



# DELIVERING ON THE PROMISE

*our schools. our community. our future.*

## AUSTIN ISD BOND PROGRAM ANNUAL REPORT Spring 2008

### Message from the Superintendent

To the reader:

On behalf of the Austin ISD community, I am proud to report on our continued progress toward fulfilling the goals of the 2004 Apple at Work Bond Program. These investments in new and improved facilities throughout the district are essential to help each of Austin's more than 83,000 students learn to their fullest potential.

In 2004, the community sent a resounding message with the approval of the Bond Program — that every child can learn and achieve, and that every child needs and deserves the best learning environment possible. Our job as a District has been to create those environments and deliver on the promise made to the children and families of Austin.

Throughout the first three years of The Apple at Work, we have organized ourselves and our work to provide effective management of projects and funds, in clear and constant partnership with the community. I am proud of the success of that partnership in bringing new schools, updated facilities, and safe and productive learning environments for every child and family we serve.

Pascal D. Forgione, Jr., Ph.D.  
Superintendent  
*Austin Independent School District*

### Message from the Board President

To all Members of the Austin School District community:

On behalf of the AISD Board of Trustees, I am happy to provide you with this Annual Report chronicling the ongoing progress of The Apple at Work Bond Program, approved by voters in September 2004.

The Board and District have made a promise to citizens and voters that we intend to keep. We honor Austin's community commitment to quality and equity in education. The Apple at Work Bond Program was and is designed to invest wisely in every child's future, with important work being done at every single Austin ISD campus and facility.

At \$519.5 million, The Apple at Work Bond Program is the largest such investment package in the District's history, and Austin ISD will not waver from its commitments to the highest levels of fiscal responsibility and public accountability. As we move past the midpoint of the Bond Program, we are still focused on using the best practices to meet the District's and the community's needs and goals with the most efficient use of our resources.

The Apple at Work Bond Program has already delivered five new school campuses and substantial renovations and expansions that have transformed existing Austin ISD schools into state-of-the-art learning communities. These investments have helped Austin and the District reimagine and reinvent how we approach key challenges in education — a process that will continue through the end of this Bond Program and beyond.

At the same time, I am proud that The Apple at Work has lived up to Austin's high standards for sustainability and environmental responsibility, for workplace and community safety and security, and for social and economic equity. Austin continually strives to be a model, where efficient, responsible and accountable public services support our community's visionary goals. My colleagues and I are glad that The Apple at Work is proving to be just such a model for Austin.

Mark Williams  
President, *Austin School District Board of Trustees*

# The Apple at Work: An Overview



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*Austin voters in September 2004 approved a five-year, \$519.5 million school Bond Program — known as The Apple at Work — to alleviate overcrowding, keep up with Austin’s growth, and improve the quality, safety, and sustainability of Austin ISD’s campuses and facilities. Every Austin student, family and school will benefit from the investments made under this Bond Program.*

The Austin Independent School District comprises 230 square miles, 112 campuses and more than 83,000 students. Had The Apple at Work Bond Program not been approved, elementary schools in the northeast, south, southeast and southwest areas of the District would be experiencing significant overcrowding during the 2008-09 school year.

The Apple at Work Bond Program has already alleviated much of this overcrowding with five new campuses — Perez Elementary and Clayton Elementary (opened fall 2006) and Overton Elementary, Blazier Elementary and Garcia Middle School (opened last fall) — as well as expansions and additions at many more campuses. Three more new campuses and additional expansions will be completed by 2010. In total, more than 40 percent of the funds (\$228.2 million) approved in the 2004 bond election are earmarked for new campuses, classrooms and facilities to ensure that every Austin student can learn in an environment that is not overcrowded.

At the same time, another 45 percent of the total Bond Program (\$233.6 million) is slated to fund renovations to each and every Austin ISD campus and facility. These improvements range from investments in technology, to athletics and arts facilities, to environmental health and safety improvements, as well as general repairs and upgrades. The Apple at Work also includes safety and security investments to help Austin ISD assure the safety and security of its students, staff and families; modern “green” low-emission school buses that will upgrade the Austin ISD bus fleet while helping keep Austin’s air cleaner; and refinancing of contractual obligations that has freed up operating funds to help Austin ISD better meet the day-to-day needs of its students and families.

## Board of Trustees *(as pictured from left)*

- Lori Moya, District 6
- Sam Guzman, District 2
- Johna Edwards, Secretary, District 3
- Mark Williams, President, District 5
- Karen Dulaney Smith, At-Large Position 9
- Vincent M. Torres, Vice President, District 4
- Cheryl Bradley, District 1
- Robert Schneider, District 7
- Annette LoVoi, At-Large Position 8



“The new classroom addition has been grand for the Kiker community. It is an amazing addition to our campus and has allowed all Kiker students to be able to learn in the environment of a classroom instead of a portable.”

