

Sixth Grade Placement Exploration in AISD Meeting #1
January 15, 2026
5:30 - 7:00 PM
Central Administration Building

Welcome

Dr. Bret Champion, Chief Schools Officer

Introduction of Work (20 mins)

Shahveer Dhalla, Executive Director - Junior High Schools

- Project Goal
- District Priorities & District Values & Beliefs
- Why we are here
- Committee Makeup & Introductions
- Meeting Dates & Formats

Principal Panel Q & A (30 mins)

Bianca Gholston, Principal - Atherton Elementary

Mark Bashum, Principal - Butler Elementary

Amber Price, Principal - Ousley Junior High School

Codi Van Duzee, Principal - Boles Junior High School

Considerations and Priorities (40 mins)

- Unlocking Middle Grade Achievement - Read & Reflect
- Gather factors
- Prioritize
- Homework - Due Jan 30

Important Dates

Date	Meeting	Location
Jan 15	Meeting #1	@ Central
Feb 12	Meeting #2	@ Gunn
March 4	Meeting #3	@ Young
April 15	Meeting #4	@ Workman
May 13	Meeting #5	TBD
May 28	Meeting #6	TBD
June 4	Board Recommendation/Update	



DISTRICT PRIORITIES

ACADEMIC GROWTH



Ensure positive, engaging experiences for every student that promote academic growth and ignite a passion for learning.

CULTURE



Establish an inclusive culture of respect, support and continuous improvement for all students, staff and families.

SAFETY & DISCIPLINE



Create safe and productive learning environments in which every student and staff member can thrive.

MARKETING & ENGAGEMENT



Involve families and community stakeholders as valued partners in student learning.

TALENT & RESOURCES



Maximize our resources and people to promote a thriving district while maintaining sound fiscal management.

Answer by email the following questions

What should the 6th grade experience in AISD include?

Student Panel Questions (Draft)

1. When sixth grade felt hardest for you (at a junior high or elementary school), what was usually going on in class? What helped, and what made it tougher?
2. Did moving between teachers or staying with one teacher work better for you in sixth grade? Why?
3. How easy was it to feel like you belonged in sixth grade (at a junior high or elementary school)? What helped or made it harder?
4. How safe did you usually feel during the school day in sixth grade (at a junior high or elementary school)?
5. When students broke rules or had behavior issues in sixth grade, how did adults usually handle it? Did it feel fair?
6. When something was hard in sixth grade, who did you go to for help? Was it easy to get support?
7. How connected did your family feel to your sixth-grade school? What worked well, and what didn't?
8. If you could design sixth grade, would you put it with younger kids or older kids? Why? What would need to be in place to make that work?

Send to Shahveer (sdhalla@aisd.net) by January 30th:

- Your Answer
- Any revisions, suggestions, or edits of questions

Shahveer will send back the final list of student questions by February 6 for an opportunity for any last minute suggestions.

ARLINGTON ISD 2025-2026 PRIORITIES

The image displays five priority cards arranged in two rows. Each card features a white icon on a dark blue background, followed by the priority name in bold white text and a descriptive subtitle in smaller white text. The icons are: a graduation cap with an upward arrow, hands holding a heart, a shield, a group of people with a checkmark, and a dollar sign with radiating lines.

- ACADEMIC GROWTH**
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- CULTURE**
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- SAFETY & DISCIPLINE**
Create safe and productive learning environments in which every student and staff member can thrive.
- MARKETING & ENGAGEMENT**
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- TALENT & RESOURCES**
Maximize our resources and people to promote a thriving district while maintaining sound fiscal management.

VALUES AND BELIEFS

EXCEPTIONAL EXPERIENCES

We believe we should strive, on a daily basis, to create exceptional learning experiences for our students.

INCLUSIVE CULTURE

We value our diversity and believe that our students and staff deserve an inclusive culture where they feel valued, supported, and challenged to grow.

THRIVING STAFF

We believe that a thriving staff continuously learns and strives for excellence in order to positively impact our students.

STRONG PARTNERSHIPS

We believe that strong partnerships with families and the community provide a foundation for student success.

MAXIMIZED RESOURCES

We believe that district talent and financial resources must be maximized to promote student learning while also maintaining effective fiscal management.

LEARNING ENVIRONMENTS

We believe that our learning environments must be safe, productive spaces that are well designed and maintained.