*By Laura Gillespie, Reporter, Houston Business Journal, 12-21-2020*

Houston independent school district's new Austin High School campus will open Jan. 6, 2021.

The school at 1700 Dumble St. in the East End was rebuilt as part of [HISD’s 2012 $2 billion bond package](https://www.bizjournals.com/houston/news/2012/08/10/hisd-board-approves-189b-bond.html). The school cost $80.9 million and is 288,628 square feet. Work was done to preserve the old façade and auditorium of the originally 84-year-old building.

The new building has a three-story academic wing with larger classrooms and more natural light; welding, robotics and maritime labs; and new athletic facilities, including two gyms, new locker rooms and a weight room.

Students were at a nearby temporary campus while the new Austin High School was under construction. The new building can accommodate approximately 1,800 to 2,000 students.

“I think it’s the most appropriate time, given the circumstances of what we have been going through and how education has been affected,” Austin High School Principal [Orlando Reyna](https://www.bizjournals.com/houston/news/2020/12/21/houston/search/results?q=Orlando%20Reyna) said. “For us, it is a turn in the right direction. These are the wins students want to see and staff want to experience.”

Austin High School is one of 40 schools that were renovated or rebuilt as part of the 2012 bond package. Bellaire High School is now the only school still under construction. Other schools completely given new campuses under the bond included DeBakey High School for Health Professions, Lamar High School and High School for the Performing and Visual Arts. Other schools were partially rebuilt, renovated or converted from a kindergarten to fifth grade campus to a kindergarten to eighth grade campus.

“Austin High School’s new building is the latest achievement in the historic 2012 Bond Program,” Interim Superintendent [Grenita Lathan](https://www.bizjournals.com/houston/news/2020/12/21/houston/search/results?q=Grenita%20Lathan) said. “It is a fantastic building, one that blends the history of the original structure with the cutting-edge technology needed in a modern high school.”

Construction on the new school began October 2018, [but was delayed several months due to Covid-19](https://www.bizjournals.com/houston/news/2020/06/08/hisd-austin-high-school-covid-19-delays.html).