



Arlington

INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT

Regular or Special Board Meeting, Include Date



Sixth Grade Placement Exploration in AISD

Meeting #2: February 12, 2026

Today's Agenda



- Review of previous work
- Student Panel Q&A
- CTE, Fine Arts, Athletics Presentation
- Discussion through lenses of Student Experience, District Priorities, Values, and Beliefs

Sixth Grade Exploration

Project Goal:

Garner stakeholder feedback, study current research, and evaluate the **Student Experience** in a way that allows for the committee to come to **consensus** and make a **recommendation** to the Board by June of 2026 whether sixth grade should move to junior high or remain in elementary school for the 2027-28 school year.

ARLINGTON ISD 2025-2026 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.

Arington
INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT

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.

Previous Meeting's Work

- Our Charge
- Discussed
 - Why
 - Committee makeup
 - Meeting cadence
- Principal panel
- Research & Accountability article
- Discussed factors that should be considered



Student Panel

How did the placement of 6th Grade in Junior High affect the student experience?





What did we hear to answer:

How did the placement of 6th Grade in Junior High affect the student experience?

Student Experience

- Career & Technology Education
- Fine Arts
- Athletics



Career and Technology

	6th Grade Stays in Elementary	6th Grade Joins Junior High
Pros	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Since CTE is not funded at the 6th grade level it has no financial impact if it stays at the Elementary level	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Earlier exposure to CTE Programming• More scheduling flexibility• Increase in CTE enrollment
Cons	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Difficult to expose 6th grade students to CTE opportunities with the number of Elementary campuses• CTE department has limited collaboration with Elementary staff	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Students in 6th grade will not be able to experience CTE courses until 7th grade due to funding.• Potential need for additional staffing and equipment

Fine Arts

	6th Grade Stays in Elementary	6th Grade Joins Junior High
Pros	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• No additional capital supports necessary. Current inventory is adequate with planned bond funding for the band program• Historical tradition of 5th/6th elementary strings program.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• TEKS met in all FA programs.• UIL program access 1 year earlier for band.• Key factor in size variations for Marching bands between Arlington and other districts.
Cons	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Beginning level TEKS are built to be delivered in 8000 minutes. Current classroom minutes are between 1980-2700.• Academic pressure on dual language programs and advanced math is not relieved	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Significant capital purchases required to meet the need of adding an additional grade level of students to band program.• Staff restructure is complex for orchestra

Athletics

	6th Grade Stays in Elementary	6th Grade Joins Junior High
Pros	<ul style="list-style-type: none">No current athletic program in elementary	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Eases anxiety by gradually introducing athletic expectations, routines, and competitive structureCreates a runway to teach proper fundamentals and techniques that support safe, long-term athletic developmentBuilds understanding of schedules, rules, expectations, and team culture at the next levelsEstablishes trust, mentorship, and communication before competitive participation begins
Cons		<ul style="list-style-type: none">Increased demand for gyms, fields, locker rooms, and shared spaces during the school dayCoordination of certified staff, coaching assignments, and supervision responsibilities

Questions for our Directors?



- **Career & Technology
Education**
- **Fine Arts**
- **Athletics**

What did we hear to answer:



Based on what was shared from CTE, Fine Arts, Athletics, how would the placement of 6th Grade affect the student experience?

Reflection

In your groups:

- What came up today that you think we need to add to our consideration charts?



For Next Time March 4 @ Young

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What data do you need to see?

Who do you need to hear from?

If you haven't already emailed Dhalla your thoughts on what 6th grade experience, please do so.

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