



CELEBRATING 100+ YEARS!

During the mid to late 1800's, the El Campo community developed as a town. As soon as there were children to educate, the schools began and initially met in homes and/or rented buildings. By 1891, a small wooden building served as a school. This one room "school house" stood on a site close to what is now called the Northside Center.

In 1922, the Northside Center (formerly El Campo High School and the Northside School) was built on the same site as the original school built in 1902. The Northside Auditorium was completed in 1923.

We want to thank Arliss Treybig and the Centennial Publications Committee for the information in this introduction and timeline about the Northside School.



Classroom before and after renovation.



Want to learn more about the Northside Center and the renovations of the 100 year+ auditorium, go to: <https://www.northsidecenter.com> or call (979) 543-6750.

PRESENT DAY

Currently, Northside has a total of nine classrooms which include:

- a full computer lab
- CNA Lab
- six traditional classrooms



Northside Center partners with Wharton County Junior College, to offer classes such as:

- Certified Nurse Aide
- Phlebotomy and Pharmacy Tech
- GED/ESL Classes

The Center offers space for meetings and trainings for local businesses and has a public computer lab.

Northside also serves as a community hub for El Campo and its surrounding areas hosting meetings for:



- EC Little League
- Red Wave Swim Team
- 4-H
- FFA
- Five Start Fair Fund
- Boy Scouts of America
- and others.

Various local business offices are located in the Northside Education Center including:

- The City Development Corporation of El Campo
- The Crisis Center of Wharton and Matagorda Counties

The Northside Center offers resources such as WiFi and others to our El Campo residents and finds ways to provide transportation which is a challenge for many residents.

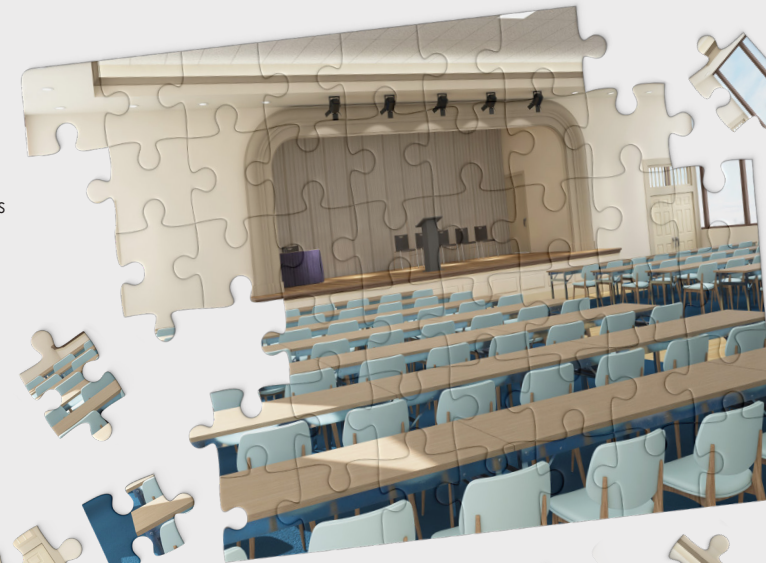
Workforce Development Classes taught at the Center include:

- Quickbooks
- Excel
- Social Media for Business
- Small Business Development Center (SBDC): Financing your business
- SBDC: Writing your Business Plan
- Starting or Expanding your Business Training
- Food Handlers Certification
- TEEX Trainings for Public Works through WCJC
- Job Fairs – Group and Individual
- Realtor Lunch and Learn Meetings

2024 Goals

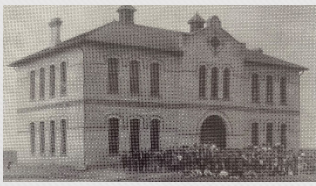
- Expand CNA and Pharmacy Tech classes
- Offer two EMS classes
- Increase Adult Education and Literacy attendance by 10 percent
- Facilitate Workforce Training Focus Groups for El Campo
- Increase awareness of Northside Center in El Campo and the surrounding communities

NORTHSIDE AUDITORIUM THE FINAL PIECE OF THE NORTHSIDE PUZZLE



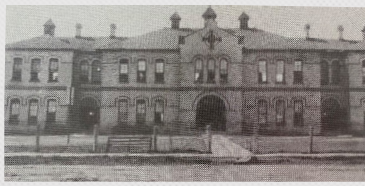
"Each year, the NEC provides services to approximately 2,400 area residents that include 59 percent adults, 35 percent youth and six percent senior citizens. Since 2007, the NEC has enrolled more than 1,800 students in classes at Wharton County Junior College. Since 2014, the NEC has hosted workforce trainings for approximately 300 people per year and close to 15,000 total hours of training,"
Leeanna Shimek, NEC Executive Director.

