

AISD's full statement to Austin Current

Austin ISD deeply values the contributions and perspectives of our families, and we work to create welcoming, inclusive spaces for them to engage with us around decisions affecting their children's education. This process was undeniably difficult, taking a significant emotional toll on our community. We acknowledge that a process resulting in this level of frustration has room for improvement and we are committed to learning from this experience and rebuilding trust with our community.

Throughout the process, our staff navigated an intense volume of public discourse and criticism that was, at times, deeply personal. While we see some of these internal messages as raw, human reactions to that pressure, they do not always reflect the professional standards we expect of our employees. To those who may have been hurt by comments that were made without the appropriate level of care, we offer our sincere apologies.

We are taking this opportunity to reinforce expectations for internal communication and to better equip our staff to uphold our district's values, in both formal and informal settings. We have also begun incorporating new approaches to our engagement into our repurposing efforts, and we will continue to listen and adjust to support our community in meaningfully engaging in district processes and decision-making.

Throughout this process, our priority was to truly hear our families. We listened deeply to their insights and, as a direct result, made significant adjustments to our plans, from refining our data rubrics to reshaping final proposals. While we recognize that these adjustments may not perfectly satisfy the unique desires of every neighborhood, they reflect a sincere effort to balance individual community needs with our districtwide vision to ensure every Austin ISD student has an excellent, well-resourced neighborhood school.

Ultimately, we stand behind the integrity of the process. With nearly 70,000 students to serve amid shrinking resources, we had to make the difficult but responsible choice to consolidate our footprint. These changes, though difficult, put us on a path toward greater alignment allowing us to direct resources where they are needed most. We understand the pain of school closures, and our teams are working to support a smooth transition with compassion and care. This includes coordinating tours of possible transfer campuses and creating a

special transition round of enrollment to help families maintain continuity in their educational journeys. That transition planning is ongoing throughout the spring and summer and we invite our families to take part in these activities and join in the planning of these efforts at their schools.

For more information on the data rubric and contextual analysis, please review the Austin ISD consolidations website at <https://www.austinisd.org/consolidate/data-rubric>.