



Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ): Round Rock ISD/ACC Annexation

Annexation Related

Q: Who initiated the proposed annexation of the Round Rock Independent School District (RRISD) into the Austin Community College District (ACC)?

A: One-third of RRISD already resides inside ACC's taxing district (the part that overlaps in the City of Austin). This proposal would bring the remainder of RRISD into the ACC District. Groups of interested community leaders and citizens have been discussing this for some time, including Friends of Round Rock Higher Education Center (RRHEC), the Round Rock Chamber of Commerce, and RRISD parents interested in the expansion of ACC programs and securing lower in-district tuition rates. They recently formed a committee to pursue the effort.

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

- A:**
- To build an ACC Round Rock Campus
 - To expand ACC programs and services in Round Rock, especially workforce education not offered now in Round Rock because there are no facilities or funding to support those 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 \$118 per credit hour
 - To gain free Early College Start classes (college credit courses that can be taken in high school) for **all** RRISD students (not just the third currently in the ACC tax district)
 - 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 RRISD voters currently residing outside the ACC tax district to sign a petition calling for the election. The steps are as follows:
1. The ACC Board must hold a public hearing 30 to 45 days before calling an election.
 2. If the petition is in order, the ACC Board calls for an election on either:
 - The second Saturday in May; or
 - The first Tuesday after the first Monday in November.
 3. The election is held.

Q: Can RRISD be annexed without voter approval?

A: No.

Other Educational Options

Q: Since the RRHEC is in Round Rock, why is a separate ACC campus needed?

A:

- RRHEC does not offer comprehensive ACC or Texas State programs and services.
- As Texas State enrollment grows at RRHEC, ACC has less access to facilities there.
- ACC cannot offer many needed courses and programs, including workforce programs that require specialized facilities or equipment.
- No Adult Education or Continuing Education classes are available.

Q: Why is a community college needed in Round Rock when other universities are close by?

A: A four-year institution is not for everyone:

- Unlike four-year institutions, ACC offers “access” programs for those who are not yet college-ready. These include Adult Basic Education, English-as-a-Second Language, GED Preparation, and Developmental Reading, Writing, and Mathematics.
- More than 50 percent of adults and high school graduates in Texas enter higher education through the community college every year. This means the ACC District will be the primary answer to *Closing the Gaps*, not area four-year institutions. Round Rock needs comprehensive ACC District offerings.
- ACC District tuition is significantly less expensive than tuition at four-year colleges.

Q: Round Rock residents are near two community colleges, the ACC District and Temple College, which serves Taylor and Hutto ISDs. Why join ACC?

A:

- ACC offers many more degree and certificate programs, especially in high-demand career workforce areas.
- Temple College cannot offer classes in Round Rock because state law has placed Round Rock inside the ACC District service area.

Q: What about WILCO?

A: A legislative bill has been filed to form an East Williamson County Higher Education Center (WILCO).

- Modeled on the RRHEC, WILCO is multi-institution teaching center initiative of Temple College, the community college serving the Taylor and Hutto ISDs. It has been designed primarily to promote high school student opportunities in higher education (“Middle College” concept) and will be located either in Taylor or between Taylor and Hutto. Because of state law, Temple College will not serve Round Rock ISD.
- Round Rock residents may enroll in Temple College classes but must pay out-of-district tuition.
- WILCO will have fewer certificate and degree options than the ACC District would offer at a comprehensive Round Rock campus.

Tax Implication

Q: Why should I pay for others to get an ACC college education if neither I nor anyone in my family attends 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 .0958 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 .0058 to retire facilities bonds). ACC's taxes would represent less than 4 percent of the collective Round Rock 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

RRISD	\$1.646
City of Round Rock	\$.3710
Williamson County	\$.4674
ACC District	\$.0958 (.09 for M&O plus .0058 to retire facilities bonds)

Q: What is the history of Taxes for RRISD residents?

