

SCHOOL QUESTIONNAIRE

Health Impact Assessment of I-45N Expansion



OVERVIEW

Air Alliance has been funded by the Urban Institute and Robert Wood Johnson Foundation to conduct a Health Impact Assessment (HIA) that will evaluate the exposures on school campuses to health hazards associated with the I-45 freeway expansion and provide recommendations for protective strategies that could benefit school campuses and surrounding neighborhoods. LINK Houston is partnering with us on the portion of the HIA focused on improving safety for pedestrians, cyclists, and transit-users.

Your school has been identified as one of eight schools in the HISD and AISD districts that would benefit most from strategies to protect students and staff from the potential harmful health effects of traffic and air pollution. The recommendations developed as part of the HIA will include specific proposals to protect the health of students and staff on your campus. It is our hope that their inclusion in the HIA will increase the probability of funding the proposed improvements.

Thank you for sharing information about your school campus that will inform the HIA. Incorporating campus-specific information into the assessment will make it possible to tailor recommended mitigation strategies to the specific needs of your school.

If you have any questions, please contact Bakeyah Nelson at Air Alliance Houston: 713-528-3779.

CONTACT INFORMATION

School Name:

Contact Name:

Contact Department:

Contact Position:

Contact Phone:

Contact Email address:

GENERAL QUESTIONS

We would like to understand a little more about your student body, so we can effectively conduct outreach in your area.

1. **How many students attended your school in the 2017-2018 school year?**
(Official HISD enrollment number)
2. **How many faculty and staff were employed at your school during the 2017-2018 school year?**
(Official HISD number)

3. **From which neighborhoods does your school principally draw students?**
(List up to 5.)
 - a.
 - b.
 - c.
 - d.
 - e.
4. **About what percentage of students are non-native English speakers?**
5. **What are the primary languages other than English spoken in your students' homes?**
6. **About what percentage of students receive free or reduced-price lunch?**

CAMPUS AIR QUALITY QUESTIONS

The following information will help us more accurately analyze air quality on campus.

IDLING

Our first set of questions relates to the extent to which vehicles idle (i.e., sit with the engine running) near campus.

Note: We may visit your campus to observe the number of cars idling while dropping-off and picking-up students and about how long each remains stationary. Similarly, we will also observe bus operations. However, if you can share any information you have about vehicle idling near campus that is most welcome and helpful. Thank you in advance.

7. **Does your school have a “no idling” policy?**

- a. **For the carpool line**
- b. **For school buses**
- c. **For any vehicle parked on or adjacent to campus during school hours**

Yes	No

8. **At what times of day do cars generally idle in the carpool line?**

(Please be specific. For example: from 7:45am-8am in the morning and from 3:00pm-3:30pm in the afternoon.)

Morning	
Afternoon	

9. **About how many cars idle at a time and for how long? Please distinguish between morning drop off and afternoon pick up.**

(For example: Morning: 20 cars; 15 minutes each. Afternoon: 10 cars; 5 minutes each.)

	Number of Cars	Average Number of Minutes
Morning		
Afternoon		

13. What is the average number of minutes that students perform moderate physical activity each week (including PE, sports practice, and recess)? If different age groups perform different amounts of physical activity, please list each group separately.

(For example: 6th grade, 90 minutes. 7th-8th grade, 120 minutes.)

Grade	Number of Minutes Per Week

14. Does your school limit outdoor exercise on extreme heat days or ozone action days?

(Yes/No/Don't Know)

15. What percentage of students at your school has asthma?

16. How many asthma-related absences were documented at your school during the 2015-2016 and 2016-2017 school years?

School Year	Number of Asthma-related Absences
2015-2016	
2016-2017	

17. Please describe your thoughts on how the construction phase of the highway expansion will impact air quality on campus.

(For example: Are you concerned that students will be exposed to dust and construction equipment exhaust?)

STUDENT MOBILITY QUESTIONS

The following information about access to/from school will help us understand how students currently travel and how the highway project may impact their chosen mode of transportation.

