

March 3, 2022

Board of Trustees  
Austin Independent School District  
4000 S. I-H 35 Frontage Rd  
Austin, TX 78704

*Re: Proposed Changes to the Elementary Master Schedule*

Dear Members of the AISD Board of Trustees,

We sincerely appreciate our district's dedication to our students and the recognition of the need for accelerated instruction. As voted unanimously by the SHAC members on March 2, 2022, we are writing to share concerns about the proposed changes to the elementary master schedule and request that alternative proposals, drafted by affected teachers, be considered in the implementation of the proposed schedule changes.

The Austin Independent School District (AISD) School Health Advisory Committee (SHAC) is fully supportive of elementary teachers' additional planning time and daily physical education. However, concerns exist about 1) student safety, 2) lack of infrastructure at some schools, and 3) the impact to students of *all* abilities of the proposed current plan with a high student to teacher/facilitator ratio in a physical class setting. Your SHAC is sharing these concerns because of potential misalignment and inconsistencies of the proposed changes with the [Austin ISD Board Policy Manual, specifically the Basic Instructional Program Required Instruction](#).

Comments were heard during the March 2nd monthly SHAC meeting and the March 11th Emergency SHAC meeting about student safety concerns and the potential negative impact of the currently proposed schedule changes to AISD's quality physical education curriculum – a current distinction for our district. One of the negative impacts of the proposed schedule changes includes an inability to meet a student's required 50 percent of activity at moderate or vigorous level. The SHAC asks that Board members request AISD Administration work with physical education, art, and music teachers to revise the schedule changes to specifically

- Limit the student: teacher ratio to no more than 30:1
- Incorporate a wellness class, which would remove Health TEKS and WOW time requirements off of the classroom teacher's responsibilities, into the proposed schedule changes.

The Austin ISD SHAC understands physical education teachers (through their professional teacher organization Austin Association for Physical Education and

Recreation AAPER) have drafted proposed plans for consideration, and we encourage the district to discuss and consider this input.

We sincerely appreciate the commitment to educating the whole child and providing art, music, and physical education to our students. Through quality physical education we will continue to help our students strive academically and contribute to positive teacher morale.

Sincerely,

Handwritten signature of Kimberly C. Avila Edwards MD in black ink.

Kimberly C. Avila Edwards MD  
AISD SHAC Co-Chair

Handwritten signature of Mary Renfro in black ink.

Mary Renfro  
AISD SHAC Co-Chair

cc: Dr. Stephanie Elizalde, AISD Superintendent  
Elizabeth Casas, Chief of Academics