A:

ROUND ROCK	FY2001	FY2002	FY2003	FY2004	FY2005	FY2006	FY2007	FY2008
Round Rock ISD	1.7086	1.7387	1.7492	1.8643	1.8572	1.8334	1.6406	1.3238
City of Round Rock	0.3303	0.3221	0.3422	0.3572	0.3797	0.3711	0.3711	0.3652
Williamson County	0.3477	0.3543	0.4254	0.4482	0.4789	0.4662	0.4675	0.4591
Total	2.3866	2.4150	2.5168	2.6696	2.7158	2.6706	2.4792	2.1481

Q: How do RRISD taxes compare with other areas?

A:

AUSTIN	FY2001	FY2002	FY2003	FY2004	FY2005	FY2006	FY2007	FY2008
Austin ISD	1.5486	1.5486	1.5964	1.6137	1.6230	1.6230	1.4930	1.1630
City of Austin	0.4663	0.4597	0.4597	0.4928	0.4430	0.4430	0.4126	0.4034
Travis County Healthcare District	-	-	-	-	0.0779	0.0779	0.0734	0.0693
Travis County	0.4988	0.4460	0.4660	0.4918	0.4872	0.4993	0.4499	0.4216
Total	2.5137	2.4543	2.5221	2.5983	2.6311	2.6432	2.4289	2.0573
PFLUGERVILLE	FY2001	FY2002	FY2003	FY2004	FY2005	FY2006	FY2007	FY2008
Pflugerville ISD	1.3875	1.4700	1.6900	1.8500	1.8300	1.8500	1.6800	1.4700
City of Pflugerville	0.6424	0.6299	0.6299	0.6417	0.6400	0.6350	0.6240	0.6190
Travis County Healthcare District	-	-	-	-	0.0779	0.0779	0.0734	0.0693
Travis County	0.4988	0.4460	0.4660	0.4918	0.4872	0.4993	0.4499	0.4216
Travis Emergency Service District	0.0975	0.1000	0.1000	0.1000	0.1000	0.1000	0.1000	0.1000
Total	2.6262	2.6459	2.8859	3.0835	3.1351	3.1622	2.9273	2.6799
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GEORGETOWN	FY2001	FY2002	FY2003	FY2004	FY2005	FY2006	FY2007	FY2008
Georgetown ISD	1.7370	1.6850	1.7300	1.7650	1.7550	1.7550	1.6250	1.2900
City of Georgetown	0.3141	0.3071	0.3026	0.3219	0.3463	0.3463	0.3673	0.3566
Williamson County	0.3477	0.3543	0.4254	0.4482	0.4789	0.4662	0.4675	0.4591
Total	2.3988	2.3464	2.4580	2.5352	2.5801	2.5674	2.4598	2.1057
LEANDER	FY2001	FY2002	FY2003	FY2004	FY2005	FY2006	FY2007	FY2008
Leander ISD	1.6211	1.6500	1.7220	1.8300	1.7900	1.7500	1.6438	1.3334
City of Leander	0.4839	0.4790	0.5585	0.5585	0.5566	0.5483	0.5983	0.6076
Williamson County	0.3477	0.3543	0.4254	0.4482	0.4789	0.4662	0.4675	0.4591
Total	2.4527	2.4833	2.7059	2.8367	2.8255	2.7644	2.7096	2.4001
CEDAR PARK	FY2001	FY2002	FY2003	FY2004	FY2005	FY2006	FY2007	FY2008
Leander ISD	1.6211	1.6500	1.7220	1.8300	1.7900	1.7500	1.6438	1.3334
City of Cedar Park	0.4996	0.4482	0.4482	0.4681	0.4881	0.5181	0.5181	0.5081
Williamson County	0.3477	0.3543	0.4254	0.4482	0.4789	0.4662	0.4675	0.4591
Total	2.4684	2.4525	2.5956	2.7463	2.7569	2.7342	2.6294	2.3006

Q: What will my ACC tax actually be?

