2012 Houston Schools Bond

Informational Overview

August 2012
What We’ll Cover Today

- Proposal to rebuild schools
- Current state of Houston’s high schools
- How HISD focuses on academics
Video: A Closer Look at the 2012 Houston Schools Bond
On Nov. 6, voters will decide whether to rebuild schools across Houston:

- Build modern high schools in neighborhoods across Houston
- Improve safety and technology at all campuses
The 2012 Houston Schools Bond

What’s proposed:

- Provide new campuses for 20 high schools
- Partially replace 4 high schools
- Renovate 4 high schools
- Convert 5 elementary schools into K-8 campuses
- Build 3 new elementary school campuses
- Replace/complete 2 new middle school campuses
Provide New Campuses for 20 High Schools

- Austin
- Bellaire
- Davis
- DeBakey
- Eastwood
- Furr
- High School for the Performing and Visual Arts
- Jordan
- Lamar
- Lee
- Madison
- Milby
- North Early College
- Sam Houston
- Sharpstown
- South Early College
- Sterling
- Washington
- Worthing
- Yates
Partial Replacements or Renovations of 8 High Schools

PARTIALLY REPLACE:

- Waltrip
- Young Men’s College Prep Academy
- Westbury
- Young Women’s College Prep Academy

RENOVATE:

- Jones
- Kashmere
- Scarborough
- Sharpstown International
Convert 5 Elementary Schools into K-8 Campuses

- Garden Oaks Montessori
- Mandarin Chinese Language Immersion School
- Pilgrim Academy
- Wharton Dual Language School
- Wilson Montessori
3 New Elementary Campuses; Completion of 2 Middle Schools

BUILD NEW CAMPUSES:
- Askew
- Parker
- Relief school on the west side

REPLACE/COMPLETE:
- Grady (new addition to complete new campus)
- Dowling (new campus)

Additional Projects
Rebuilt campuses funded by property sales, bond surplus:
- Condit Elementary
- The High School for Law Enforcement and Criminal Justice
District-wide Projects Would Improve ALL Schools

- Update classroom technology at all campuses
- Bring all middle school restroom facilities up to current standards
- Improve the district’s athletic/multi-purpose facilities
- Upgrade safety and security
DEBAKEY HIGH SCHOOL FOR HEALTH PROFESSIONS

- The proposal includes a new campus for DeBakey, which would be located in the heart of the Texas Medical Center, providing students with expanded access to health-care and research facilities.

HIGH SCHOOL FOR THE PERFORMING AND VISUAL ARTS

- HSPVA would get a new campus, located near the downtown theater district.
Highlight: Historic Exteriors Would be Preserved

Schools with architecturally significant exteriors – Austin, Davis, Lamar, and Milby – would maintain their existing building structures but be entirely rebuilt on the inside. Recent building additions at some schools would be incorporated into the new building’s design.
Schools That Are Rebuilt Include:

- **Greater classroom flexibility**
  - Configuration of a classroom isn’t bound by rows of desks, allowing teachers to differentiate instruction

- **Increased technology**
  - Blended learning through the integration of technology for instructional delivery
  - Opportunities for students to use technology in the classroom

- **Collaborative learning through group rooms and common spaces throughout the building**
Schools That Are Rebuilt Include:

- Hands-on science learning
  - Lab spaces integrated with outdoor classroom

- Continued focus on college and career readiness
  - Students can take courses in a theater-style room with electronic integration, similar to a college course (Chavez, Reagan)
What’s the status of the 2007 bond?
Background: 2007 Bond Update

- 20 new schools completed
- 3 new schools opening in 2013
- 134 promised renovations and expansions
  - 85% complete
- All projects scheduled to be complete by 2014
Current state of Houston’s high schools
Independent Firm Hired to Update 2007 Facilities Assessment

- HISD hired Parsons, nationally recognized experts in K–12 facilities, to identify facility needs
- All school communities had the opportunity to provide input during this process
Among the types of deficiencies identified by Parsons:

- Fire alarm system
- Security system
- Exterior windows
- Concrete flooring
- Plumbing fixtures
- Water system
- Lighting and branch wiring
- Roadways
- Track, athletic fields
Tax impact and oversight
Property Tax Increase of $0.0485 to Be Gradually Phased in

- Beginning in 2014, a property tax rate increase would be gradually phased in.
- The projected annual impact on the average HISD homeowner would be $70 a year in 2017.
- Based on the 2012 tax rate, HISD would still have the lowest property tax rate of any school district in Harris County.

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<tr>
<th>2014</th>
<th>2017</th>
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<td>$14.41 a year</td>
<td>$69.91 a year</td>
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No Tax Impact for Homeowners 65 and Older

- Taxes of those 65 and older with a homestead exemption would not be affected.
- Taxes of those receiving the 65 and older homestead exemption are frozen at their present rate for as long as they maintain their homestead.
How Can Bond Funds Be Spent?

- Proceeds from a bond issue can only be used for the costs associated with:
  - Construction and renovation of facilities
  - The acquisition of land
  - The purchase of capital items such as equipment
- Bond proceeds cannot be used to pay teacher salaries.
How Will Spending Be Monitored?

- Oversight of the HISD bond program is multi-layered to ensure transparency and checks and balances:
  - Bond Oversight Committee
  - Bond Program Website
  - Project Advisory Teams at every campus
  - Construction Audit Group
  - Bid Evaluation and Accounting
How HISD Focuses on Academics
Working to Ensure a Rigorous Education for all Students

In 2010, HISD worked with the community to devise a Strategic Direction that drives every initiative happening in the district.

1) An effective teacher in every classroom
2) An effective principal in every school
3) Rigorous instructional standards and supports
4) Data-driven accountability
5) A culture of trust though action
HISD’s Graduation Rate Continues to Climb

- Class of '07: 64.3%
- Class of '08: 68.2%
- Class of '09: 70%
- Class of '10: 74.3%
- Class of '11: 78.5%
Dropout Rate Reaches Historic Low for the District

![Graph showing dropout rates for different classes: Class of '07: 22.1, Class of '08: 18.7, Class of '09: 15.8, Class of '10: 12.6, Class of '11: 11.8]
AP Exams Scoring 3 or Higher
Increase 45% Since 2009

2009: 4,915
2010: 6,262
2011: 6,657
2012: 7,106

+45%
Proposal to rebuild schools

Current state of Houston’s high schools

How HISD focuses on academics
Voting Information

- Voter registration is open – the deadline to register is Oct. 9, 2012.
- Early voting begins Oct. 22 and ends Nov. 2.
- The general election is Tuesday, Nov. 6.
Voting Information

- The bond measure will appear under “Propositions.”
- The names of schools will not be listed.

- Remember to fully complete your Election Day ballot. The HISD bond proposition may be listed among the final items.
For More Information

Houstonisd.org/2012bond

You may also email questions to bondinfo@houstonisd.org
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