

Yates High School FAQs

GENERAL

Is Jack Yates High School staying open?

Yes. HISD is committed to Yates High School, and we're investing in the school's future. As part of the 2012 Bond Program, HISD is building a new state-of-the-art campus with 21st century learning spaces that will serve Yates students for generations to come. Planning and design for the new school is currently underway. Yates also was included in the 2007 Bond Program and received various upgrades, repairs and renovations designed to sustain the school and maintain a safe and suitable learning environment until a new campus could be built.

Our goal is to strengthen Jack Yates High School so it can continue to build its enrollment and serve as a school of choice for students in the Third Ward and beyond. The district is also working with the school leadership and the community to improve the academic program at Yates so all students who attend will be prepared for college and careers.

Are you keeping the name of the school?

Yes. The name of Jack Yates High School reflects its storied history, and HISD values that history.

Why is the school being built for 1,300 to 1,500 students?

Jack Yates' current enrollment is just over 1,000 students. The new school will allow for projected growth in the Third Ward area. HISD demographers considered birth data, historical school enrollment data, and micro- and macro-economic projection data to determine the range of capacities included for all schools in the 2012 bond referendum.

Is HISD planning to change the attendance boundary for Jack Yates?

At this time, HISD has no plans to change the attendance boundary for Yates. There are currently 1,529 high school students who live in the Yates attendance zone and are enrolled in HISD schools. However, just 56 percent — 864 neighborhood students — choose to attend Yates High School. The remaining 44 percent — 665 students choose to attend other district schools. Rather than expand the boundaries, we want to make Yates High School more attractive to the students who already live in the surrounding neighborhood. As we continue to strengthen the academic program and begin planning for construction of a new school building, we believe this comprehensive high school will become a school of choice for an increasing number of students.

Why should my child attend Jack Yates High School?

Jack Yates offers a comprehensive high school experience for students who want to pursue academic, athletic and extracurricular pursuits. We have a skilled and dedicated teaching staff focused on ensuring all students are successful. District administration and school leadership are interested in strengthening the programming at Yates through continued engagement with parents and the community.

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The new Energy Institute High School is being located nearby at the former Lockhart Elementary School site? Won't the new school draw students away from Yates?

The Energy Institute High School is a specialized magnet program focusing on career pathways in the energy industry. This small magnet school draws students from across the city. During its first year (2013), the school drew 12 applicants zoned to Jack Yates High School. There are 350 freshmen and sophomores currently enrolled, but plans call for the new building to hold 800 students.

Unlike the Energy Institute High School, Yates provides a comprehensive high school experience, including athletics, band and a variety of clubs and extracurricular activities.

How do we recruit more students?

The best way to recruit more students is to strengthen the academic program and actively participate in school life by volunteering, staying engaged in your student's progress and encouraging your friends and neighbors to send their students to Yates. Word of mouth is a great way to help the school build its reputation in the Third Ward and beyond.

ACADEMICS

What kind of special classes or programming does Yates currently offer? Will we get to keep these programs?

Yates High School currently offers a communications magnet program, as well as several specialty programs. Each is detailed below.

- **Communications Magnet Program — Audio/Video Production**

Students learn production techniques, design, and skills for advanced radio, film and television production.

Associated Industry Certification/Credential: Adobe Creative Associate

- **Communications Magnet Program — Graphic Design**

Students learn advanced graphic and animation design techniques for online and print delivery.

Associated Industry Certification/Credential: Adobe Creative Associate

- **Construction Technology**

Students learn and develop foundational construction craft skills needed for entry into industrial and commercial construction careers. Additional opportunities to engage with the magnet program on set design and construction. *Associated Industry Certification/Credential: NCCER Core and Advanced*

- **Health Science — Pharmacy**

Students learn appropriate skills and knowledge as well as engage in hands on experiences to be trained in pharmacology as pharmacy technicians. *Associated Industry Certification/Credential: Pharmacy Technician*

- **Health Science — Radiology**

Students engage in learning associated with the progression toward imaging skills in the medical field.

Associated Industry Certification/Credential: Radiology Technician

- **Maritime Logistics**

Students learn the skills and knowledge to effectively work in the maritime industry in both materials

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handling and port logistics. *Associated Industry Certification/Credential: Certified Logistics Associate*

We are currently working with labor force experts to assess career trends and identify current and upcoming high-wage, high-demand fields. We also have surveyed students to determine the programming and career fields in which they are most interested. We hope to use that data to determine the best and strongest academic programming for Yates.

