

Citizens Bond Committee - Questions & Comments

Meeting #1 (June 15, 2026)

1. Recent research has stated that “transportation” has become now, more than ever a concern. What is being done? NISD continues to monitor bus routes and uses, as it has historically, a distance of two-miles in determining bus eligibility. Previous bonds passed by voters have allowed the District to routinely replace aging buses. New legislation requires all public school buses to have and utilize a three-point harness with all bus riders by the 2029-2030 school year.

2. Would remote learning be a future option with NISD? NISD is opening a Virtual Academy beginning August 2026 that will offer virtual instruction to students in grades 9-11.

3. I'd like to know a bit more of the details about what bond funds. I heard the VATR covers o&m but am unclear about what the bond funds. Below is a breakdown of how funds are used: A VATRE addresses Maintenance & Operations expenses and funds the daily operations of the district. A VATRE can be used for expenses such as teacher and staff salaries, utilities and electrical expenses, classroom supplies, fuel for school buses. VATRE funds can not cover major construction expenses.

A Bond addresses the Interest & Sinking expenses and funds long-term capital projects including new schools and building additions, major renovations and upgrades, HVAC and infrastructure needs, technology and security improvements. Bond dollars can not be used for salaries or daily operating expenses.

4. What was excluded or chosen to not be in the Board's priorities? These seem broad and vague.

These Priorities were developed as part of the District's Optimization Process. We will be using these priorities to develop a five year road map with key metrics and outcomes in upcoming months. In addition, we developed campus profiles that have some key metrics already identified that will help us make decisions regarding campus redesign efforts, consolidation, increasing popular programs, etc. You can view these profiles and the glossary we developed at www.nisd.net/district/optimization

5. Why does the list of priorities separate academic achievement and leadership/staff? Teachers/staff are the key component for academic achievement.

Academic Achievement and Leadership and Staff are separate priorities that were developed through stakeholder feedback and approved by the Board. Teachers/Staff and Leadership are key components of academic achievement but these two separate lenses in this work so that the district does not focus too heavily on one perspective.

6. There was talk of choices in education. The public system provides public school and magnet school options. Has there been consideration of new methods of education within the district to adapt public education to the expressed desire of families in the co-op/homeschooling option? NISD is expanding our options for our students to include Virtual School in the 2027 school year. Within that model there is an option for students to still attend our campuses for various settings to include Fine Arts and Athletics. NISD will continue to explore options for our families as the state approves new models.

7. Where specifically will the metrics be available? The assumption is the NISD website but where exactly? Information on the Bond and VATRE will be added to the following school district site: nisd.net/community/bond/2026

8. Why 2026 vs. 2028? Since 2010, our bond cycle has operated on a four-year timeline, providing the necessary window to complete projects approved in each proposal. Delaying the next bond by just two years would create a three-year gap in funding for critical capital improvements. This delay risks pushing facility systems past their useful life, straining existing buildings, and leaving aging equipment uncovered by warranties.

9. What is the timeline for staff compensation increases if it is tied to the November VATRE? If the VATRE is approved, compensation increases would be calculated based on a full year of employment. Starting in the December pay check (or possibly November) the new pay rates would be seen in employee paychecks along with a retroactive pay for the time worked from the start of the work calendar year.

10. Is it true that if campuses are closed, the people/entities who have first dibs are charters? And if that is true, do the charters get everything in the buildings? Passed in the 89th Legislature, HB 5312 modifies existing rules governing the sale, lease, or use of unused or underused school district facilities. It mandates that school districts must first offer these properties to public school districts, open-enrollment charter schools, or private schools before selling them to the general public. A 90-day window is established for education institutions to submit offers, and if no qualifying bids are received, the property may be offered for public sale. However, if a general public offer is accepted, education institutions have 14 days to match the offer before finalizing the sale.

11. Who picks the contractors who will do the improvements? The previous bond the companies over bid tracks by 1 million dollars we want someone who will go out for bids that are not over charging our district.

Contractor selection is strictly governed by Texas procurement laws (*Texas Government Code Chapter 2269*). NISD utilizes objective procurement methods, such as Competitive Sealed Proposals (CSP) or Construction Manager-at-Risk (CMAR).

- A district evaluation committee scores competing contractors based on specific, public criteria (e.g., total cost, past experience with school construction, available resources).
- The committee's top-ranked recommendation is then presented to the **NISD Board of Trustees for approval.**

Selection is based on best value, not lowest bid

12. I'm curious if a survey or questionnaire goes out to families asking why they aren't enrolling in or withdrawing from NISD. Yes, the district has engaged the use of formal and informal surveys to help determine why families choose to leave the district. The withdrawal survey allowed for staff to gather some data, however not every family chose to complete the survey.

