



AISD Facility Assessment FAQs

What is an Educational Suitability Assessment (ESA) and what does it entail?

An educational suitability assessment is a process used to determine and score how well each campus supports the needs of their specific school, such as current teaching and learning methods, and academic programming. It considers the exterior, general building, security, environmental quality, controllability of lighting and HVAC systems, furniture, fixtures and equipment, academic spaces, support spaces, technology, and administration spaces. The assessment includes interviews with campus leadership and representatives, digital surveys of faculty, parents and students, community input from the Campus Advisory Committee, and an onsite evaluation by a team experienced in best school facility practices.

What is a Facility Condition Assessment (FCA) and what does it entail?

A Facility Condition Assessment evaluates the physical condition of a facility and determines elements at that facility that do not function as intended. This includes components such as roofing, heating and air conditioning, plumbing and site drainage. The process begins with collecting data through surveys, construction documents, maintenance logs, etc. Once preliminary data is gathered, an interview is conducted at each school with the principal, maintenance and operation staff and other staff and community members. Next, a team of architects and engineers of various disciplines perform an onsite evaluation at the facility.

Who is involved in the ESA and FCA assessments?

The district selected the firm Perkins & Will to conduct the assessments in collaboration with AISD Maintenance and Operations staff and each campus community. Input from a diversity of campus stakeholders is needed in order to gather data that reflects the perspective of a variety of users who have knowledge of the campus needs and strengths.

How will the FCA and ESA data be used?

The FCA and ESA assessments are key components—along with other data, community input and planning strategies— used to support updates to the AISD Long-range Facilities Plan and will ultimately inform which improvements and new facilities are included in our next bond.

What is the Long-range Facilities Plan?

The Long-range Facilities Plan (LFP) guides district decision making about the use of its buildings. The LFP:

- outlines the current status and future use of district facilities,

- guides the development of future capital improvements, and
- supports planning for future bond elections.

The LFP is a living document and is reviewed periodically. The district uses the LFP to guide modernization of AISD schools and other buildings, many of which are over 50 years old.

Why is the district updating the ESA and FCA assessments?

Sound decision making processes start with accurate, up-to-date data. School districts typically conduct facilities assessments prior to an update to the Facility Master Plan and potential bond planning efforts.