Susie Klein  
PTA President  
*Kiker Elementary School*



# The Bond Program In Brief

## New schools.

**Northeast:** Volma Overton Elementary School and Gustavo L. “Gus” Garcia Middle School, both opened in fall 2007.

**Southeast:** Lance Cpl. Nicholas Perez Elementary School opened fall 2006, and John C. Blazier Elementary School opened fall 2007.

**Southwest:** Nan Clayton Elementary School opened fall 2006, a new middle school that is scheduled to open in 2009, and an elementary school that is scheduled to open in fall 2010.

**North Central:** A new elementary school that is scheduled to open in fall 2010.

**Major classroom additions.** Additions at campuses including Akins, Lanier, LBJ, and Travis high schools; Dobie, Kealing, and Webb middle schools; and Baranoff, Graham, Houston, Jordan, Kiker, Norman, Palm, and Rodriguez elementary schools.

**Athletic facilities.** Improvements at Burger Activity Center, House Park, and Nelson Field.

**Repairs and renovations.** Every Austin ISD campus and facility will be impacted by the Bond Program. Campus repairs and renovations include new roofing and ventilation systems, better site drainage, improved electrical service and lighting, new doors and windows, new classroom furnishings and fixtures, refurbished restrooms and drinking fountains, new water and wastewater lines, construction of covers and upgrades to existing playslabs, and renovated and expanded parking areas.

*In addition, The Apple at Work Bond Program includes investments in key community values — safety, sustainability and equity.*

**Safety and Security.** The Bond Program includes \$21 million for safety and security systems at every campus, including card readers, security cameras and improved lighting. Also, Austin ISD is ensuring that all projects of The Apple at Work Bond Program are conducted with the utmost concern for the safety of students, staff, teachers and construction personnel. The District’s safety consultants work with contractors and sub-contractors to develop, review, implement and monitor safety plans and procedures.

**Sustainability.** The Bond Program includes \$13 million for low-emission school buses that improve the performance of Austin ISD’s transportation fleet while helping Austin maintain good air quality. In addition, Austin ISD has committed funds on each construction project specifically for environmental and energy-saving measures. All new school buildings and additions will achieve a minimum two-star rating in Austin Energy’s Green Building Program, and Green Building elements are also being incorporated into major renovations and retrofits. Landscaping incorporates native, low-water-use plants and trees, and the District uses renewable energy (through Austin Energy’s Green Choice program) for 33 percent or one-third of its energy requirements.

**Equity.** The Apple at Work Bond Program is touching every student and family in the District, with projects at every single one of the District’s 129 campuses and facilities. Rapid growth in the northeast, southeast, and southwest has led to overcrowding that’s being relieved with new schools and major additions and expansions. Ongoing instructional initiatives to improve educational outcomes will also be supported by investments made in the Bond Program. The program works to ensure functional equity among campuses by bringing its facilities to a new, common standard of excellence. These projects include library expansions, playslab upgrades, improved lighting and acoustics, and enhanced science labs and art rooms throughout the District.

*Norman Elementary School*



# Keeping the Promise: Oversight and Accountability



Barton Hills Elementary School

“Being at Garcia is very exciting. The school is really beautiful, we have access to great technology, and the teachers are great!”

Alexis Campbell, Haley Malone and Vanessa Harros  
Students  
Garcia Middle School

## Community Bond Oversight Committee

The Community Bond Oversight Committee (CBOC) ensures that The Apple at Work Bond Program keeps the promises made to Austin voters and remains true to the community’s vision for the District. The committee is led by tri-chairs Donetta Goodall, Bobby Jenkins and Eliza May.

The charge of the CBOC includes:

- Reviewing and evaluating progress and fiscal performance of Bond projects;
- Conducting electronic satisfaction surveys of key campus stakeholders regarding the quality of work and rating of customer service on Bond projects, and taking any needed action based on the results;
- Reviewing and evaluating any proposed changes to individual projects in the Bond Program;
- Reporting to the Superintendent and the Board of Trustees three times a year (February, June and October) on topics including overall progress, the status of or changes to individual projects, results of community surveys, and the District’s performance on environmental stewardship, HUB utilization and program management; and
- Reviewing and evaluating new construction and renovation projects against specific criteria adopted by the Board of Trustees.