13. What is the district doing or planning on doing to market/share the benefits/services/level of education kids get at NISD/public school vs other options? I feel like we share this information with families already within the system but not to those who are thinking about coming to NISD. How is NISD committing itself to reaching families where they are to recruit them into the district, understand their schooling needs, and bringing families who have chosen alternative education options back into the district? What kind of engagement is being conducted to better understand why families choose alternative education options? How does the withholding of bond funds to under-enrolled schools affect families' perception of such schools and choosing them over alternative education options? NISD previously employed a Director of Marketing whose role was to engage at the district and campus level to help promote the district through a host of strategies, including the use of surveys and data collection. The position became vacant and has not been filled as a cost-saving measure. Some of the marketing work is being absorbed through the Communications Dept. utilizing strategies including online and social media promotion.

14. Based on the data, what is the plan of optimization?

There are currently no decisions that have been made regarding optimization. The key metrics aligned to our priorities will help us craft ways to ensure we make decisions that promote academic opportunities and outcomes for our students. Please find more on our webpage at www.nisd.net/district/optimization

15. At what point must the district stop operating in a deficit budget and be "in the black"?

Best practice says that school districts should keep 3 months of operating expenditures in fund balance. The instructional continuity fund balance is above that 3 months of operating expenditures. The district should be in the black prior to dipping into the portion of fund balance reserved for the 3 months of operating expenditures. At current revenue and spending levels the district has until approximately March 2028 without a VATRE or February 2029 with a VATRE when the district would start using fund balance designated as 3 months of operating expenditures.

16. For new committee members please explain the funding buckets available to the district? I understand it's tied to enrollment, but are there other factors that impact this?

The primary funding buckets for the general fund are property tax revenue and state aid. The state aid funding is primarily tied to enrollment and average daily attendance.

17. You mentioned there are 9 projects that are on hold. What are the projects and what is the plan for the allotted bond funds if the district decides to pause indefinitely on these projects.

The 9 projects currently on hold are at the following campuses: Braun Station ES, Cable ES, Glass ES, Glenoaks ES, Linton ES, Mary Hull ES, Meadow Village ES, Powell ES, and Valley Hi ES. A more detailed listing was emailed to all CBC members as part of their Meeting #1 review materials.

18. Are there considerations for PreK to get children into the system a year earlier vs day care or charters that offer tuition based pre K. Yes, Per HB2, we cannot charge tuition. Fortunately, enrollment is already well ahead of last year thanks to the addition of three-year-olds. We will continue to expand through marketing and will reevaluate our options annually to ensure we meet family needs while adhering to TEA guidance. Northside firmly believes in the value of early childhood education and early intervention.

19. I'm curious if a survey or questionnaire goes out to families who do not enroll in or withdraw from NISD asking why, to obtain feedback. Yes, the district has engaged the use of formal and informal surveys to help determine why families choose to leave the district. The withdrawal survey allowed for staff to gather some data, however not every family chose to complete the survey.

20. How does Northside compare to the other districts in San Antonio? Specific comparative data can be compiled but we would need to know in what specific areas.

21. Were all city council members invited to this meeting? This district has at least 4 city council reps. Invitations were sent to elected officials who represent the district at the city and

state level. We will verify that all members of our elected delegation received the invitation and understand that they are welcome to attend the CBC meetings - which are open to the public.

22. Will it be 1 vote or will it be separate Bond VATRE? A bond and a VATRE would be two separate ballot propositions.

23. Board did not listen to Colonies north residents when their survey said to not change their school name. Why should we believe you will listen to any residents? The Board received and reviewed the survey results from the Colonies North community. After consideration, they voted to not change the name of the campus and to retain the name: Colonies North Elementary School.

24. If public schools are so regulated and funded based on enrollment and attendance, then why do charter schools have a different regulation in regards to the same? Why are charter schools allowed to keep property tax monies whether they accept a public school student or whether that student stays at their school? If the student goes back to a public school, why is the charter school allowed to keep the money? Why are there different rules for schools taking the same money?

The State Legislature determines how public and charter schools are funded.

25. What percent of NISD families do not have school age children?

Our concern is that budget reductions appear to be impacting positions and programs that have a direct and significant effect on students while other discretionary expenditures continue.

At the high school level, College Readiness Advisor positions have been eliminated across campuses. This means current juniors and seniors will no longer have access to a dedicated resource that assists with college applications, scholarships, financial aid, admissions timelines, and post-secondary planning. These responsibilities will now fall to already overextended counselors. In addition, counselors have expressed concern that valuable information and resources were lost when advisor accounts were terminated. Parents are likely to be frustrated when they learn this support is no longer available to their students.

