



## Bond 2017 Highlights

- Interior and exterior renovations at **Buffalo Creek** and **Treasure Forest elementary schools**, including renovated libraries with new skylights and collaboration areas.
- **Cedar Brook Elementary** has a newly renovated library with new skylights and group collaboration area improvements, as well as a six-classroom, music room and science lab addition.
- **Hunters Creek Elementary**, a school replacement project, was completed and opened in August 2021.
- **Bunker Hill Elementary** construction is underway; opening is planned for August 2022.
- **Landrum Middle School**, a school replacement project, was completed and opened in August 2021. Named for Spring Branch ISD's first superintendent, H.M. Landrum, the three-story structure rises behind the original school site.
- **Memorial High School** has completed a new tennis complex and courts, as well as a new turf play field. A four-story classroom and cafeteria addition opens in January 2022.
- **Northbrook High School** renovations underway include extensive progress on water detention in preparation for a new front entry and an 18-classroom addition. A new turf play field installation is complete.
- **Spring Woods High School** completed renovations include a student cafeteria, an extensive library renovation and a new turf play field installation.
- **Stratford High School's** new exterior renovations can't be missed. The auditorium replacement is near completion and a new turf play field installation is complete.

## A Financial Leader: Honors & Awards

SBISD continues to be a responsible steward of your tax dollars. The Financial Services Division consistently earns state and national honors for financial reporting, procurement, purchasing and child nutrition. The Board of Trustees recently recognized this high-performing team for these awards:

- **Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting** for its Annual Comprehensive Financial Report (ACFR) issued by the Government Finance Officers' Association (21+ years)
- **Achievement of Excellence in Procurement Award** issued by the National Purchasing Institute (2 years)
- **Award of Merit for Purchasing** issued by the Texas Association of School Business Officials (9 years)
- **Farm Fresh Challenge "Best of the Bunch" Award** given by the Texas Dept. of Agriculture
- **CenterPoint Energy's Commercial Load Management Standard Offer program**, SBISD has been awarded more than \$144,000 this year for its efficient use of electricity.

The Financial Services Division is led by Associate Superintendent for Finance Christine Porter.



## BOND 2017 Work Progresses

Great progress is being made on the district's 2017 Bond Program, approved by 80 percent of the vote in November 2017. The \$898.4 million bond program impacts every school and Every Child in SBISD. The program includes replacement of the remaining nine oldest elementary schools and one

middle school, district-wide facility improvements and renovations, enhanced safety and security, upgraded athletics, replacement of aged music instruments and uniforms, replacement of older buses and more.

As of December 2021, \$394.9 million of 2017 bond program funds have been expended for bond related projects.

Learn more: [www.springbranchisd.com/bond](http://www.springbranchisd.com/bond)

## Did you know...

Bond funds, approved by voters like you, finance capital improvements like new schools and are paid back over time. Bond proceeds can only be spent on what voters approve, and by law cannot be used for annual expenses like teacher and staff salaries.

SBISD taxpayers aged 65 or older as well as disabled taxpayers have a vital reason to view bond programs in a positive way: Those who have an Over-65 or Disabled exemption don't see increases in their school property tax payments. SBISD "freezes" school taxes at the amount paid the year in which



the Over 65 or Disabled exemption is claimed.

For details, call the SBISD Tax Office at 713-251-7960.

## Tax Rate: Lowest in more than a decade

The Spring Branch ISD Board of Trustees voted earlier this year to adopt a district tax rate of \$1.3043 per \$100 of property valuation, the lowest rate since 2007. The tax rate decreased due to passage of House Bill 3 (HB3) by the 86th Texas Legislature. HB3 has increased public school funding by about \$6 billion. It also has provided tax relief for Spring Branch taxpayers through the new school finance funding formulas, which significantly reduced SBISD's recapture\*, or Robin Hood, payments to the state through local school property taxes.

While SBISD's recapture payment had fallen due to HB3, it is now on its way back up. This year, we estimate SBISD will send \$65 million

to the state of Texas – that means approximately 15 cents of every tax dollar you pay to SBISD is taken away, or recaptured, by the state. Every dollar SBISD sends to the state is a dollar that can't be used to support the education of Spring Branch ISD students. Without relief from the Texas Legislature, SBISD will continue to face significant financial duress due to excessive recapture payments. Reduced enrollment due to COVID-19 further increases SBISD's payment of recapture.