## CBOC Members

Willis Adams  
Margarito Aranda  
Mark Boyden  
Donetta Goodall \*  
Staley Gray  
Jackie Hawkins  
Morris Hoover  
Bobby Jenkins \*  
Steve Kraal  
Cindy Lara  
Ana Martinez  
Eliza May \*

Carolyn Merritt  
Mary Ann Neely  
Jim Recek  
Steve Rogers  
Gerard Washington  
Horace Willis  
Peck Young

*\*Denotes tri-chair*

Blazier Elementary School



# Financial Statement:

## The Apple at Work Bond Program Budget and Spending Plan

### By Category

<b>Campus/Facility Renovations</b>	\$233.6 million
Including technology, athletics, PE and environmental health; investments in both building integrity and functional equity.	
<b>New Schools, Facilities, Additions and Land</b>	\$228.2 million
Six elementary schools and two middle schools; 64 elementary, 16 middle school and 12 high school additional classrooms; land for one elementary and two middle schools; and partial funding for construction of a districtwide performing arts center.	
<b>Safety and Security</b>	\$21.0 million
Security systems to be implemented at every campus.	
<b>Low-Emission School Buses</b>	\$13.2 million
New, cleaner, fuel-efficient vehicles to upgrade the Austin ISD fleet while improving local air quality.	
<b>Contractual Obligations</b>	\$23.5 million
Refinancing existing debt allows for more operations funding for Austin schools.	
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$519.5 million</b>

### By Year/Phase

Phase 1: FY 2005	\$195.9 million
Phase 2: FY 2006	\$68.2 million
Phase 3: FY 2007	\$90.3 million
Phase 4: FY 2008	\$50.8 million
Phase 5: FY 2009	\$18.8 million
Multi-phase projects	\$31.7 million
Contingency and support	\$63.8 million
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$519.5 million</b>

### Phase 1: Budget Detail

Original budget:	\$178,627,885
Supplemental funding:	\$17,320,324*
Current budget:	\$195,948,209
<i>(37.7% of 2004 Bond Program total funding)</i>	

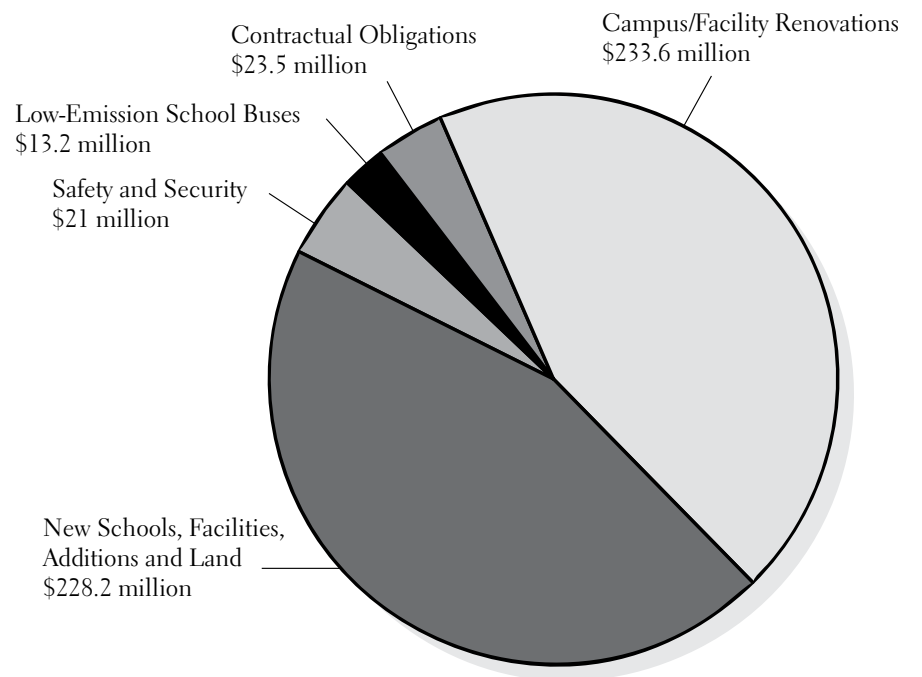
### Phase 2: Budget Detail

Original budget:	\$52,524,907
Supplemental funding:	\$15,716,550*
Current budget:	\$68,241,457
<i>(13.1% of 2004 Bond Program total funding)</i>	

