



Arlington

INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT

More Than a Remarkable Education

Bond 2014 Update

The 2014 bond election passed May 10, 2014, with nearly 70 percent voting in favor. The \$663.1 million package is divided into four areas – facilities; fine arts; safety, security and technology; and transportation – and allows the district to continue striving to be a premier school district and a leader in education.

The district worked with Jacobs Project Management to plan the implementation of the bond program. The planning work helped determine the most efficient way to implement the bond program, enabled the bond program to start promptly after the election, established best practices and quality standards, enhanced transparency and community confidence, and provided a road map for a successful bond program.

After a great deal of planning work – educational specifications, construction planning, program design and transition planning – implementation in all four areas of the bond is well underway:

Facilities: The facility projects were grouped into five phases and include new facilities and lifecycle upgrades at every campus. Phase I projects are now finished and include the new Dan Dipert Career and Technical Center, two new elementary schools, a 16-classroom addition at Workman Junior High, new multipurpose activity centers at each of the AISD's six traditional high schools, and major renovations at Corey and Jones Academies of Fine Arts and Dual Language. Most Phase II projects and all Phase III projects are either in construction or finished, and all Phase IV and Phase V projects are in design. Most Phase II-V projects are lifecycle and deficiency upgrades at existing campuses, plus new STEM labs, a strings room and a front-entrance security vestibule at each elementary (28 elementaries are complete so far). There are also seven new junior high tracks currently under construction. Construction of the new Fine Arts Center and Athletics Complex is scheduled to begin in the fall of 2018.

Fine Arts: The fine arts portion of the bond includes \$9.8 million for music capital over the course of five years – or \$1.96 million each year. Yearly purchases include instruments, uniforms and equipment, based on requests from the campuses. Year four requests were approved by the AISD Board in April 2018 and are now being ordered. Many of the new instruments funded by the bond are helping meet an increased demand in fine arts since the district eliminated instrument fees in August 2014. Since the bond's inception, secondary band and orchestra participation has risen 17 percent.

Safety, Security and Technology: The district is in the process of upgrading security cameras at all schools. Fifty schools have been completed so far, with more than 2,191 new cameras installed. In technology, classroom standards were developed and are now mostly implemented for audio/visual, teachers and students. Network and wireless enhancements are underway for each school, bandwidth has been increased 200 percent since the bond started, and new PA systems are being installed to bring all schools up to a recently established districtwide standard. In addition, 70 Transformation Through Innovation grants were awarded to 37 campuses in 2017-2018, bringing the total amount of grant money awarded to \$4.2 million since the inception of the TI Grant Initiative.

Transportation: The bond is helping the district replace aging vehicles and add new ones, with purchases spread out over the course of five years. To date, 79 new buses and 100 new white fleet vehicles have been received. Year four purchases include 20 buses and 25 white fleet vehicles. The district is also implementing Zonar, a GPS system that tracks students when they board and exit the bus. The system has now been installed on all buses and the tracking component is in the process of implementation.

For more details and to sign up for the bond newsletter, visit www.aisd.net/bond.