cost per student. **The rubric excluded A-F ratings**, though administrators say those ratings now limit some consolidation options.
- TEA Commissioner Morath was quoted as criticizing AISD for having “an extremely high number of chronically underperforming campuses.”
- This consolidation is about TEA requirements – even though they don't even take into consideration the accountability ratings.

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# AISD's Consolidation Presentation - Issues

## Transparency & Timing

- Families are only getting a “glimpse” of process and philosophy until the **October 3 draft** and **October 9 presentation** — just weeks before the **November 20 final vote**.
  - This leaves little time for families, staff, or communities to analyze impacts, mobilize, and **prTEA clock, not pedagogy**:
- AISD must submit board-approved Targeted Improvement Plans (TIPs) and Turnaround Plans (TAPs) by Nov. 14, 2025. Consolidation is being used to signal action to TEA—but that’s not the same as a credible academic improvement strategy.
- Draft plan mid-fall 2025, closures by fall 2026. Families and staff get less than a year to prepare.

## Process Over Substance

- AISD spent much of the meetings explaining rubrics, boundaries, and “story maps” — but avoided specifics on which schools/programs will close, what resources will be guaranteed, and how disruptions will be managed.
- The presentation focuses on “seat counts” and “reside vs. enrollment populations” rather than **root causes** of why families transfer away from certain campuses.
- Closures, boundary changes, transfer policy shifts, and facility repurposing are listed, but criteria and impacts are missing.

## Accountability Contradictions

- AISD claimed accountability ratings were excluded from the consolidation rubric — yet admitted TEA rules dictate many outcomes (e.g., turnaround plans follow students, failing schools require staffing resets).
  - This creates mixed messaging: AISD presents the process as equity-driven, but TEA accountability constraints will override many decisions.

## Equity Gap Between Words & Actions

- AISD invoked systemic racism, the 1928 plan, and “righting historical wrongs” — but the mechanics are mostly **capacity math and cost savings, plus TEA constraints**.
- Without safeguards, consolidations risk repeating patterns of disinvestment in East Austin and Title I schools.

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## Community Engagement Deficit

- Heavy reliance on **Zoom, online surveys, and story maps** excludes families with limited tech access.
- In-person engagement is planned *after* draft plans are released, making it reactive, not participatory.
- Surveys are the main tool, easily cherry-picked. No commitment to in-person or bilingual outreach.

## Staffing & Leadership Uncertainty

- Title I schools were described by community members as “training camps” with high turnover and long-term substitutes. AISD did not explain how they will **guarantee stable, experienced leaders and teachers** in consolidated schools.
- TEA’s requirement for “proven turnaround leaders” and “highly effective teachers” raises staffing concerns, especially given AISD’s shortages.

## Program Decisions Are Vague

- Some programs (dual language) may be relocated; IB expansion was dismissed as “too costly.”
- AISD admitted programming alignment will take “1–2 more years” to define — yet feeder patterns and closures are being rushed through now.

## Financial Risks

- AISD acknowledged 2022 bond funds may be **reallocated away from closing campuses**, undermining voter promises.
  - No clarity on how 2022 bond upgrades will be handled at closing campuses; Communities risk losing both schools and promised dollars.
- No clear breakdown of actual cost savings vs. transition expenses (transportation, staffing, renovations, support services) was provided.

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## Budget Framed as Equity

- AISD says consolidations are about “well-resourced schools,” but the driver is a \$100M shortfall. \$63M in cuts are already claimed, yet no details or alternatives are offered.
- 25,000 “empty seats” are cited, but AISD doesn’t explain where, or why families avoid those schools (program cuts, safety, etc.)

## False Choice

- AISD frames it as *consolidate or cut academics*. In reality, closures disrupt communities, increase class sizes and commutes, and rarely boost outcomes. No evidence that closures improve learning—they need a TAP plan to TEA by Nov 21 and this will be the way they show how they will plan to take those schools from failing to improving. **They’re hiding that they went from 4 schools in 2021 to 26 schools in 2024 that need improvement.**
  - Fully staffed schools with strong programs” is aspirational. No plan for solving staffing shortages, saving programs, or honoring bond investments.
  - Framing it as a double edged sword and putting it back on parents/caretakers, when in reality it is poorly, rushed plan based on TEA needs, and years of lack of district accountability—poor transfer policy, Title I investments, poor special program support, and leadership turnover. How will this consolidation measure and report out its outcomes, especially those they repeatedly mentioned during their presentation (low-income, historically disenfranchised, etc.) and how will you show accountability unlike your previous consolidation changes?
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## Questions for Caregivers to Ask:

### On Transparency & Process

- Why are communities being asked to weigh in after draft plans are already prepared?
- Will AISD commit to delaying votes until **families have had time to fully review and respond** to the draft consolidation and boundary package?
- Why was this released over the summer and announced during the first week of school? It feels like the timing was deliberately chosen to limit community engagement, rather than encourage it.

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- Can the Board commit to publishing the questions and answers to all of our questions asked?

## On Equity & Accountability

- How will AISD prevent consolidations from punishing East Austin and Title I students by forcing them into underperforming schools?
- If turnaround plans “follow” reassigned students, how will AISD ensure receiving schools aren’t unfairly burdened with failing labels?

## On Staffing & Leadership

- What is AISD’s plan to end the cycle of “training camp” leadership at Title I schools and ensure consolidated campuses get **experienced, stable principals and teachers**?
- Will displaced staff from closing schools be guaranteed placement at receiving schools — or will TEA’s restart rules allow mass layoffs?

## On Programming & Opportunity

- Which specialized programs (dual language, IB, STEM, CTE, arts) will be **protected, expanded, or relocated** to ensure all students have equal access?
- How will AISD guarantee dual-language programs remain equitable (true 50–50 model) rather than diluted in the shuffle?
- If dual language is “central to equity,” why isn’t there a clear list of which campuses will lose, keep, or relocate their programs?
- How will AISD ensure **emergent bilingual students** are not displaced farther from access?
- What protections exist for schools where wall-to-wall dual language is already functioning well?
- If AISD claims specialized programs are part of the “equity solution,” why are they not clearly listed in the consolidation meetings?
- Can the Board commit to **publishing a transparent program-by-program transition plan** before any vote?
- **Special programs ignored:** Dual language, IB, magnets, and special ed impacts are barely addressed.

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## On Community Voice and Engagement

- How will AISD ensure meaningful **in-person, bilingual engagement** in East Austin and other impacted neighborhoods *before* board votes?
- Will AISD commit to honoring community preferences for feeder patterns, especially for families historically underserved?

## On Budget & Bond Funds

- How much money will consolidations actually save — after accounting for transition costs?
- How will AISD honor promises from the 2022 bond if schools that were slated for improvements are closed? Will those dollars follow the affected communities?

## Key Questions on Transfers, Title I, and Equity

- For years, AISD allowed broad transfer policies that propped up school ratings by pulling students away from their neighborhood schools. **Why did AISD fail to invest in the Title I campuses left behind?**
- If transfers artificially boosted some schools' accountability scores, **why are those very schools now being targeted for consolidation or closure instead of rewarded for stabilizing enrollment?** If a school's "better grade" was largely a product of transfer students, **why is AISD punishing the community that built stability by closing the campus instead of strengthening it?**
- What is the district's plan to measure and fix the **structural inequities caused by decades of transfer policy** before layering consolidations on top?
- Will AISD publish clear data on how transfers affected school ratings over the last decade — and explain how that data is being used (or not used) in the consolidation rubric?
- What concrete strategies (not just promises) will AISD implement to ensure low-income Title I students have the same access to programs, strong teachers, and stable leadership as families who had the ability to transfer out?
- Why hasn't there been a clear transfer policy change if schools like Ridgetop, Blanton, Lee Barton Hills are all overcapacity year after year despite extremely poor school conditions.

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## AISD Elementary & Campus Projects (2019–Present, Expanded) QUESTIONS BELOW - MAP HERE