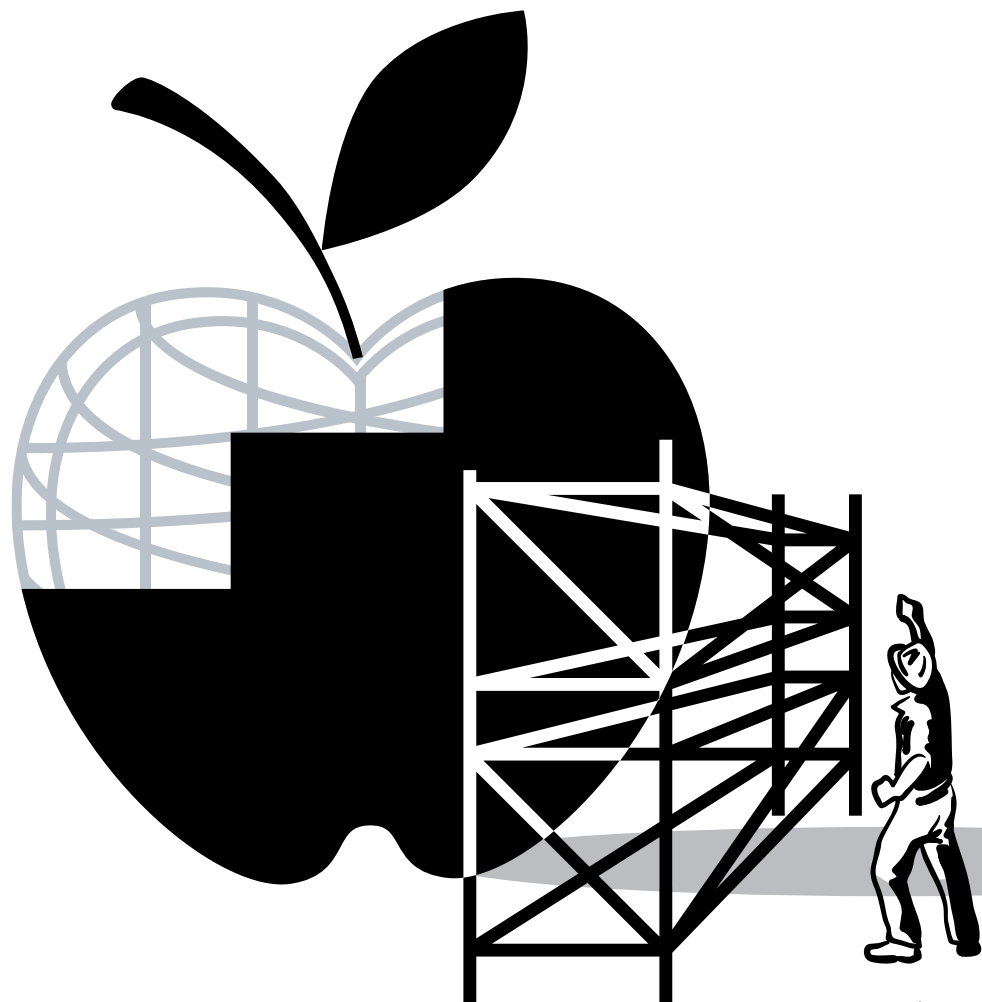
### Phase 3: Budget Detail

Original budget:	\$69,679,685
Supplemental funding:	\$20,624,194*
Current budget:	\$90,303,879
<i>(17.4% of 2004 Bond Program total funding)</i>	

\* Supplemental funding is approved and allocated by the Board of Trustees on a project-by-project basis to expedite on-time completion or to provide project enhancements as requested and reviewed by the campus community. Sources of this funding include unexpended appropriations from previous Bond Programs and program contingency.



Phase 3 accounts for 17.4% of the construction portion of the 2004 Bond Program.



# Continuing Progress: Highlights of Years 1, 2 and 3

(As of January 2008)



Over the first three years of The Apple at Work Bond Program, all projects at each of the following campuses and District facilities have been completed:

### Elementary Schools

Barton Hills	Campbell	Houston	Norman	Perez	Walnut Creek
Becker	Clayton	Kiker	Oak Springs	Reilly	Widen
Blanton	Cunningham	Lee	Overton	Ridgetop	Williams
Blazier	Davis	Maplewood	Palm	Rodriguez	Winn
Brentwood	Gullett	Metz	Pecan Springs	Sanchez	Zilker

### Middle Schools

Dobie	Garcia	Martin	Pearce	Ann Richards School
Fulmore	Kealing	Paredes		

### High Schools

Akins	LBJ	Travis
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### Other facilities

Alternative Learning Center	Garrison Park/ Northwest Park Baseball Fields	Maintenance Service Center	Nelson Field Softball Fields (Butler Field)	Toney Burger Center
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Projects are currently under construction at the following campuses and facilities:

### Elementary Schools

Allison	Brown	Govalle	Joslin	Oak Hill	Pleasant Hill
Andrews	Casey	Graham	Kocurek	Odom	Sims
Baranoff	Cowan	Harris	Linder	Ortega	Sunset Valley
Blackshear	Dawson	Hart	Mathews	Patton	Travis Heights
Boone	Doss	Highland Park	McBee	Pease	Wooten
Brooke	Galindo	Jordan	Menchaca	Pickle	

### Middle Schools

Covington	New southwest	Small	Webb
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### High Schools

Anderson	Bowie	Crockett	Lanier	McCallum	Reagan
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### Other facilities