We are also concerned about the elimination of the Library Aide position at our high school for example. The library serves as both an instructional and safe space for students. Without an aide, the librarian's ability to provide programs, classroom instruction, student support, and library access will be significantly reduced. This cut will directly impact student services and opportunities.

Beyond staffing reductions, we are concerned about the continued elimination of programs and student supports that make our district competitive. We operate in a region where neighboring districts offer open enrollment and school choice options. As programs are reduced and class sizes increase, families may compare those changes to neighboring districts that continue to offer specialized programs, expanded student opportunities, and lower student-to-teacher ratios.

These factors can make other districts appear more attractive to families deciding where to enroll their children, potentially impacting student retention and future enrollment.

We believe positions and programs that directly support students should be prioritized over discretionary spending. For example, while refreshments provided at meetings and events are appreciated, items such as catered sandwich and cookie platters are not essential expenses.

Over time, these costs accumulate, and some food often goes unused.

Similarly, many teachers have expressed concerns about the cost of the annual convocation event. Expenses associated with student performance outfits, facility operations, electricity, staff time, practice time, and event production represent a substantial investment. Those funds could potentially support multiple student-facing positions throughout the school year.

We respectfully ask the district to reevaluate spending priorities and consider whether reductions to student support positions, library services, and student programs align with the district's stated goals of supporting student success, college readiness, academic achievement, and maintaining a competitive educational environment that attracts and retains families.

26. Was the superintendent's retirement announced prior to community survey? [Dr. Craft announced his retirement publicly on June 2. Baselice & Associates conducted their survey June 3-6.](#)

27. What are we doing about Attendance Based Funding? What would our budget look like if we had Enrollment based funding?

[The district would receive additional funding if the calculations were based on enrollment rather than attendance. NISD administration and board have engaged and will continue to engage in legislative advocacy](#)

28. Why didn't the district ask teachers what items to protect in the budget and what items to consider reducing? They are the professionals working directly with the students.

[With over 6,000 teachers in our district, asking an open-ended question about specific budget priorities would generate thousands of unique, highly varied responses. We instead relied on representative leadership \(principal panels and department heads\) to advocate for classroom needs.](#)

29. How much of the current compensation budget goes to retired teachers and staff? [Retired teachers and staff are not funded by NISD. Any compensation package would only apply to currently-employed staff.](#)

30. How much of the 35,000,000 proposed increase in compensation (with a VATRE) goes to retired teachers and staff? [Retired teachers and staff are not funded by NISD. Any approved VATRE funds would only be used for daily operating expenses of the district and only for currently-employed staff.](#)

31. Do the proposed pay increases include principals/other administrators? Does it include upper administrators as well? [The Board would make that determination, but the current proposed compensation package does include all district staff.](#)

32. How much did the TASB audit cost?

[\\$118,000](#)

33. How much will peoples property taxes, actually change with invader and the bond?

Budget was discussed. Problems pointed out. However voters want to know specifically what the money is for exactly. So, list the purchases desired for bond. Tell us specifically where the Vader money will go.

[The amount of the Bond has not yet been determined. The bond value is needed to estimate the effect on the average NISD family taxes. However, as a guide: the average taxable value of residences in NISD was \\$221,870 with a NISD total tax rate of \\$1.0049, the NISD taxes due on an average residence was \\$2,230.](#)

[The list of potential bond projects was emailed to committee members on June 16, 2026.](#)

[The VATRE revenue is expected to cover the cost of the proposed compensation plan with any remaining revenue from the VATRE offsetting a portion of the budget deficit.](#)

34. If the vatre is passed will any of those funds be allocated to bringing back any of the jobs that were eliminated due to the budget deficit? [No.](#)

35. How will we retain teachers if we don't start the year with an increase? [The district recognizes the importance of remaining competitive as a means of recruiting and retaining staff. Fortunately, NISD currently maintains a competitive salary structure. Staff is developing a contingent compensation package that would include a general pay increase as well as address market issues identified in a recent TASB Salary Study. This recommendation, if approved by the Board, would be contingent on the passage of a November VATRE.](#)

36. What percentage of employee compensation is central office vs. campus employees?

[From 2023 through 2026 approximately 84% of salary costs are at campuses with approximately 16% of salary costs at non-campus.](#)

37. Can you clarify if the VATER also amounts to cost increase to the voters.

[Yes, the proposed VATRE would increase the maintenance and operations tax rate by three cents. The total tax rate may remain flat if the district decides to offset this increase by a change in the debt service rate. This is part of the work of the Citizens Bond Committee to determine the projects that should be considered that will lead to a debt service tax rate adoption by the school board.](#)

38. Could you please go into more detail on the differences in the Pennies (gold vs copper), what the Pennies are, and more of an explanation on how they work and effects everyone from community to the district.

In the Texas school funding system, golden pennies are highly valuable because the state guarantees a higher financial return on them, and 100% of the revenue generated stays within the local school district.

