

# NEWS RELEASE



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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

November 7, 2011

## **EANES ISD BEGINS PLANNING FOR BOND PLAYGROUND PROJECTS**

*Playgrounds will get safety upgrades, equipment replaced*

**AUSTIN, Texas** –The Eanes Independent School District will begin the design and planning phases for four playground projects, which will improve and replace equipment to meet new standards and safety upgrades. The projects are part of \$3.5 million in playground improvements approved by voters in the May 2011 bond program.

Projects are slated for Bridge Point, Cedar Creek, Eanes and Valley View elementary schools and includes replacing equipment and surfaces that have been damaged due to age and erosion.

The District is researching the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) guidelines which will go into effect for new construction in March of 2012. District officials are meeting with design architects and ADA experts to determine the best course of action that will benefit all students, regardless of disability.

"We want all of our students to benefit from these playground upgrades, while also following the most stringent ADA standards that are feasible," said Dr. Nola Wellman, Superintendent of Schools. "Having the most up-to-date and safe playgrounds enhances learning opportunities and physical activity, which research shows is important in educating students."

Construction times are staggered over the next two years, with the earliest project scheduled to begin January 2012 at Eanes Elementary. Valley View is expected to begin March 2012, Bridge Point (two playgrounds), May 2013 and Cedar Creek, May 2013. These playgrounds will also include retaining walls and erosion improvements.

A complete timeline of bond projects is on the District's website, [www.eanesisd.net/bond](http://www.eanesisd.net/bond).

*The Eanes Independent School District spans 31.2 square miles of scenic Texas Hill Country in Travis County and serves approximately 7,700 students. Schools in Eanes ISD are Westlake High School, Hill Country Middle School, West Ridge Middle School, Barton Creek Elementary, Bridge Point Elementary, Cedar Creek Elementary, Eanes Elementary, Forest Trail Elementary and Valley View Elementary. In 2011, the District and eight campuses were named Exemplary by the Texas Education Agency.*

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