Austin Tennis Center (Garcia Middle School)	Baker Center	Carruth Administration Center	Clifton Career Development School	House Park North Bus Terminal	Rosedale School South Bus Terminal
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Projects are in design or out for bid at the following campuses and facilities:

### Elementary Schools

Allan	Bryker Woods	Doss	Mathews	Pleasant Hill	Wooten
Allison	Casey	Govalle	Mills	St. Elmo	Zavala
Barrington	Casis	Harris	Ortega	Sims	
Boone	Cook	Highland Park	Patton	Summitt	
Brooke	Cowan	Langford	Pease	Travis Heights	
Brown	Dawson	Linder	Pillow	Woolridge	

### Middle Schools

Bailey	Burnet	Lamar	Murchison	Webb
Bedicheck	Covington	Mendez	O. Henry	

### High Schools

Garza	Johnston	Lanier	Reagan
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### Other facilities

Lucy Read Pre-kindergarten Demonstration School	Pleasant Hill Annex
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# Featured Aspects of The Apple at Work Bond Program

## **Made in the Shade**

Every child needs a place to play, and in Austin that means a place that's protected from the elements. That's why The Apple at Work Bond Program includes installing covers over the play areas at 78 elementary school campuses, making the colorful canopies standard equipment throughout the District.

For many of Austin ISD's youngest students, the new covered play areas are the most visible — and most popular — enhancements brought to their campuses by The Apple at Work. The Bond Program has also included safety and accessibility improvements to play areas at several campuses.

## **Homes for the Arts**

Whether it's visual art, music, or theater, Austin ISD students do their part to make our community a creative capital. The Apple at Work Bond Program includes major enhancements to arts facilities — new arts classrooms, rehearsal spaces, and performance venues — at campuses throughout the District:

**High Schools:** Johnston, LBJ, McCallum and Travis

**Middle Schools:** Bedichek, Covington, Dobie and Webb

**Elementary Schools:** Barton Hills, Brown, Linder, Oak Hill and Reilly

The Bond Program also includes small-scale enhancements at a number of campuses — from new instrument lockers to plaster sinks in art rooms — that help make the District's top-notch arts and music programs more effective.

## **Making Campuses Bigger and Better**

In addition to building new schools, The Apple at Work Bond Program has expanded 10 existing schools, adding a total of nearly 100 new classrooms. The campuses with new classroom additions include:

**Completed additions:** Dobie, Houston, Jordan, Kealing, Kiker, Norman, Palm and Rodriguez

**Under construction:** Akins, Baranoff and Graham

Except for at Kealing, where classrooms were added to accommodate the campus' addition of sixth grade, these expansions are aimed at alleviating or avoiding serious overcrowding. These classroom additions help individual schools and the District as a whole adjust to Austin's continued growth, particularly in the northeast, southeast and southwest.



*Reilly Elementary School*

## WHAT'S NEXT FOR 2008

2007 was a successful year for Austin ISD and the Apple at Work Bond Program and the coming year will continue that progress. In addition to continuing the work at campuses and facilities where projects have already begun, in 2008, phase five of the Bond Program will begin with projects at the following campuses and facilities:

- Austin High School
- T. A. Brown Elementary School
- Carruth Administration Center
- Garza Independence High School
- Hill Elementary School
- Johnston High School
- Materials Management Warehouse
- Southeast middle school land acquisition
- Summitt Elementary School

“The covered playslab has been wonderful!! It's like having a second gym outdoors. It's easily ten degrees cooler and it helps define the play area. We use it for Physical Education and W.O.W. (Working out For Wellness). We love it!”

Paula Bowen  
PE Teacher  
*Walnut Creek Elementary School*

# The Newest Members of The AISD Family



*Perez Elementary School*

## **Lance Corporal Nicholas Samuel Valdez Perez Elementary School**

Perez Elementary, on Pleasant Valley Road in southeast Austin, serves up to 700 students in its 32 classrooms on 15 acres. The \$13 million project took approximately nine months to complete and opened in August 2006. The school's name honors U.S. Marine Corps Lance Corporal Nicholas Samuel Valdez Perez, a 2003 Travis High School graduate killed in action in al-Anbar Province in September 2004. He was the first Austinite killed in Iraq.

## **Nan Clayton Elementary School**

Clayton Elementary, on LaCrosse Avenue in southwest Austin, opened in August 2006 with 40 classrooms to serve approximately 850 students. Like Perez Elementary and most major construction projects in The Apple at Work Bond Program, Clayton Elementary was designed to earn a two-star rating in Austin Energy's Green Building Program. The school's name honors Nan Clayton, a longtime community leader and the longest-serving member of the Austin ISD Board of Trustees (from 1978 to 1992).