Visit the SBISD Tax Office website (<https://sbisd.tax>) to view the 2021 tax letter and important information about how recapture payments to the state impact our schools.

\*Beginning the 2019-20 school year, recapture is now called **Local Revenue in Excess of Entitlement.**





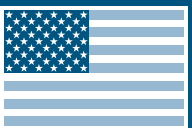
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STARNews is produced by Spring Branch ISD Communications.  
Our goal is to keep retired residents informed about the school district they helped build.



# Career and Technical Education: Opening doors to college & career



“Career and Technical Education provides Every Child with knowledge, skills, and experiences to successfully pursue their T-2-4 goals,” Christina RiceImumwen, SBISD Director of Career and Technical Education, said. “We want to celebrate the level of skills students gain in our programs and how, in partnership with the business community, we’re preparing young people to be productive career professionals and community leaders. We all have a role in supporting CTE.”

According to the Association for Career and Technical Education, research shows that many of the country’s fastest-growing occupations require the technical, communication, time management, and leadership skills taught in CTE programs. CTE programming offers diverse opportunities that draw on student interests across a variety of industries. High school graduates entering college and the workforce with a technical education background earn more than those without this advantage.

**Learn more about the amazing opportunities made possible in SBISD CTE: [springbranchisd.com/cte](http://springbranchisd.com/cte)**



*We salute individuals like Ginger Montgomery, who have given a lifetime of service to the district and its students as an employee and volunteer.*

## A Lifetime of Service

When Ginger Montgomery showed up for an interview at the Driscoll Hotel in Austin, none other than the first superintendent of schools in Spring Branch ISD, Dr. H.M. Landrum, was there to meet with her. She told him she already had an A in the class-yet-to-be-completed, and he accepted that. Two days later, she was hired to work as a first-grade teacher at Housman Elementary, in the 12-year-old school district that was growing by leaps and bounds. Starting annual salary? \$3,600.

Montgomery recalls with gratitude the experienced teachers at Housman were very welcoming, and they took her under their wings. She worked at Housman for three-and-a-half years before leaving to start a family. In 1968, she was hired at Hunters Creek Elementary by principal Mildred Scully. She stayed at Hunters Creek for the remainder of her career, retiring in 1996 after 32 years of service. “In all my years here, I can truly say that I was supported, listened to and given opportunities to grow professionally.”

When asked what her proudest

moment was as a teacher, Montgomery said that seeing a child read for the first time or have a breakthrough with finding a place among peers were “a thrill.”


After retiring, Montgomery was looking for a way to get back in a school. Through her church, Memorial Drive United Methodist Church (MDUMC), she heard about volunteering as a SpringBoard mentor, and decided, “This is a good fit for me!” In this program, mentors are trained, then matched with a student “on the brink of success.”

Montgomery was matched with Lizbeth L. when the student was in third grade at Hollibrook Elementary. With encouragement from Montgomery and teachers, and a lot of self-motivation, Lizbeth made good grades and excelled. “Lizbeth is now thriving at college and having life experiences she has never had before,” Montgomery said. Lizbeth plans to work towards becoming an engineer.

To learn how you can become an SBISD mentor visit [springbranchisd.com/engage/mentors](http://springbranchisd.com/engage/mentors).

## Celebrating 75 Years

Our district has grown and changed considerably since 1946, but our commitment to children, families, and the community remains the same: to Inspire Minds and Shape Lives. We’re commemorating this year by uniting our students, staff, alumni, families, and friends. Please look for information coming soon about our 75th-anniversary celebration - *Spring Branch ISD Super Saturday: Unity Within The Community*, organized by SBISD students.



Spring Branch Independent School District

# STARCard

Seniors Take A Role

**Benefits include:**

- Free admission to SBISD regular season “home game” athletic events (playoffs not included)
- Free admission to student performances (some seats are limited and advance ticket pick-up may be required)
- 10 percent off on Wednesdays at Blue Willow Books, 14532 Memorial Drive

STARCards are distributed free of charge to citizens 65 or older who reside in SBISD.

It’s our way of saying “**Thanks!**” for all you’ve done, and continue to do to support our district.

**To get your STARCard and earn these discounts, please contact:**

SBISD Communications  
(713) 251-2272