

### Annexation Related

**Q: Who initiated the proposed annexation of the Hays Consolidated Independent School District (HCISD) into the Austin Community College District (ACC)?**

**A:** A committee of community leaders and interested citizens has been meeting to pursue annexation efforts.

**Q: Why is the steering committee interested in having HCISD join the ACC District?**

- A:**
- To build an ACC North Hays County Campus
  - To expand ACC programs and services in Hays county, especially workforce education not offered now in Hays county because there are no facilities or funding to support for high-demand career programs
  - To provide access to higher education and training, at a more affordable price:
    - In-district \$39 per credit hour
    - Out-of-district \$137 per credit hour
  - To gain free Early College Start classes (college credit courses that can be taken in high school) for all HCISD students
  - Because a strong community college presence benefits the entire community. As education levels rise:
    - People earn higher wages
    - Higher wage earners contribute more to local tax bases (fairer distribution)
    - Social service costs are lower
    - Consumer spending increases, which helps local business
  - Community colleges are crucial to meeting the state's *Closing the Gaps* goals. The majority of people enter higher education through community college.
  - The value of an associate degree - On average, over a lifetime, an associate degree is worth \$510,000 more in earnings than a high school diploma. There has been a 32 percent increase in jobs requiring an associate degree. The U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics shows the associate degree offered at community colleges is the fastest-growing workplace credential.
  - The return on investment in higher education outweighs the cost. A recent study by the Texas state comptroller shows that for every dollar invested in higher education, the community sees a return of more than \$5.50.

**Q: What must happen in order to have an annexation election?**

- A:** Texas law (HB 2221, Section 130.65 of the Texas Education Code) requires five percent of registered voters in the territory proposed for annexation as of the most recent general election for state and county officers to sign a petition. If the 5% threshold is met the following steps will occur:
1. The ACC Board will hold a public hearing
  2. The ACC Board calls for an election on the next uniform election day
    - In either May or November
  3. The election is held

**Q: Can HCISD be annexed without voter approval?**

**A:** No.

## Other Educational Options

**Q: Since the Hays Center is in Buda, why is a separate ACC campus needed?**

- A:**
- The Hays center does **not** offer comprehensive ACC or Texas State programs and services.
  - As Texas State enrollment grows at the Hays Center, ACC has less access to facilities there.
  - ACC cannot offer many needed courses and programs, including workforce programs that require specialized facilities or equipment.
  - There are no science labs at the Hays Center, making it impossible to complete **core curriculum** requirements in Buda.
  - No Adult Education or Continuing Education classes are available.

## ACC Presence with Texas State University

**Q:** Why is a community college needed in Hays County since Texas State is here?

**A:** Not everyone can start at a four year institution:

- Some need “access” programs to prepare them for college, which by law, community colleges are mandated to offer. ACC has a unique role in education the region. Unlike four-year institutions, ACC offers “access” programs for those who are not yet college-ready. Such programs include Adult Basic Education (ABE). English-as-a-second Language (ESL) and GED.
- More than 50 percent of adults and high school graduates in Texas choose to enter higher education through a community college every year. This means ACC will be the primary responder to *Closing the Gaps*, not four-year institutions.
- Tuition at ACC is significantly less expensive than tuition is at Texas State: Tuition is currently \$451 a credit hour at Texas State as compared to \$39 at ACC
- ACC is the largest provider of transfer students to Texas State. As ACC grows so does Texas State. ACC transfer students perform as well or better than those who begin at a four-year college or university.
- Currently ACC offers a limited number of general education courses for academic transfer in Buda. The addition of a comprehensive campus would provide Hays County residents with access to courses in workforce training and continuing education, as well as “access” programs for those not ready to enter college credit courses.
- Having a community college presence encourages high school graduates to pursue higher education. Since the implementation of *College Connection* in the HCISD in 2005-2006 a program in which ACC staff travel to Hays County high schools to help seniors individually with the college application and admissions process, ACC has seen a 12 percent increase in enrollment among Hays Consolidated ISD graduates, according to recent data from the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board.

## Tax Implication

**Q: Why should I pay for others to get an ACC college education if neither I nor anyone in my family will attend ACC?**

**A:** Education levels in a community affect all residents and their quality of life. If people are better educated, they make more money, spend more money locally, and contribute more to the local tax base, which helps keep taxes down. If they make less money, they depend more on social services, which increases taxes.

**Q: What will be the tax impact of joining the ACC District?**

- A:**
- At .0946 cents per \$100 valuation, ACC has one of the lowest tax rates among all community college districts in Texas (.09 cents for maintenance and operations, plus .0046 to retire facilities bonds). ACC’s taxes would represent less than 4 percent of the collective Hays county property tax rate.
    - The ACC District’s maintenance and operations (M&O) tax rate is capped at 9 cents; the state average tax rate is 15 cents.
    - The M&O tax rate cannot be changed without voter approval.
    - The M&O tax rate has changed only once in the history of the college.