## **Volma Overton Elementary School**

Overton Elementary, on Colony Loop Drive in northeast Austin, opened in August 2007 with 32 classrooms to serve more than 700 students on 28 acres shared with the City of Austin's Turner-Roberts Recreation Center. The two facilities share a full-size gymnasium, playfields and play areas. The school's name honors Volma Overton, who, for 20 years, was the leader of the Austin chapter of the NAACP, and in his role as an Austin ISD parent waged and won the federal lawsuit that successfully integrated Austin's public schools. A career employee of the U.S. Postal Service, Overton's work with the NAACP and elsewhere was instrumental in ensuring equal access and opportunity for people of color in Central Texas.

## **Gustavo L. "Gus" Garcia Middle School**

Garcia Middle School, the first new middle school constructed in The Apple at Work Bond Program, opened on Johnny Morris Road in Northeast Austin in August 2007 with 66 classrooms and a capacity of 1,100 students. The \$26 million project is named for Austin's former mayor Gus Garcia, who was also the first Hispanic elected to the Austin ISD Board of Trustees, where he served from 1972-78. Garcia Middle School, which earned a three-star rating in the Austin Energy Green Building Program, is also home to a new joint tennis center being constructed in partnership with the City of Austin.

## **John C. Blazier Elementary School**

Blazier Elementary, on Vertex Boulevard in Southeast Austin, opened in August 2007 with 32 classrooms and a capacity of 700 students on 15 acres. The school is named for John C. Blazier, a leader in systematic change in public education. Mr. Blazier founded the Travis Community Education Foundation (TCEF) which funded numerous institutes and programs throughout the District including two career pathway institutes, the Travis Culinary and Hospitality Institute and the Lanier Health Sciences Institute. Aside from his commitment to TCEF, Mr. Blazier has also been involved in academic camps, student mentoring, campus technology enhancements and campus beautification, all benefiting the students and faculty of Austin ISD.



*Garcia Middle School Dedication*



*Clayton Elementary School*



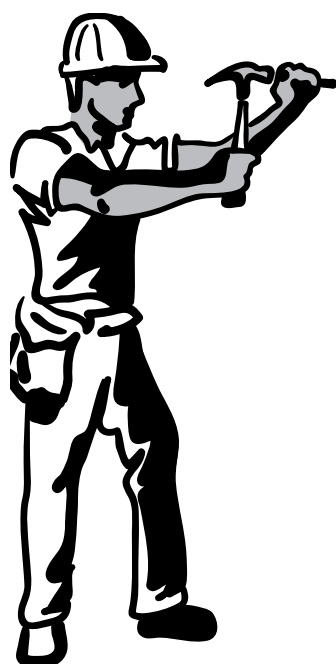
*Blazier Elementary School Dedication*

“We can take a lot of pride in the work it took to expand our school so nicely.”

Bruce Evans  
PTA Vice-President of Volunteers  
*Zilker Elementary School*

“Our son always enjoyed art class but this year it rated as one of his favorites. With the new art room the students are more excited to learn and create art and, as a parent, we love it when great art comes home.”

Brian O’Neill  
Parent  
*Oak Hill Elementary School*



*Garcia Middle School*

## A Dedication to Environmental Stewardship

Respecting and protecting the environment is a core Austin value — one that we, as individuals and as a community, seek to pass on to our children. Austin ISD aims to be a model of environmental stewardship and sets an example for the students and families it serves. The Apple at Work Bond Program has set a new standard of sustainability for the District and the region.

### **Green Building.**

All new buildings and major additions will achieve a minimum two-star rating in Austin Energy’s Green Building Program. Certain projects, such as the new Garcia Middle School, have exceeded this standard. Major renovations and retrofits also incorporate best green building practices. Overall, The Apple at Work focuses on such sustainability elements as reducing energy and water use, recycling construction waste, controlling water quality and stormwater runoff, and installing native plants and landscaping.

### **On the road.**

The Apple at Work Bond Program included funding for 150 new low-emission school buses, which have now been purchased and are part of the District’s vehicle fleet. These buses are not only helping to maintain acceptable air quality in Austin, but directly benefit the health and wellness of Austin students. The District’s commitment to sustainability in its vehicle fleet has extended to the recent purchase of Texas’ first plug-in hybrid school bus — one of only 18 in the United States. The 71-passenger diesel/electric hybrid gets 12 miles to the gallon, twice the mileage of a standard bus, and is the product of two years of collaborative effort between Austin ISD and the Clean Air Force of Central Texas.

### **Renewable energy.**

Austin ISD has committed to meet 33 percent of the District’s energy needs through purchases of Green Choice power — derived from wind power and other renewable sources — from Austin Energy. New facilities, including Garcia Middle School, also feature demonstration solar panel installations that help the District teach students about solar energy.