Conversely, copper pennies provide a lower guaranteed financial return from the state and are subject to "recapture" (the Robin Hood plan), meaning a portion of that revenue must be sent back to the state to help fund other districts.

39. How much will the VATRE and the Bond increase the average families taxes.

The amount of the Bond has not yet been determined. The bond value is needed to estimate the effect on the average NISD family taxes. However, as a guide: the average taxable value of residences in NISD was \$221,870 with a NISD total tax rate of \$1.0049, the NISD taxes due on an average residence was \$2,230.

40. What is the fiscal year? Aug to July or calendar year

September 1 to August 31.

41. Why are we always living in a debt? Where is the wisdom of being in billions of dollars of debt? Unfortunately Northside, like the majority of school districts, must use Bonds similar to families utilizing home mortgages, to pay for facility and capital needs to serve students.

42. It feels like there's an elephant in the room, which is the intentional actions by the state leadership to destroy public education. Don't voters need to understand the states role in putting districts in this position where they all are having to go out for VATREs? The resources that have been provided from the State have in fact been very limited in the most recent Legislative Sessions, which has made it increasingly difficult to balance budgets, keep up with inflationary pressures, provide competitive wages, etc..

43. Did the survey Mike [Mike Baselice from Baselice & Associates] presented on explain in detail what a bond, vatre, etc were? The survey questions worked to educate through questioning, but a detailed explanation of a bond and VATRE was not presented in the short time allowed.

44. What is the median interest of a bond?

There is not a single median interest rate for a municipal bond. The interest rate (or yield) a municipal bond pays depends on maturity length, credit rating and the economic environment.

45. What is the current balance of the bonds?

\$3,857 billion including principal and interest.

46. How long does it usually take to pay off a bond?

Bonds are typically repaid in 30 years.

47. If the VATRE fails, what are the top five changes a parent of an NISD student will actually experience in the next two years? The district has worked tirelessly in making budgetary reductions without impacting jobs (i.e formal reduction in force) nor the elimination of programs. This will only become increasingly difficult to maintain this budgetary approach without additional revenue in the future.

48. How does the district plan to address under-enrolled schools?

NISD will address under-enrolled schools through our optimization process.

49. To what extent can the district support a "get out the vote/information provision" for the VATRE/Bond? The district is allowed to educate stakeholders on a bond or VATRE election by presenting factual information School districts are not allowed to advocate in any way.

50. If the VATRE fails, how will special education, gifted/talented, career and technical education, and fine arts be affected? Northside will continue to provide required services and supports to students who qualify for them, such as special education and gifted and talented services. Other programming, such as fine arts and career and technical education will continue but offerings will be based on student enrollment and interest.

51. Why is Texas a "Butts in seats" state and not just enrollment like so many other states? That is a decision made by the state, not NISD.

52. What is being done with the 200 million from the 2022 bond? The \$200 million has not been used for other projects and could be available if the district chooses to proceed with the original proposed work. The funds are restricted for use according to the bond proposition language. The language in the 2022 Northside Bond stated the funds would be used for the construction, acquisition, renovation and equipment of school buildings in the district.

53. Why would you seek a new bond vote without public discourse with families/voters on \$200 million you are holding back? The bonds have been voter approved in 2022, but they have not been sold to ensure the community is not paying for these projects through the debt service

rate. The short answer remains, these projects are simply on hold to ensure taxpayers are not in fact paying for facilities that may not be sustainable financially depending on future enrollment trends and potential reprogramming. This fall enrollment will provide a better glimpse into what the future withholds and provide a much better roadmap guiding intentional decision making that is prudent to ensure taxpayer trust.

54. What do you tell then voters who pay taxes for Northside ISD Schools that live in the areas that the \$200 million are frozen that were allocated in the last bond election to remodel their area schools, why they should vote yes in another bond election? The projects on hold remain ready to be fully funded. The bonds have been voter approved in 2022, but they have not been sold to ensure the community is not paying for these projects through the debt service rate. The short answer remains, these projects are simply on hold to ensure taxpayers are not in fact paying for facilities that may not be sustainable financially depending on future enrollment trends and potential reprogramming. This fall enrollment will provide a better glimpse into what the future withholds and provide a much better roadmap guiding intentional decision making that is prudent to ensure taxpayer trust.

55. What exactly is on hold from the \$200 mil. Bond from 2022? It was said that would be gone over, but was never addressed. The bonds have been voter approved in 2022, but they have not been sold to ensure the community is not paying for these projects through the debt service rate. The short answer remains, these projects are simply on hold to ensure taxpayers are not in fact paying for facilities that may not be sustainable financially depending on future enrollment trends and potential reprogramming. This fall enrollment will provide a better glimpse into what the future withholds and provide a much better roadmap guiding intentional decision making that is prudent to ensure taxpayer trust.

