

Frequently Asked Questions

1. Why are Alicia R. Chacon International School (ARCIS) students being moved to another campus?

The campus experienced foundation movement causing cracks and damage to the structure. The cost to permanently prevent future foundation movement is excessive. Therefore, the district recommends moving students and faculty to another facility.

2. Will ARCIS get new furniture when students move to the new campus?

New furniture will not be provided by August 2020 when students are relocated. However, the district's five-year Furniture Refresh Plan calls for furniture to be replaced for ARCIS during the summer of 2021, provided sufficient funding is available.

3. Will parking be better at the LeBarron (LBES) campus?

ARCIS has 122 parking spaces including handicapped parking spaces while LBES has 127 parking spaces including handicapped spaces. While the number of on-site parking spaces is approximately equal, significantly more off-site spaces exist on the street around the LBES campus, which will help alleviate the parking issues experienced at ARCIS.

4. Will the name of ARCIS change when students move to the new campus?

The district has no plans to change the name of the school.

5. How long will students be at LBES?

The district intends for the LBES campus to become the permanent home for ARCIS students.

6. Will security be provided at the new campus?

The safety and security of students is the district's top priority and will be provided in accordance with district policy. The security officer currently assigned to the ARCIS campus will remain assigned to the future campus.

7. Will there be any change to the programs and curriculum?

No changes to current programming or curriculum are planned.

8. Will kindergarten experience any changes?

Because the new campus has more capacity than the current facility, the district expects to add two kindergarten classes and one 1st grade section in the 2020-21 school year.

9. Will existing enrollment procedures change in the future?

The district does not anticipate any change to the enrollment procedures.

10. Will student enrollment be allowed to grow this year, or will it begin in a later year?

The district anticipates adding two sections of kindergarten and one section of first grade with approximately 66 additional students in the 2020-21 school year.

11. Will Gifted and Talented programs expand?

A student must qualify for the gifted and talented program based upon various assessments. No changes to the process for qualification are expected.

12. Will transportation routes and schedules be the same?

Transportation routes will be provided in accordance with district policy CNA. Current policy provides that students living outside a two-mile radius of the campus will be provided with transportation.

13. Will ARCIS receive additional money for new technology?

ARCIS will continue receiving devices through the District's annual refresh process, provided sufficient funding is available.

14. Does the new campus have refrigerated air?

Ninety-five percent (95%) of the new campus is refrigerated air. The remaining five percent (5%) will be converted within the next five years.

15. Will athletes continue to compete with Ysleta Middle School (YMS)? Will transportation be provided for the athletes?

For the 2020-21 school year, athletes from ARCIS will continue to compete with YMS teams. During this school year, athletes will receive transportation assistance. The 2020-2021 school year will be used as the planning year to determine if ARCIS is suitable to hold a stand-alone athletic program. A needs assessment will be conducted to evaluate the facilities and program interest. If results find that this is not a favorable option then in 2021-2022, student athletes will begin competing with Del Valle Middle School (DVMS) teams and transportation will continue to be provided when athletes practice at DVMS. However, for practices held at Del Valle High School, student athletes will be expected to walk (5-10 minutes).

16. Are there any plans to build a new campus for ARCIS?

No. The district has several underutilized facilities of which the LBES campus is one. This campus has a new cafeteria/auditorium, a dedicated gym, new outdoor courts, refrigerated air, and a

relatively new library. It will also receive some additional improvements under the 2019 bond program.

17. Will students who live within walking distance of the current ARCIS campus be bused to the new campus?

Transportation routes will be provided in accordance with district policy CNA. Current policy provides that students living outside a two-mile radius of the campus will be provided with transportation.

18. How many students does the district expect to lose as a result of the move?

The district does not anticipate the loss of any students as a result of the move.

19. Is there a transition plan for students?

A transition plan is prepared to assist faculty and staff as they physically prepare for the move to a new campus. However, students will continue through the end of the year at their current campus and begin the next school year at their new location.

20. Will there be an outreach campaign to make the move a positive experience?

Prior to the end of the school year, students and faculty will have an opportunity to tour the new campus. Additionally, summer visits may also be scheduled. Mr. Cadena has personally visited with every classroom to address student concerns and answer any questions students might have. Finally, during the month of May (after STAAR) an array of Farewell Activities is scheduled for students and parents to celebrate the current and future Alicia R. Chacon campuses.

21. What provisions will be in place to address the traffic around the new campus?

Currently, campus administration at LBES utilizes two crossing guards at the four-lane two-way stop on Burgundy and Morelia/Iberia. The district does not have jurisdiction to control traffic but relies on crossing guards to safely escort students across busy thoroughfares.

22. Why doesn't the district buy new land and build a new school for ARCIS students?

A new K-8 campus typically costs in excess of \$30 million to build. The district is and has been experiencing declining enrollment and has several underutilized facilities. Therefore, moving ARCIS to a recently renovated, refrigerated air campus and providing the opportunity for the student population to grow is the optimal solution.