

Austin Metro Area School Districts

Your Complete Guide to Choosing the Right School for Your Family

Introduction

Choosing where to raise your family is one of the most important decisions you'll make. In the Austin metropolitan area, you have access to some of the highest-rated school districts in Texas and the nation. This guide provides families with a detailed breakdown of the major school districts, their performance ratings, academic strengths, and the neighborhoods they serve.

Whether you're relocating to the Austin area or moving within it, understanding your school district options will help you find the perfect community for your family's needs.

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Quick District Overview

District	Location	Students	District Grade	Key Strength	Student-Teacher Ratio
Eanes ISD	West Lake Hills	7,800	A (96/100)	Academic Excellence	14:1
Lake Travis ISD	Lakeway/Austin West	11,400	A	College Readiness	17.2:1

Round Rock ISD	Round Rock/Cedar Park	50,200	A	Scale & Excellence	15:1
Leander ISD	Leander/Cedar Park	42,600	A (89/100)	Growth & Innovation	16:1
Dripping Springs ISD	Dripping Springs/Driewood	6,800	A (91/100)	Small-Town Feel	15:1
Liberty Hill ISD	Liberty Hill/Georgetown	8,800	A- (91/100)	Personalized Attention	N/A
Georgetown ISD	Georgetown	13,100	B+	Community-Focused	N/A
Austin ISD	Central Austin	70,000+	B+ (89/100)	Diversity & Programs	13:1

Top-Tier Districts: The Best of the Best

1. Eanes Independent School District ★ #1 in Texas

Location: West Lake Hills, Rollingwood, Lost Creek (Northwest Austin)

District Stats:

- **Students Served:** 7,800
- **Schools:** 9 (6 elementary, 2 middle, 1 high school, 1 adult center)
- **District Grade:** A (96/100)
- **STARR Score:** 94/100
- **Average SAT Score:** 1,310
- **Student-Teacher Ratio:** 14:1
- **Graduation Rate:** 96%+

What Families Love:

Eanes consistently ranks #2 in all of Texas and within the top 10 nationally. The district's commitment to small class sizes and individualized attention creates an exceptional learning environment. High academic standards combined with strong arts, athletics, and STEM programs provide well-rounded educational opportunities.

Academic Highlights:

- Top performance on STARR assessments

- Rigorous AP and honors programs
- Strong college preparation and placement
- Award-winning fine arts and music programs
- Competitive athletics

Neighborhoods: West Lake Hills, Rollingwood, Lost Creek, Westlake High School area

Consider If: You prioritize academic excellence above all else and are seeking a smaller, more intimate school environment despite higher home costs.

Real Estate Notes: Eanes ISD communities consistently rank among Austin's most sought-after neighborhoods with corresponding property values. Homes here are premium-priced but considered investments in top-tier education.

2. Lake Travis Independent School District ★ Elite Choice

Location: Lakeway, Lago Vista, West Austin

District Stats:

- **Students Served:** 11,400
- **District Grade:** A
- **Key Programs:** College Readiness Focus (64% college-prepared)
- **Specialization:** Waterfront communities with strong outdoor education

What Families Love:

Lake Travis offers a unique combination of academic excellence and lakeside living. The district emphasizes college readiness through comprehensive programs and maintains strong community engagement. Families appreciate the smaller-town feel while maintaining top academic standards.

Academic Highlights:

- Strong college preparation programs
- STEM and career pathway programs
- Arts and music excellence
- Outdoor education and environmental programs
- High achievement on state assessments

Neighborhoods: Lakeway, Lago Vista, Hill Country Galleria area, waterfront communities

Consider If: You want strong academics with a more relaxed, outdoor-oriented lifestyle. The lakeside setting appeals to families who value recreation and nature.

3. Round Rock Independent School District Large & Excellent

Location: Round Rock, Cedar Park, North Austin

District Stats:

- **Students Served:** 50,200+
- **Schools:** 54
- **District Grade:** A (89/100)
- **STARR Score:** 91/100
- **Graduation Rate:** 96%
- **Student-Teacher Ratio:** 15:1

What Families Love:

Round Rock proves that you don't sacrifice quality for size. Serving over 50,000 students while maintaining a 96% graduation rate, this district offers impressive academic standards, strong STEM programs, and excellent extracurricular opportunities. The district is organized, well-resourced, and consistently recognized for achievement.

Academic Highlights:

- 5 high schools recognized for STEM programs
- Comprehensive college preparation programs
- Strong visual and performing arts
- Advanced technology integration
- Leadership and athletic programs
- 6-time recipient of District of Distinction recognition

Communities Served:

- Round Rock (northwest)
- Cedar Park (southwest area)
- North Austin portions
- Brushy Creek

Consider If: You want proven excellence at scale with diverse program options. Budget-conscious families will appreciate more affordable housing options than Eanes while maintaining quality education.

Real Estate Notes: Cedar Park and Brushy Creek areas offer better affordability than far northwest Austin while still accessing Round Rock ISD's excellent programs.

Premier Growth Districts: Rapid Expansion & Innovation

4. Leander Independent School District ★ Largest District

Location: Leander, Cedar Park, North Austin, Williamson County

District Stats:

- **Students Served:** 42,600
- **Schools:** 44 (27 elementary, 9 middle, 6 high schools, 2 alternative)
- **District Grade:** A (89/100)
- **STARR Score:** 91/100
- **Graduation Rate:** 96%
- **Student-Teacher Ratio:** 16:1

What Families Love:

Leander is the largest school district in the Austin area and demonstrates exceptional growth management. The district emphasizes innovation, career readiness, and personalized learning. Strong STEM focus with dedicated teachers, digital learning tools, and engaging instruction attract families seeking forward-thinking education.

Academic Highlights:

- Comprehensive STEM and career pathway programs
- Strong AP participation (70%+ in some high schools)
- Vandegrift High School ranks 10th in Austin and 96th statewide
- Multiple feeder patterns with strong middle school support
- Growing arts and athletics programs
- Tech integration and digital learning

Premium High Schools:

- Vandegrift High School (98% graduation rate, 70% AP participation)
- Vista Ridge High School
- Leander High School
- Glenn High School

Neighborhoods Served:

- Leander (main town area)
- Cedar Park (west side)
- Brushy Creek

- Four Points
- Lakeway (portions)
- Round Rock (portions)
- Parts of North Austin

Consider If: You want quality education with innovative programs, don't mind rapid growth, and appreciate career-readiness focus. Excellent option for families seeking value with quality.

Real Estate Notes: Cedar Park and Leander offer strong value with growing communities and new home developments. Popular choice for families balancing affordability and quality education.

5. Dripping Springs Independent School District ★ Small-Town Charm

Location: Dripping Springs, Driftwood, West Austin

District Stats:

- **Students Served:** 6,800
- **Schools:** 7 (4 elementary, 2 middle, 1 high school)
- **District Grade:** A (91/100)
- **STARR Score:** 91/100
- **Student-Teacher Ratio:** 15:1
- **Graduation Rate:** 96%

What Families Love:

Dripping Springs offers the small-town school experience with top-tier academics. The district maintains a tight-knit community feel while delivering excellent educational outcomes. Located in the scenic Hill Country, families appreciate the natural setting and outdoor lifestyle.

Academic Highlights:

- Outstanding elementary schools (Sycamore Springs Elementary ranked among Austin's best)
- Dripping Springs High School with 96% graduation rate
- Strong STEM and arts programs
- 85% science proficiency
- Competitive UIL athletic and arts programs
- Marching band consistently competes at UIL finals

Neighborhoods: Dripping Springs, Driftwood, parts of West Austin, Hill Country communities

Consider If: You prefer smaller class sizes, tight-knit community, and scenic Hill Country setting. Excellent for families valuing lifestyle alongside academics.

Real Estate Notes: Premium Hill Country location with corresponding property values. Natural beauty and acreage options attract families seeking rural/suburban lifestyle.

