

February 10, 2026

Dear Superintendent Segura and Members of the Austin ISD Board,

Dream Together 2030 is a citywide and regional movement grounded in a simple but demanding vision, to build a Beloved Community by the year 2030, where unity replaces division, justice replaces inequity, and shared responsibility replaces abandonment. We believe this work begins not in rhetoric, but in decisions, especially those that shape the lives of children.

The future of Oak Springs and Blackshear Elementary Schools presents such a decision.

We write in unified support of completing the new, state of the art Oak Springs Elementary School at its current site and repurposing the historic Blackshear Elementary campus as an Early Childhood Education and enrichment center. This course of action reflects not only sound educational planning, but moral clarity, historical awareness, and a commitment to unity rather than displacement.

Oak Springs sits in a community that has endured prolonged underinvestment, disruption, and delay. Construction has already begun. To leave this project unfinished would deepen inequity and erode trust. Completing Oak Springs affirms that children in East Austin, and children across Austin, deserve access to modern, fully equipped neighborhood schools that remove barriers to learning rather than create new ones.

At the same time, Blackshear Elementary is more than a campus. Founded in 1891, it stands as a living witness to resilience, culture, and generational perseverance. Preservation does not mean freezing history in place. Repurposing Blackshear as an Early Childhood Education and enrichment center honors its legacy while responding to present needs, creating a walkable, community centered pathway of learning that strengthens families and prepares children for lifelong success.

Dream Together 2030 affirms that our city's progress must be measured not by growth alone, but by whether our collective decisions advance unity, dignity, and shared opportunity. We acknowledge the history of fractured trust between institutions and communities. Yet moments like this offer the possibility of repair, of choosing restoration over rupture, and vision over expediency.

This is not solely an East Austin issue. It is a reflection of who we are becoming as a city and region. The choices made here will signal whether Austin is prepared to live into its professed values and move together toward a Beloved Community by 2030.

We respectfully urge you to complete the Oak Springs campus and reimagine Blackshear in a way that honors history, serves children, and strengthens trust. Such leadership would stand as a tangible expression of unity in action.

Thank you for your service, your deliberation, and your commitment to the future of our children.

With resolve and hope,

Dream Together 2030 - A Call for Unity by 2030

Representing faith leaders, educators, community organizations, families, and civic partners across the Austin region