



# Dallas ISD Branding and Style Guidelines

---

Communication Services

*For the staff of the*  
DALLAS INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT

# Table of Contents

|  |    |  |       |   |              |
|--|----|--|-------|---|--------------|
| Introduction .....                               | 3  | Seasons .....                                    | 21    | Quotation mark .....                            | 45           |
| <b>Branding Guidelines</b>                       |    | Spacing Between Sentences.....                   | 21    | Italics.....                                    | 45           |
| District Logo .....                              | 4  | Subject Names.....                               | 22    | Semicolon.....                                  | 45-46        |
| Correct Use.....                                 | 5  | Telephone Numbers .....                          | 22    | Lists.....                                      | 46           |
| Incorrect Use .....                              | 6  | Texas Driver License .....                       | 22    | Narrative Lists .....                           | 47           |
| Department Identifiers.....                      | 7  | Titles .....                                     | 22    | Word Usage.....                                 | 48           |
| Program Identifiers .....                        | 8  | Producing Documents in Languages                 |       | Words Often Confused .....                      | 49           |
| Initiative Identifiers .....                     | 8  | Other than English.....                          | 23    | Advice/Advise.....                              | 49           |
| Iconography .....                                | 9  | Superintendent’s Stationery.....                 | 24    | Affect/Effect.....                              | 49           |
| District Typography.....                         | 10 | External Correspondence.....                     | 25    | As/Like.....                                    | 49           |
| Color Palette .....                              | 11 | Correspondence to Government Officials .....     | 26    | Assure/Ensure/Insure.....                       | 49           |
| <b>Our Brand in Action</b>                       |    | Internal Correspondence.....                     | 27    | A while/Awhile .....                            | 50           |
| PowerPoint Template.....                         | 12 | WAIP-Weekly Administrative                       |       | Between/Among.....                              | 50           |
| Letterhead and Memo .....                        | 13 | Information Packet.....                          | 28    | Can/May.....                                    | 50           |
| Envelope.....                                    | 14 | Emails .....                                     | 29    | Capital/Capitol.....                            | 50           |
| Business Cards.....                              | 15 | General Email Guidelines.....                    | 29    | Cite/Site .....                                 | 50           |
| <b>Editorial Guidelines</b>                      |    | Email Formatting.....                            | 29    | College ready.....                              | 50           |
| Official Style Guide Reference .....             | 16 | Board Agenda Items .....                         | 30    | Complement/Compliment.....                      | 51           |
| Abbreviations.....                               | 17 | Publications .....                               | 31    | Compose/Comprise/Constitute/Include.....        | 51           |
| Acronyms.....                                    | 17 | Brochures, Flyers, Newsletters, and Posters..... | 31    | Continual/Continuous.....                       | 51           |
| Addresses .....                                  | 17 | Manuals and Reports.....                         | 31    | Farther/Further .....                           | 51           |
| Addressing Students’ Parents/Guardians.....      | 18 | Dallas ISD Equal Opportunity Statement .....     | 32    | Fewer/Less.....                                 | 52           |
| Board of Trustees.....                           | 18 | Official Board Pages.....                        | 32    | Field house .....                               | 52           |
| Career Pathways and Programs of Study.....       | 18 | References and Citations.....                    | 32    | First come, first served .....                  | 52           |
| Clubs and Organizations .....                    | 18 | Citing Laws, Rules and Regulations.....          | 32    | Foreword/Forward .....                          | 52           |
| Comma in a Series.....                           | 18 | Citing Bills.....                                | 33    | Groundbreaking .....                            | 52           |
| Contractions .....                               | 18 | Citing Publications.....                         | 33    | Internet/Intranet.....                          | 52           |
| Courtesy Titles.....                             | 19 | Online Citations .....                           | 33    | Kickoff/Kick off/Kick-off.....                  | 52           |
| Days of the Week, Months, and Years .....        | 19 | Copyright Infringement .....                     | 34    | Login/Logon/Logoff – Log in/Log on/Log off..... | 52           |
| Department Names.....                            | 19 | Printing.....                                    | 34    | May/Should .....                                | 53           |
| District Name.....                               | 19 | Publication Approvals .....                      | 34    | Must/Will.....                                  | 53           |
| Educational Jargon.....                          | 19 | Acronyms.....                                    | 35-36 | Online/Offline .....                            | 53           |
| Email.....                                       | 20 | Capitalization.....                              | 37    | Only.....                                       | 53           |
| Email and Internet Addresses.....                | 20 | Ethnic Groups.....                               | 37    | Over/More Than .....                            | 53           |
| Facility Names .....                             | 20 | Official Bodies.....                             | 37    | Principal/Principle.....                        | 53           |
| Grade Levels.....                                | 20 | Other .....                                      | 37    | Ribbon cutting/Ribbon-cutting.....              | 53           |
| Hyphenating Words in Headlines and Headings..... | 20 | Numbers .....                                    | 38-39 | That/Which .....                                | 54           |
| Hyphenation .....                                | 20 | Punctuation .....                                | 40    | Underway.....                                   | 54           |
| Numbers .....                                    | 20 | Ampersand.....                                   | 40    | Workday/Workweek.....                           | 54           |
| Prefixes and Suffixes.....                       | 21 | Apostrophe .....                                 | 40    | Workforce .....                                 | 54           |
| Prekindergarten .....                            | 21 | Colon.....                                       | 40    | Workforce ready .....                           | 54           |
| Proofing.....                                    | 21 | Comma .....                                      | 40-42 | World Wide Web .....                            | 54           |
| Program Names .....                              | 21 | Ellipses .....                                   | 42    |   |              |
| School Names .....                               | 21 | Em Dash.....                                     | 42-43 | <b>Official School Names .....</b>              | <b>55-59</b> |
|  |    | Hyphen.....                                      | 44    | <b>Official Facility Names .....</b>            | <b>60-61</b> |
|  |    | Parentheses .....                                | 43-44 |   |              |
|  |    | Period .....                                     | 44    |   |              |



## Introduction

The Dallas Independent School District's Branding and Style Guide is designed to assist writers and designers who create letters, newsletters, reports, presentations and publications. It contains information and examples to help writers and creators of printed and electronic collateral (letters, reports, publications, PowerPoint presentations, websites, etc.) maintain the integrity of the district's brand.

An organization's brand represents the relationship between the organization and its stakeholder audience, the community and staff. A brand is represented by elements such as an organization's logo, its color palette, the design of its publications, and the words and messages featured in its various communications. The Dallas ISD brand represents our district's fundamental values and personality, which is why building and sustaining a strong brand is critical to our image and the public's perception of our organization.

The goal of a style guide is to help writers craft and format copy that readers can easily understand. Style guidelines ensure that written documents are uniform across the organization. To assist writers, the Dallas ISD Style Guide provides basic rules of grammar and punctuation, word usage, definitions of commonly used acronyms, copyright rules, etc.

The guide will be most useful to writers who consult it regularly. Consider keeping it at hand both in print and digital format alongside other essential writing tools such as a dictionary and thesaurus. Questions about this guide may be directed to the Dallas ISD Communication Services Department at (972) 925-3900. An electronic copy of the guide, official logos and letterhead are available for download at [www.dallasisd.org/brandingandstyle](http://www.dallasisd.org/brandingandstyle).



## District Logo

Our logo is a representation of our promise to our stakeholders, the community and our staff. The new Dallas ISD master brand logo honors the legacy of the previous logo by including the profile and sunburst as the visual anchors. Instead of the profile and sunburst being set within the “D,” the letter is now free standing and to the right of the wordmark “Dallas Independent School District.”

The new design shifts the focus from the letter “D” to the word Dallas, which represents the city of Dallas and distinguishes Dallas ISD from other school districts that use the “DISD” acronym. Retaining the sunburst and the profile of a child point to our organization mission.

The master brand logo always appears in the same form, with the profile and sunburst to the right and the wordmark to the left. The wordmark appears in all caps and is stacked vertically. The approved colors for the Dallas ISD logo are Primary Blue and white per the examples below. The color palette for publications appears on page eight of this guide.

To maintain brand integrity, no alterations should be made to the logo or wordmark. The full color Primary Blue logo is our preferred version and should be used across all communication vehicles, where possible. The second color option is white. Both versions are available for download from the Intranet at [inet.dallasisd.org](http://inet.dallasisd.org). When documents are printed in black and white, the logo will appear black.

The district logo lends credibility to our brand. When used in tandem with another organization’s logo, the master Dallas ISD logo must always be present and appear as the dominant logo.



## Correct Use

### Logo clear space and size

The minimum amount of clear space around the district logo is the height of the "D" in "Dallas" all around.




The logo should never appear smaller than 1.25" wide.



Where the logo is used on specialty items that require a smaller logo size - such as pens, notebooks and other promotional items, always ensure adequate legibility.

### Logo Color

The logo must be presented in Pantone 274 or white.

|   |               |          |             |
|---|---------------|----------|-------------|
|  | Pantone 274   |          |             |
|   | CMYK          | RGB      | Hexadecimal |
|   | 100 100 34 36 | 33 33 81 | 211650      |

### Backgrounds

Logos may be placed on a background that provides good contrast, legibility and visibility.



*White logo on Primary Blue*



*Color logo on background image*

## Incorrect Use

The district's master logo cannot be changed in any way, embedded into text or sentences or used over patterns. This applies to all logos and not just the Dallas ISD master brand logo.

### Don't:



*Change the logo colors*



*Change the logo proportions*



*Add drop shadows*



*Outline the logo*



*Rotate the logo*



*Place the logo on a busy background*



*Crop the logo*



*Rearrange the elements of the logo*

## Department Identifiers

To standardize and maintain the integrity of the Dallas ISD brand, new identity standards have been established for all central staff departments. In lieu of individual logos, departments will now identify themselves by linking their brand identity to the district's logo.

Two approved formats are available for use as department identifiers:



*Horizontal format in Primary Blue*



*Horizontal format in white*



*Stacked format in Primary Blue*



*Stacked format in white*

## Program Identifiers

A program is generally a short-term plan designed to achieve a specific result. It is often a temporary endeavor with a definite beginning and end. It does not necessarily have a time limit and can be recurring in nature e.g., seasonal, yearly.

Program identifiers will be text treatments with no profile, sunburst or icons of any kind. The program name appears in title case using Roboto Slab Regular font. "DALLAS ISD" will appear below the program name in all caps stacked vertically using Trade Gothic Condensed No. 189 font.

The program identifier should always be one color: Primary Blue (Pantone 274) or white.

New Teacher Academy  
DALLAS ISD

New Teacher Academy  
DALLAS ISD

New Teacher Academy  
DALLAS ISD

## Initiative Identifiers

An initiative is generally a new, innovative approach to dealing with an issue. It solves a challenge or problem and is normally a short-term endeavor; however, it can last as long as required, to achieve the desired result.

Initiatives identifiers have a simplified illustrative style and are matched with consistent typography and colors to align with the district brand. The initiative name is located on the first line next to a district approved icon. The icon will appear as a single color in Primary Blue (Pantone 274). "DALLAS ISD" will appear as a second line in all caps. If the initiative name is an acronym and needs to be spelled out, text spelling out the acronym may be inserted between the first and second line.

The initiative identifier should always be two colors. The initiative name will be in Primary turquoise (Pantone 7716) and the remaining lines will be in Primary Blue (Pantone 274).

The program identifier should always be one color: Primary Blue (Pantone 274) or white.

 **ALAANA**  
AFRICAN | LATINX | ASIAN | ARAB | NATIVE AMERICAN  
DALLAS ISD MULTICULTURAL READING INITIATIVE

 **ALAANA**  
AFRICAN | LATINX | ASIAN | ARAB | NATIVE AMERICAN  
DALLAS ISD MULTICULTURAL READING INITIATIVE

 **ALAANA**  
AFRICAN | LATINX | ASIAN | ARAB | NATIVE AMERICAN  
DALLAS ISD MULTICULTURAL READING INITIATIVE

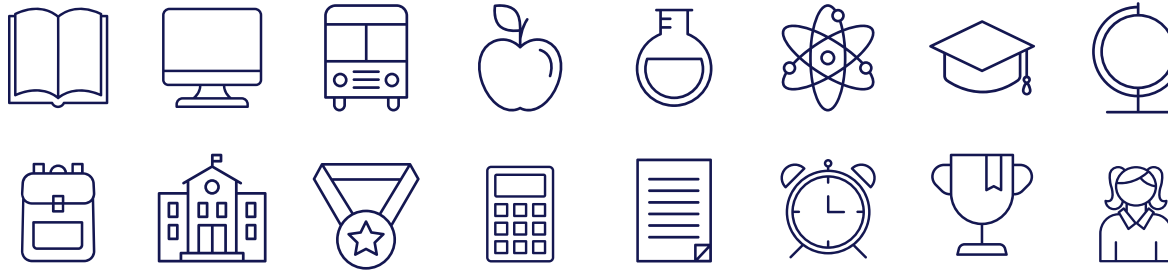


## Iconography

Icons convey specific ideas or concepts in an abbreviated, visual way.

