

T.A. Brown Elementary School Transition Plan Frequently Asked Questions

Questions Regarding the Physical Facility

1. What is the issue with the facility at T.A. Brown Elementary School? What happened?

Response: The current facility issue in the space under the building at T. A. Brown was identified during the week of October 31, 2016, and at that time an engineer was hired to do an analysis of the building's structure. That analysis indicated that the structural supports under the building had deteriorated and were no longer sufficient to safely support the building. That report was communicated to the district on November 3rd, and the decision was made that day by the superintendent to close school and relocate the students, which was announced in a press conference on Friday, November 4, 2016.

2. Why wasn't this situation discovered sooner, and where do our taxpayer dollars go to pay for problems like this? How can this situation be addressed to avoid another situation of this type for the future?

Response: The initial comprehensive facility assessment of the district, completed prior to the 1996 bond program, assessed the visible areas of the school and did not check the areas below the ground. The current assessment examined the areas below the building which led to the discovery of this issue. In order to identify these issues earlier, a regular inspection of these areas every 3-6 months will be scheduled, which will include a follow up report of any issues needing attention or intervention.

3. Why wasn't the district checking for plumbing leaks every 6 months?

Response: The cause for this condition was not plumbing leaks, but large amounts of water that had collected under the building due to rainwater that did not evaporate. Plumbing leaks reported to the maintenance department are addressed by the plumbing department when work requests are received.

4. Is the entire campus closed, including the park and track?

Response: The school building is closed. The park and track are available for use by the community.

5. Will we be able to save this school?

Response: T.A. Brown Elementary School will not be able to be "saved" due to the seriousness of the structural issues.

6. Will the school be remodeled?

Response: The school will not be remodeled.

7. How long will it be until there are more answers for what will happen to Brown? What will happen next year?

Response: The community engagement meetings to gather feedback on preliminary facility master plan recommendations are scheduled for the end of January 2017. The recommendation for Brown Elementary School will be included in those recommendations. Meeting dates and locations will be communicated during the week of November 14-18, 2016.

Questions Pertaining to the Students

1. Where will the students currently going to T.A. Brown Elementary now attend school?

Response: The prekindergarten and kindergarten students will attend Reilly Elementary School, located at 405 Denson Drive (Austin, TX 78752). The 1st-5th grade students will attend Allan Elementary, located at 4900 Gonzales Street (Austin, TX 78702).

2. What are the phone numbers for Allan and Reilly Elementary?

Response: The number for Allan is 512-414-2047, and the number for Reilly Elementary is 512-414-4464.

3. What will be the name of the “new” school at Allan? Will it be Allan or Brown Elementary School?

Response: The name of the new school at Allan will be *T.A. Brown at Allan*.

4. When will parents get to see their children’s new school?

Response: Parents whose children will be attending Allan may visit the campus at 6:30 p.m. on Monday, November 7th. Bus transportation to and from Allan will be provided with pick up time being at 6:00 p.m. at Brown Elementary School. Parents whose children will be attending Reilly may visit the campus at 1:00 p.m. on Monday, November 7th. Bus transportation to and from Reilly will be provided with pick-up time being at 12:45 p.m. at Brown Elementary School. A School Messenger message was disseminated with this information on early Monday morning. Other opportunities for a more extensive tour of Allan and Reilly will be provided for parents in upcoming weeks.

5. Will all teachers/staff go with the students to the new locations?

Response: Yes, the prekindergarten and kindergarten teachers will go with their students to Reilly, and the 1st-5th grade teachers will go with their students to Allan. Additionally, the Brown Elementary School principal, assistant principal, counselor, and parent support specialist will rotate between Reilly and Allan.

6. When will classes resume for Brown Elementary School students, and why isn't school restarting for them on Monday, November 7th?

Response: Classes will resume Wednesday, November 9th, for Brown Elementary students. On Monday and Tuesday, November 7th and 8th, teachers will set up in their new classrooms in order to be prepared for the students on Wednesday.

7. What are the school day hours for the Brown Elementary students at Reilly or Allan?

Response: The school day hours are the same as for other elementary school students in the Austin ISD. It is from 7:45 a.m. to 2:57 p.m. However, for the prekindergarten students at Reilly, the school day ends at 2:12 p.m. Staff will be available to supervise the prekindergarten students until 2:57 dismissal time for the remainder of the school year. Of course, parents are free to pick up their prekindergarten students from Reilly at 2:12 p.m.

8. How will tardies and absences be addressed at Reilly and Allan?

Response: Student tardies and absences will be addressed as they were at Brown Elementary following Board policy. We will be flexible with tardies during the first few weeks as families acclimate.