| School / Project                              | Year / Opening    | Location (Neighborhood / Area)                  | Notes / Context                     |
|-----------------------------------------------|-------------------|-------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| <b>Webb Elementary</b>                        | Jan 2023          | St. John's / North Central                      | New two-story replacement campus    |
| <b>Berry Elementary</b>                       | Aug 2023          | East Austin (MLK & 183 area)                    | Replacement school                  |
| <b>Thornton Elementary</b>                    | Aug 2023          | South Austin (near Brodie Ln.)                  | Replacement school                  |
| <b>Norman-Sims Elementary</b>                 | Spring 2021       | East Austin (MLK east of Airport)               | Fully modernized                    |
| <b>Blazier Intermediate / Relief Facility</b> | Aug 2020          | Southeast Austin (Slaughter Ln. & Vertex Blvd.) | Built to relieve Blazier Elementary |
| <b>Bear Creek Elementary</b>                  | Oct 2020          | Southwest Austin (Circle C / Slaughter area)    | New modernized campus               |
| <b>Doss Elementary</b>                        | Oct 2020          | Northwest Austin (Far West / Mesa Dr.)          | Full replacement campus             |
| <b>Govalle Elementary</b>                     | Mar 2020          | East Austin (Govalle / 183 & 7th St.)           | New modernized campus               |
| <b>Menchaca Elementary</b>                    | Jan 2020          | South Austin (Slaughter Ln. & Menchaca Rd.)     | New replacement                     |
| <b>T.A. Brown Elementary</b>                  | Jan 2020          | North Central Austin (near Lamar & Koenig)      | Replacement campus                  |
| <b>Allison Elementary</b>                     | 2022 Bond Project | East Austin (Montopolis)                        | Full modernization                  |
| <b>Andrews Elementary</b>                     | 2022 Bond Project | North Austin (Cameron Rd. area)                 | Modernization                       |
| <b>Barrington Elementary</b>                  | 2022 Bond Project | North Austin (North Lamar / Rundberg)           | Full modernization                  |

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|                                 |                   |                                                  |               |
|---------------------------------|-------------------|--------------------------------------------------|---------------|
| <b>Cook Elementary</b>          | 2022 Bond Project | North Austin (Rundberg area)                     | Modernization |
| <b>Harris Elementary</b>        | 2022 Bond Project | Northeast Austin (Springdale / Manor Rd.)        | Modernization |
| <b>Hill Elementary</b>          | 2022 Bond Project | Northwest Austin (Far West area)                 | Modernization |
| <b>Houston Elementary</b>       | 2022 Bond Project | East Austin (Springdale / MLK area)              | Modernization |
| <b>Langford Elementary</b>      | 2022 Bond Project | South Austin (William Cannon & Pleasant Valley)  | Modernization |
| <b>Linder Elementary</b>        | 2022 Bond Project | South Central Austin (Oltorf & Parker)           | Modernization |
| <b>Oak Hill Elementary</b>      | 2022 Bond Project | Southwest Austin (290 / Circle Dr.)              | Modernization |
| <b>Oak Springs Elementary</b>   | 2022 Bond Project | East Austin (Rosewood area)                      | Modernization |
| <b>Odom Elementary</b>          | 2022 Bond Project | South Austin (Stassney & Manchaca area)          | Modernization |
| <b>Pecan Springs Elementary</b> | 2022 Bond Project | Northeast Austin (51st & Manor Rd.)              | Modernization |
| <b>Williams Elementary</b>      | 2022 Bond Project | Southeast Austin (McKinney Falls / Thaxton area) | Modernization |
| <b>Wooldridge Elementary</b>    | 2022 Bond Project | North Austin (Braker & Metric area)              | Modernization |
| <b>Wooten Elementary</b>        | 2022 Bond Project | North Austin (Anderson Ln. & Burnet area)        | Modernization |

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# Questions on new builds

## 1. Inconsistency in “We must close because we can’t afford new builds”

- If AISD is approving expensive new builds and modernizations, why claim consolidation is necessary due to budget strain?
- How are these new or modernized campuses funded (bonds, special funds)? Do they have exemptions or protections other campuses don’t?

## 2. “New builds strengthen the argument for consolidation” is a double standard

- They are building or modernizing campuses in some neighborhoods while proposing closing others. On what basis are some considered “worthy” of investment and others not?

## 3. Equity & geographic fairness

- Which neighborhoods are receiving modernization/new schools? Which are being asked to close? - *There are 6 schools looking to close and 5 of them are east of I35.*
- **Equity claims unproven:** No clear demographic overlays showing who bears the burden (low-income, East Austin families, etc.).

## 4. Bond promises and community trust

- Some of these new builds are tied to bond measures (e.g. 2017 or 2022). If those buildings are slated for closure or reconfiguration, how will AISD honor those voters’ intentions?
- Can AISD guarantee that communities won’t lose both their school *and* the capital investment made in them?

## 5. Impact on capacity vs. consolidation rationale

- If new campuses add capacity or modern facilities, how does that align with the narrative of “too many empty seats”? Why did you keep building and modernizing schools for the last 5 years?
- Are these new builds drawing students (or “stealing” enrollment) from existing schools, thus aggravating declines elsewhere?

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