Simple single-color icons should be used with initiative identifiers in Primary Blue (Pantone 274). See page 8 for initiative identifier guidance.

For all other presentations and graphics, (PowerPoint presentations, infographics, flyers, posters, etc.) a simple, linear, single-color icon should be used. Icons may be any single color from the Dallas ISD color palette. Refer to page 11 for the district color palette.



## District Typography

Consistent typography is fundamental in creating a distinctive Dallas ISD brand identity. A powerful brand signifier, typography reaffirms a brand.

Our organization's typeface for correspondence, reports, etc. is Arial Regular. In correspondence, Arial 10 should be used for body type.

### **Arial Regular**

ABCDEFGHIJKLMNOPQRSTUVWXYZ

abcdefghijklmnopqrstuvwxyz

1234567890

## Color Palette

Our new color palette is simple yet dynamic. It helps to convey Dallas ISD's organization brand and creates a consistent brand image. The color palette featured below differs from the color palette designated for the district's logo. This palette should only be used in graphic design of publications and presentations. The graphic design color palette is separated into primary and secondary colors.

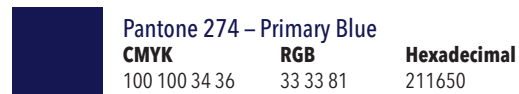
The primary colors are to be used as the prominent colors in all visual products. When applied correctly and consistently, these colors will drive brand recognition.

The secondary colors have been selected to accent the primary colors and should be used sparingly.

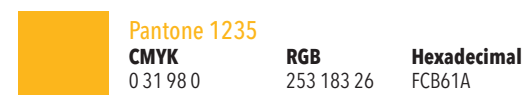
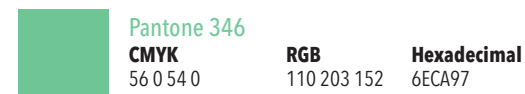
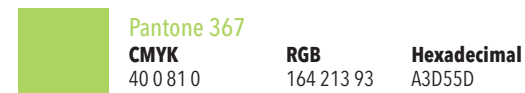
When using multiple colors in collateral products (publications, websites, etc.), the following rules should apply:

- Where possible, use Primary Blue as the preferred first choice.
- Use only one secondary color.
- Never use more than four colors: three primary colors + one secondary color

### Primary

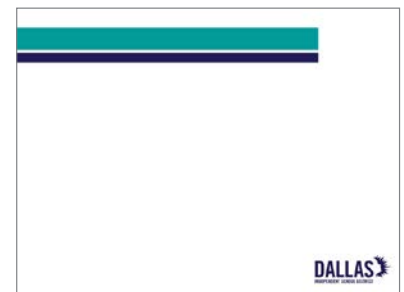


### Secondary



## PowerPoint Template

The district's official PowerPoint template is available for download from [www.dallasisd.org/brandingandstyle](http://www.dallasisd.org/brandingandstyle).



## Letterhead and Memo

Letterhead and memo templates are available for download from [www.dallasisd.org/brandingandstyle](http://www.dallasisd.org/brandingandstyle). They are also available for purchase from the Graphics Department by calling 972.925.3178.

MICHAEL HINOJOSA, ED.D.  
SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS

**DALLAS**  
INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT

DATE:  ACTION

TO:  
FROM:  
SUBJECT:

---

9400 N. CENTRAL EXPRESSWAY | DALLAS, TEXAS 75231 | 972.925.3700 | WWW.DALLASISD.ORG

MICHAEL HINOJOSA, ED.D.  
SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS

**DALLAS**  
INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT

DATE:  INFORMATION

TO:  
FROM:  
SUBJECT:

---

9400 N. CENTRAL EXPRESSWAY | DALLAS, TEXAS 75231 | 972.925.3700 | WWW.DALLASISD.ORG

MICHAEL HINOJOSA, ED.D.  
SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS

**DALLAS**  
INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT

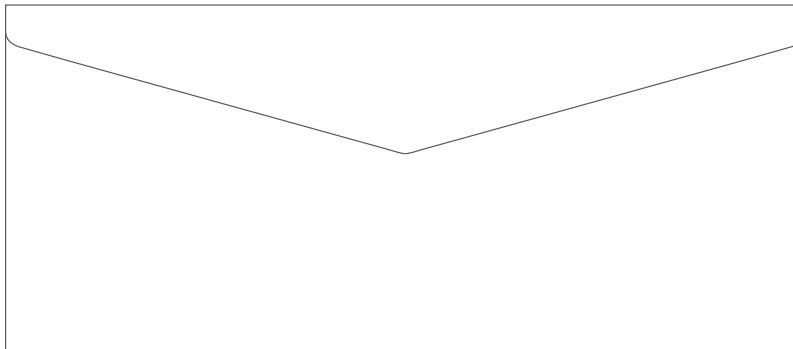
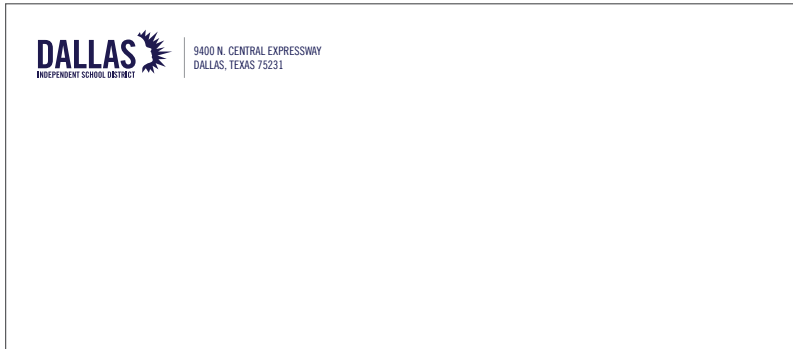
TO:  
FROM:  
SUBJECT:

---

9400 N. CENTRAL EXPRESSWAY | DALLAS, TEXAS 75231 | 972.925.3700 | WWW.DALLASISD.ORG

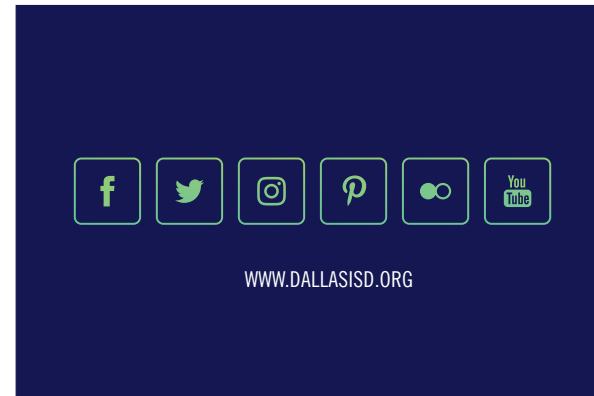
## Envelope

Envelopes are available for purchase from the district's Graphics Department by calling (972) 925-3178.



## Business Cards

Business cards are available for purchase from the district's Graphics Department by calling (972) 925-3178.



## Official Style Guide References

The primary source of the rules in the Dallas ISD Style Guide is the latest edition of the Associated Press Stylebook. Generally considered a guide to news writing, the AP Stylebook provides guidance on a variety of writing questions. Its major focus is providing writing guidance for representatives of the news media, however it is an ideal companion for any writer who seeks to create copy that can be clearly understood by the average reader.

The AP Stylebook may not agree with the Dallas ISD Style Guide in every instance. In these cases, writers should look to the district style guide as their primary reference.



## Editorial Guidelines

### Abbreviations

Abbreviations should be avoided in communications and most text formats—especially if they cannot be quickly recognized by the reader. Exceptions include titles before or after a name or after company names.

*Examples:*

- (1) Dr. Jane Smith
- (2) Gregg Lamb, Ph.D.
- (3) Coca-Cola Co.
- (4) Happy Times Inc.

Abbreviate Jan., Feb., Aug., Sept., Oct., Nov., and Dec. when used with a specific date. Also abbreviate a.m., p.m., A.D., B.C., and No. when used with figures.

*Examples:*

- (1) School starts Aug. 16.
- (2) He was born Nov. 12, 1957.
- (3) 9 a.m.
- (4) No. 6

The abbreviation “i.e.” stands for “that is,” and “e.g.” is an abbreviation of “for example.” Generally, it is just as easy to use “for example” or “that is,” but if either abbreviation is used, they should be preceded and followed by a comma.

*Examples:*

- (1) He bought an assortment of school supplies, i.e., pencils, pens, erasers, and notebook paper.
- (2) At the center, students study a variety of small forest animals, e.g., squirrels, raccoons, and rabbits.

### Acronyms

The use of acronyms to identify entities and programs is discouraged and should be avoided in communications with parents and the community. An acronym should never be used as the first reference to an entity or program. If necessary, it may be used for a second reference. However, the use of other terms to refer to the entity or program are preferable.

Spell out terms such as Accelerating Campus Excellence (ACE) followed by the acronym in parenthesis on first reference. On second and following references, use only the acronym without parentheses. See page 14 for a list of common acronyms used by the district and the terms from which they’re derived.

*Examples:*

- (1) He took the State of Texas Assessments of Academic Readiness (STAAR). The STAAR is a state-mandated measure of academic proficiency.
- (2) Each of the teachers received a copy of the school’s Campus Improvement Plan (CIP). The plan has several components.

### Addresses

Abbreviate Ave., Blvd., and St. with a numbered address, but spell out all similar words—drive, lane, road. Spell out and capitalize when part of a formal street name without a number. Spell out and lowercase when used alone or with more than one street name.

Spell out street names First through Ninth. Use figures for 10th and above. Abbreviate directional ends of a street—N., S., E., W.

*Exception:*

When using the address for Nolan Estes Plaza use 3434 S. R.L. Thornton Freeway for clarification.

*Examples:*

- (1) The district's address is 9400 N. Central Expressway
- (2) The William H. Cotton Service Center is located on Lamar Street.
- (3) You can send the package to 12532 Nuestra Drive.
- (4) The building is on the corner of Smith and Davis roads.
- (5) 1201 E. Eighth St.

### **Addressing Students' Parents/Guardians**

To be respectful of the many and varied family structures of students who attend the Dallas ISD, all letters, forms, and requests for personal information or signatures from students' parents or guardians must be addressed as follows:

- Mother/Guardian
- Father/Guardian
- Parent/Guardian
- All Dallas ISD Parents/Guardians

### **Board of Trustees**

References to the Dallas Independent School District Board of Trustees or the Board of Trustees as an entity are capitalized. When referring to to the board without using its full, official name, board is not capitalized. Members of the Dallas Independent School District Board of Trustees should be referred to as "trustees."

*Examples:*

- (1) The Board of Trustees voted to approve the budget.
- (2) In Texas, school boards are responsible for policy.
- (3) Trustee Jane Doe will speak to students on Monday.
- (4) John Smith, the trustee for District 8, will address parents.

### **Career Pathways and Programs of Study**

The terms career pathways and programs of study as well as the names of specific career pathways and programs of study are not capitalized.

*Example:*

Education, business and communications, and engineering and technology are the career pathways offered at David W. Carter High School.

### **Clubs and Organizations**

Do not capitalize the names of student clubs and organizations unless the name is unique to that particular club or an official name.

*Example:*

Students may participate in chess club, photography club, student council and Future Teachers of America.

### **Comma in a Series**

Include a comma before the last item in a series: A, B, and C, not A, B and C. See the section on Punctuation for more information on the proper use of commas and other punctuation.

### **Contractions**

Avoid using contractions in communications with parents and community and most text formats as they reflect informal speech and writing. Exceptions include the word as part of a direct quotation.

*Correct:*

are not  
cannot

*Incorrect:*

aren't  
can't

Remember, "it's" (with an apostrophe) means it is and "its" (without the apostrophe) is the possessive form of the word it.

### **Courtesy Titles**

Except when used in addressing a letter, a salutation, or a direct quotation, courtesy titles—Dr., Mr., Mrs., Ms.—are not used in a first or subsequent references.

*Examples:*

- (1) The district has appointed John Smith as the district’s new chief operations officer. Smith served as assistant superintendent for School Support Services for the El Paso Independent School District.
- (2) The high school is named in honor of Emmett J. Conrad, who was a surgeon on the staff of St. Paul Hospital. Conrad served as a board trustee for 10 years.

### **Days of the Week, Months, and Years**

Always capitalize days of the week and never abbreviate them. Spell out the months when using alone or with only the year. Abbreviate Jan., Feb., Aug., Sept., Oct., Nov., and Dec. when used with a specific date. Always use all four digits of the year.