18. About what percentage of students are dropped off and/or picked up in the carpool line each day?

19. About what percentage of students walk part or all of the way to and/or from school each day?

20. About what percentage of students bike to and/or from school each day?

21. About what percentage of students ride the school bus to and/or from school each day?

22. About what percentage of students ride METRO to and/or from school each day?
23. About what percentage of students travel less than 1 mile to reach school?
24. About what percentage of students travel less than 2 miles to reach school?
25. About what percentage of students travel to and/or from school each day through a park or on hike-and-bike trails?
26. About what percentage of students cross I-45 to and/or from school each day?
27. Generally, what are other popular off-campus destinations your students walk or bike to (e.g., parks, community centers, libraries, etc.)? Please provide the names of the destinations.
- a.
 - b.
 - c.
 - d.
 - e.
28. Has your school participated in any of the following initiatives in the past two years?
(Please select all that apply.)
- a. Walking school bus
 - b. Cycling school bus
 - c. National walk and bike to school day (typically in October)
 - d. National bike to school day (typically in May)
 - e. Other. Describe _____

FACULTY AND STAFF MOBILITY QUESTIONS

The following information about access to/from school will help us understand how faculty and staff currently travel and how the highway project may impact their chosen modes of transportation.

29. About what percentage of faculty and staff drive alone to and from work each day?
30. About what percentage of faculty and staff carpool to and from work each day?
31. About what percentage of faculty and staff walk part or all of the way to and/or from work each day?
32. About what percentage of faculty and staff bike to and/or from work each day?

33. About what percentage of faculty and staff ride METRO to and/or from work each day?

34. About what percentage of faculty and staff cross I-45 to reach work each day?

MOBILITY INFRASTRUCTURE QUESTIONS

Please share your perception of the level of safety associated with students, faculty, and staff traveling to and/or from your school campus on foot, on a bicycle, or using transit.

Note: We may visit your campus and make notes about infrastructure on streets connecting your school to adjacent neighborhoods, such as: presence of sidewalks, presence/type of crosswalk, speed limits, presence/type of bikeways, and street lighting. However, if you can share any information about dangerous road conditions near campus, it would be most welcome and helpful. Thank you in advance.

35. Can students, faculty, and staff safely cross under the existing highway to access your campus?
(Yes/No/Don't Know)

36. How could the freeway crossing be made safer? Please describe:

37. Please list intersections near campus that the district has identified as hazardous and therefore has placed a crossing guard or is providing bus service, if applicable.

- a.
- b.
- c.
- d.

38. Please list any other intersections your school community deems hazardous.

- a.
- b.
- c.
- d.

39. Are there public safety concerns near your campus that if addressed would likely increase student, faculty, or staff travel by walking, bicycling, or using METRO?

40. Do you have any comments about how you expect the construction phase of the highway project will impact the ability of students, faculty, and staff to safely access campus? Please describe.
(For example: Will it be more difficult for students and staff to access your campus during the construction phase of the project? Are you concerned that construction-related traffic detours might increase traffic volume, congestion, and/or vehicle speed on roads adjacent to your campus?)

STANDING WATER/FLOODING QUESTIONS

We understand that some intersections or areas become temporarily impassible during routine rain events. We are also aware that our region sometimes experiences regional flood events that may impact your buildings.

Please share with us locations on and around your campus that are currently at risk of flooding.

41. Are there particular locations (i.e., intersections, streets) where water collects and prevents students traveling to/from school?
(Yes/No/Don't Know)

42. If yes, please list the intersections and how they impact access to/from school.

Intersection	Barriers to Accessing School When it Floods

43. Did your school experience flood damage during Hurricane Harvey or any other storm event of the past 5 years?
(Yes/No/Don't Know)

44. If yes, how many days of school were missed during the 2015-2016 and 2016-2017 school years due to flooding? Please list the month of the event and the number of days of missed school.
(For example: August/September 2017, missed 10 days of school.)

School Year	Month of Flooding Event	Number of Missed Days of School

45. Is your school campus designated as an emergency shelter in case of an extreme weather event?
(Yes/No/Don't Know)

46. If yes, when has the school served in that capacity over the past 5 years?

School Year	Dates School Served as Emergency Shelter

QUESTIONS FOR THE DISTRICT TRANSPORTATION DEPARTMENT

We are requesting the following information to help us analyze the potential disruption during construction and long-term impacts of the highway project on HISD student body mobility.

47. How many regular program students at each campus travel to/from school via school bus on a typical day?
(Please provide bus service information for the specific campuses we are studying: Bruce Elementary, HAIS, Jefferson Elementary, Roosevelt Elementary, Secondary DAEP, and Young Women’s College Prep in HISD. Aldine High School, Aldine Ninth Grade, and Stovall Middle School in AISD.)

48. Please consider roadway conditions around each campus and along the respective bus routes. Are there any specific locations that are known safety concerns or hazards for buses or students walking and biking? Please describe:

49. Please share any district analysis, lists, maps, etc. regarding hazardous intersections or locations.

50. Please provide a list of locations where crossing guards are utilized at our study schools.

School	Crossing Guard Locations

51. Please provide information on all district bus routes that presently cross I-45N to help us understand construction and long-term potential impacts.