56. In relation to the \$200 million approved by voters in the previous bond election, what would happen if NISD leadership determines that moving forward with the originally proposed project is no longer in the district's best interest?

The bonds have been voter approved in 2022, but they have not been sold to ensure the community is not paying for these projects through the debt service rate. The short answer remains, these projects are simply on hold to ensure taxpayers are not in fact paying for facilities that may not be sustainable financially depending on future enrollment trends and potential reprogramming. This fall enrollment will provide a better glimpse into what the future withholds and provide a much better roadmap guiding intentional decision making that is prudent to ensure taxpayer trust.

57. Does NISD have the authority to reallocate those voter-approved bond funds to a different capital project that better addresses the district's current needs and the evolving public education landscape, or would additional voter approval be required before the funds could be used for a different purpose?

The funds are restricted for use according to the bond proposition language. The language in the 2022 Northside Bond stated the funds would be used for the construction, acquisition, renovation and equipment of school buildings in the district.

58. How will NISD address the likelihood that some voters may not be comfortable voting to support another 2026 Bond when the previous 2022 Bond has \$200 Million in funding being held up primarily in the NISD lower income neighborhood schools. Please provide the specific listing of schools and the projects currently 'on hold.' AND — if those projects remain on hold — what happens to this 2026 \$200 Million Bond Capacity? When will a final decision need to be made to either move forward or cancel these \$200 Million bond projects? The \$200 million has not been used for other projects and could be available if the district chooses to proceed with the original proposed work. The funds are restricted for use according to the bond proposition language. The language in the 2022 Northside Bond stated the funds would be used for the construction, acquisition, renovation and equipment of school buildings in the district.

59. In reference to the \$200 million in bond funds that are currently paused, if the paused projects do not happen, does NISD keep that \$200 million to use on other projects (potentially ones in the 2026 bond) or does that money have to be surrendered? The bonds have been voter approved in 2022, but they have not been sold to ensure the community is not paying for these projects through the debt service rate. The short answer remains, these projects are simply on hold to ensure taxpayers are not in fact paying for facilities that may not be sustainable financially depending on future enrollment trends and potential reprogramming. This fall enrollment will provide a better glimpse into what the future withholds and provide a much better roadmap guiding intentional decision making that is prudent to ensure taxpayer trust.

60. How are you going to reconcile the delay in the 2022 Bond projects with the community? The bonds have been voter approved in 2022, but they have not been sold to ensure the community is not paying for these projects through the debt service rate. The short answer remains, these projects are simply on hold to ensure taxpayers are not in fact paying for facilities that may not be sustainable financially depending on future enrollment trends and potential reprogramming. This fall enrollment will provide a better glimpse into what the future withholds and provide a much better roadmap guiding intentional decision making that is prudent to ensure taxpayer trust.

61. How much does NISD Convocation cost? I know very few staff members that would choose to go if it wasn't mandatory. I understand it's supposed to be a fun, team building event but cutting it could save a lot of money that could be used for helping the classrooms. Because the district utilizes the support of a sponsor for the Convocation events, the actual cost to the district

is very little. For all six 2025 events, NISD spent approximately \$1,500. All other expenses were covered by the sponsor's donation.

62. Why isn't the Aquatics Center replacement a renovation instead?

A standard renovation would be very challenging and financially irresponsible because this 48-year-old facility is facing simultaneous, aging systems across every single major system.

- **Failing Infrastructure:** The original electrical grid is obsolete and heavily corroded. The HVAC ductwork is suffering from advanced structural decay due to nearly 50 years of chlorine exposure.
- **Compromised Building Envelope:** The roof has completely failed—the panels are brittle, yellowed, and actively leaking into the entrance, concession stand, and locker rooms. Additionally, the retractable roof venting system is entirely broken.
- **Imminent Aquatic Breakdown:** Decades of chemical exposure have degraded the original plumbing to the point of imminent failure. The pool pumps have reached the end of their lifecycle, and the pool lighting is so obsolete that replacement parts no longer exist.
- **Safety & ADA Non-Compliance:** The original entry doors and locker rooms fail to meet modern Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) accessibility and clearance standards. Furthermore, the weight room is severely undersized and can only safely hold 3 to 4 users at a time.

63. Why not rebuild the Aquatics Center as an outdoor facility and partner with the County to put the building over it? The district has been engaged in conversations regarding partnering with County, as was done with the Swim Center. A renovation Block would be very expensive and would likely not meet the expectations of the community utilizing the facilities.

64. Does the district own any unimproved land already? The district owns two parcels of land that are undeveloped: one adjacent to McAndrew Elementary School and the second in the 11,000 block of Culebra Rd. Deed restrictions on the Culebra Rd. property prevents the district from selling it.