When using a day of the week and the date, set off the date with commas. When using a month, day, and year in a sentence, set off the year with commas. When using only a month and year, do not separate the year with commas.

*Exception:*

In communications from the superintendent’s office, do not abbreviate the month.

*Examples:*

- (1) Monday, Aug. 27, is the first day of school.
- (2) The elementary school opened in January 2007.
- (3) The district used the program until Sept. 1, 2006, at which time it adopted a new program.
- (4) The ratings are from the 2016-2017 school year.

### **Department Names**

Official administrative department names are capitalized. Functions are not.

*Examples:*

- (1) The Purchasing Department will advertise for bids.
- (2) Some new guidelines have been prepared for purchasing.

### **District Name**

Dallas Independent School District is the official name of the district. No previous or other name for the district should be used.

Dallas ISD is an abbreviation of the official name and may be used in second references. This also applies to communications written in Spanish. To avoid confusion with other area school districts, the abbreviation “DISD” should never be used. When used in text, “the” is used prior to both the full name and the abbreviation.

*Example:*

The Dallas Independent School District has raised the accountability ratings at several schools. Officials of the Dallas ISD are pleased with these ratings.

### **Educational Jargon**

Avoid using words that are familiar only to educators. Use words that are understood by the general public. See the section on Word Usage for more information.

### **Email**

The “e” in email is lowercase, and the word is not hyphenated. Use a hyphen with other “e” terms: e-book, e-business, e-commerce.

### **Email and Internet Addresses**

Follow the spelling and capitalization of the website owner. It is not necessary to include "http://" or "https://."

If an address falls at the end of a sentence, use a period. If an address breaks between lines, split it directly after a slash, dot, or @ that is part of the address; do not insert a hyphen.

*Examples:*

- (1) You can find information about the district on Facebook (not Facebook.com.)
- (2) The district's website address is www.dallasisd.org.
- (3) For information about lunch programs, email John Smith at john.smith@dallasisd.org.

### **Facility Names**

In the first reference, the official name of a administrative or athletic facility should be used in its entirety. For a list of the official facility names, see page 17. In second reference, the name may be shortened.

*Example:*

The meeting will be held at the Forest E. Ballew Service Center. Entrance to the service center is off of Al Lipscomb Way.

### **Grade Levels**

Spell out grades one through nine or first through ninth. Use Arabic numbers for grades 10, 11, and 12 or 10th, 11th, and 12th. Do not hyphenate prekindergarten. In communications with the community and most text formats, do not abbreviate grade levels.

Grade levels may be abbreviated in graphs, charts, and tables. Use "pre-K" to abbreviate prekindergarten. Always hyphenate "grader," whether using as a noun or adjective.

*Examples:*

- (1) Only grades three through 10 will be affected.
- (2) The program serves first- and second-graders.
- (3) first-grader John Doe

### **Hyphenated Words in Headlines and Headings**

If using hyphenated words in headlines and document titles and headings, both words should be capitalized. In normal text, capitalize only the first word.

*Examples:*

- (1) (headline) Dallas ISD Announces Its First-Ever Athletic Hall of Fame
- (2) (normal text) He received an invitation to the Jose "Joe" May Elementary School Ribbon-cutting Ceremony.

### **Hyphenation**

It is acceptable to allow Word or other word-processing programs to break words between lines in documents and publications. However, do not break proper names and titles between lines.

### **Numbers**

Spell out both cardinal and ordinal numbers from one through nine and when a sentence begins with a number. Use figures for 10 and above. See the section on Numbers for a complete list of rules for using numbers.

### **Prefixes and Suffixes**

Do not hyphenate prefixes, except if the word that follows a prefix is a proper noun or the prefix ends in a vowel and the word following begins with the same vowel. Two exceptions to this second rule are the words “cooperate” and “coordinate.” Suffixes are not hyphenated, including words ending in “wide.”

*Examples:*

- (1) prekindergarten
- (2) nonrefundable
- (3) postscript
- (4) nonexempt
- (5) re-entry
- (6) districtwide
- (7) ageless

### **Prekindergarten**

Prekindergarten is one word. The acceptable abbreviation is pre-K.

### **Proofing**

Carefully review and proofread all correspondence for errors in spelling or grammar. Remember that spell checkers do not catch mistakes in usage of such words as “their” and “there.” You can use the “find” and “replace” tools to double check your use of such words.

### **Program Names**

Only the official names of specific programs are capitalized. If the word “program” is part of the official title, it should be capitalized.

*Examples:*

- (1) The Talented and Gifted Program has been expanded.
- (2) The school offers after-school programs for the talented and gifted.
- (3) The English as a Second Language program helps students develop proficiency in the English language.

### **School Names**

In the first reference, a school’s official name should be used in its entirety. For a list of the official school names, see page 18. In second reference, the name may be shortened. The phrases “all-girls school” and “all-boys school” have a compound adjective referring to a kind of school and require a hyphen and no apostrophe. They may be used as a second or descriptive reference to the district’s single-gender schools.

*Examples:*

- (1) The School of Science and Engineering at Yvonne A. Ewell Townview Center received numerous awards.  
The three top winners in the science contest are students at the science and engineering magnet.
- (2) The company has formed a partnership with Clinton Russell Elementary School. They gave each student at Russell Elementary a box of supplies.
- (3) The girls attend Irma Rangel Young Women’s Leadership School. That is the district’s first all-girls school.

### **Seasons**

Do not capitalize seasons of the year. If using with a year, there is no comma between the season and the year.

*Correct:*  
spring 2017

*Incorrect:*  
Spring, 2017

### **Spacing Between Sentences**

Do not double space after a period or other punctuation at the end of a sentence or after a colon when used in a sentence or a list. Word-processing programs automatically insert one and one half spaces when the space bar is struck after a period. Inserting a second space can leave large gaps between sentences in text that uses full justification.

The outdated practice of double spacing is a carryover from when typewriters with monospaced typefaces (fixed-width fonts) were used. It was standard practice to use two spaces after a period so it was easier to see when one sentence ended and the next began.

### **Subject Names**

Areas of instruction and specific subjects are not capitalized, with the exception of languages, such as English, Spanish, or Vietnamese. The name of a department specializing in a subject area may be capitalized.

*Examples:*

- (1) Jim's sister likes mathematics best, but Spanish is Jim's favorite subject.
- (2) The Reading Department has issued new guidelines.

### **Telephone Numbers**

District style for telephone numbers is: (972) 925-3700.

### **Texas Driver License**

Texas, along with many other states, use the term "driver license." On the Texas Department of Public Safety's website, the term is capitalized; therefore, "Driver License" should be capitalized when referring to the specific term.

*Examples:*

Please bring your valid Texas Driver License.

In general references, use driver's license with an apostrophe.

*Examples:*

Please bring a valid driver's license.

### **Titles**

Titles used before a name are capitalized. Titles that follow the name are in lower case. Do not capitalize titles when the proper name is set off by commas.

With the exception of the superintendent of schools and members of the Board of Trustees, courtesy titles such as Dr., Ph.D., and Ed.D. are not used to identify district employees in published information, including programs, directories, newsletters, and the district's website. Courtesy titles may be used in letters and other district correspondence if it is certain the courtesy title is legitimate.

To find titles of district administrators, review the Dallas ISD Organization Chart on the School Leadership Web page.

*Examples:*

- (1) Executive Director Jane Doe called a principals' meeting on Thursday.
- (2) John Smith, director - Athletics Department, was first on the agenda.
- (3) The superintendent of schools, Michael Hinojosa, attended the meeting.

## Producing Documents in Languages Other than English

The Translation Services Department within the Dallas ISD Communications Department provides language support to schools and parents to assist in communicating academic information and promoting participation in school-related activities.

Dozens of languages are spoken in Dallas ISD, with English, Spanish, and Vietnamese being the three most widely used. In order to keep Dallas' Spanish and Vietnamese speaking communities well informed about the district's programs and policies, the staff of Translation Services translates key district and school-based documents and communications into Spanish and Vietnamese for public distribution in print and on the Internet. Documents include letters to parents from schools and departments and documents that have districtwide importance such as the Student Code of Conduct, Student Handbook, and student evaluations and assessments.

To ensure that communications in languages other than English are consistent and of high quality, schools and departments are encouraged to use the services provided by Translation Services. The department can also provide assistance in locating translation support for languages other than Spanish and Vietnamese. Be sure to allow time for translations when planning your communications.

Documents submitted for translation are processed in the order received. Document translation is available in English, Spanish, and Vietnamese. For this service, download and complete the Translation Request Form available for download from the Intranet, attach the document to be translated, and send them to [translations@dallasisd.org](mailto:translations@dallasisd.org).

## Superintendent's Stationery

Letters from the superintendent should be printed on the superintendent's stationery, which includes a color logo. Letters prepared for the superintendent's signature should be formatted as detailed below and submitted to Communications for proofing five days before the deadline for mailing. Once approved, Communications will print the letter on the superintendent's color stationery. The department submitting the document is responsible for picking up the approved document and signing it in to the superintendent's office for final review and signature.

- Letters should be prepared in block style with all elements flush left.
- Paragraphs should be justified, with double spacing between them.
- The left margin should be 1 1/4 inch.
- The right margin should be 1 inch.
- Type font should be Arial 10-point.
- The date should be two to six lines below the logo, depending on the length of the letter.
- The inside address should be six lines below the date.
- The salutation should be two lines below the inside address.
- The last paragraph should include a contact's name and phone number.
- Close letters with: Respectfully.
- Four lines should be allowed for the superintendent's signature.
- The name typed below the superintendent's signature should read: Michael Hinojosa, Ed.D. On the next line, include the title: Superintendent of Schools.
- The writer's and typist's initials should be placed two lines below the superintendent's name.
- If in addition to the letter you are including other items in the envelope, skip two lines and type "Enclosure:" or "Enclosures:" (if more than one enclosure) and the number of enclosures that will be included. You may also use the abbreviation, "Enc.:" Never use the term "Attachment."
- If you will be sending courtesy copies to other individuals, skip two lines and type "cc:" and list, by reporting order with the highest ranking supervisor listed first, the names of people and their titles to whom you will be distributing copies.
- If at all possible, letters should be limited to one page.
- If a second page is needed, use a plain white sheet of paper (no logo). Place the name of the addressee on the first line of the second page, the page number on the second line, and the date on the third line. Skip two lines and continue with the letter.



## External Correspondence

Letterhead for external correspondence can be ordered from the Graphics Department.

Electronic templates also are available for download from the district's Intranet site, <http://inet.dallasisd.org/handbookguidelines/logos.htm>. and are printed in black and white. Use the formatting listed below to prepare external correspondence.

- Whenever possible, limit external correspondence to one page.
  - If a second page is needed, use plain paper and include the name of the addressee on the first line, the page number on the second line, and the date on the third line. Skip two lines and continue with the letter.
  - Letters should be prepared in block style with all elements flush left, using single line (1.0) spacing.
  - Paragraphs should be justified, with double spacing between them.
  - The left margin should be 1.25 inches.
  - The right margin should be 1 inch.
  - The type font should be Arial 10-point.
  - The flush right logo is used and is always right justified.
  - The date should be two to six lines below the logo, depending on the length of the letter.
  - The inside address should be four to six lines below the date.
  - The salutation should be two lines below the inside address, followed by a colon.
  - The last paragraph should include a contact name and phone number.
  - The closure should be two lines below the last sentence.
  - Four lines should be allowed for the signature.
- The signature should include the sender's first name last name. Their title/department should be listed on the following line.
  - The writer's and typist's initials should be placed two lines below the sender's name.
  - List enclosures two lines below name, if applicable.
  - If copying others, skip two lines and type "cc:" and list, by reporting order with the highest ranking supervisor listed first, their names and titles.
  - Schools may change the address block on the letterhead template to use their individual address, keeping it in the same format.
  - Central departments, however, must not change the address block. If the department is not located at the 9400 N. Central Expressway address, they should use a standard closing similar to the following: I may be reached at (972) 925-0000. My mailing address is \_\_\_\_\_, Dallas, TX 752XX.
  - Central departments should not include taglines or icons on the correspondence.

## External Correspondence (cont.)

### **Correspondence to Government Officials**

The following are guidelines for addressing correspondence to local, state and federal government officials.

### **Addressing Members of the U.S. Government**

- (a) The Honorable John Cornyn  
United States Senate

Senator Cornyn:

- (b) The Honorable Eddie Bernice Johnson  
U.S. House of Representatives

Representative Johnson:

### **Addressing Members of Texas Government**

- (a) The Honorable Greg Abbott  
Governor of Texas

Governor Abbott:

- (b) The Honorable Royce West  
The Senate of Texas

Senator West:

- (c) The Honorable Morgan Meyer  
Texas House of Representatives

Representative Meyer:

### **Addressing Members of the State Board of Education**

The Honorable Geraldine Miller  
State Board of Education

Ms. Miller:

### **Addressing Members of Local Government**

The Honorable Mike Rawlings  
City of Dallas

Mayor Rawlings:

## Internal Correspondence

Memos are used for internal written correspondence among schools and departments. Before writing a memo, consider whether the memo requires action or is for information only. Electronic templates of Action Memos and Information Memos are available online and are printed in black and white. Templates may be downloaded at [www.dallasisd.org/brandingandstyle](http://www.dallasisd.org/brandingandstyle). Memos should be concise and easy to read. Use simple, direct sentences in the active voice. Use the formatting listed below.

- Whenever possible, limit memo correspondence to one page.
- If a second page is needed, use plain paper and include the name of the addressee on the first line, the page number on the second line, and the date on the third line. Skip two lines and continue with the memo.
- Memos should be prepared in block style with all elements flush left, using single line (1.0) spacing.
- Paragraphs should be justified, with double spacing between them.
- The left margin should be 1.25 inches.
- The right margin should be 1 inch.
- The type font should be Arial 10-point.
- Memo heading includes DATE, TO, FROM, and SUBJECT in all caps.
- The person sending the memo should initial by their name in the heading.
- The last paragraph should include a contact name and phone number.
- There is no closure or signature after the body content.
- Use additional spacing to accommodate next level approvals.
- List enclosure or attachment two lines below the approvals, if applicable.
- If copying others, skip two lines and type "cc:" and list, by reporting order with the highest ranking supervisor listed first, their names and titles.

## Internal Correspondence (cont.)

### **WAIP-Weekly Administrative Information Packet**

The School Leadership Department communicates information to principals and other district leaders on behalf of various departments. Follow these guidelines when submitting information for dissemination.

- All WAIP requests must be sent by noon on Wednesday to be processed and posted on Thursday of that week. Memos received after the deadline will be slated for the following week's issue.
  - Memos with a deadline must be submitted in a timely manner to allow principals at least two weeks in which to take action.
  - Send the memo to your department head for approval. Include a signature line at the bottom of the page for both your department's chief and chief of School Leadership.
  - Your department head will initial all memos for his/her department. His/her assistant will submit memo(s) on their behalf to the appropriate executive director or department chief for final approval and signature.
  - Once all signatures have been secured, submit memos and attachments via email to [SchoolLeadership@dallasisd.org](mailto:SchoolLeadership@dallasisd.org).
  - The School Leadership department is not responsible for formatting or editing memos. If memos are submitted in the wrong format or require editing, they will be sent back to the appropriate department for correction.
  - Note: Your department's chief may have additional guidelines and deadlines for WAIP submission requests. Make sure you understand their process before preparing any memo for the WAIP.
- To ensure that the WAIP is a successful vehicle for communicating with all parties involved, the district's standard formatting is necessary.
  - Use the ACTION or INFORMATION memo templates found on Inet.
  - Professional Development memos have their own format.
  - Date all memos with Thursday's issue date.
  - Use the same formatting used for all internal correspondence as described on the previous page.
  - Summarize and place important information—who, what, when, where, why and how—at the beginning of the memo.
  - Always include contact information for reference in each memo.
  - Ensure the communication is concise and easy to read. Use simple, direct sentences written in active voice.
  - Carefully proofread and edit the submission.
  - Attachments should be brief and submitted along with the memo. It is preferred to include an address link in the memo regarding the attachment instead of attaching a lengthy document.
  - If you have hyperlinks in your memo, note the web addresses in the WAIP submission email. As each memo is scanned after signing to create a PDF, all links will need to be relinked by School Leadership before posting.

## Emails

Emails used for district-related purposes need to be formal, polished, and professional in tone as well as concise and easy to read. Always be aware that by law, under the Texas Public Information Act, all Dallas ISD emails are public documents.

Your Dallas ISD email account is for district-related communication purposes only and should not involve solicitation, be associated with any for-profit outside business activity, or propagate chain or junk email.

### **General Email Guidelines**

Use black or dark colors for type in emails and avoid using bright or lightly shaded type, which can be difficult to read. Be cautious about attaching large documents or photos to your emails. Using decorative or whimsical animations; selfies, caricatures or cartoonish photographs and images; quotes and epigraphs; backgrounds; or wallpapers should not appear in emails.

### **Email Formatting**

Use a white background. Do not use a wallpaper or other images as a background - these are often received as attachments, are not viewable on all devices, and can make the email difficult to read.

- Use a standard font for body content and email signatures. Use common, easy-to-read fonts such as Arial, Calibri, or Times New Roman.
- Use 11-point type and use black or a dark text color.
- Do not use logos and graphics. as they do not translate well across email clients.
- Your email signature should include your name, title, department, phone, fax, and email address. Email signatures for corresponding outside the district also should include your mailing address.
- Using quotes, epigraphs, or individual taglines in your email signature is not permitted.
- Outlook allows you to include a photograph as part of your email profile. Photographs should be of a professional nature and taken in an office or professional surroundings. Selfies, caricatures or cartoonish photographs and images are not permitted.

## Board Agenda Items

The Dallas ISD Board of Trustees establishes the policies by which schools operate. In carrying out the task of setting policy, the board identifies needs and establishes priorities for the school system, allocates financial and human resources among the priority areas, and evaluates school performance.

The nine trustees, elected from separate districts, serve staggered three-year terms. Board briefings are held the second Thursday of each month at 11:30 a.m., and regularly scheduled board meetings are held at 6 p.m. on the fourth Thursday of each month. The official agenda for each meeting is available online at [www.boarddocs.com/tx/disd/Board.nsf/vpublic?open](http://www.boarddocs.com/tx/disd/Board.nsf/vpublic?open). To view an agenda, click the Meetings tab and then click the meeting date.

Information about the process and deadlines to create agenda items to be considered in Dallas ISD Board of Trustee meetings is provided in BE (LOCAL) available at <http://pol.tasb.org/Home/Index/361> and by clicking the Library tab at [www.boarddocs.com/tx/disd/Board.nsf/vpublic?open](http://www.boarddocs.com/tx/disd/Board.nsf/vpublic?open).

## Publications

The Dallas Independent School District creates a number of publications each year. From newsletters to brochures and posters to manuals and reports, Dallas ISD works to effectively share the district's story with internal and external audiences.

To ensure brand integrity throughout the district, it is important that all publications reflect consistency in format and design. Therefore, all publications created for widespread external distribution must be forwarded to the Communications Department for review. Following are basic guidelines for producing district publications.

### **Brochures, Flyers, Newsletters, and Posters**

All district brochures, flyers, newsletters, and posters should include the district's logo. Refer to the Dallas ISD logo guidelines on page four.

### **Manuals and Reports**

All manuals and reports should include the following content and design elements.

- Covers
- Table of contents, if the documents includes several sections
- Pagination, if the document is more than two pages
- Executive summary, if the document contains several sections or heavily relies on charts and tables
- Dallas ISD's equal opportunity statement

Covers should include:

- The document title
- The district logo
- The date the publication was created

The inside cover and/or the adjoining page should include:

- The names of the Dallas ISD Board of Trustee members, including officer positions
- The name of the superintendent of schools
- The name of the chief whose department generated the document
- The name of the principal who generated the report, if applicable
- Indication of advanced degrees of those listed
- The department's or school's physical address and web address
- The district's web address
- The district's equal opportunity statement

## Publications (cont.)

Include an executive summary if the document is comprised of several charts and tables. The executive summary should be a succinctly outlined brief that shares the document's purpose, findings, and conclusions.

Graphs, tables, and photography should complement the document and make it easier to understand. Graphs and tables should be simple and easy to read, with a clear explanation of what is being represented, and should include the source of the data. All photographs should adhere to the district's consent form requirements.

### **Dallas ISD Equal Opportunity Statement**

The Dallas Independent School District, as an equal opportunity educational provider and employer, does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, national origin, age, disability, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, genetic information, or any other basis prohibited by law in educational programs or activities that it operates or in employment decisions. The district is required by Title VI and Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, the Americans with Disabilities Act, and the Age Discrimination Act of 1975, as amended, as well as board policy not to discriminate in such a manner. (Not all prohibited bases apply to all programs.)

If you suspect discrimination please contact: Mary McCants, Title VII or Title IX, at (972) 925-3250; Daphne LaMontagne, Section 504, at (972) 581-4238; Diedrae Bell-Hunter, Americans with Disabilities Act, at (972) 925-4003; or Employee Relations at (972) 925-4026. General questions about the district should be directed to Customer Service at (972) 925-5555.

### **Official Board Pages**

An official board page, which contains the names of board members and their officer positions, the superintendent of schools, and the district's equal opportunity statement, may be used on the inside front cover of district publications. Official board pages are available in color and black and white, in English and Spanish, and with or without photographs. You can find the official board pages on the district's intranet page at [inet.dallasisd.org](http://inet.dallasisd.org). From the home page, click District Information in the menu on the left.

### **References and Citations**

The Dallas ISD is governed by laws and regulations set forth by state and federal lawmakers. It is often necessary to cite those laws and regulations in publications produced for the district.

### **Citing Laws, Rules, and Regulations**

So that the purpose in making a citation is clear, the citation should be incorporated into the sentence rather than set off in parentheses at the end of the sentence.

*Examples:*

Title 19 TAC Section 97.5 sets forth the criteria for accreditation and refers to the academic excellence indicators.



## Publications (cont.)

### Citing Bills

Once a bill is enacted, the citation should refer to the actual regulation, law, or state rule. However, the citation may include reference to a particular publication in which the regulation, law, or state rule also appears. Page numbers should appear with the publication reference only.

*Examples:*

- (1) ... does not meet state requirements specified in the Texas Education Code (TEC), Section 21.046, which states
- (2) ... elements are outlined in Title 19, Texas Administrative Code (TAC), Section 75.141 (d) and (e). See State Board of Education Rules for Curriculum, page 229.

### Citing Publications

Publications should be fully identified, and their actual names must be italicized.

*Examples:*

- (1) ... plan placed in the personnel file as explained in Texas Education Agency Bulletin 691203, Guidelines for School Personnel: Certification, Allocations, and Records (formerly Bulletin 753), pages 161-163.
- (2) Please share the enclosed copy of *An Introductory Overview of Theatre Arts* in the Elementary School with the principals.

### Online Citations

The guidelines for referencing online sources in footnotes and endnotes in documents are similar to those for printed

documents with one difference: the name and location of the publisher or a printed work are replaced with URLs or email addresses in angle brackets (< >).

*Example (Internet sources):*

Author's name, "title of document," title of complete work, date of posting,\* <URL> (date of access)\*

Nate Zelnick, "Wireless Net Access Gets Renewed Push," Internet World, November 16, 1998, <<http://www.iw.com/print/current/news/19981116-wireless.html>> (February 26, 1999)

*Example (email sources):*

Author's name, <author's e-mail address>, "subject line," date of posting,\* type of e-mail,\*\* (date of access)

Allie Goudy, <[Allie\\_Goudy@dallasisd.org](mailto:Allie_Goudy@dallasisd.org)>, "Continuing Education and Paraprofessionals," November 3, 1998, office communication (April 23, 1999)

\* If the date of posting cannot be determined, insert the abbreviation n.d. (no date).

\*\* Insert a phrase such as personal email or office communication.

## Publications (cont.)

### **Copyright Infringement**

Text, photos, and original graphics in other publications, on Internet sites, and included in or attached to email messages are copyrighted and cannot be lifted for use in another publication or on another site unless specifically stated. Likewise, elements of district publications; the website; and department, program, and school pages cannot be used – even by other staff – without authorization.

Such permission can be granted only in writing by the department head or school principal and Communication Services administrators.

### **Printing**

All publications should be sent to the district's Graphics Department for printing. Request an estimate by emailing the items description, specifications, and quantity to Jalaine Frazier at [jafrazier@dallasisd.org](mailto:jafrazier@dallasisd.org). Once you receive the estimate, enter a requisition through the Graphics Online Store on iProcurement. For more information, visit the Graphics Department website at [www.dallasisd.org/Page/6975](http://www.dallasisd.org/Page/6975).

### **Publication Approvals**

All printed materials must follow the approved guidelines stated in this style guide. Each department is responsible for reviewing the overall look/design of the publication and use of the district logo.

When the guidelines are not followed, the department ordering the materials must have them reprinted. The Communications Department and the Graphics Department are available to assist in the design and review of district publications.

## Acronyms

Many district communications, including reports, publications and websites, include acronyms. The following pages contain a list of common acronyms used by the district and the terms from which they're derived.

Please note that ACT and SAT are no longer acronyms. The official names of these college assessment tests are ACT and SAT.

| Acronym | Use  | Acronym  | Use                                      | Acronym | Use   |
|---------|--|----------|--|---------|---|
| ACE     | Accelerating Campus Excellence                     | CIS      | Communities In School                    | ExCET   | Examination for Certification of Educators In Texas |
| ACP     | Assessment of Course Performance                   | CIT      | Campus Intervention Team                 | FAFSA   | Free Application for Federal Student Aid            |
| ADA     | Americans with Disabilities Act                    | CPR      | Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation            | FAPE    | Free Appropriate Public Education                   |
| ADD     | Attention Deficit Disorder                         | CTE      | Career and Technical Education           | FBA     | Functional Behavior Assessment                      |
| ADHD    | Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder           | DACA     | Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals   | FERPA   | Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act           |
| AEP     | Alternative Education Program                      | DAPA     | Deferred Action for Parents of Americans | FLS     | Functional Living Skills                            |
| AIDS    | Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome                | DARE     | Drug Abuse Resistance Education          | FSP     | Foundation School Program                           |
| AIMS    | Activities Integrated for Math and Science         | DCCCD    | Dallas County Community College District | GED     | General Educational Development                     |
| AP      | Advanced Placement                                 | DECA     | Distributive Education Clubs of America  | GEMS    | Great Exploration in Science and Math               |
| API     | Academic Performance Index                         | DLS      | Daily Living Skills                      | H/HB    | Hospital/Homebound                                  |
| ARD     | Admission, Review, and Dismissal                   | DOL      | Demonstration of Learning                | HB      | House Bill  |
| ASD     | Autism Spectrum Disorder                           | DSTV     | Dallas Schools Television                | HEP     | Homeless Education Program                          |
| ASP     | Academic Success Program                           | DTR      | Distinguished Teacher Review             | HIPPY   | Home Instruction Program for Preschool Youngsters   |
| ATS     | Application Training and Support                   | DUKE TIP | Duke Talent Identification Program       | HOTS    | Higher Order Thinking Skills                        |
| AVID    | Advancement Via Individual Determination           | ECE      | Early Childhood Education                | IB      | International Baccalaureate                         |
| BIP     | Behavior Intervention Plan                         | EEC      | Environmental Education Center           | IDA     | International Dyslexia Association                  |
| CAD     | Computer-Aided Design                              | ELL      | English Language Learners                | IDEA    | Individuals with Disabilities Education Act         |
| CAPCO   | Child Abuse Prevention Coalition                   | ELT      | Executive Leadership Team                | IEE     | Independent Educational Evaluation                  |
| CARAC   | Curriculum Alignment Review and Approval Committee | EOC      | End of Course                            | IEP     | Individualized Education Program                    |
| CEC     | Council for Exceptional Children                   | ESC      | Education Service Center                 | ILT     | Instructional Leadership Team                       |
| CFR     | Code of Federal Regulations                        | ESL      | English as a Second Language             | IR      | Improvement Required                                |
| CILT    | Campus Instructional Leadership Team               | ESOL     | English for Speakers of Other Languages  | ISD     | Independent School District                         |
| CIP     | Campus Improvement Plan                            | ESSA     | Every Student Succeeds Act               |         |   |

## Acronyms (cont.)

| Acronym | Use  | Acronym | Use  | Acronym | Use  |
|---------|--|---------|--|---------|--|
| ISS     | In-School Suspension                           | PAC     | Parent Advisory Committee                              | STAAR   | State of Texas Assessments of Academic Readiness     |
| ITBS    | Iowa Tests of Basic Skills                     | PACT    | Pre Admission Content Test                             | STEM    | Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics     |
| JJAEP   | Juvenile Justice Alternative Education Program | PAI     | Purposeful Aligned Instruction                         | TAC     | Texas Administrative Code                            |
| ITBS    | Iowa Tests of Basic Skills                     | PAL     | Peer Assistance Leadership                             | TAC     | Technical Assistance Center                          |
| JJAEP   | Juvenile Justice Alternative Education Program | PE      | Physical Education                                     | TAG     | Talented and Gifted                                  |
| JROTC   | Junior Reserve Officers' Training Corps        | PEIMS   | Public Education Information Management System         | TAGT    | Texas Association for the Gifted and Talented        |
| K       | Kindergarten (as in grades K-5)                | PEP     | Pregnancy, Education and Parenting program             | TAPE    | Texas Association of Partners in Education           |
| LEA     | Local Education Agency                         | PPCD    | Preschool Program for Child Development                | TASB    | Texas Association of School Boards                   |
| LO      | Learning Objective                             | Pre-K   | Prekindergarten  | TEA     | Texas Education Agency                               |
| LOTE    | Languages Other Than English                   | PREP    | Prefreshman Engineering Program                        | TEC     | Texas Education Code                                 |
| LPAC    | Language Proficiency Assessment Committee      | PSAT    | Preliminary Scholastic Assessment Test                 | TEI     | Teacher Excellence Initiative                        |
| LRE     | Least Restrictive Environment                  | PTA     | Parent Teacher Association                             | TEKS    | Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills                 |
| MDR     | Manifestation Determination Review             | RIF     | Reading Is FUNdamental                                 | TELPAS  | Texas English Language Proficiency Assessment System |
| MHMR    | Mental Health and Mental Retardation           | ROTC    | Reserve Officers' Training Corps                       | THEO    | Texas Homeless Education Program                     |
| M-LEP   | Multi-language Enrichment Program              | SBDM    | Site-Based Decision Making                             | TIF     | Technology Infrastructure Fund                       |
| MOU     | Memorandum of Understanding                    | SBEC    | State Board for Educator Certification                 | TSI     | Texas Success Initiative                             |
| MRS     | Multiple Response Strategies                   | SBOE    | State Board of Education                               | T-TESS  | Texas Teacher Evaluation and Support System          |
| NAGC    | National Association for Gifted Children       | SEA     | State Education Agency                                 | UIL     | University Interscholastic League                    |
| NAPT    | National Association for Pupil Transportation  | SEI     | School Effectiveness Index                             | WMLS    | Woodcock Muñoz Language Survey                       |
| NMSQT   | National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test     | SENG    | Supporting Emotional Needs for the Gifted              | YFC     | Youth and Family Center                              |
| NNPS    | National Network of Partnership Schools        | SHAC    | School Health Advisory Council                         |         |  |
| OE      | Overexcitabilities                             | SIS     | Student Information System                             |         |  |
| OHI     | Other Health Impairment                        | SMART   | Students Making Abstinence Real Today                  |         |  |
| OSHA    | Occupational Safety and Health Administration  | SMART   | Summer Migrant Assessment Resources through Technology |         |  |
|         |  | SST     | Student Support Team                                   |         |  |

## Capitalization

### Ethnic Groups

- American Indian
- African American
- Asian American
- Hispanic
- Native American
- Anglo or white

### Official Bodies

Capitalize Dallas Independent School District. When using only the word district, do not capitalize district except in legal documents. Use “the” when referring to the Dallas Independent School District or the Dallas ISD.

When referring to the State Board of Education or a school district’s board of trustees, write the full name and capitalize it. “Board” is used in second reference for State Board of Education only. For local school boards, use “board” on second reference.

#### Examples:

- (1) The Dallas Independent School District serves more than 158,000 students.
- (2) The district is divided into feeder patterns.
- (3) **First Reference:** State Board of Education  
**Second Reference:** the Board
- (4) **First Reference:** Dallas Independent School District Board of Trustees  
**Second Reference:** the board

### Other

Lowercase “federal,” “national,” and “state” except when the word forms part of a proper name, or in special circumstances.

#### Examples:

- (1) the federal government
- (2) the United States Government
- (3) the state of Texas

Capitalize titles of specific courses but not general areas of study.

#### Examples:

- (1) Life Science
- (2) Homemaking I
- (3) Texas History
- (4) science
- (5) homemaking
- (6) social studies

Capitalize a noun preceding a number, except for the first letter of line, page, paragraph, verse, and grade.

#### Examples:

- (1) Appendix I
- (2) grade 3
- (3) page 16
- (4) Article VI
- (5) line 7
- (6) paragraph 8
- (7) Chapter 5
- (8) No. 2
- (9) Part IV
- (10) Room 319
- (11) Table 4
- (12) verse 23
- (13) Section III
- (14) Title I, Title VI-A
- (15) Volume I

## Numbers

| Situation   | Rule   | Example  |
|---|--|--|
| Numbers below 10  | Spell out.   | We have nine copies.   |
| Numbers 10 and above                                      | Use Arabic numerals.   | We have 10 copies.   |
| Mixed groups of numbers in the same sentence or paragraph | Express alike (all Arabic numerals or all words).                                    | We have 29 chairs, 9 books and 149 students.                       |
| Numbers with millions or billions                         | Use Arabic numerals.   | 1 million; \$10 million; 23.5 billion                              |
| Lists of numbers  | Use Arabic numerals.   | 9; 23; 178; 1,240  |
| Numbers that begin a sentence                             | Spell out.   | Fifteen books are left.  |
| Two numbers forming one item                              | Spell out the one that makes a shorter word; use Arabic numerals for the other.      | Two 8-inch boards; 500 four-page brochures                         |
| Ages, in years only                                       | Use Arabic numerals.   | She was 9 years old. He was 10.                                    |
| Ages, in years, months and days                           | Use Arabic numerals.   | He was 39 years 11 months and 29 days old.                         |
| Numbers followed by percent in narrative                  | Use Arabic numerals, except at first of sentence. Always spell out percent.          | He had 6 percent of the total. Six percent of the total remained.  |
| Grades in school (cardinal numbers)                       | Spell out one through nine.  | students in grades one and two;<br>students in grades 11 and 12    |
| Grades in school (ordinal numbers)                        | Spell out first through ninth.   | First grade; first-grade student; 10th grade; 10th-grade classroom |
| Item number; column number; form number; table number     | Use Arabic numerals.   | Item 5; Column 5; Form 32864; Table 6                              |
| Even amounts of dollars in a sentence                     | Omit decimals and zeros.   | Enclosed are checks for \$165, \$40, and \$65.                     |
| Presence of any uneven dollar amount in a sentence        | Add decimals and numbers for the odd cents.  | Enclosed are checks for \$165.50, \$93.27, and \$40.92.            |
| Amounts less than one dollar in a sentence                | Use previous rules for numbers above and below 10; spell out cents after the number. | The stamps will cost 42 cents. All he had left was eight cents.    |
| Dates   | Always use numbers without st, nd, rd, or th.  | Her birthday is Aug. 3.  |

## Numbers (cont.)

| Situation                      | Rule  | Example  |
|--------------------------------|---|--|
| Time                           | <p>Express hours and minutes as Arabic numerals followed by a.m. and p.m.</p> <p>Note: If the time is on the hour, no colon and no zeros are needed.</p> <p>Follow sequence of time, day of week, and month and date.</p> <p>Use noon and midnight instead of 12 p.m. and 12 a.m.</p> | <p>The monitoring team will convene at 7:30 p.m.</p> <p>The monitoring team will conclude at 10 p.m.</p> <p>The monitoring team will convene at 11 a.m., Monday, Sept. 11.</p> <p>The luncheon starts at noon.</p> |
| Ratios                         | <p>Use the colon to indicate the ratio of one amount to another.</p> <p>Use the hyphen to indicate a voting ratio.</p>  | <p>The student-teacher ratio in prekindergarten through grade two is currently 22:1.</p> <p>A 6-1 vote should identify the dissenting trustee by name.</p>   |
| Dimensions                     | <p>Use Arabic numerals and spell out the words feet, yards, inches, etc., to indicate height, length, width, and depth.</p> <p>Hyphenate before nouns.</p>  | <p>The 7-foot basketball player. The doorway is 6 feet wide.</p>   |
| Distances                      | <p>Spell out one through nine. Use Arabic numerals for 10 and above.</p>  | <p>He walked one mile. We need to drive 20 miles north.</p>  |
| Weights                        | <p>Use Arabic numerals and spell out the words pounds, ounces, and tons. Use a comma between the number of pounds and ounces.</p>   | <p>The box weighs 7 pounds, 10 ounces.</p>   |
| Chapters or sections of a book | <p>Arabic numerals are preferred.</p> <p>Capitalize chapter and section numbers but not page numbers.</p>   | <p>Chapter 3; page 6; See Section III, pages 5-9.</p>  |

## Punctuation

### Ampersand

Do not use an ampersand (&) in place of the word “and” unless it is used as part of a company’s formal name. Do not use the ampersand in the name of any schools or departments.

### Apostrophe

Use the apostrophe to indicate the omission of letters or numerals. Do not use the apostrophe when forming the plural of years, acronyms, and numbers unless confusion would result.

