

Goals and Timeline

What is Accelerating Campus Excellence?

The Accelerating Campus Excellence (ACE) initiative is a commitment of resources and support intended to grow student achievement and deepen learning at underperforming campuses. It is set to begin in the 2015-2016 school year at six schools. The backbone of the ACE model will be strong leadership teams, highly effective teachers, and high expectations for staff and students.

What are the 2015-2016 ACE campuses?

Middle Schools: Thomas A. Edison, Sarah Zumwalt
Elementary Schools: Annie Webb Blanton, Roger Q. Mills, Elisha M. Pease, Umphrey Lee

How were these schools chosen?

These six schools were carefully selected based on their significant level of student need. All the schools have been identified as Improvement Required by the state, which means that they are academically unacceptable. When a campus is identified as requiring improvement for two consecutive years, the school is subject to reconstitution. The ACE initiative will operate as a mechanism for reconstitution.

When would this initiative start?

The implementation of ACE at the six schools will begin in the 2015-2016 school year.

Expectations

What new expectations will be in place at the ACE campuses for students?

- An additional hour of instruction will be provided. The school day will be extended by one hour so students will receive instruction for eight hours instead of seven
- Schools will be open until 6 p.m. for optional student support on homework as well as for enrichment opportunities
- Students will be assigned up to 90 minutes of homework each night, as developmentally appropriate
- Failing grades will not be accepted. Teachers will provide additional instruction, and students will retake assessments/redo assignments until they have a passing grade
- Additional instruction may include Saturday school

- Schools will offer resources to strengthen character and improve behavior
- Middle schools will offer Turning Point, a remedial program for students who require additional support

After-school offerings include:

- Free dinner provided daily, if students stay for after-school support
- Time to do homework at school
- Enrichment programs
- College prep opportunities
- Small group tutoring
- After-school activities
- Student clubs

How are you going to make sure you have the best teachers at all ACE schools?

The district is providing incentives for teachers and staff who voluntarily choose to teach at an ACE school. Principals, assistant principals, counselors and teachers who either move to or stay at one of the six ACE schools in 2015-2016 will receive a stipend as an incentive for working at an ACE campus.

Current Student Implications

Who can attend an ACE school?

Students currently enrolled in an ACE school will continue to attend the same school.

How will transportation services be impacted by the ACE initiative?

Students who are eligible for transportation services will continue to receive them.

Will students be able to opt out of this initiative?

Yes. Parents will have the option to seek a transfer to the next closest non-improvement-required school based on home address. Transportation to the new school will be provided. Information on the opt out process and transportation guidelines will be available in May. Below is a list of the closest non-IR schools. These are the schools parents will be able to transfer their student to if they opt out.

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ACE Campus	Closest Non-IR Campus	Distance (in miles)
Annie Webb Blanton ES	San Jacinto ES	1.06
Roger Q. Mills ES	Albert Sidney Johnston ES	.63
Elisha M. Pease ES	W.W. Bushman ES	.72
Umphrey Lee ES	Martin Weiss ES	.68
Thomas A. Edlson MLC	Raul Quintanilla Sr. MS	1.12
Sarah Zumwalt MS	Kennedy-Curry MS	2.54

Facilities

Are you expecting to make changes to the school buildings for this new initiative?

No. At this time, major construction is not needed.

Parental Involvement

Is there a commitment once my child is attending an ACE school?

Yes. Parents will sign a pledge indicating their commitment to making sure their children:

- get to school on time
- attend school every day
- complete all daily homework assignments, and
- take advantage of after-school support.

How can parents be involved in ACE schools?

There are many opportunities for parent involvement in campus activities. The site-based decision making committee (SBDM) and parent teacher organizations (such as PTA and PTO), field trips, and volunteer activities are opportunities provided at these schools. Additional opportunities will be available for parents such as free parent workshops and information sessions to support children academically, emotionally and socially.

Will I have to re-register my child for Parent Portal?

No. Parents who already have a Parent Portal account will not have to re-register. Parents new to the district or who have yet to set up an account are encouraged to register. Parents with students in prekindergarten through 12th grade may sign up for a Parent Portal account.

When will the parent pledge be available?

The pledge forms will be distributed to all parents in May to sign and return before the end of the school year. Contact us at (972) 925-3916 or e-mail us at ACE@dallasisd.org if you have questions or would like to provide input on the parent pledge.

ACE Website <FAQ Additions>

1. What will be the school hours at each of the ACE campuses?

ACE campus start and end times are as follows:

<i>ACE Campus</i>	<i>Start and End Times</i>
Blanton Elementary	7:55 AM – 3:55 PM
Mills Elementary	7:55 AM – 3:55 PM
Pease Elementary	7:55 AM – 3:55 PM
Umphrey Lee Elementary	7:55 AM – 3:55 PM
Dade Middle	8:30 AM – 4:30 PM
Edison Middle	8:30 AM – 4:30 PM
Zumwalt Middle	8:35 AM – 4:35 PM

2. What is required of parents/guardians at ACE campuses?

Parent/guardians at ACE campuses are expected to ensure that their students:

- Arrive to school on time every day and in uniform,
- Complete their homework every night,
- Stay after school for homework support, tutoring, and enrichment, if necessary,
- Maintain consistent and positive communication with the teachers, and
- Uphold the Student Code of Conduct, maintain positive behavior, and build good habits to strengthen character.

3. Is after-school required? What will it look like?

The ACE campuses will be open until 6 PM daily for tutoring, homework support, enrichment, and supper for students who choose to stay. After-school is not required for students but rather is an option for students and families who wish to take advantage of the opportunity.

4. What type of food will be served for dinner for the after-school program?

Food served after school can either be a hot meal or a “[supper snack](#),” depending on the request of the principal. All after-school meals are provided at no cost to our students, and cafeteria staff will serve the meals either in the cafeteria or in the classroom. Examples of the hot supper include chicken nuggets/mashed potatoes/an apple, burrito/house salad/mixed fruit, and pizza/house salad/mixed fruit. Examples of the supper snack include chicken salad and veggie juice, nachos with salsa, and cheese stick with veggie juice.

More details about the after-school supper program can be found on the district’s website [here](#).

5. How can students transfer to another school?

Parents/guardians at all the ACE campuses and feeder campuses (i.e., the campuses with 5th graders who are zoned to attend an ACE middle school in 2015-16) received a parent pledge to complete and return. On the pledge, parents/guardians will be able to opt-out of the ACE

campus and instead elect for their student to attend another non-Improvement Required campus that is nearby.

6. Which schools are available for transfer?

The non-IR campuses that are closest to the ACE campuses are as follows:

<i>ACE Campus</i>	<i>Closest Non-IR Campus with Capacity</i>
Blanton Elementary	San Jacinto Elementary (1.06 miles)
Mills Elementary	Johnston Elementary (.63 miles)
Pease Elementary	Bushman Elementary (.72 miles)
Umpfrey Lee Elementary	Weiss Elementary (.68 miles)
Dade Middle	Hood Middle (5.5 miles)
Edison Middle	Quintanilla Middle (1.12 miles)
Zumwalt Middle	Kennedy-Curry Middle (2.54 miles)

If parents/guardians opt-out of their student's zoned ACE campus, then their student will attend the closest non-IR campus, pending space availability. If no space is available at the closest non-IR campus, then the district will select another nearby non-IR campus for the student to attend.

7. How will transportation be provided for transfers to other schools?

Transportation will be provided for students who live farther than two miles away from their newly assigned campus, per district transportation eligibility guidelines.