

APS EARLY CHILDHOOD PROGRAMS

September 2026



Welcome to the Community Learning Center!

Dear Families/Caregivers:

We hope you and your family have had a good start to the 26-27 school year. We are delighted that you have chosen Austin Public Schools preschool for your family. I wanted to share some good news with you. The CLC was named as one of America's Healthiest Schools for cultivating staff well-being. Trust, belonging, and strengths-based collaboration create an environment where staff can grow and do their best work for students and families. That positive culture is especially

important for our youngest learners as they build the foundation for lifelong learning. It is our goal to create a school where your child and your family feel supported and welcomed.

Sincerely,

Jennifer Lawhead
Austin Public Schools
Community Education Director



AUSTIN PUBLIC SCHOOLS
INSPIRE • EMPOWER • ACCELERATE

SCHOOL FACILITY BOND REFERENDUM
November 3, 2026

November Referendum

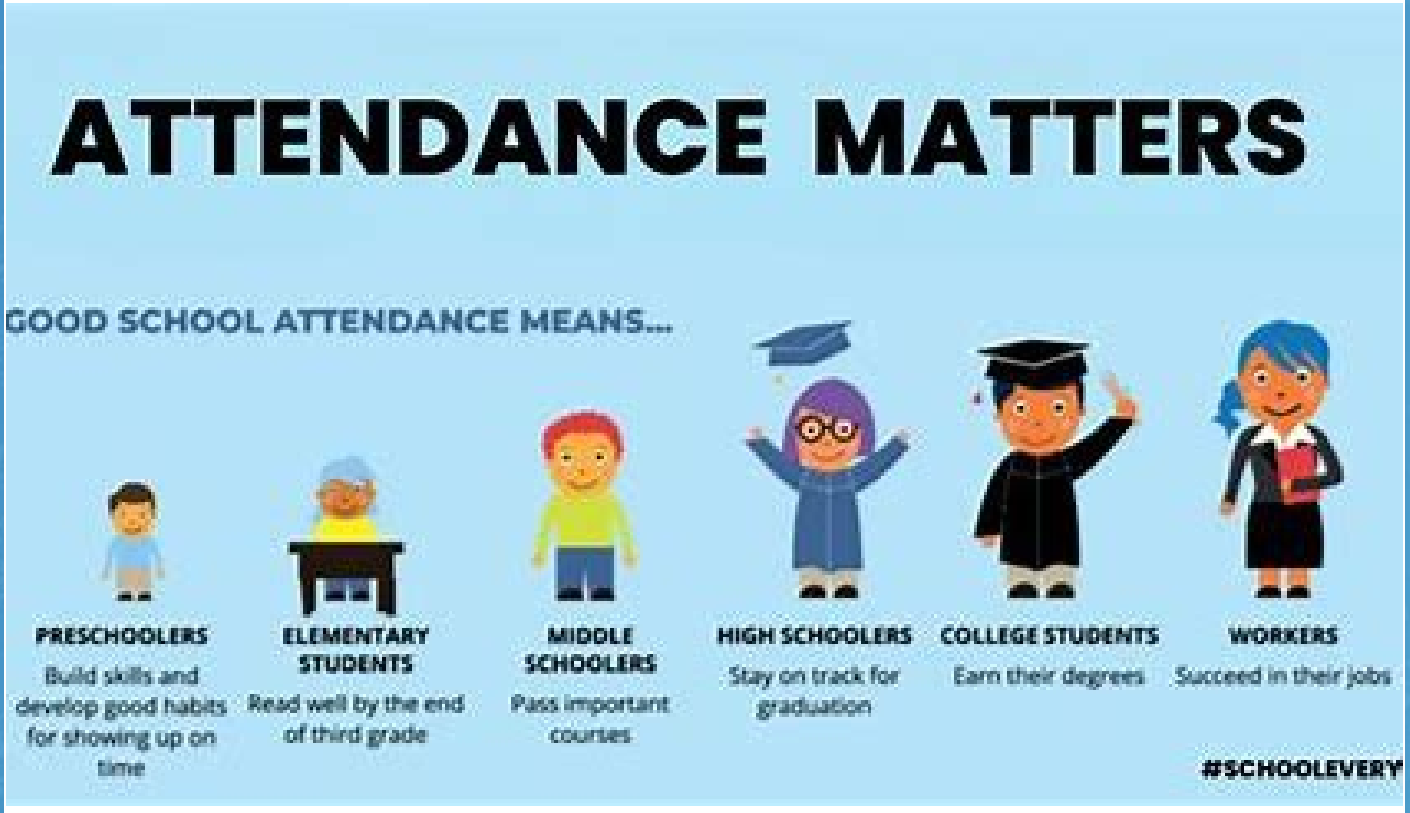
The Austin Public Schools have placed a $24.9 million bond referendum on the November 3 ballot.
The proposed funding would address identified facility needs across the District, including:
• Improving safety and security
• Increasing accessibility
• Addressing water infiltration
• Updating aging building systems and finishes
• Completing needed repairs to keep the Ellis Middle School pool operational
Community members are encouraged to learn more about the proposal, review project information, and submit questions through the District's referendum website. **#AustinPackers**
Learn more or submit a question:

https://www.austin.k12.mn.us/district-resources/referendum-2026

Strategic Priorities Update

1. Support and resources to ensure a safe and welcoming learning environment.

Regular attendance in preschool is essential because it builds a strong foundation for learning, social development, and emotional growth. Consistent participation helps children develop routines, build relationships, and gain the skills they need for future academic success.



2. Packer Profile for all learners

Please see below for opportunities for children in the community.

Riverside Figure Skating Club

Fall session begins Sept. 27 at Riverside Arena - Austin

learn to skate & meet new friends

TRY 3 FOR FREE*!

Day: Sundays
Time: 4:00p.m. - 4:30p.m.
Dates: Sept. 27, Oct. 4 & 11
Where: Riverside Arena
Cost: first 3 lessons are free to try
Who: any age child
Requirement: Skates*

*some skate sizes available to try but not guaranteed. Lesson time changes to 3:15-4:00pm after the trial period. Each 45 minute weekly lesson beyond the three free trial costs $10.00.

2026-2027 registration now open!

Riverside Figure Skating Club

SCAN ME TO REGISTER

For more information, contact the club at rfscaustin@gmail.com

Austin Public Schools is not sponsoring, endorsing, or recommending the activities announced in this flyer.

USA HOCKEY TRY HOCKEY FOR FREE PRESENTED BY DISCOVER

HOSTED BY AUSTIN YOUTH HOCKEY

SATURDAY
OCTOBER 3, 2026
10:00AM-11:00AM
AGES 4-9

-BRING A HOCKEY/BIKE HELMET AND GLOVES
-SKATES AND EQUIPMENT PROVIDED FREE OF CHARGE

RIVERSIDE ARENA
501 2ND AVE NE AUSTIN, MN 55912

REGISTER TODAY:
TRYHOCKEYFORFREE.COM

AUSTIN PUBLIC SCHOOLS IS NOT SPONSORING, ENDORSING, OR RECOMMENDING THE ACTIVITIES ANNOUNCED IN THIS FLYER.

Transportation Fair

We will host our annual Transportation Fair from 5:00 - 6:30 on October 1, 2026. Does your workplace have any vehicles that could be part of our fair? Please let Jennifer Lawhead know by emailing jennifer.lawhead@austin.k12.mn.us



3. District-wide multi-tiered systems of support.

MTSS is a framework schools use to make sure every student gets the right level of help to succeed—academically, socially, and emotionally.

Curriculum Information

We have a theme for each month (or so) in preschool. Our songs, stories, activities, and learning all center around this theme. Each month the upcoming theme will be shared with you along with the essential question and vocabulary words for the unit. We will also provide a link to a Spotify playlist with the songs we are singing in class.