*Examples:*

- (1) The school was built during the 1960s.
- (2) She grew up during the '80s
- (3) Her test scores are in the 90s.
- (4) He learned about the three Rs.
- (5) I earned two A's this semester.  
(confusing without apostrophe)

### Colon

Use the colon to connect a list or series to a clause, phrase, or word.

*Examples:*

- (1) The responsibilities of a superintendent include the following: instruction, staff development, finance, and community relations.
- (2) The responsibilities of a superintendent include the following:
  - instruction
  - staff development
  - finance
  - community relations

Use the colon if a quotation is formally introduced in a sentence.

*Example:*

The monitoring report should say something like this: “The Dallas Independent School District has made significant progress since the last accreditation visit.”

Use the colon to indicate the ratio of one amount to another.

*Example:*

The pupil-teacher ratio in prekindergarten is currently 22:1.

### Comma

Use commas to prevent ambiguity.

*Examples:*

- (1) The Democrats say the Republicans are sure to win the election. (ambiguous)
- (2) The Democrats, say the Republicans, are sure to win the election. (clear)

Use a comma for clarity to separate an introductory dependent clause from the independent clause that follows.

*Examples:*

- (1) Soon after the superintendent left the meeting was adjourned. (confusing)
- (2) Soon after the superintendent left, the meeting was adjourned. (clear)



## Punctuation (cont.)

Use a comma to separate two independent sentences or separate main clauses joined by conjunctions such as and, but, or, nor, or for.

*Examples:*

- (1) The school was open on Monday, but many of the students were ill.
- (2) The coach was glad he looked, for the player was approaching the goal line.

Use commas to set off a word or phrase that interrupts the main structure of the sentence.

*Example:*

The Board of Trustees, after the open meeting, met in closed session to discuss the hiring of a new superintendent.

Use commas to separate words, phrases, or clauses in a series. District style uses a comma before the last item in the series.

*Examples:*

The program should include the speaker's name, title, and school address.

Do not use commas to separate elements of a series when any element of the series contains internal commas or is also a series. Use semicolons to separate these items.

*Examples:*

- (1) The officers are John Doe, president; Jane Smith, vice president; and Bill Jones, secretary.
- (2) After leaving for the day, the teacher went to the gym, to the library; and to the store to buy pencils, pens, and paper for the classroom.

Use a comma to set off a nonessential (nonrestrictive) phrase or clause. A nonessential clause does not limit or define; it merely adds information. As a rule, "which" introduces a nonessential clause and is preceded by a comma.

*Example:*

The portables, which were purchased last year, are already overcrowded.

Do not use a comma to set off an essential (restrictive) phrase or clause. An essential clause provides information necessary to the meaning of the sentence. As a rule, "that" introduces an essential clause and is not preceded by a comma.

*Example:*

Campuses that have developed comprehensive plans are usually more successful in accomplishing their educational goals.

Use commas to set off the year if a date refers to the month, day, and year. When just the month and year are given, the comma between the month and year is omitted. When using a day of the week and the date, set off the date with commas.

*Example:*

- (1) On Oct. 26, 2016, the pilot project began.
- (2) The pilot project began in October 2016.
- (3) We decided to meet again on Wednesday, Oct. 15.

Use a comma before degrees and titles listed after names.

*Examples:*

- (1) Joyce Jones, Ph.D.
- (2) Robert Smith, superintendent

## Punctuation (cont.)

Do not use a comma when using Roman numerals, Jr., or Sr. after a name.

*Examples:*

- (1) Roland Best III
- (2) Roland Best Jr.

Use a comma after digits indicating thousands except when referring to years and page numbers.

*Examples:*

- (1) \$5,000
- (2) 5,000 students
- (3) the year 2008
- (4) page 5000

Do not use a comma between the components of dimensions, weights, and measures.

*Examples:*

- (1) 3 feet 6 inches
- (2) 4 pounds 2 ounces

### Ellipses

An ellipsis—three periods, each preceded and followed by a space—indicates the omission of one or more words within a quotation.

*Example:*

“Four score and seven years ago our fathers brought forth ... a new nation ... dedicated to the proposition that all men are created equal.”

When the omitted portion comes at the beginning of the sentence, the ellipsis is not necessary. The fact that the first letter of the quoted material is not capitalized indicates that the quotation begins in midsentence.

*Example:*

He goes on to conclude that “coordination may lessen competition within the region.”

When the omission follows the end of a sentence and you continue the quotation after the omission, retain the punctuation at the end of the sentence and add the ellipsis.

*Example:*

“What can we do now to raise the standards at the local level? . . . These are the challenges we face.”

When the last words in a quoted sentence are omitted, use the ellipsis followed by the necessary punctuation.

*Examples:*

- (1) “What can we do now to raise the standards ... ?”
- (2) “I often wonder what he meant ... .”

### Em Dash

Use the em dash sparingly as it creates a sudden break in thought or an abrupt change in sentence structure. When possible, the dash should be typed at the end of one line rather than at the beginning of the next line.

*Example:*

Once the diver hit the water, he thought only of the sunken treasure – until he saw the shark.

## Punctuation (cont.)

Do not substitute two hyphens for an em dash. In Microsoft Word, em dashes can be found at Insert > Symbol > More Symbols > Special Characters or by using the keyboard shortcut, [Ctrl]+[-].

*Example:*

Once the diver hit the water, he thought only of the sunken treasure -- until he saw the shark. (Incorrect)

Em dashes set off sentence elements designed to emphasize, explain, or define.

*Examples:*

- (1) Memoirs are most important as sources of history – the history of events and ideas.
- (2) Four key inventions – gunpowder, telescope, compass, and printing press – were developments that made the old scientist tremble.

### Hyphen

Do not hyphenate “decision making” when used with “site-based.”

*Examples:*

- (1) site-based decision making
- (2) site-based decision making committee

Do hyphenate “decision-making” when used as an adjective and “site-based” does not accompany the phrase:

*Example:*

- (1) decision-making authority
- (2) decision-making committee

Do not hyphenate ethnic groups, except when used as an adjective.

*Examples:*

- (1) She was the first African American to serve in the Senate
- (2) The African-American event celebrates Kwanza.

Hyphenate “low performing” only when used as an adjective immediately before a noun

*Examples:*

- (1) low-performing campus
- (2) the schools are low performing

Use the hyphen with compound modifiers that express a single thought when they precede a noun.

*Examples:*

- (1) full-time teachers
- (2) up-to-date report
- (3) one-year program
- (4) well-intended gesture

Do not use a hyphen with compound modifiers that are used after the noun.

*Examples:*

- (1) The report is up to date.
- (2) The gesture was well intended.

Do not use a hyphen if each of the words could modify the noun without the other modifying word or words.

*Example:*

a new personal computer

## Punctuation (cont.)

Do not use a hyphen if the first word of the modifier is an adverb ending in “ly.”

*Example:*

The monitoring team’s report indicated that the school’s computer room had a hardly used printer.

Use the hyphen and a space to give a suspension effect in a spread-out modifier.

*Example:*

- (1) the long- and short-range goals
- (2) the fourth- and sixth-grade students

Use the hyphen when the root word is a proper noun.

*Example:*

- (1) pre-Civil War days
- (2) mid-January
- (4) non-English-speaking students

Use the hyphen when the combination of prefix and root word is similar to another word.

*Example:*

- |                  |             |
|------------------|-------------|
| (1) re-formation | reformation |
| (2) re-sort      | resort      |
| (3) re-sign      | resign      |

Use the hyphen to form compound numbers from 21 to 99 and fractions when they are written out.

*Examples:*

- (1) twenty-seven
- (2) two-thirds

Use the hyphen with a letter or number modifier.

*Examples:*

- (1) A-frame building
- (2) 32-cent stamp
- (3) 10-inch board

### Parentheses

Use parentheses to enclose words, phrases, or sentences that add clarity without altering the meaning. The additions may serve to illustrate, define, supplement, or explain.

*Example:*

Two of the new administrators (both from small districts) will be appointed to the committee.

When a complete sentence in parentheses comes within a sentence (notice the punctuation of this one), it needs neither a capital letter nor a period. Commas and other marks of punctuation in the main sentence always follow the closing parentheses (as they do here and in the preceding sentence). (A sentence in parentheses, like this one, that does not stand within another sentence has the end punctuation before the closing parenthesis.)

### Period

When typing text, use only one space between sentences. Do not double space after periods. The rule originated when typewriters were used for all documents. Computer programs automatically add a half space. Double-spacing on computers leaves holes throughout the document.

## Punctuation (cont.)

### Quotation Marks

The period and the comma go inside the quotation marks. The semicolon and colon go outside the quotation marks. The question mark goes inside the quotation marks when it refers to the quoted matter only; it falls outside when it refers to the whole sentence.

*Examples:*

- (1) He asked, "Will you go with me?"
- (2) Did you hear Sue say "I am ill"?

The length of quoted material usually determines its format. Quotations of four lines or less may be incorporated into the text and enclosed in quotation marks. Material five lines or longer is usually set off from the body of the text by being indented from the left and right margins and double-spaced above and below the quotation. The quoted passage is single-spaced and not enclosed in quotation marks.

Use quotation marks or italics to set off works of literature, music, art, etc. Use quotation marks around titles that represent only a part of a complete published work. Use italics for titles of complete works published as separate items. A simple rule of thumb: Quote titles of short works, and italicize titles of long works.

*Examples:*

- (a) articles (in newspapers, magazines, etc.)
- (b) chapters of books
- (c) complete but unpublished works (manuscripts, theses, reports, etc.)
- (d) essays

- (e) filmstrips
- (f) lectures and speeches
- (g) radio and television episodes
- (h) short works (poems, stories, musical works, etc.)

### Italics:

- (a) brochures, pamphlets, and bulletins
- (b) films, movies, and plays
- (c) long works (poems, books, novels, musical works, etc.)
- (d) magazines, newspapers, and periodicals
- (e) paintings and other art works
- (f) radio and television series or programs (specials, documentaries, etc.)
- (g) student and teacher handbooks

### Semicolon

Use the semicolon to link independent clauses whose relatedness you want to emphasize. These clauses should balance or contrast with each other. The semicolon indicates a greater pause between clauses than a comma would, but not so great a pause as a period would.

*Examples:*

- (1) No one applied for the position; the job was too difficult.
- (2) Some people have the ability to draw well; others do not.

Use the semicolon to link independent clauses connected by conjunctive adverbs such as "consequently," "furthermore," "however," "moreover," and "therefore." A comma follows the conjunctive adverb.

*Example:*

Speeding is illegal; furthermore, it is very dangerous.

## Punctuation (cont.)

Use the semicolon before transitional words or phrases such as “that is,” “for example,” and “namely.”

*Example:*

As the superintendent, she tried to do a good job; that is, to provide the leadership necessary to accomplish quality education for all students.

### **Lists**

Omit periods after items in a list unless one or more of the items are complete sentences.

*Examples:*

- (1) Students should have access to various printed materials such as:
  - supplementary materials that are needed to support each grade-level subject, course, and unit of study
  - standard reference books that are correlated to specific social studies subjects and topics
  - sources of print and nonprint materials
- (2) The following considerations are relevant to the process of acquiring appropriate instructional materials:
  - Instructional materials are appropriate to the achievement and development levels of the learners, including those in special programs.
  - Materials acquired take into account the wide range of individual interests and the cultural differences of learners.
  - Materials selected are evaluated for sound and up-to-date scholarship.

If a vertical list completes a sentence begun in the lead-in, omit the final period unless the items in the list are separated by commas or semicolons. When items are separated by commas or semicolons, each item begins with a lowercase letter.

*Examples:*

- (1) Regular and special education teachers may modify course content and the method of delivery in a number of ways. The teacher may:
  - clarify course assignments for students
  - provide course syllabus or outline
  - use individual contracts with specific requirements
  - provide correctly completed samples and sample problems
  - adapt regular assignments
- (2) Central administration and campuses should work collaboratively through site-based decision making strategies by
  1. reviewing each of the peer review team’s recommendations;
  2. placing the recommendations in priority order based on local and unique needs, as well as on resources available;
  3. addressing each area of need in a unified, focused, sequential, and consistent manner.

Runover lines should be aligned with the first word in the list. See examples above.

## Punctuation (cont.)

### **Narrative Lists**

#### Option 1:

Central administration and campuses should work collaboratively through site-based decision making strategies by (1) reviewing each of the peer review team's recommendations, (2) placing the recommendations in priority order based on local and unique needs, as well as on resources available, and (3) addressing each area of need in a unified, focused, sequential, and consistent manner.

#### Option 2:

Central administration and campuses should work collaboratively through site-based decision making strategies by (a) reviewing each of the peer review team's recommendations, (b) placing the recommendations in priority order based on local and unique needs, as well as on resources available, and (c) addressing each area of need in a unified, focused, sequential, and consistent manner.