65. Teacher housing ?? What is that ? Teacher Housing is a concept some districts have utilized whereby the district provides housing or subsidizes housing to attract and retain teachers and other school employees.

66. If campuses are consolidated, is it possible to lease the unused campus to a charter school or other entity so that the district doesn't lose the property if the property is needed in the future? The district would first need to declare the property unused as excess to the district's needs. Charter schools would have rights to first refusal if placed on the market. Other lease options would be possible, but these steps would first be legally required.

67. No to the Outdoor Learning Center. How about more recess time and field trips instead? [All elementary campuses participate in recess and field trips. This is a valid question and one we are asking CBC members for input.](#)

68. Would it be possible to turn the campuses that would be “possibly closed” into our own public charters. Like CCISD has elementary GT only campuses. [Extensive options for reprogramming exist.](#)

69. If the VATRE does not pass, what programs are next on the reduction path? Knowing how it will directly impact students and employees will help discuss the need for the VATRE. [This will entail in depth conversations with the Board of Trustees in the future.](#)

70. All of the other school type options should be held to the SAME standard if they get public tax funds. Enrollment and attendance, and if the student doesn't stay at a certain school, the leftover money should follow the student. [This is the sentiment of some Texas State Legislators and thus the formation of Education Savings Accounts inception.](#)

71. Please share more details about the \$54 Million AQUATIC BOND — this is the first time I heard of spending \$54 Million for Aquatics. What is the specific need, how many NISD students from PreK thru Middle & H.S. Swim & Water Polo Teams annually use the aquatics programs, how many NISD Aquatics Staff? How active are the community programs? Also how much money does it cost NISD to run the 2 Aquatics centers AND HOW MUCH MONEY DOES NISD MAKE HOSTING YEAR ROUND AQUATICS PROGRAMMING? During financially constrained times, and without more specific details, prioritizing that much money for aquatics programming would fall in to the ‘Nice To Have’ column. [NISD has 17,477 students that utilize the district athletic facilities throughout the school year. Aquatics - 5,982 students that utilize the aquatics facilities.](#)

[838 UIL student athletes](#)
[534 Club swimmers](#)
[2110 Lessons\(Swim/Dive\)](#)
[1700 KSK\(3rd graders\)](#)
[800 GT Boat Racers](#)

72. Please provide more information about NISD’s commitment and proposed timeline to PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT through TOWN HALLS and PUBLIC HEARINGS to be held in different locations across the district at a time and location easily accessible to most NISD families and homeowners. Public Comment during regular scheduled NISD Board Meetings will not be adequate. [As in previous bond elections, the district has worked to ensure that every campus community and the general public is able to receive factual information regarding the proposed bond. A possible bond and/or VATRE in November 2026 would be treated similarly. District staff would coordinate with school communities to ensure public presentations are made so that information is disseminated effectively.](#)

73. The NISD Community needs to understand the legislative history of Private School Vouchers and the reason no blame should be placed on school districts but rather the responsibility lies with Texas State Legislators and State Leaders who supported and voted in favor of using Texas Taxpayer public education funding to pay for a Private School Education. " Re CHARTER SCHOOLS — what is the status of NISD In-District Charter Schools (enrollment trends, etc) AND how many non-profit and for-profit CHARTER SCHOOLS are inside NISD boundaries — what is their enrollment AND estimated amount of public funding they receive from State (bc that dollar amount could be going right in to NISD?) Which Charter Schools inside of NISD have drawn the highest number of students?

74. How will each of us on the Citizens Bond Committee provide feedback during this process, i.e. splitting bond projects between the 'must haves' and the 'nice to have'? Will each committee member have an opportunity to vote on different aspects of a complex financial plan for NISD? [At the second CBC Meeting scheduled for July 14, CBC members will be assigned to small groups to work on prioritizing potential bond projects for consideration by the Board.](#)

75. As you reduce community liaisons, are you going to reduce the mid-management positions that oversee those positions? [This process has been initiated and exercised the past 18 months resulting in the reduction of mid-management positions, and will continue.](#)

76. How much for military dependent students does Northside ISD get in financial impact aid dollars? Over 6,000 students military dependents attend NISD schools. [Per the NISD Impact Aid application for the 2026 fiscal year, NISD reported 2,493 federally connected students and received \\$386,174 in impact aid funding.](#)

77. Can you ask for Golden and Copper pennies within the same VATRE? [Yes, a VATRE can include both Golden and Copper pennies in the same election.](#)

78. How conservative is the 95,461 projection? Could this be lower? [The projection is conservative and includes general assumptions about the potential impact of vouchers. However, projections include many assumptions and with limited data about vouchers, it is possible the actual NISD Base Day enrollment could come in below this projection.](#)

79. Is funding for ADA included in this bond? [No funding for Average Daily Attendance is included in the potential Bond proposal.](#)

80. What is the ratio of special education students to teachers? In Northside ISD, the broad district average sits at roughly 20:1. However, this district-wide average functions strictly as a high-level starting point for planning and staffing, while the actual day-to-day classroom ratios are driven by individual student IEP needs.