NORTHSIDE EDUCATION CENTER CELEBRATING 100+ YEARS!



1902

A new school was finally built in 1901 and accepted by the board on January 3, 1902. It was the first brick building and had five rooms.



1922

The first brick building was razed and the older section of the present Northside Center (formerly El Campo High School and the Northside School) was built on the same site.



1929

The high school was enlarged.

1940s

El Campo High School band and choir were one of the finest in the area. The auditorium was used for band concerts, vocal and other student performances, senior plays, and patriotic meetings related to World War II.



1948

A front across the older H-shaped building was added. (In 1991, the 1948 building front was separated from the older portions by removing two classrooms from either wing of the 1922 structure.)

1905

In 1905, four rooms were added, two on each end.

1923

Northside Auditorium Completed - When the auditorium was completed for the new school (old Northside) in 1923, various groups rented the space for their activities including: the A&M Glee Club, the Presbyterian Church, and the Methodist Church.



1930

A gym and additional classrooms were added.

1951

A bond issue passed to finance the building of the present El Campo High School.

1953

The last class graduated from the original high school located at old Northside. Beginning in the 1953-54 school year, the Northside building housed grades one through eight.

1989

In September, the Northside Center Inc. (NCI) proposed expanding the Center to include a Boys and Girls Club and relocating the Wharton County Branch Library at the south end of NCI. The Board sought El Campo ISD's support for a Quasi-Governmental Board involving the City and ECISD, with four permanent Board members and four members appointed by each entity. ECISD endorsed this plan and agreed to transfer the Northside School property to NCI and to provide monthly financial support.

The remodeling plans were halted, and the Northside Elementary was closed in the spring of 1988.

1988

The new Northside School (grades four and five) opened for the 1988-89 school year.

1959-83

Northside School was used for various El Campo ISD programs until 1983.

1988

Northside Health Center, Inc. DBA Northside Center Inc. started in 1988 as a collaboration between El Campo's City and School District. It transformed an 86,000 sq ft school slated for sale into a versatile community hub. Originally named Northside Health Center, Inc., the organization evolved as the business leaders realized the facility's broader potential. A program of needs analysis soon displayed a number of community needs that could be served by the facility.

1984

In 1984, ECISD started a ten-year remodeling project for the Northside School, an 86,000 s.f. facility in the heart of El Campo. A few years into the project, the ECISD School Board found funds available to build a new school building that would be more cost efficient and suitable for elementary students.

1990

In May of 1990, the El Campo Branch of the Boys and Girls Center officially began to serve young people in the community.

1991

The 1948 building front was separated from the older portions by removing two classrooms from either wing of the 1922 structure.

2003

The Northside Education Center officially opened to serve the skills training and higher educational needs of the El Campo community.

2010

Phase Three renovations for WCJC classrooms and Band Hall Renovations for ECISD educational programs.

1996

The south end of the Northside Center Campus was transformed into the El Campo Branch of the Wharton County Library. Being in the heart of El Campo would provide access to citizens of all ages and economic levels, creating a well-rounded, "community serving" center for educational, recreational and social activities in one complex.

1997

In 1997, the University of Houston-Victoria, Wharton County Junior College (WCJC), the CDC and Chamber of Commerce conducted a survey to develop a needs assessment for skills training and higher educational needs. To that end, renovations for NCI renovations began in two phases. Phase One was the front section of the building, and Phase Two was the back of the building along Depot Street.

2008

The Heritage Center officially opened to serve Senior Citizens at Northside by providing meeting space, social events and services.

2022

100 Year Anniversary Celebration for the Northside Center, and renewed planning begins for **the final piece of the Northside puzzle – THE NORTHSIDE AUDITORIUM.**