# New School Placement Aimed at Alleviating Overcrowding



*Garcia Middle School*

“One thing I like about Overton is the great teachers that Overton has.”

Luis Gomez  
Student  
*Overton Elementary School*

In a fast-growing, fast-changing city like Austin, it's always a challenge to keep up with the needs of the community. As stewards of the public's money and trust, Austin ISD has to ensure that the sizable investments made in The Apple at Work Bond Program have the greatest positive impact on the educational performance of our schools and our students.

With that in mind, the highest priority when developing and implementing The Apple at Work has been to alleviate current overcrowding in the highest-growth areas of the community and the District — primarily the northeast, southeast and southwest. The new schools located in these areas — Perez and Blazier in the southeast, Clayton in the southwest, and Overton and Garcia in the northeast — opened in 2006 and 2007 at approximately 65 percent of their permanent capacity.

At the same time, The Apple at Work has added new classrooms to several other schools in these same areas to keep up with the rapid growth. Some of these campuses are, in fact, among the newest in the District — evidence of just how fast new students and families are coming to Austin and its schools. Austin ISD expects that, for the foreseeable future, the need to add capacity in areas prone to overcrowding will be a top priority of its facilities planning and bond program development.

## **Boundaries for New Schools**

Once new schools are added, how does the District decide which students are served by the new campus and which remain at existing schools? The Board of Trustees relies on its Facilities Use and Boundary Task Force to make recommendations for new school boundaries. The Task Force is made up of core members as well as geographic representatives from the affected areas. Members and representatives evaluate various factors to determine boundaries including: school size and capacity targets, tracking and alignment between feeder schools, and distance, travel time and safety of students getting to and from school.



*Akins High School*



# Staying in Touch with the Community

A key component of The Apple at Work Bond Program is a consistent and far-reaching commitment to inform, and to be informed by, the Austin community about the status and results of the ongoing implementation of the program. Our goal is to ensure the District and the community are in agreement that:

- Austin ISD is accountable and responsive to the community and its taxpayers and a good steward of public dollars;
- Austin ISD is trusted and recognized for delivering on its promise to the community by successfully executing the bond implementation program;
- Austin ISD's direction and efforts are clearly connected to the vitality of the greater Austin community; and
- Austin ISD continues to enjoy the community's support for its record of academic achievement.

## **TheAppleatWork.com and 414-BOND**

The comprehensive Bond Program web site, [www.TheAppleAtWork.com](http://www.TheAppleAtWork.com), includes program overviews, budget details, construction progress for all campuses, and virtually all other details of the progress of the Bond Program.

Should you have questions or need more information, click the "Contact Us" link on the left side of the page. There, you will find a simple email form that you can use to pose questions to the appropriate Austin ISD staff. You can expect a response within three business days.

You will also find information on The Apple at Work Bond Program hotline, 512-414-BOND. The hotline allows you to leave a detailed message, which is then routed to appropriate Austin ISD officials. You can expect feedback from the hotline within 48 hours.

## **Community Outreach and Vertical Team Outreach**

The District and its partners have spent many hours in the community sharing information and answering questions about The Apple at Work Bond Program. Activities have included:

- Briefings before meetings of social and civic clubs and organizations;
- Informal, in-depth roundtable discussions with representatives of the community; and
- One-on-one meetings with key stakeholders.

The Apple at Work Bond Program also includes outreach efforts focused on each of Austin's 11 high schools and its feeder schools. These activities include:

- Meetings with parents and other groups associated with specific schools that create an opportunity for two-way dialogue about The Apple at Work Bond Program; and
- Flyers sent home with students and E-mail updates to keep each school's community informed about breaking news, construction updates and other timely information about Bond projects.

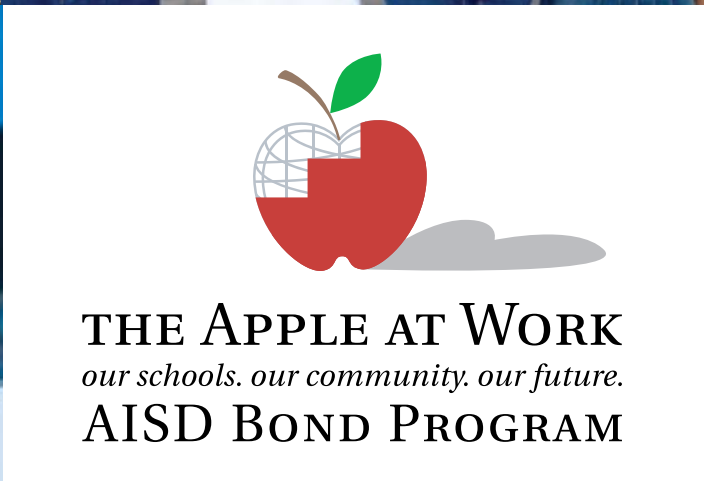
## **Research**

Ongoing research helps the District ensure that its communication efforts are providing the information the community needs and garnering community feedback. Focus groups, surveys, and one-on-one interviews help Austin ISD and its communications partners learn the best ways to respond to the vital concerns of students, families, citizens and leaders.