9. Will my child have the same teacher and classmates at their new school?

Response: Yes, they will, with very few exceptions.

10. What if I have one child in prekindergarten and one in 5th grade? Can I transfer to one school?

Response: Yes, you may request a transfer for your 5th grade student to Reilly Elementary, where your prekindergarten child will attend school. This is true for any parent who has a child slated to attend Reilly and another to attend Allan.

11. What if I do not want my child to attend Reilly or Allan? May I request a transfer to another school?

Response: Yes, parents may request a transfer to a different school other than Reilly or Allan. Transfer requests are made through of the Office of Student Services and are approved or denied based on space availability at the requested campus. However, frozen campuses are not open to transfers.

12. What will happen to the belongings of students who now cannot enter T.A. Brown Elementary to retrieve them?

Response: All items belonging to the students, as well as their teachers, are being packed into boxes and delivered to designated, assigned rooms at either Reilly or Allan by a company called *Move Solutions*.

13. Will the Brown Elementary students still have music, art, and physical education at Reilly or Allan?

Response: Kindergarten through 5th grade students will continue to have music, art, and physical education.

14. If my child was receiving special education services at T.A. Brown Elementary, will he/she continue to receive services at Reilly or Allan?

Response: Yes, whether your child attends Reilly or Allan, he/she will continue to receive the special education services to which he/she is legally entitled.

15. Brown Elementary School students had the opportunity to participate in after-school programs at Brown (Side-by-Side and 21st Century). Will they continue to have the opportunity to participate in after-school programs at Reilly or Allan?

Response: The principal and assistant principal of Brown Elementary will be meeting with after-school program coordinators and staff from the AISD transportation to discuss options for after-school programming for the Brown Elementary students.

16. What will happen next year with regard to the students?

Response: The situation will be reassessed at the end of the 2016-17 school year to determine next steps regarding the students and staff of Brown Elementary.

Questions Pertaining to Transportation

1. What will the bus routes be?

Response: The bus routes, including neighborhood stops for both pick up and drop off, are being created the morning of Monday, November 7th. The routes will be available on Bus Stop Finder at <https://www.austinisd.org/transportation/stop-finder> on Tuesday, November 8th. Students currently on transfer to Brown Elementary will be provided bus transportation. Pick up and drop off for these students will be at Brown. Additionally, all Brown Elementary parents should expect a call from a Brown Elementary staff member on Monday or Tuesday, November 7th or 8th, in which the pertinent bus information will be shared.

2. Can parents pick up their child some days, but have their child ride the bus other days?

Response: Yes, that is at the discretion of the parents. Parents should send a note to their child's teacher explaining special arrangements for pick up if different from what is typical.

3. My child did not qualify for bus transportation previously? Does he now because of these changes?

Response: Yes, all of the Brown Elementary School students are eligible for bus transportation to their new schools.

4. Will transfer students have transportation availability?

Response: Yes, any students who are currently on district transfer to Brown Elementary will be provided bus transportation to Reilly and/or Allan. Pick up and drop off will both be at Brown Elementary for these students.

5. What time will the bus arrive at Brown?

Response: The bus will arrive at Brown Elementary for pick up of transfer students only. Arrival time at Brown will be determined once the bus routes have been identified on Monday, November 7th.

6. Will there be monitors on the bus?

Response: There will be a monitor on the prekindergarten and kindergarten buses only.

7. If my child gets sick at school and I don't have a ride to pick up my child, how will they get home?

Response: Parents will have to make arrangements to have their child picked up if he/she gets sick at school and needs to go home. We will certainly work with you on a case-by-case basis, as well.

Questions Pertaining to Food Services

1. Will my child still be able to eat a breakfast and lunch meal provided by the school district?

Response: Yes, whether your child is attending Reilly or Allan, he/she will be able to participate in the meal program just as he/she was at Brown Elementary. The students will be served the same meals as in other AISD elementary schools, and the meal prices will be the same.

2. What time is breakfast?

Response: Breakfast is served from 7:00-7:30 at both Reilly and Allan.

3. What time is lunch?

Response: Prekindergarten students at Reilly eat lunch between 10:30 and 10:50. Kindergarten students at Reilly eat lunch between 11:00- and 11:20. Lunch times for the students at Allan will be the same as they had at T.A. Brown Elementary.

Questions Specific to Reilly Only

1. Does Reilly Elementary have a dress code?

Response: Reilly Elementary follows the Austin ISD dress code just as T.A. Brown did.

2. Does Reilly have after-school programs?

Response: Yes, Reilly does have after-school programs. It has Extend-a-Care and Prime Time.