6. Liberty Hill Independent School District ★ Boutique Excellence

Location: Liberty Hill, Georgetown, Leander portions

District Stats:

- **Students Served:** 8,800
- **Schools:** 9 (3 elementary, 3 middle, 1 high school + services)
- **District Grade:** A- (91/100)
- **STARR Score:** 90/100
- **Graduation Rate:** 95.6%
- **Average SAT:** 1,145
- **Recognitions:** 6-time District of Distinction Award

What Families Love:

As one of the smallest districts in the Austin area, Liberty Hill offers personalized education where teachers work closely with every student. The district combines academic rigor with an emphasis on character development and success preparation. Liberty High School ranks 42nd among Austin high schools.

Academic Highlights:

- STEM, business, and arts programs
- Strong athletics (A+ sports rating, top 1% of Texas high schools)
- College preparation and career pathways
- Visual arts program receiving consecutive District of Distinction recognition
- Active community engagement
- Competitive debate and academic competitions

Neighborhoods: Liberty Hill, Georgetown, surrounding Williamson County areas

Consider If: You want small-school personalized attention, strong character education, and community involvement. Excellent for families who know teachers personally and value relationships.

Quality Mid-Tier Districts: Strong Academics & Value

7. Georgetown Independent School District ★ Community Values

Location: Georgetown (North of Austin)

District Stats:

- **Students Served:** 13,100
- **Schools:** 19
- **District Grade:** B+
- **Niche Rating:** 4.1 stars (94 reviews)
- **Student-Teacher Ratio:** 15:1

What Families Love:

Georgetown ISD parents consistently praise the district's genuine care for students, families, and staff. Administrators actively seek input and feedback. The district manages growth while maintaining community connection. Located in charming Georgetown with strong sense of place.

Strengths:

- High parent satisfaction and community engagement
- Strong academics with solid STEM offerings
- Character education focus
- Active support for student mental health
- Growing district with excellent facilities
- Strong athletics and fine arts

Consider If: Community feel and parent involvement matter greatly. You want quality education with strong school-family partnerships. Good value option north of Austin.

8. Austin Independent School District ★ Diversity & Options

Location: Central, South, and East Austin

District Stats:

- **Students Served:** 70,000+
- **Schools:** 100+

- **District Grade:** B+ (89/100)
- **STARR Score:** 84/100
- **Graduation Rate:** 93%
- **Student-Teacher Ratio:** 13:1

What Families Love:

Austin ISD is the largest district in Central Texas, serving diverse communities with diverse program options. From dual-language immersion and Montessori approaches to fine arts academies and early college high schools, AISD offers pathways for different learning styles and interests.

Specialized Programs:

- Dual-language immersion (Spanish, Mandarin, Vietnamese)
- Montessori schools
- STEM and early college academies
- Fine arts and performing arts programs
- Military and career pathways
- IB and AP options
- Liberal Arts and Science Academy (LASA) - top-ranked public school

Neighborhoods: Central Austin, South Austin, East Austin, diverse communities

Consider If: You value program choice and want your child to learn in an inclusive, multicultural environment. Best for families seeking specific educational approaches (language immersion, project-based learning, etc.).

Real Estate Notes: Most diverse price range. East and South Austin neighborhoods offer affordability with character; Central Austin more premium. Significant variation between individual schools.

Planning Your School District Decision

What Matters Most to Your Family?

Academic Excellence Above All

→ Top Choice: **Eanes ISD** or **Lake Travis ISD**

Excellent Quality + Affordability

→ Top Choice: **Round Rock ISD** or **Leander ISD**

Small School Feel + Academics

→ Top Choice: **Liberty Hill ISD** or **Dripping Springs ISD**

Specific Programs (Language, Montessori, etc.)

→ Top Choice: **Austin ISD**

Community Connection & Involvement

→ Top Choice: **Georgetown ISD** or **Liberty Hill ISD**

Growth & Innovation

→ Top Choice: **Leander ISD** or **Round Rock ISD**

Key Factors to Evaluate

Academic Performance

- STARR test scores (accountability measure)
- District grade ratings (A, B+, B)
- Graduation rates (look for 95%+)
- College preparedness indicators

Student-Teacher Ratios

- Smaller (14:1 to 15:1) = more personalized attention
- Larger ratios still effective in well-run districts
- Balance with overall district quality