In December 2007 the District surveyed faculty, staff, parents and community members at 31 campuses\* where major The Apple at Work Bond projects are either complete or in progress. Some of the key findings of this survey (conducted in English and Spanish) include:

- 90 percent or more of respondents believe the new campuses and renovations will improve the quality of student education and meet the needs of the campus community;
- For renovation projects, 72 percent are satisfied with the level of community involvement. For new campuses, the figure is 82 percent;
- For renovation projects, 76 percent are satisfied with the safety measures taken to protect the campus community. For new campuses, the figure is 86 percent;
- For renovation projects, 61 percent are satisfied with the efficiency of the work. For new campuses, the figure is 88 percent; and
- For renovation projects, 76 percent are satisfied with the quality of the work. For new campuses, the figure is 94 percent.

\* Baranoff, Barton Hills, Becker, Blanton, Brentwood, Cunningham, Crockett, Dobie, Jordan, Kealing, Kiker, Lee, Maplewood, Martin, Murchison, Norman, Oak Springs, Pecan Springs, Reagan, Ridgetop, Sanchez, Travis, Widen, Williams, Wimm and Zilker, plus the new Blazier, Clayton, Garcia, Overton and Perez campuses.



# Frequently Asked Questions

**How did Austin ISD decide what projects would be included in the 2004 Bond Program?**

The Austin ISD Board of Trustees created a Citizens’ Bond Advisory Committee in early 2003 to recommend a program for the September 2004 bond election. This committee reviewed and analyzed data and input from Austin ISD campus personnel, administrators, outside experts, students and families, and citizens and taxpayers in the community. The Board of Trustees then used the committee’s recommendation as the basis for the program submitted to voters and approved in September 2004.

As Bond Program work continues, top priorities for both the District and the Bond committee remain the same, including:

- New investments to improve the quality and effectiveness of instruction;
- Campus safety and security;
- Overcrowding and the need for new schools; and
- Aging facilities throughout the District.

From the beginning, districtwide equity — a commitment that every child in Austin ISD would benefit from the Bond Program — has been a key component of this effort. The Bond Program includes projects at every Austin ISD campus and was developed with input from every Austin ISD principal and from campus advisory councils.

**How has the District scheduled and prioritized projects? If my school’s project is at the end of the Bond Program, will there still be money available?**

Austin ISD has phased the Bond Program over six years. Trying to do all the work at once would overwhelm the local construction industry and drive up construction costs substantially.

District staff has reviewed and prioritized projects based on need, focusing first on safety and security measures and relieving current overcrowding; then on projects that resolve current health and safety issues; and then on enhancements that improved instructional effectiveness. The projects have been scheduled to ensure that work is done during each year of the Bond Program in each of the seven Board of Trustees’ districts.

Each project was designed, and its budget determined, with inflation and future growth in mind. The Bond Program includes contingency funds to cover unexpected costs. So far, projects in the first three years of the Bond Program have been completed within the resources allocated. The Community Bond Oversight Committee reviews progress on each project regularly to ensure that Bond projects stay on schedule and within budget and that Austin ISD keeps its promise to the voters to deliver the full scope of the Bond Program.

**Is it safe to be doing construction on campuses when students are in school?**

The District is committed to safety on every project for every campus. Contractors and subcontractors are required to submit a safety plan before they begin work on campuses. All workers must plan and perform their work in a safe manner, following standard procedures and seeking advice from the consultants if there is any doubt regarding how to proceed. All general contractors, in partnership with appropriate staff, must review work plans and project execution to assure that only qualified personnel are assigned, and that safety procedures are consistently incorporated into every task and project.

Each contractor working on projects in the Bond Program must perform criminal background checks on all workers. The contractor must maintain records of these background checks at the work site. Contractors who fail to meet these requirements can be held in default and forced to stop work.

All contractors, subcontractors and workers are required at all times to wear a visible photo-ID badge with the name of the worker and firm. Austin ISD safety consultants conduct periodic random checks to monitor compliance with these requirements and to ensure safe working conditions. The safety consultant takes immediate action to resolve any safety or compliance issues.

**Where can I find out more information about the Bond Program?**

AISD welcomes your questions about the Bond Program. Visit the Bond Program web site at [www.TheAppleAtWork.com](http://www.TheAppleAtWork.com), or call the Bond Program hotline at 512-414-BOND.