



Arp ISD: A Vision Becoming Reality

Hello, Arp Tiger Family!

In the fall of 2022, Arp ISD outlined a three-phase plan to address our district's facility needs and prepare for the future. At the time, our student enrollment was growing, and we recognized the importance of planning ahead while remaining financially responsible.

Today, four years later, I am excited to share that Arp ISD is now in the third and final phase of that plan!

Looking back, I am thankful for the foresight, planning, and commitment of our Board of Trustees and staff who have helped turn that vision into reality.

Phase 1: Arp ISD Educational Support Center

Our first phase involved purchasing and renovating the former cable building on East Longview Street. Today, this facility houses our Arp/Troup Shared Services Special Education staff and provides disciplinary alternative education services for Arp ISD and neighboring districts. This investment has allowed us to better utilize our existing facilities while creating additional space at our junior high campus.

Phase 2: Junior High Renovations

The second phase involved renovating former Special Education office areas within our junior high school building to create two additional classrooms. Rather than immediately constructing new facilities, we first looked for ways to maximize the space we already owned. I believe that is an important responsibility we have to our taxpayers.

Phase 3: Junior High Expansion and Elementary Improvements

In 2022, we shared that the final phase would involve constructing four additional classrooms at our junior high school. At that time, we estimated the project would cost approximately \$2 million. To give you an idea of how much construction costs have increased over the past four years, this same project is now projected to exceed \$3 million.

Today, that final phase is becoming a reality!

Construction is well underway on our junior high addition. It has been exciting to watch the foundation take shape and the steel framing rise. An important part of this project is the addition of a storm shelter/classroom area, providing an additional layer of safety for our students and staff.

While much of the attention has been focused on our junior high addition, I also want to highlight the significant investments we have made at our elementary campus.

Our elementary building is now 40 years old and has served generations of Arp Tigers. Over the past several years, particularly this past summer, we have made substantial improvements, including upgraded HVAC ventilation vents, new corridor ceilings and ceiling grids, new insulation, and new water fountains. We have refurbished interior corridor doors, added more secure exterior doors, and installed new bathroom flooring in our second and third-grade hallway.

Some of these improvements are easily noticed, while others are above the ceiling and out of sight. However, all are important to the long-term operation and longevity of our elementary school.

With construction costs continuing to rise, I firmly believe that one of the most financially responsible things we can do is invest in and maintain the facilities we already own. Constructing an entirely new campus would come at an enormous cost to our taxpayers. Our goal is to extend the useful life of our buildings while providing safe, efficient, and high-quality learning environments for our students.

We recognize that additional improvements will be needed at our elementary campus, particularly within our cafeteria, kitchen, office, and classroom areas. We will continue to approach these projects strategically, completing improvements as funding and summer construction schedules allow.

Planning for the Future

As I shared in 2022, enrollment in small rural school districts tends to fluctuate. At that time, our enrollment had climbed to 985 students. Today, we are closer to 900. While our enrollment has declined, our responsibility to maintain and improve our facilities has not.

School buildings are long-term investments. They must serve not only today's students but future generations of Arp Tigers. I am thankful that our district has worked hard to maintain a strong financial position, allowing us to plan for these improvements while remaining mindful of our taxpayers.

Thank You, Arp America!

I want to personally thank our Board of Trustees, faculty, staff, and entire school community for your continued support and trust.

When I look back at 2022, I am reminded that meaningful progress takes vision, planning, financial discipline, and patience. Four years ago, we laid out a plan. Today, we are working to complete it!

We have so much to be thankful for here in Arp America. While our buildings and facilities are important, what truly makes Arp ISD special is the people who fill these campuses each and every day.

Thank you for allowing us the opportunity to serve your children. We remain committed to making Arp ISD the very best it can be!

Shannon Arrington (Coach A.)
Superintendent of Schools
Arp Independent School District