Programs & Specializations

- STEM/Career pathways
- Arts and music programs
- Athletic opportunities
- Special needs services
- Gifted and talented programs

Communities & Lifestyle

- Urban, suburban, or rural feel
- Commute to employment centers
- Neighborhood character and amenities
- Property values and affordability

Growth Trajectory

- Established, stable districts
- Rapidly growing districts with new facilities
- Plans for future development

Parent & Student Satisfaction

- Parent engagement levels
- Niche and GreatSchools ratings
- Community reputation
- Student reviews and feedback

Real Estate + School District Synergy

Choosing a school district is closely tied to your real estate decision. Here are key neighborhood considerations:

Premium Properties + Top Schools

Districts: Eanes ISD, Lake Travis ISD

Neighborhoods: West Lake Hills, Lakeway, Rollingwood, Lost Creek

Property Profile: \$800K-\$2M+, newer and established homes, premium amenities

Lifestyle: Upscale communities, excellent amenities, strong HOAs, established neighborhoods

Strong Schools + Growing Value

Districts: Round Rock ISD, Leander ISD

Neighborhoods: Cedar Park, Brushy Creek, Round Rock, Pflugerville

Property Profile: \$400K-\$750K, newer developments, family-oriented

Lifestyle: Family communities, newer construction, growing amenities, excellent value

Boutique Schools + Hill Country Living

Districts: Dripping Springs ISD

Neighborhoods: Dripping Springs, Driftwood, Travis Country

Property Profile: \$600K-\$1.5M+, acreage options, rustic charm

Lifestyle: Hill Country lifestyle, scenic beauty, outdoor recreation, spacious properties

Quality Schools + North Austin Value

Districts: Georgetown ISD

Neighborhoods: Georgetown, Williamson County areas

Property Profile: \$350K-\$650K, mixed homes, growing area

Lifestyle: Charming small-town feel, community connection, good value

Diverse Programs + Urban Living

District: Austin ISD

Neighborhoods: Central, South, East Austin (varies widely)

Property Profile: \$300K-\$1M+ (varies by area)

Lifestyle: Urban walkability, cultural diversity, unique neighborhoods, variety

Questions to Ask Your School

When evaluating specific schools, consider asking:

1. What are current standardized test performance metrics?
2. What gifted and talented (G/T) programs are available?

3. **How does the school support struggling readers and math students?**
 4. **What technology resources and digital learning tools are available?**
 5. **Describe the special education services and supports.**
 6. **What counseling and mental health support is available?**
 7. **How is parent communication handled? (Frequency and methods)**
 8. **What volunteer opportunities exist for parents?**
 9. **Describe the school culture and how bullying is addressed.**
 10. **What STEM and career pathway opportunities are available?**
 11. **Tell me about your arts, music, and athletics programs.**
 12. **How do you support students with different learning styles?**
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Austin Area School Resources

Texas Education Agency (TEA)

- Official state education website
- Current accountability ratings
- Performance data and reports
- Website: tea.texas.gov

Niche.com

- School district ratings and reviews
- Parent and student feedback
- Detailed school comparisons
- Ranking methodology transparent

GreatSchools.org

- Individual school ratings
- Parent reviews
- Resource library
- Test score information

Individual District Websites

- Enrollment and registration information
 - Academic programs and offerings
 - Transportation and school choice
 - Budget and facility information
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Making Your Decision

Choosing a school district is deeply personal. While academic ratings matter, consider the total package: the community culture, program offerings that match your child's interests, family priorities, and lifestyle preferences.

The Austin metro area's top-tier school districts consistently deliver excellence. Your job is finding which district's approach and culture best matches your family's needs and values.

Key Takeaway: Austin offers multiple excellent options. Research thoroughly, visit schools when possible, talk to current families, and trust that you'll find the right fit for your family.

About This Guide

This comprehensive guide provides current information as of January 2026 based on:

- Texas Education Agency Performance Ratings
- [Niche.com](#) school rankings and reviews
- [GreatSchools.org](#) data
- Individual school district websites and data
- Recent parent and student feedback

Data sources:[1][2][3][4][5][6][7][8]

For the most current information, visit individual district websites and the Texas Education Agency website.

References

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