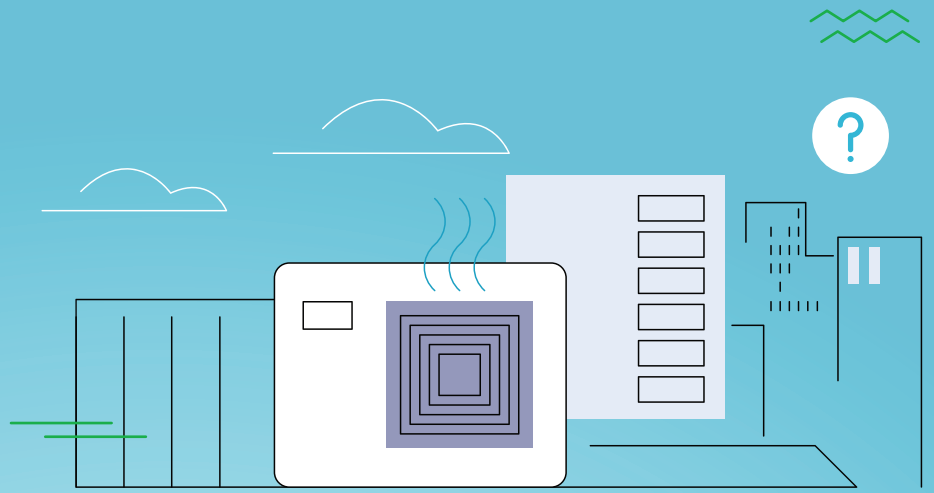


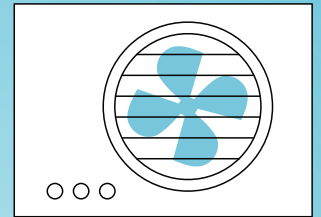
Austin ISD HVAC FAQs



What is Austin ISD doing to improve heating and cooling at schools that have experienced frequent HVAC issues?

All Austin ISD students, teachers and staff deserve a comfortable learning environment. The 2022 Bond program will fund HVAC replacements or repairs at many campuses. These investments may be made as targeted projects or as part of more comprehensive modernization projects, depending on the campus.

We have made significant progress this year across the district on HVAC projects. We expect to maintain this momentum as we continue to improve the HVAC systems for our schools. With most of the work taking place over the summer, students, teachers and staff can expect to see more improvements each year.



Why are there so many heating and air conditioning issues at schools throughout the district?

On average, our schools are about 50 years old and many systems have only received temporary fixes over time. Our schools' HVAC systems are not like a typical system you would see in your home. We must work to pinpoint the exact issues in HVAC systems that have been pieced together over the years. It can take up to a year to purchase and receive the necessary equipment to install new systems. Plus, much of that work can't take place while students are in our schools so it has to wait until summer. In order to overcome these challenges, a thorough planning process is needed before any HVAC project can begin.

Why does it take so long for work to begin on these projects?

Through the 2017 and 2022 Bond programs, we were able to fund a number of large HVAC projects. However, these projects are complex replacements and repairs that require extensive design, permitting or engineering services.

Additionally, the bulk of the work cannot take place while students are in our schools so most projects will have to take place during the summer. We want to make sure that students and staff are safe during the construction process and the dollars we use go towards long-term solutions rather than quick fixes.



How are HVAC improvement projects prioritized?

Austin ISD strives to complete every HVAC project as quickly as we can, but each school presents its own challenges. For targeted projects, we typically prioritize replacements and repairs that will eliminate the need for expensive rental equipment such as cooling towers and chillers, as well as projects that do not require extensive permitting or engineering services. While that work is underway, we are moving through the design and permitting process for the more complex projects. When HVAC systems are replaced as part of larger modernization projects, the work is completed as part of the overall project.

How does modernizing a school affect HVAC projects?

When a school is modernized, it is re-envisioned from the ground up; this includes the HVAC system. Our modernized facilities from the 2017 Bond do not face the same challenges as our aging schools. HVAC systems at these schools have proven to hold up better against the Texas heat and winter storms, and maintenance costs are lower because we do not need to rent temporary HVAC equipment, which costs \$10,000 a month on average.

Were any HVAC projects completed over summer 2024?

Yes! In fact, 22 HVAC projects were completed this summer, another 2 are in construction and 14 are in design and permitting and expected to start construction summer 2025. Please note, most HVAC projects at campuses need to be done over the summer to avoid disruption to learning. The district is committed to identifying which projects we can execute while school is in session while making sure we do not interrupt instructional learning.

How do I find out what is happening at my school?

To learn more about the projects planned at a specific campus, please refer to the 2022 Bond Book or visit bond.austinschools.org/bond-projects. For more information about the 2022 Bond Program, please visit AISDFuture.com. You can submit questions and feedback through the Questions & Comments form located on the homepage.



AISDFuture.com