## Word Usage

Avoid jargon and words that are familiar only to educators. Watch for unnecessarily long words and long phrases that can be replaced with a word or phrase that is not only shorter but also clearer. Overly complex words and phrases can sound pompous and may confuse readers. To write effectively, use plain English.

### Common complex phrases and substitutes:

| Overblown or Archaic  | Preferred                                       | Overblown or Archaic                        | Preferred                             |
|---|---|---|---------------------------------------|
| achieve academic success  | succeed   | higher-order thinking skills                | the ability to apply complex concepts |
| afford an opportunity   | allow   | implement an evaluation program             | test                                  |
| along the lines of  | like, as  | in conjunction with                         | and, with                             |
| approximately   | about   | in connection with                          | about, regarding                      |
| articulation  | selecting subjects                              | in order to                                 | to                                    |
| at the present time   | now   | in relation to                              | about, regarding                      |
| by means of   | by  | in short supply                             | scarce                                |
| collaborative learning  | students working together                       | in the event of                             | if                                    |
| conduct a needs assessment; implement a needs assessment strategy           | test  | in the matter of                            | about, regarding                      |
| cooperative learning  | teamwork  | in view of the fact, that                   | since, because                        |
| deliverable   | report, assignment, project, etc.               | it has been brought to the team's attention | the team has learned, noted, observed |
| differentiated instruction  | teach students with different learning styles   | learning environment                        | classroom                             |
| due to the fact that  | because   | learning process                            | teaching                              |
| educational institutions  | schools   | over 100 people                             | more than                             |
| educator, learning facilitator, classroom manager, instructional specialist | teacher   | outcomes                                    | performance, results, achievement     |
| enclosed herein; enclosed you will find                                     | enclosed is                                     | prior to                                    | before                                |
| floating teacher; rotating teacher  | teachers who move from one classroom to another | spend time on task                          | study                                 |
| for the purpose of  | for   | submitted his resignation                   | resigned                              |
| healthy interface   | classroom discussion                            | technology integration                      | using technology in the classroom     |
|   |   | this letter is to acknowledge receipt of    | we received                           |
|   |   | transportation specialist                   | bus driver                            |
|   |   | usage; utilize                              | use                                   |
|   |   | was of the opinion that                     | believed, thought                     |
|   |   | within the realm of possibility             | possible                              |



## Words Often Confused

### **Advice / Advise**

"Advice" (noun) is a recommendation regarding a decision.

*Example:*

The student asked for her advice regarding which classes to take.

"Advise" (verb) means to counsel or recommend.

*Example:*

She advised the student to stay in school.

### **Affect / Effect**

"Affect" (verb with a direct object) means to influence.

*Example:*

This new school policy on discipline will affect every classroom.

"Effect" (noun) means to result.

*Examples:*

- (1) The effect of the new school policy on discipline should contribute to better classroom management.
- (2) Strong leadership generally has widespread effects on campus.

"Effect" (verb) means to cause.

*Example:*

She will effect many changes in the department.

### **As / Like**

"As" (conjunction) should be used before clauses that contain verbs.

*Examples:*

- (1) The principal responded to the memo as we expected he would.
- (2) He acted as if he owned the school.

"Like" (preposition) should be used with a noun or pronoun that is not followed by a verb.

*Example:*

The new superintendent operates like a professional.

### **Assure / Ensure / Insure**

"Assure" (verb) usually refers to action directed at a person.

*Example:*

The teachers assured us that they were following the approved curriculum.

"Ensure" (verb) usually means to guarantee when not referring to monetary issues.

*Example:*

Developing strategies to use with at-risk students will help ensure that they do not drop out of school.

"Insure" (verb) specifically refers to guaranteeing life or property against risk by paying for an insurance policy of some kind.

*Example:*

The school makes every effort to insure its athletes.

### **A while / Awhile**

As a noun phrase after a preposition such as after, for, in, or within, use two words, a while, which means “a short or moderate time.”

*Example:*

He will be out for a while.

As an adverb, it is spelled as one word, awhile, which means “for a short time.”

*Example:*

He will be out awhile

### **Between / Among**

“Between” (preposition) is used to relate two items or persons.

*Example:*

The committee chairperson divided responsibilities for the hospitality program between the treasurer and the newest member of the committee.

“Among” (preposition) is used to relate more than two items or persons.

*Example:*

The superintendent divided the assignments in the new building among the principal, the chairperson for reading, and the librarian.

### **Can / May**

“Can” (verb) refers to capability.

Examples:

- (1) I can have the monitoring report finished by the end of the week.
- (2) I can be in Houston on Thursday.

“May” (verb) refers to possibility or permission.

*Examples:*

- (1) I may be at the outlet mall next weekend. (possibility)
- (2) May I have the monitoring report by the end of the week? (permission)

### **Capital / Capitol**

“Capital” (noun) refers to capital city, capital letter, capital gain.

*Examples:*

- (1) The capital of Texas is Austin.
- (2) Use a capital letter when you write about Austin.
- (3) If you write well and publish your work, you may realize capital gain.

“Capitol” (noun) refers to a building.

*Example:*

We are going to the capitol for lunch.

### **Cite / Site**

“Cite” (verb) means to acknowledge or to quote an authority.

*Example:*

In writing my report, I cited state laws and federal regulations.

“Site” (noun) refers to a place or setting of an event.

*Example:*

The site for the senior prom is the Hilton Hotel.

### **College ready**

The term is not hyphenated.

### **Complement / Compliment**

“Complement” (noun or adjective) refers to something that completes or balances.

*Example:*

Good curriculum will complement excellent instruction.

“Compliment” (noun or verb) refers to an expression of praise or admiration.

*Example:*

The principal made it a point to compliment every teacher.

### **Compose / Comprise / Constitute / Include**

“Compose” (verb) means to create or put together. Commonly used in both the active and the passive voice.

*Examples:*

- (1) The music teacher composed the school song.
- (2) The school song was composed by a student.

“Comprise” (verb) means to consist of or to be composed of.

*Example:*

The United States of America comprises 50 states.

“Constitute” (verb) when used in the sense of form or makeup, may be your best word choice if neither compose or comprise seems to fit.

*Example:*

Fifty states constitute the United States of America.

“Include” (verb) should be used when what follows it is part of the total.

*Example:*

The price of the school lunch includes a beverage.

### **Continual / Continuous**

“Continual” (adjective) means “happening over and over” or “frequently repeated.”

*Example:*

The continual updating of curriculum documents leads to improvement.

“Continuous” (adjective) means “occurring without interruption” or “unbroken.”

*Examples:*

- (1) The continuous dripping of the faucet led us to call a plumber.
- (2) The rating of exemplary was achieved after continuous improvement in the quality of education.

### **Farther / Further**

“Farther” (adjective or adverb) refers to distance.

*Example:*

It is farther from the elementary school to the high school than we thought.

“Further” (adverb or verb) refers to a greater degree or extent; to help forward.

*Examples:*

- (1) The teacher helped the student further after school.
- (2) Work hard for a scholarship that will further your education.

### **Fewer / Less**

"Fewer" (adjective) refers to individual items or persons.

*Example:*

The art teacher had fewer than 12 paint brushes when the year began.

"Less" (adjective) refers to bulk or quantity.

*Examples:*

- (1) The teacher had less than \$20 to spend on classroom materials.
- (2) All teachers hoped for less classroom disruption.

### **Field house**

Two words in all uses.

### **First come, first served**

The phrase is often but wrongly stated as "first come, first serve." The phrase abbreviates the sentence "the first to come is the first to be served."

### **Foreword / Forward**

"Foreword" (noun) is a section in a book or publication.

*Example:*

The author began his book with a tantalizing foreword.

"Forward" (verb or adverb) means to help onward; toward what is ahead.

*Example:*

I will forward your mail to Alaska, and I look forward to seeing you soon.

### **Groundbreaking**

Groundbreaking (noun) the act or ceremony of breaking ground for a new construction.

*Example:*

The groundbreaking for Larry G. Smith Elementary School is Sept. 22.

### **Internet / Intranet**

Always capitalize Internet, but lowercase intranet.

### **Kickoff / Kick off / Kick-off**

"Kickoff" (noun) is a commencement event.

*Example:*

The Back-to-School Kickoff will be in August.

"Kick off" (verb) means to begin proceedings.

*Example:*

The district will kick off a new campaign this weekend.

"Kick-off" (adjective)

*Example:*

The kick-off ceremony will begin at 1 p.m.

### **Login / Logon / Logoff – Log in / Log on / Log off**

Use one word when used as a noun.

*Example:*

Enter your login name and password.

Use two words in verb form.

*Example:*

I log in to the server every morning.

### **May / Should**

"May" is used when referring to a concern, recommendation, or suggestion; actions that are not required.

*Example:*

We may have a field trip on Tuesday.

"Should" refers to required action.

*Example:*

The district should consider enhancing its efforts to involve parents.

### **Must / Will**

These words refer to required actions.

*Example:*

The district must develop an improvement plan and will secure input from the site-based decision making committee.

### **Online / Offline**

One word in all cases for the computer connection terms.

### **Only**

Place this word immediately before the word or phrase it modifies.

*Examples:*

- (1) Only he said that he was tired.
- (2) He only said that he was tired.
- (3) He said that he was only tired.

### **Over / More than**

"Over" generally refers to spatial relationships.

*Example:*

The plane flew over the school.

"More than" is preferred with numbers.

*Example:*

More than 100 students participated in the event.

### **Principal / Principle**

"Principal" (noun) refers to an administrator.

*Example:*

The principal was well liked across the campus.

"Principle" (noun) refers to a rule or standard.

*Example:*

Principles of good conduct are essential in maintaining order.

### **Ribbon cutting / Ribbon-cutting**

"Ribbon cutting" (noun) is a public ceremony to inaugurate the opening of a new building or business

*Example:*

The ribbon cutting for the new Lenore Kirk Hall Elementary School wing will be Oct. 5

"Ribbon-cutting" (compound adjective)

*Example:*

The Arturo Salazar Elementary School ribbon-cutting ceremony was last week.

**That / Which**

“That” introduces an essential (restrictive) clause or phrase. An essential clause or phrase provides information that is necessary to the meaning of the sentence. Do not use a comma to set off an essential (restrictive) clause or phrase.

*Example:*

Campuses that have developed comprehensive plans are usually more successful in accomplishing their educational goals.

“Which” introduces a nonessential (nonrestrictive) clause or phrase. A nonessential clause or phrase does not limit or define; it merely adds some information. Use the comma to set off a nonessential (nonrestrictive) clause or phrase.

*Example:*

The new portable classrooms, which were purchased last year, already are overcrowded.

**Underway**

One word in almost all uses.

**Workday / Workweek**

One word in all uses

**Workforce**

One word in all uses

**Workforce ready**

The term is not hyphenated

**World Wide Web**

Always capitalize. Web is acceptable. Lowercase “web” in one-word terms: website, webcam, webcast, webmaster; but capitalize in terms with separate words: Web page, Web browser, Web server, and Web surfer.

## Official School Names

The following are the official, board-approved names of the district's schools. In the first reference in written text, the official name should be used in its entirety. In subsequent references, the name may be shortened. Please be aware that many of the district's schools may have rooms, sections, auditoriums, cafeterias, etc., that have board-approved names that should be used in the first reference of written text.

*Example:*

Learning Alternative Center for Empowering Youth is located at Alternative Placement Center at Village Fair. LACEY is a program for middle-school students.

### High Schools

Bryan Adams High School  
W.H. Adamson High School  
David W. Carter High School  
CityLab High School  
Emmett J. Conrad High School  
Trinidad "Trini" Garza Early College High School at  
Mountain View College  
Kathlyn Joy Gilliam Collegiate Academy  
Hillcrest High School  
Innovation, Design, Entrepreneurship Academy  
at James W. Fannin  
Thomas Jefferson High School  
Justin F. Kimball High School  
Dr. Wright L. Lassiter Jr. Early College High School  
at El Centro College  
Lincoln Humanities/Communications Magnet High School  
James Madison High School

Moisés E. Molina High School  
New Tech High School at B.F. Darrell  
North Dallas High School  
Franklin D. Roosevelt High School  
W.W. Samuel High School  
Judge Barefoot Sanders Law Magnet at Yvonne A. Ewell  
Townview Center  
School for the Talented and Gifted at Yvonne A. Ewell  
Townview Center  
School of Business and Management at Yvonne A. Ewell  
Townview Center  
School of Health Professions at Yvonne A. Ewell  
Townview Center  
School of Science and Engineering at Yvonne A. Ewell  
Townview Center  
Seagoville High School  
Skyline High School  
Rosie M. Collins Sorrells School of Education and Social  
Services at Yvonne A. Ewell Townview Center  
South Oak Cliff High School  
H. Grady Spruce High School  
Sunset High School  
Booker T. Washington High School for the Performing and  
Visual Arts  
W.T. White High School  
Wilmer-Hutchins High School  
Woodrow Wilson High School

### **Multi-Level Schools**

George B. Dealey Montessori Academy  
Barack Obama Male Leadership Academy  
at A. Maceo Smith  
L.G. Pinkston High School  
Irma Lerma Rangel Young Women's Leadership School  
Rosemont Preparatory School  
Harry Stone Montessori Academy  
William B. Travis Academy/Vanguard for the  
Academically Talented and Gifted

### **Middle Schools**

William Hawley Atwell Law Academy  
T.W. Browne Middle School  
Edward H. Cary Middle School  
E.B. Comstock Middle School  
Billy Earl Dade Middle School  
Dallas Environmental Science Academy  
Benjamin Franklin International Exploratory Academy  
Hector P. Garcia Middle School  
W.H. Gaston Middle School  
W.E. Greiner Exploratory Arts Academy  
Robert T. Hill Middle School  
Oliver Wendell Holmes Humanities/  
Communications Academy  
Zan Wesley Holmes Jr. Middle School  
D.A. Hulcy STEAM Middle School  
IGNITE Middle School  
Kennedy-Curry Middle School  
Harold Wendell Lang Sr. Middle School  
J.L. Long Middle School  
Henry W. Longfellow Career Exploration Academy  
Thomas C. Marsh Preparatory Academy

Francisco F. "Pancho" Medrano Middle School  
Piedmont Global Academy  
Raúl Quintanilla Sr. Middle School  
Ann Richards STEAM Academy  
Thomas J. Rusk Middle School  
Seagoville Middle School  
Alex W. Spence Talented/Gifted Academy  
L.V. Stockard Middle School  
Boude Storey Middle School  
Sam Tasby Middle School  
E.D. Walker Middle School  
Young Men's Leadership Academy at Fred F. Florence  
Middle School  
Young Women's STEAM Academy at Balch Springs  
Sarah Zumwalt Middle School  
Young Women's STEAM Academy at Balch Springs  
Sarah Zumwalt Middle School



## **Elementary Schools**

John Quincy Adams Elementary School  
Nathan Adams Elementary School  
Birdie Alexander Elementary School  
Gabe P. Allen Charter School  
William M. Anderson Elementary School  
Arcadia Park Elementary School  
Arlington Park Early Childhood Center  
Bayles Elementary School  
Mary McLeod Bethune Elementary School  
W.A. Blair Elementary School  
Annie Webb Blanton Elementary School  
Felix G. Botello Elementary School  
James Bowie Elementary School  
Jimmie Tyler Brashear Elementary School  
John Neely Bryan Elementary School  
Harrell Budd Elementary School  
Rufus C. Burleson Elementary School  
David G. Burnet Elementary School  
George Herbert Walker Bush Elementary School  
W.W. Bushman Elementary School  
F.P. Caillet Elementary School  
Adelfa Botello Callejo Elementary School  
John W. Carpenter Elementary School  
C.F. Carr Elementary School  
Casa View Elementary School  
Cedar Crest Elementary School  
Central Elementary School  
Chapel Hill Preparatory School  
César Chávez Learning Center  
Leonides Gonzalez Cigarroa, M.D. Elementary School  
Nancy J. Cochran Elementary School  
S.S. Conner Elementary School

Leila P. Cowart Elementary School  
Gilbert Cuellar Sr. Elementary School  
Lorenzo de Zavala Elementary School  
Everette L. DeGolyer Elementary School  
L.O. Donald Elementary School  
Julius Dorsey Elementary School  
Frederick Douglass Elementary School  
Paul L. Dunbar Learning Center  
J.N. Ervin Elementary School  
Tom W. Field Elementary School  
Stephen C. Foster Elementary School  
Anne Frank Elementary School  
Geneva Heights Elementary School  
Charles A. Gill Elementary School  
Henry B. Gonzalez Elementary School  
Tom C. Gooch Elementary School  
Frank Guzick Elementary School  
Lenore Kirk Hall Elementary School  
Ebby Halliday Elementary School  
N.W. Harllee Early Childhood Center  
Nathaniel Hawthorne Elementary School  
Margaret B. Henderson Elementary School  
Victor H. Hexter Elementary School  
Highland Meadows Elementary School  
James S. Hogg Elementary School  
H.I. Holland Elementary School at Lisbon  
Lida Hooe Elementary School  
L.L. Hotchkiss Elementary School  
John Ireland Elementary School  
Anson Jones Elementary School  
Barbara Jordan Elementary School  
Jerry R. Junkins Elementary School

Louise Wolff Kahn Elementary School  
Edwin J. Kiest Elementary School  
Martin Luther King Jr. Learning Center  
Kleberg Elementary School  
Obadiah Knight Elementary School  
Arthur Kramer Elementary School  
Richard Lagow Elementary School  
Lakewood Elementary School  
Sidney Lanier Exploratory Arts Vanguard  
Umphrey Lee Elementary School  
William Lipscomb Elementary School  
Jack Lowe Sr. Elementary School  
B.H. Macon Elementary School  
Maple Lawn Elementary School  
Herbert Marcus Elementary School  
Thomas L. Marsalis Elementary School  
Eladio R. Martinez Learning Center  
Eduardo Mata Elementary School – A Montessori Campus  
José “Joe” May Elementary School  
Ronald E. McNair Elementary School  
Lee A. McShan Jr. Elementary School  
Esperanza “Hope” Medrano Elementary School  
Ben Milam Elementary School  
William B. Miller Elementary School  
Roger Q. Mills Elementary School  
Mockingbird Elementary School  
Montessori Academy at Onesimo Hernandez Elementary  
Maria Moreno Elementary School  
Nancy Moseley Elementary School  
Mount Auburn STEAM Academy  
Clara Oliver Elementary School  
George Peabody Elementary School  
Elisha M. Pease Elementary School

John F. Peeler Elementary School  
John J. Pershing Elementary School  
Personalized Learning Preparatory at Sam Houston  
Elementary  
Pleasant Grove Elementary School  
K.B. Polk Center for Academically Talented and Gifted  
Preston Hollow Elementary School  
John H. Reagan Elementary School  
Martha Turner Reilly Elementary School  
Reinhardt Elementary School  
Joseph J. Rhoads Learning Center  
Charles Rice Learning Center  
Thelma Elizabeth Page Richardson Elementary School  
Oran M. Roberts Elementary School  
Dan D. Rogers Elementary School  
Edna Rowe Elementary School  
John W. Runyon Elementary School  
Clinton P. Russell Elementary School  
Arturo Salazar Elementary School  
Julian T. Saldivar Elementary School  
San Jacinto Elementary School  
Alex Sanger Preparatory  
School for the Talented and Gifted in Pleasant Grove  
Seagoville Elementary School  
Seagoville North Elementary School  
Ascher Silberstein Elementary School  
Larry G. Smith Elementary School  
Solar Preparatory School for Boys at John F. Kennedy  
Learning Center  
Solar Preparatory School for Girls at James B. Bonham  
Celestino Mauricio Soto Jr. Elementary School  
J.P. Starks Math, Science, and Technology Vanguard  
Leslie A. Stemmons Elementary School

Stevens Park Elementary School  
Jill Stone Elementary School at Vickery Meadow  
C.A. Tatum Jr. Elementary School  
T.G. Terry Elementary School  
Robert L. Thornton Elementary School  
Edward Titche Elementary School  
Thomas Tolbert Elementary School  
George W. Truett Elementary School  
Adelle Turner Elementary School  
Mark Twain Leadership Vanguard  
Urban Park Elementary School  
Walnut Hill Elementary School  
Daniel Webster Elementary School  
Martin Weiss Elementary School  
Sudie L. Williams Talented and Gifted Academy  
Wilmer Early Childhood Center  
Wilmer-Hutchins Elementary School  
Winnetka Elementary School  
Harry C. Withers Elementary School  
Whitney M. Young Jr. Elementary School  
Ignacio Zaragoza Elementary School

#### **Alternative School Programs**

Maya Angelou High School  
Elementary Disciplinary Alternative Education Program  
Barbara Manns Middle/High School for the Disciplinary  
Alternative Education Program  
Multiple Careers Magnet Center  
John Leslie Patton Jr. Academic Center

#### **Collegiate Academy Names**

Bryan Adams P-TECH Collegiate Academy  
W.H. Adamson P-TECH Collegiate Academy  
David W. Carter P-TECH Collegiate Academy  
Emmett J. Conrad Global Studies H-TECH Collegiate  
Academies  
Trinidad "Trini" Garza Early College High School  
Kathlyn Joy Gilliam Collegiate Academy  
Hillcrest E-TECH Collegiate Academy  
Thomas Jefferson P-TECH Collegiate Academies  
Justin F. Kimball E-TECH Collegiate Academy  
Dr. Wright L. Lassiter Jr. Early College High School  
Lincoln B-TECH Collegiate Academy  
James Madison P-TECH Collegiate Academy  
Moisés Molina B-TECH Collegiate Academy  
North Dallas P-TECH Collegiate Academy  
North Lake Collegiate Academy  
L.G. Pinkston H-TECH Collegiate Academy  
Franklin D. Roosevelt H-TECH Collegiate Academy  
W.W. Samuell Early College High School  
Seagoville P-TECH Collegiate Academy  
Skyline Collegiate Academy  
South Oak Cliff P-TECH Collegiate Academy  
Sunset P-TECH Collegiate Academy  
H. Grady Spruce CTE Early College High School  
Wilmer-Hutchins E-TECH Collegiate Academy  
Wilmer-Hutchins Fine Arts Collegiate Academy  
W.T. White B-TECH Collegiate Academy  
W.T. White Fine Arts Collegiate Academy

## Official Facility Names

The following are the names of the district's administrative and athletic facilities, most of which have been board approved. In the first reference in written text, the official name should be used in its entirety. In subsequent references, the name may be shortened. References to the district's administration building do not require capitalization. Many of the district's facilities have rooms, sections, auditoriums, cafeterias, etc., that have board-approved names that should be used in the first reference of written text.

### **Administrative Facilities**

Forest E. Ballew Service Center  
Dr. H.B. Bell School Support Service Center  
William H. Cotton Service Center II  
Thomas A. Edison Training Center  
Nolan Estes Educational Plaza  
Fleet Maintenance  
Stephen J. Hay  
Kiest Warehouse  
Kleberg Bus Transportation Service Center  
Lawnview Bus Transportation Service Center  
Turney W. Leonard Governance and Training Center  
Maria Luna Food Service Facility  
North Dallas Bus Transportation Center  
Pegasus Complex  
Shook Building  
Linus D. Wright Dallas ISD School Administration Building

### **Athletic Facilities**

P.C. Cobb Athletic Complex  
Joe Louis Field House  
Robert Thomas Field  
Franklin Stadium  
Herschel Forester Athletic Complex  
Alfred J. Loos Athletic Complex  
Kedric Couch Stadium  
Jesse Owens Memorial Complex  
Ellis Davis Jr. Field House  
John Kincaid Stadium  
Pleasant Grove Athletic Complex  
Seagoville Stadium  
James Ray Henry Field  
Sprague Athletic Complex  
Higgins Field  
James Jones Field  
Wilmer-Hutchins Football Stadium  
8233 Military Parkway  
Franklin Stadium, 10000 Hillcrest Road  
James Ray Henry Field at Seagoville Stadium  
819 Jack St., Seagoville  
Higgins Baseball Field at Sprague Athletic Complex  
3606 Boulder Drive  
James Jones Field at Sprague Athletic Complex  
3606 Boulder Drive  
John Kincaide Field at Jesse Owens Memorial Complex  
9191 Polk St.

Lisbon Pool, 4700 Horizon Drive  
Alfred J. Loos Athletic Complex, 3815 Spring Valley Road  
Loos Pool, 3900 Spring Valley Road  
Joe Louis Field House at P.C. Cobb Athletic Complex  
1702 Robert B. Cullum Blvd.  
Jesse Owens Memorial Complex, 9191 Polk St.  
Pleasant Grove Pool, 8204 Alto Garden Drive  
Pleasant Grove Stadium, 8228 Maddox Ave.  
Seagoville Stadium, 819 Jack St., Seagoville  
Sprague Athletic Complex, 3606 Boulder Drive  
Sprague Pool, 3720 Boulder Drive  
Robert Thomas Field at P.C. Cobb Athletic Complex  
1702 Robert B. Cullum Blvd.  
White Rock Pool, 10205 Hermosa Drive  
Wilmer-Hutchins Eagle Stadium, 5520 Langdon Road