

Subject: URGENT: LISD DAEP Co-Location Plan Raises Major Safety & Liability Concerns — Voters Are Watching Ahead of March 3

Dear Congressman,

I am writing to formally request immediate state-level oversight regarding Lewisville ISD's decision to dismantle its freestanding Disciplinary Alternative Education Program (DAEP) campus and co-locate DAEP programs inside six general education campuses.

This is not a minor operational adjustment. It is a structural safety decision with district-wide implications — and citizens are only now becoming fully aware of what has occurred.

With the March 3 election approaching, voters across LISD communities are mobilizing in large numbers around school safety, transparency, and fiscal accountability. This issue is quickly becoming a defining one for elected officials.

The Public Was Not Meaningfully Notified

The district did not clearly announce that students removed for serious disciplinary violations would be placed inside elementary and comprehensive campuses. Instead:

- An obscure hyperlink was embedded in Superintendent Dr. Rapp's monthly "RAPPort" email blast.
- The materials did not clearly explain what a DAEP is or the behavioral level of students assigned to it.
- Only after parents discovered the proposal and began raising concerns did LISD send limited emails to families at six impacted campuses.
- Homeowners zoned to those campuses were not broadly notified, despite the direct safety and property value implications.
- At approximately the same time, LISD placed the current freestanding DAEP facility under contract for sale — effectively committing the district to this restructuring before transparent community engagement occurred.

Many families are learning about this only now — and they are alarmed.

What a DAEP Is — and Why This Matters

Under Texas Education Code §37.008, DAEP placements are for students removed from their home campuses due to serious misconduct, including:

- Assault causing bodily injury
- Drug and alcohol offenses
- Weapons violations
- Threatening behavior
- Persistent and significant disciplinary infractions

DAEP is not a counseling program. It is a disciplinary removal setting for students whose behavior required separation from their original campus for safety reasons.

For decades, districts have housed DAEP programs in freestanding facilities for clear operational and safety reasons:

- Controlled access and security containment
- Simplified emergency response
- Reduced cross-exposure with elementary populations
- Concentrated specialized supervision
- Lower liability exposure

LISD now proposes to embed these programs within six general education campuses — including elementary schools — asserting that internal construction and separate staff will mitigate concerns.

However, even with renovations, these campuses will still share:

- Campus perimeters
- Arrival and dismissal zones
- Emergency evacuation procedures
- Law enforcement response infrastructure
- Proximity to young general education students

In a post-Uvalde Texas, where the Legislature has prioritized school hardening, clarity of response, and reduction of risk variables, this move introduces complexity and exposure rather than reducing it.

Financial and Legal Exposure

The district's proposal requires:

- Construction and security retrofits at six campuses
- Ongoing staffing allocations at six separate sites
- Duplicated administrative oversight
- Long-term maintenance and operational costs

This multiplies expense rather than centralizes it.

If a preventable incident were to occur involving a general education student, the district — and potentially the state — would face scrutiny over why an established safer structural model was abandoned.

Dispersing DAEP populations across multiple campuses does not eliminate risk; it distributes it.

Regional Norms

High-performing North Texas districts maintain freestanding DAEP campuses because it is operationally sound and reduces risk exposure. That structure is widely regarded as best practice for safety containment and campus climate preservation.

LISD's decision is not aligned with that regional standard.

This Is Now a Voter Issue

Parents, homeowners, and taxpayers across Flower Mound, Highland Village, The Colony, and surrounding communities are organizing and sharing information rapidly.

Citizens who were not meaningfully informed are now fully engaged — and they are voting on March 3.

School safety failures anywhere in Texas have shown that structural decisions made quietly can have irreversible consequences. Communities expect transparency and prudence — not retroactive explanations after contracts are signed and facilities are sold.

Elected officials who take visible action on student safety and fiscal responsibility will be heard. Those who remain silent will also be noted.

Requested Action

I respectfully request that you:

1. Urge the Texas Education Agency to conduct a formal safety audit of LISD's co-location plan.

2. Request LISD's documented security threat assessment and cost analysis.
3. Evaluate whether co-locating DAEP programs with elementary campuses aligns with current state safety priorities.
4. Consider legislation requiring physical separation of DAEP programs from elementary campuses statewide.

This is not about opposing discipline. It is about responsible structural safeguards for all students.

Families are asking for oversight before irreversible decisions are finalized.

Thank you for your leadership on school safety and accountability. I would welcome the opportunity to provide documentation or meet with your staff.

Respectfully,