81. What is the ratio of accessible buses to regular buses? As reported from Jan. 2026, Northside had a total 410 routes with 35% of those being special education routes and 65% being non-special education routes.

82. How many students are impacted by the aquatic and athletic facilities? NISD has 17,477 students that utilize the district athletic facilities throughout the school year.
Aquatics - 5,982 students that utilize the aquatics facilities.

- 838 UIL student athletes
- 534 Club swimmers
- 2110 Lessons(Swim/Dive)
- 1700 KSK(3rd graders)
- 800 GT Boat Racers

83. Why didn't we see this coming earlier/act earlier to deal with overstaffing and underusing buildings, etc.? The district has recognized the budgetary challenges coming and thus has utilized recruitment efforts and has allowed for out-of district transfers as examples, while also reducing budgetary expenditures the past two years. Designated fund balance set aside for these corrections has been used to address budgetary deficits and will be depleted over the course of the next 18 months without tapping into the 3 months general fund savings necessary for cash flow and securing healthy bond ratings.

84. As a shorthand to quickly explain VATRE golden pennies to voters, is it fair to describe it as "voting to raise our taxes in order to unlock state matching funds"? Of course it is more nuanced than that, but in oral presentations, as a starting point to discuss further, is this a good way to quickly describe the VATRE?

In the Texas school funding system, golden pennies are highly valuable because the state guarantees a higher financial return on them, and 100% of the revenue generated stays within the local school district.

Conversely, copper pennies provide a lower guaranteed financial return from the state and are subject to "recapture" (the Robin Hood plan), meaning a portion of that revenue must be sent back to the state to help fund other districts.

85. What exactly has been cut so far? If positions are being cut or programs funded less/cut - where are those functions being absorbed and how do we monitor to be sure quality isn't at a level that is not acceptable? Please don't just say "trust our leadership." Please increase transparency and show us the info leadership is monitoring.

Student to teacher ratios reduce staffing as student enrollment decreases. Outside of the student to teacher ratio process, budget planning in the Fiscal Year 2025-2026 resulted in reducing expenditure budgets by \$17.5 million that is summarized below as presented at the May 12, 2026 board meeting:

Recommended Reductions in Programs and Staffing

By Type		By Department/Campus Level	
Allocation	\$ 1,416,974	Administration	\$ 938,121
Services	\$ 1,598,000	Business Services	\$ 1,074,018
Software	\$ 219,448	Communications	\$ 102,080
Staffing	\$ 14,159,754	Curriculum & Instruction	\$ 1,813,896
Stipends	\$ 171,000	Elementary School	\$ 1,981,597
		Facilities	\$ 126,556
	\$ 17,565,175	High School	\$ 7,855,444
		Middle School	\$ 2,635,504
		Technology	\$ 1,037,960
			\$ 17,565,175

86. What is our long-term plan to stabilize ourselves? What is the long-term strategy on: legislative changes; charter and home school; voucher and kids leaving; expenses (staffing, building use, programs...) so that we don't end up in this place again with no other levers to pull? The community and voters will ultimately help determine the long-term stabilization of Public Education programming through the election of State Representation.

87. Why not hold VATRE in November and Bond in May? This is one possible way forward. A VATRE will have to be considered in November. Seeking community support for additional revenue proposals within 6 months of one another could pose challenges.

88. Who conducted survey? Was the status of Superintendent part of contract? The bond/VATRE survey was conducted by Baselice and Associates. The Superintendent announced his retirement publicly on June 2, 2026. Baselice conducted their survey between June 3-6.

89. Who gets the raise if VATRE passes? Classroom teachers already got 5K increase. "Other" staff didn't.

The compensation plan proposal, contingent on a VATRE passing, recommends that all employees receive a 2% general pay increase with all current employees being at least 1% above the minimum of their pay grade.

90. What happened to the outdoor learning garden areas for the elementary schools from the previous bond? An answer to provide for the Mireles Elementary parents would be helpful. Are the garden areas you reference possibly grant-funded as opposed to bond-funded? Staff will work to get additional details.

91. Is there a plan to grow our PreK program? Is a tuition based program an option to help get kids into the system? Per HB2, we cannot charge tuition. Fortunately, enrollment is already well ahead of last year thanks to the addition of three-year-olds. We will continue to expand through marketing and will reevaluate our options annually to ensure we meet family needs while adhering to TEA guidance. Northside firmly believes in the value of early childhood education and early intervention.

