



# GOOSE CREEK

## CONSOLIDATED INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT

### Stephen F. Austin Elementary



**Elementary Schools:** Alamo | Bonnie P. Hopper Primary | David Crockett | George Washington Carver | Harlem | Highlands  
James Bowie | Lorenzo De Zavala | Mirabeau B. Lamar | San Jacinto | Stephen F. Austin | Ashbel Smith | Victoria Walker | William B. Travis

**Junior Schools:** Baytown | Cedar Bayou | Gentry | Highlands | Horace Mann

**High Schools & Others:** Goose Creek Memorial | Impact Early College High School at Lee College | John M. Stuart Career Center  
Peter E. Hyland Center | Robert E. Lee | Ross S. Sterling | School Community Guidance Center

### 3302 Massey-Tompkins Road

Stephen F. Austin Elementary School was first built in 1957. The school was named for Stephen F. Austin, the "Father of Texas". He led a colony of 300 early settlers to Texas from the United States. They were known as "Austin's 300". Some of these families set-tled in the Lynchburg and Highlands area of the Texas territory. The school was demolished in September 1996 and rebuilt in 1997, at the same location.

#### STEPHEN F. AUSTIN

Stephen Fuller Austin (November 3, 1793-December 27, 1836) was known as the "Father of Texas". He led the second and ultimately successful colonization of the region by settlers from the United States. They were known as "Austin's 300". Some of these families settled in the Lynchburg and Highlands area of the Texas territory. Stephen F. Austin was born in southwestern Virginia. His family moved to present-day Missouri when he was only four years old. His family sent him to Transylvania University in Lexington, Kentucky and he graduated in 1810. He then began studying to become a lawyer. He later moved to an area near Little Rock, Arkansas and was named a judge for the First Circuit Court.

His father, Moses Austin had acquired an empresario grant that would allow him to bring 300 Anglo colonists into Texas. These colonists became known as "The Old 300 or Austin's 300". Moses Austin died on June 10, 1821 and left his empresario grant to his son, Stephen. A family that was composed of a husband, wife and two children would receive 1,280 acres at 12.5 cents per acre.

Austin brought the first 300 families to his settlement in Texas in 1825. He gained other contracts to settle an additional 900 families between 1825 and 1829. He also organized a small, armed group to protect the colonists, which evolved into the present-day Texas Rangers. The colonists numbered over 11,000 by 1832.



Austin requested separate statehood for Texas from Mexico in 1833, but Mexico refused, stating that statehood required a population of 80,000. This rejection led to a confrontation with Mexican General Santa Anna's army.

Austin took temporary command of the Texas forces and war began in earnest in October 1835 at Gonzales, Texas. The Republic of Texas was created by a new constitution on March 2, 1836 and the Texans defeated Santa Anna at the Battle of San Jacinto on April 21, 1836.

In October 1836, he ran for president of the "new" Republic of Texas, but lost to Sam Houston. Houston appointed him as the first Secretary of State, but he only served about two months. Austin died of pneumonia on December 27, 1836. He is buried in Texas State Cemetery in Austin, Texas.

Source: [wikipedia.org](http://wikipedia.org)

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