**Tax Comparisons**

HCISD	\$1.4613	
City of Kyle	\$0.3731	
City of Buda	\$0.2250	
Hays County	\$0.3749	
<b>ACC District</b>	<b>\$0.0946</b>	(.09 for M&O plus .0046 to retire facilities bonds)

**Q: What is the history of Taxes for HCISD residents?**

**A:**

<b>Kyle</b>	<b>FY2002</b>	<b>FY2003</b>	<b>FY2004</b>	<b>FY2005</b>	<b>FY2006</b>	<b>FY2007</b>	<b>FY2008</b>	<b>FY2009</b>
Hays CISD			1.7300	1.7950	1.8763	1.7780	1.4613	1.4613
City of Kyle			0.3190	0.2871	0.2777	0.2724	0.2707	0.3731
Hays County	0.3579	0.3702	0.3751	0.3751	0.3920	0.3790	0.3714	0.3749
<b>Total</b>	<b>0.3579</b>	<b>0.3702</b>	<b>2.4251</b>	<b>2,4572</b>	<b>2.5460</b>	<b>2.4294</b>	<b>2.1034</b>	<b>2.2093</b>

<b>Buda</b>	<b>FY2002</b>	<b>FY2003</b>	<b>FY2004</b>	<b>FY2005</b>	<b>FY2006</b>	<b>FY2007</b>	<b>FY2008</b>	<b>FY2009</b>
Hays CISD			1.7300	1.7950	1.8763	1.7780	1.4613	1.4613
City of Buda			0.1630	0.1630	0.1670	0.1670	0.1670	0.2250
Hays County	0.3579	0.3702	0.3751	0.3751	0.3920	0.3790	0.3714	0.3749
<b>Total</b>	<b>0.3579</b>	<b>0.3702</b>	<b>2.2681</b>	<b>2.3331</b>	<b>2.4353</b>	<b>2.3240</b>	<b>2.0197</b>	<b>2.0612</b>

**Q: How do HCISD taxes compare with other areas?**

**A:**

<b>AUSTIN</b>	<b>FY2002</b>	<b>FY2003</b>	<b>FY2004</b>	<b>FY2005</b>	<b>FY2006</b>	<b>FY2007</b>	<b>FY2008</b>	<b>FY2009</b>
Austin ISD	1.5486	1.5964	1.6137	1.6230	1.6230	1.4930	1.1630	1.2020
City of Austin	0.4597	0.4597	0.4928	0.4430	0.4430	0.4126	0.4034	0.4012
Travis County Healthcare District	-	-	-	0.0779	0.0779	0.0734	0.0693	0.0678
Travis County	0.4460	0.4660	0.4918	0.4872	0.4993	0.4499	0.4216	0.4122
<b>Total</b>	<b>2.4543</b>	<b>2.5221</b>	<b>2.5983</b>	<b>2.6311</b>	<b>2.6432</b>	<b>2.4289</b>	<b>2.0573</b>	<b>2.0833</b>
<b>KYLE</b>	<b>FY2002</b>	<b>FY2003</b>	<b>FY2004</b>	<b>FY2005</b>	<b>FY2006</b>	<b>FY2007</b>	<b>FY2008</b>	<b>FY2009</b>
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<b>Total</b>	<b>0.3579</b>	<b>0.3702</b>	<b>2.4251</b>	<b>2,4572</b>	<b>2.5460</b>	<b>2.4294</b>	<b>2.1034</b>	<b>2.2093</b>
<b>BUDA</b>	<b>FY2002</b>	<b>FY2003</b>	<b>FY2004</b>	<b>FY2005</b>	<b>FY2006</b>	<b>FY2007</b>	<b>FY2008</b>	<b>FY2009</b>
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City of Buda			0.1630	0.1630	0.1670	0.1670	0.1670	0.2250
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<b>Total</b>	<b>0.3579</b>	<b>0.3702</b>	<b>2.2681</b>	<b>2.3331</b>	<b>2.4353</b>	<b>2.3240</b>	<b>2.0197</b>	<b>2.0612</b>