A: The tax impact on an average-priced home of \$184,780 in Round Rock, less the standard \$5,000 homestead exemption, would be \$179,780. Seniors and disabled homeowners get an additional \$85,000 homestead exemption. Various tax scenarios follow:

<i>Property Value</i>	<i>\$80,000</i>	<i>\$100,000</i>	<i>\$140,000</i>	<i>\$180,000</i>	<i>\$220,000</i>
Regular Homestead					
Monthly	\$ 6.03	\$ 7.64	\$ 10.86	\$ 14.07	\$ 17.29
Annually	\$72.36	\$91.68	\$127.92	\$168.84	\$207.48
Senior/Disabled					
Monthly	No ACC tax	\$ 1.61	\$ 4.83	\$ 8.04	\$ 11.26
Annually		\$19.32	\$57.96	\$96.48	\$135.12
Commercial					
Monthly	\$ 6.43	\$ 8.04	\$ 11.26	\$ 14.48	\$ 17.69
Annually	\$77.16	\$96.48	\$135.12	\$173.76	\$212.28

Q: How much tax revenue would the ACC District receive if RRISD joins, and what would the revenue be used for?

A: The expected revenue is \$8 million. It would be used to support construction and operations.

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. Round Rock hires its workers from throughout the region; thus, there is a need for a regional education resource.

ACC Round Rock Campus

Q: Will ACC build a campus if Round Rock voters choose not to join the ACC District?

A:

- Board policy reads that the college does not build campuses outside the tax district. Round Rock ISD still resides in the ACC District service area, and the ACC District would continue to offer the services at RRHEC.

Q: What new programs and services will the ACC District offer Round Rock that the community does not have now?

A:

- The ACC Board approved a facilities master plan calling for an ACC campus to be built in Round Rock if annexation occurs. ACC has land set aside near RRHEC for campus construction.
- Science labs (currently not available at RRHEC) would be included, providing Round Rock residents access to the full range of transferable general education core curriculum courses.
- Nursing and other allied healthcare programs would become available.

Tuition Comparison

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

A:

Student Tuition Savings		
	Typical 3 credit course	Full Year Tuition (12 hours in fall and spring semesters)
ACC Out-of-District Cost	\$399 per course	\$3,192 per year
ACC In-District Cost	\$162 per course	\$1,296 per year
Student Savings	\$237 per course	\$1,896 per year

Q: How does tuition compare with other four-year colleges and universities?

A:

Local Institutions	Tuition Per SCH	Tuition & Fees 3 SCH	Rank	Tuition & Fees 6 SCH	Rank	Semester
ACC (In-District)	\$ 39	\$ 162	1	\$ 324	1	Fall 2007
ACC (Out-of-District)	\$ 118	\$ 399	4	\$ 798	4	Fall 2007
Temple (In-District)	\$ 67	\$ 201	2	\$ 402	2	Fall 2006
Temple (Out of District)	\$ 103	\$ 309	3	\$ 618	3	Fall 2006
UT Extension		\$ 500	5	\$ 1,000	5	Fall 2006
Texas State - RRHEC (In-State)	\$ 414	\$ 678	6	\$ 1,206	6	Fall 2006
Texas State (In-State)	\$ 414	\$ 796	7	\$ 1,324	7	Fall 2006
Huston-Tillotson	\$ 246	\$ 818	8	\$ 1,609	8	Summer 2006
UT-Austin (In-State)		\$ 1,679	9	\$ 2,480	9	Fall 2006
Concordia	\$ 563	\$ 1,689	10	\$ 3,378	10	Summer 2006
St. Edward's	\$ 628	\$ 1,884	11	\$ 3,768	11	Fall 2006

- ACC is the largest provider of transfer students to the University of Texas and Texas State. As ACC grows so do four-year colleges.

- A community college presence encourages high school graduates to pursue higher education.

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 increasing college enrollment with the *College Connection* Program.

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