92. It was stated that 88% of General Fund goes to staffing - how does that compare across San Antonio and the state?

Per the Texas Education Agency's 2023-2024 PEIMS financial standard reports (the most recent year published), the state average payroll expenditures was 77.8% of operating expenditures.

93. What law specifies that excess public school facilities have to first be offered to charters? When was this enacted? HB 5312, passed in the 89th Legislature, modifies existing rules governing the sale, lease, or use of unused or underused school district facilities. It mandates that school districts must first offer these properties to public school districts, open-enrollment charter schools, or private schools before selling them to the general public. A 90-day window is established for education institutions to submit offers, and if no qualifying bids are received, the property may be offered for public sale. However, if a general public offer is accepted, education institutions have 14 days to match the offer before finalizing the sale.

This is governed by provisions within the **Texas Education Code** alongside recent legislative updates (such as expanded rules in recent legislative sessions, including frameworks matching

bills like SB 2824), which dictate a strict right-of-first-offer framework for underutilized facilities. These laws mandate that a school district intending to sell or lease an unused instructional facility must prioritize educational entities (charters, other ISDs, or approved private schools) for a designated period before marketing to commercial developers.

94. What declining enrollment factor has the largest impact on enrollment projections? The decline in enrollment in NISD can be attributed to several things including the array of choices families have that didn't always exist in the past, fewer births compared to the population growth in NISD, and the increased cost of homes in NISD and the economic challenges that cause families to hold onto their homes for longer periods of time. In 2025-26, TEA reports over 16,000 students residing in NISD boundaries but enrolled in Charter schools. Additional choices families have include online education programs, homeschooling, and microschools.

95. Is there an enrollment factor that the district can impact to slow the decline? The district has exercised open enrollment, expansion of magnet programs and other school choice options such as the implementation of an Early College High School, a Virtual Academy etc...

96. What is the student/teacher ratio: 25:1, 26:1?

PK to 4th grade is 25:1

5th grade is 26:1

Middle school is 26.5:1

High school is 28:1

97. Have you considered how if some classes have 15-20 kids, how other teachers will have over 30 students? (That's hard) Staffing at the secondary level is allocated based on average academic class sizes. Based on the master schedule needs, some classes will be larger and some classes will be smaller. At the elementary level we may experience different class sizes based on the program and the total number of students being served, but staffing is based on 25:1 in Pre-K-4th grade and 26:1 in 5th grade.

98. Is the projected voucher effect uniform across grade level - elementary, middle, and high? All students, regardless of grade level, could apply for the Texas Education Freedom Accounts (voucher) program. Based on the data the State Comptroller's office released, Pre-K eligible students were awarded the largest number of vouchers, followed by Kinder - 6th grade students across the state. We anticipate the greatest impact from vouchers will be at the elementary level and less of an impact at the secondary level.

99. Are specific schools at higher risk to losing enrollment to vouchers? The Texas Education Freedom Accounts (voucher) program was designed to award vouchers in a tiered system. Per

the Texas Comptroller's Office, the first tier of vouchers were awarded to students with a documented disability and their siblings, as well as students from households with income at or below 500 percent of the federal poverty level. The second tier of vouchers were awarded to students from households with incomes at or below 200 percent of the federal poverty level. These were awarded by a random lottery because the demand from the Tier 2 group exceeded the available funding. All of the money set aside for vouchers in Texas was used in these two tier groups, so all other applicants were put on a waiting list. Based on this information, one could assume that schools with the higher percentages of economically disadvantaged students might be impacted most, however, that may not be the case as the students with disabilities/siblings group did not include income guidelines.

100. When will the final details of the NISD impact of VOUCHERS be shared? How many students withdrawing from NISD and from what current schools in what neighborhoods? What are the demographic breakdowns of the total number of NISD students withdrawing to take a VOUCHER? And how many are Special Education students? [We do not have this data, and it is not clear what data the State will provide to Districts](#)

101. How will the possible change of Northside leadership impact survey results - was this factor identified in the survey? [The Superintendent announced his retirement publicly on June 2, 2026. The survey conducted by Baselice was done between June 3-6.](#)

Comments:

We do not agree with having a bond election now. Have VATRE November.

Information dissemination has to change if you want success.

Idea: Get a group of citizens together to brainstorm potential "other education" slander responses to maximize NISD positive campaigns.

Need: Reach everyone please. Social media. Snap Chat, Insta, FB, Twitter.

Prior to the next meeting can more information be shared on what would happen should the Bond/VATRE initiatives not be passed. I think an understanding of what possible cuts to programs/facilities and or ramifications of lack of action in approving the bond /vatre.