The theme for the month of September is All About Me/Families and Friends and the essential question is "What makes us similar and different?"

Our vocabulary words for this month are:

- help
- senses
- unique
- family
- home

- same/different
- big/little

Help



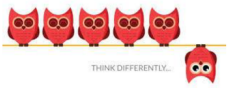
Unit of Study 1

Senses



Unit of Study 1

Unique



Unit of Study 1

Help

To make things easier or better for someone, or to give them what they want.

Unit of Study 1

Senses

Are how we learn about the world around us. We have five senses: sight (seeing), hearing, smelling, tasting, and touch (feeling). Each sense uses a different part of our body to gather information and send it to our brain.

Unit of Study 1

Unique

Being the only one of its kind or very special and different.

Unit of Study 1

Family



Unit of Study 1

Home



Unit of Study 1

Same/Different



Unit of Study 1

Family

The group of people you were born into.

Unit of Study 1

Home

The place where you live, like a house or apartment. It's a place where you feel safe, loved, and can be yourself.

Unit of Study 1

Same/Different

Same means things that are exactly alike.

Different means things that are not the same.

Unit of Study 1

Big/Little



Unit of Study 1

Big/Little

Big means something takes up a lot of space.

Little means something is small.

Unit of Study 1



All About Me / Friends & Family

Playlist · katie.chapek · 18 items · 5 saves

open.spotify.com

Communication Board Installed on Playground

We are incredibly grateful to the Austin Public Education Foundation for funding the installation of a communication board on our preschool playground. This board mirrors the AAC tools used in our classrooms, giving students with communication needs the opportunity to express their thoughts, wants, needs, and ideas while learning and playing outdoors. A special thank you to our talented Speech-Language Pathologists for their vision and to our Buildings and Grounds team for bringing this project to life!



4. Excellence in resource management.

The school district will supply all necessary school supplies this year. Please provide a backpack for your children and send them to school in shoes that they can run and play in at the gym. There is also a $5 school activity fee that you can pay through the parent portal or in the school office.

Meet Our Teams

We are delighted to share our amazing CLC teams with you!



Blue Hedgehog



Blue Bear



Blue Bee

Caitlyn, Lezlye, and Sheri

Johanna, Brie, Emilee, and Paige

Erik, Casondra, Kim, and Luci



Blue Mole AM
Daisy, Alyssa, Lindsey, and Gretchen



Blue Mole PM
Hannah, Gretchen, and Daisy



Blue Moose and Squirrel
Brigette, Julie, and Stacy



Blue Owl
Vanessa, Jessica, and Katie



Blue Mouse PM



Red Deer and Porcupine
Jayne, Jessalyn, Becky, Katie, Sara, and Gaby



Red Rabbit and Red Fox
Bobbie, Genevieve, Michelle, Paw, Beth, San San, and Nelly



Red Wolf
Sheila, Kaylyn, and Elizebeth



Yellow Butterfly
Dayna, Aracely, and Jen



Yellow Sunflower
Heather, Lori, Melissa, and Jenni



Yellow Watering Can
Alyssa and Dawn



Yellow Daisy and Blue Raccoon
Amy, Shari, Lindsey, Beth, and Mandy



Yellow Hive
Kim, Kirby, and Steph

To learn more about the Packer Profile and the district's long-term strategic plan, please visit AccelerateAustin.org.

Know

Important Dates



September 7
No School - Labor Day

September 10
Council for Little Packers - 4:00 - 5:00
Childcare available

September 28
No School - Teacher Professional Development

October 1
Transportation Fair from 5:00- 6:30

October 14-15
No School - Teacher Convention

Attendance Information

Please click link to read more about new attendance practices in Austin.
Campus Parent - Absence Request

Do

Please let us know how we can be of service to your family. Call, email, or stop by and let us know how we can serve you better.

Share

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We will post pictures, information and program updates on this page!

Log in or sign up to view

See posts, photos and more on Facebook.

facebook.com



Community Learning Center

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