Are you providing Yates with any additional funding as you work to strengthen the academic programs?

Using a \$30 million federal grant, HISD is implementing a new approach to teaching that combines rigorous academics with exposure to real-world professions — truly connecting what students do in the classroom to the real world. As part of this grant, Yates will receive \$292,301 over the next three years. Starting next school year, HISD also is committing \$749,000 to support Yates feeder pattern schools in the neighborhood.

How can I get involved in strengthening the academic program at Yates High School?

We encourage you to get involved at Yates High School and be a part of our efforts to strengthen the school's academic programming. There are a variety of ways you can do this:

- Volunteer at Yates High School and its feeder campuses.
- Engage your employer. See if your company is willing to host field trips or offer job shadowing opportunities to students.
- Offer to serve as a classroom guest speaker or student mentor.

If you are interested in any of the above options, please contact Yates High School Assistant Principal Ray Gatlin at 713-748-5400.

CONSTRUCTION

What's the role of the Project Advisory Team (PAT) in the rebuilding of Jack Yates High School under the 2012 bond program?

All campuses being renovated or rebuilt within the 2012 bond program have a Project Advisory Team made up of students, staff, teachers, administrators, and/or alumni and community members. These participants are selected by the Principal to give input on the project and track progress during monthly meetings with district staff, architects, and program managers. PATs work within the budget and schedule set by the Board of Education.

At Yates, as well as all the other bond campuses, the teams ensure site-specific program needs are addressed and incorporated into the project. They work with architect, design and construction management staffs to ensure the projects meet their budgets throughout the design process, which can last up to 24 months. PATs also help organize and participate in community meetings during the design process.

Among their responsibilities, the teams help select colors for flooring materials, paint for walls, colors and

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fabric for furnishings, and provide input about the exterior appearance of the building. When construction begins, the teams participate in tours of the construction sites and get progress updates. The PATs, in turn, help share those updates with their school communities, including neighbors, parents and businesses.

PAT meetings are open to the public, and all are welcome to come and listen to the discussion. Meeting times are posted on the bond website at www.houstonisd.org/bond. Minutes from gatherings are posted on the individual project pages, usually within two weeks of the meeting.

How can we maintain the history of our school and community in the new building?

Most 2012 bond schools want to maintain a sense of their history and community in their new 21st century learning environments. Possibilities include recycle/reuse of elements from the existing building, displays of memorabilia, graphic timelines of significant milestones in the school's history, etc. The architects will work with the Project Advisory Team and the school during the design of the new building to identify and develop the best method to maintain Jack Yates' history.

What materials are being used for the new school exterior?

No final decisions have been made on the exterior design of the school, but preliminary renderings show masonry could make up as much as 75 percent of the building materials. The school's architecture firm, Moody Nolan, has extensive experience in designing award-winning, educational facilities that meet the needs of students and connect with the community. Recent examples include a brand new student recreation center at Prairie View A&M University and several schools in Dallas. You can see examples of other projects at www.moodynolan.com.

What will happen to the Yates fields during construction? Will new fields support competition?

The site plan has not yet been finalized so no decisions have been made regarding which athletic and physical educational facilities will be replaced, which will be renovated and which will remain in place. As with all HISD high schools, varsity competitions typically take place at district-wide facilities while fields on school campuses are used for JV and club competitions, practice, PE and community use.

SECURITY

What sort of security will be included in the new school?

All new schools are being designed and built with security in mind. The district is ensuring the main entries at all bond campuses include a secure vestibule to allow for appropriate screening of visitors and access control. New facilities also will include cameras. Most importantly, the buildings are following Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design, a multi-disciplinary approach to crime prevention that minimizes the places in and around a school building that would impede supervision and surveillance.

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If the Light Rail is built down Alabama, how will that impact the entrance to the school and the safety of the students?

At HISD, the safety of our students and staff is always our absolute top priority. Based on our discussions with Metro officials, we believe this line would have minimal impact on Yates High School and its students. Metro is currently in a very early planning stage; they have no funding identified and no developed designs at this point. Though construction of the rail line is not imminent, Metro officials have assured us they will take appropriate precautions to ensure the safety of our students and staff. We will continue to work with them throughout this process.

Other Metro rail lines currently run alongside or nearby various Houston Community College locations, as well as several district campuses including Davis High School, North Early College High School and Peck Elementary. No issues have been reported as a result of rail lines running near these sites.

OTHER

Is the University of Houston buying land near Yates to build a parking garage?

We have no information that the University of Houston is planning any real estate purchases near Yates.