



2022 Bond Program: Call for Campus Architectural Team members (Parents, students, teachers, staff, community members)

- ESAC members are encouraged to [apply for their Campus Architectural Team](#) to provide input during planning, design, and construction of a school.
- AISD released [the schedule](#) for the 25 school modernization projects (new construction & major renovations) planned as part of the 2022 Bond.
- The 2022 Bond also includes more than 300 targeted projects across the district, including secure entry vestibules and repairs to HVAC, plumbing, roofing and electrical systems, and outdoor learning. This schedule has yet to be released.



AISD Superintendent Search

- AISD is beginning a search for a new Superintendent of Schools, and Trustees need your thoughtful and candid input into this process in order to ensure that the voice of our community is part of our search to find the best superintendent for our district.
- **Please take 10-15 minutes to share your thoughts in the [Superintendent Profile Survey](#) by March 15th.**
- Learn more ways to provide input and stay up-to date [here](#).



AISD Earth Week, April 17-21 (Earth Day is on Saturday, April 22!)

- If your organization is planning Earth Day activities, info, or events that are geared towards AISD students and families, we would love to help cross promote on our AISD Earth Week website. It will probably look similar to our [2022 Earth Week website](#). Please send content formatted similarly to darien.clary@austinisd.org and copy lucia.sewingcole@austinisd.org.
- As part of AISD's commitment to serve ALL students, we are asking partners to ensure your content includes language accessibility and serves our communities equitably in planning, programs, and the nature of information available. [View this guide](#).



Energy & Water Updates

- AISD submitted its concept paper for the [Department of Energy's Renew America's School Grant](#) to fund rooftop solar and energy efficiency projects, and we were selected from a pool of applicants nationwide to submit a full proposal in April. Fingers crossed!
 - The Energy and Water Department, in a coordinated effort with Austin Energy through the Energy Engagement program, facilitated and distributed over 3,800 [Energy All-Star Kits](#) to 6 grader students and teachers, to promote, educate, and help students and communities to save energy and water across the district, and at their home.
 - We are working on certifying [Energy Star Buildings](#) at our qualified campuses. Stay tuned!
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Food Updates

- We presented our progress with Sustainability at the Green Schools Conference in New Orleans alongside 2 representatives from the Center for Environmental Health
- We will be celebrating School Breakfast Week during 3/6-3/10 by having a special menu of Housemade Cinnamon Twists with Chocolate Chickpea spread, samplings of our Mango Smoothies, and serving Breakfast for Lunch at all Elementary and Middle Schools
- We got our shipment of reusable label bands to use for our bulk condiment stations that we purchased with a grant from the COA Office of Sustainability. This initiative has allowed us greatly reduce our use of single use containers saving time, labor, and trash!



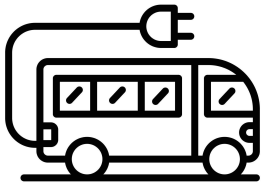
Nature Updates

- Big news! AISD is hiring for an additional Outdoor Learning Specialist. Please spread the word! Check out the job posting here: [Austin Independent School District - Frontline Recruitment](#)
- More big news! Discovery Hill Outdoor Learning Center is moving this summer. Our new home will be the former Metz Elementary. We are excited for the opportunity this presents and the new space we will create to host field trips there centered around nature discovery and sensory play.
- The Girls Outside program has been a blast! So far, we have taken 320 girls from 10 schools on a combined 15 field trips to McKinney Falls, Discovery Hill, and Zilker Botanical Gardens. This spring, we will be visiting Westcave Preserve and Camacho Center.
- Spring It's My Park Day had a record number of participating schools! I co-led a workday at Guerrero-Thompson Elementary, pictured here. Our team of volunteers removed trash from the creek that flows through the campus (including a mattress!), cleared an overgrown courtyard, and prepped garden beds for students. The following Monday, students planted their spring veggies, herbs and flowers!
- Green School Parks Designation - We are thrilled that so many schools are applying! We currently have 13 additional schools under review to become GSPs.
- Because we know that time outside is integral to our social and emotional health, we will be presenting at AISD's SEL Symposium in June to encourage more time outside during the school day for ALL of our students!



Zero Waste Updates

- We have [updated sorting signs](#)! They are available to all teachers, staff, and students in the zero waste toolkit (see right side of [this web page](#)).
- Assessment visits have been performed at high schools by the Zero Waste Lead Ana Echeverria to encourage, promote, and enforce Waste Sorting practices at the district, while engaging personnel to commit to AISD Zero Waste strategies.
- “Reusing” has become part of the strategies promoted by Austin ISD during the 2022-2023 year. With the help of Housekeeping Operations personnel, the Energy & Water Department and our painting shop, AISD Zero Waste have distributed 7-gallon bins adapted for recycling at elementary schools. These bins, originally intended for landfill, were donated to the school district through National Instruments, and have been repurposed, saving money to the school district and diverting resources from the landfill.



Transportation & Air Quality Updates

- Associate Director, Mike Rios will attend The Clean Energy Schools Symposium which will take place March 26-28, 2023 in Washington, DC. As we enter the Electric School Bus World, our goal is to see how we can obtain funds to help us purchase Electric School Buses and Charging Stations.



Equity & Community Engagement Updates

- ESAC Applications will be open this April 1 -June 30. As a reminder, because of new term limits across all AISD advisory committees, ALL ESAC members will need to apply if they would like to be a voting member.
 - Please help recruit parents, students, and teachers to the ESAC this April-June. In an effort to increase the range of perspectives on the ESAC, the subcommittee will prepare toolkits to aid in recruitment.
 - If you have questions or input for the subcommittee, please reach out to Darien (darien.clary@austinisd.org) and Noelle (info@yoursmallacts.com).
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