San Marcos CISD	1.4952	1.4296	1.6000	1.6000	1.7300	1.7000	1.3700	1.3700
City of San Marcos	0.4610	0.4710	0.4710	0.4710	0.4710	0.4702	0.5302	0.5302
Hays County	0.3579	0.3702	0.3751	0.3751	0.3920	0.3790	0.3714	0.3749
Total	2.3141	2.2708	2.4461	2.4461	2.5930	2.5492	2.2716	2.2751
<b>GEORGETOWN</b>	<b>FY2002</b>	<b>FY2003</b>	<b>FY2004</b>	<b>FY2005</b>	<b>FY2006</b>	<b>FY2007</b>	<b>FY2008</b>	<b>FY2009</b>
Georgetown ISD	1.6850	1.7300	1.7650	1.7550	1.7550	1.6250	1.2900	1.2900
City of Georgetown	0.3071	0.3026	0.3219	0.3463	0.3463	0.3673	0.3566	0.3562
City of Georgetown	0.3543	0.4254	0.4482	0.4789	0.4662	0.4675	0.4591	0.4394
Total	2.3464	2.4580	2.5352	2.5801	2.5674	2.4598	2.1057	2.1371
<b>LEANDER</b>	<b>FY2002</b>	<b>FY2003</b>	<b>FY2004</b>	<b>FY2005</b>	<b>FY2006</b>	<b>FY2007</b>	<b>FY2008</b>	<b>FY2009</b>
Leander ISD	1.6500	1.7220	1.8300	1.7900	1.7500	1.6438	1.3334	1.3792
City of Leander	0.4790	0.5585	0.5585	0.5566	0.5483	0.5983	0.6076	0.6026
Williamson County	0.3543	0.4254	0.4482	0.4789	0.4662	0.4675	0.4591	0.4384
Total	2.4833	2.7059	2.8367	2.8255	2.7644	2.7096	2.4001	2.4213
<b>CEDAR PARK</b>	<b>FY2002</b>	<b>FY2003</b>	<b>FY2004</b>	<b>FY2005</b>	<b>FY2006</b>	<b>FY2007</b>	<b>FY2008</b>	<b>FY2009</b>
Leander ISD	1.6500	1.7220	1.8300	1.7900	1.7500	1.6438	1.3334	1.3792
City of Cedar Park	0.4482	0.4482	0.4681	0.4881	0.5181	0.5181	0.5081	0.4890
Williamson County	0.3543	0.4254	0.4482	0.4789	0.4662	0.4675	0.4591	0.4394
Total	2.4525	2.5956	2.7463	2.7569	2.7342	2.6294	2.3006	2.3077

**Q: What will my ACC tax actually be?**

**A:** The tax impact on a home priced at \$100,000 in HCISD less the standard \$5,000 homestead exemption would be \$89.87 a year. Seniors and disabled homeowners get an additional \$105,000 homestead exemption. Various tax scenarios follow:

<i>Property Value</i>	<i>\$60,000</i>	<i>\$80,000</i>	<i>\$100,000</i>	<i>\$125,000</i>	<i>\$150,000</i>
<b>Regular Homestead</b>					
Monthly	\$ 4.33	\$ 5.91	\$ 7.49	\$ 9.46	\$ 11.43
Annually	\$52.03	\$70.95	\$89.87	\$113.52	\$137.17
<b>Senior/Disabled</b>					
Monthly	No ACC Tax	No ACC Tax	No ACC Tax	\$ 1.18	\$ 3.15
Annually	No ACC Tax	No ACC Tax	No ACC Tax	\$14.19	\$37.84
<b>Commercial</b>					
Monthly	\$ 4.73	\$ 6.06	\$ 7.88	\$ 9.85	\$ 11.82
Annually	\$56.76	\$75.68	\$94.60	\$118.25	\$141.90

## Return on Investment

For every tax dollar invested in higher education there is a \$5.50 return on investment to the local community in increased earnings, increased tax base, and increased spending (Source: Texas state comptroller report)

- The ACC District, its employees, and students generate more than \$650 million each year for the local economy, and the college saves the community more than \$15 million annually by reducing the need for social services. (Source: "The Socioeconomic Benefits Generated by 50 Community College Districts in Texas," CC Benefits Inc., 2002)
- Joining the ACC District means joining a regional community college. Hays County hires its workers from throughout the region; thus, there is a need for a regional education resource.

## Tuition Comparison

**Q: What's the difference between the ACC District in-district and out-of-district tuition?**

**A:**

<b>Student Tuition Savings</b>		
	<b>Typical 3 credit course</b>	<b>Full Year Tuition (12 hours in fall and spring semesters)</b>
ACC Out-of-District Cost	\$456 per course	\$3,648 per year
ACC In-District Cost	\$162 per course	\$1,296 per year
<b>Student Savings</b>	<b>\$294 per course</b>	<b>\$2,352 per year</b>

## Quality

**Q: Is ACC a quality institution?**

- A:**
- The grade point average of ACC transfer students at four-year colleges is as high or better than those who begin at four-year colleges.
  - The ACC District is one of the largest single-college districts in the nation.
  - The ACC District is the primary trainer and retrainer of local workers.
  - The ACC District is the area's top provider of nurses, emergency workers, and childcare teachers.
  - The ACC District was recently honored with the Star Award from the Texas Higher Education Board for its *College Connection* Program, which the State is funding for Statewide replication.
  - In addition ACC's external audit indicates the college is fiscally sound.
  - ACC is accredited through the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools.