



# Tolar Independent School District Long Range Plan

December 2022

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# Part I - General Overview

Tolar ISD is a school district in Tolar, Texas serving students in Hood County.

Because of the coronavirus pandemic, the state waived accountability ratings for the 2020-2021 school year. The district received an accountability rating of A for the 2018-2019 school year. The district received an A rating again for the 2021-2022 school year.

## **Vision:**

Building tomorrow's leaders through education with pride in country, school, and self.

## **Mission:**

The mission of the Tolar Independent School District, in partnership with the community, is to provide knowledge and skills for our students so they will be positive thinkers, hard workers, and problem-solvers who contribute constructively to society.

## **Beliefs:**

We believe all students can learn when provided an environment of innovation and excellence.

We believe that all stakeholders form a vital partnership in the educational process.

We believe that students should be taught the value of service, honor, and patriotism.

We believe an environment that builds students of integrity and character is essential.

We believe a safe and nurturing environment is critical to student success.

## **District Goals:**

1. The district will create and maintain a culture of high expectations in academics and extracurricular activities.
2. The district will recruit, retain, and support highly effective educators by maintaining a nurturing, positive, and professional environment based on continuous improvement.
3. The district will develop continuity and communication throughout the district with aligned systems, processes, and partnerships.
4. The district will plan for the effective use of resources including upgrading facilities with the future in mind.
5. The district will provide and maintain safe, healthy, nurturing environments that promote character and service to others.



## Part II – Educational Facilities

Tolar ISD has three schools: Tolar Elementary School, Tolar Junior High School and Tolar High School.

### Tolar Elementary School

Tolar Elementary School is the newest of the district's facilities. It serves grades PK-5. The building was constructed in 2014. It is in good condition and will serve the district for years to come.

While the school is in good condition it is approaching its capacity. As of this report there is only one empty classroom available.

### Tolar Junior High School

Tolar Junior High School is the oldest of all the district's student occupied facilities constructed in 1972. It was originally the district's high school. There is a separate building identified as the Intermediate School where the 6<sup>th</sup> grade classes are located due to the main building being over capacity. The JHS does not have its own cafeteria. Students eat lunches that are prepared at the elementary school. The Snake Pit is a gymnasium with locker rooms originally constructed in 1950. The JHS also utilizes the old elementary school gym. Students have to travel between several buildings multiple times each day.

Due to both the age of the facility, enrollment growth and safety of the students, a replacement junior high school should be considered.

### Tolar High School

Tolar High School was constructed in 1999. It is generally in good shape but shows signs of age normal for a building over 20 years old. The facility will serve the district for years to come, but considerations should be given to replacing the aging equipment and systems original to the building.

Considerations should also be made to provide additional student opportunities as the school grows to 3A and potentially eventually 4A. This may be difficult at the existing campus due to limitations of the size of the site.



## Land

Tolar ISD owns an approximately 60-acre site south of the existing elementary school. This site was purchased in anticipation of future growth.

## Part III – Demographics

As of October 2022, Tolar ISD had an enrollment of 877 students. 154 of those students are transfers. Since 2014/2015 enrollment has increased by 117 students while transfers have decreased by 89 students. 46 of the 154 transfers are children of district employees. The district will have to continue to allow transfers to attract and retain quality teachers and staff.

A demographic report was prepared by Templeton Demographics during the 2020/2021 school year. It projected the district would have 912 students by the 2030/2031 school year. The growth has come substantially quicker than that report. The district has already surpassed the projected enrollment for the 2028/2029 school year per that report.

There are several developments with houses under construction that were not included in the Templeton report. Therefore, there is no reason to think the growth is going to slow down.

## Part IV – Implementation Plan

The district's facility plan is as follows:

1. Construct a new Junior High School on the 60-acre site. The new school should be designed and constructed to allow for future additions to increase the capacity.
2. Demolish the existing Junior High School and Snake Pit.
3. Construct a new addition to the elementary school to add capacity. Construct additional parking and drop off lanes where the existing JHS was located.
4. Construct additions at the new Tolar Junior High School to convert to Tolar High School.
5. Convert Tolar High School to Tolar Junior High School.

There is no identified schedule for the plan described above. The priority is the replacement of the Junior High School, but at the time of the writing of this plan the district does not have the bond capacity to construct a new Junior High School. The district will evaluate the capacity

with their financial advisors annually until the tax base and interest rates align in a way to allow the calling of a bond to pay for a new facility.

Additional capacity will be provided at the elementary school with portable buildings so as not to decrease the available bond capacity.

If at the time of the Junior High School construction the district cannot afford to also construct the elementary school addition, the elementary school can continue to utilize portables or can use the now vacated Junior High School until the elementary school addition can be completed. The existing Junior High School demolition should take place at the time of the elementary addition.

The conversion of the new Junior High School to Tolar High School is anticipated to be in the distant future. This option is being provided to create flexibility for the district as it continues to grow. The high school will continue to operate at its current location until that time.

