

# Belton ISD eNews

OCTOBER 19, 2023



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## MESSAGE FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT

Big Red Community,

One of the goals the Belton ISD Board of Trustees adopted is to maximize the use of resources for both current priorities and plans for the future. This goal is anchored in the value that we place in our community. We hold ourselves to the highest standard to be good stewards of taxpayer dollars, while providing each and every student exceptional learning experiences. Recent Board financial accolades and actions are evidence of this commitment.



During the October 16 Board meeting, it was announced that Belton ISD earned a "Superior Achievement" rating on the annual state fiscal accountability review for the 12th consecutive year according to the results from the 2023 School Financial Accountability Rating System of Texas

(FIRST) Report issued by the Texas Education Agency. We are proud of this achievement and what it says about our practices.

As excitement grows for the grand opening of James L. Burrell Elementary – which is just weeks away from completion – it is important for the community to know the Board likely saved taxpayers an estimated three to four million dollars in construction costs for this school. During the 2021 bond planning process, our Board of Trustees took action in August of 2021 to initiate the design of a new elementary school using savings from a previous bond. This deliberate action saved valuable time that ultimately led to construction starting 9 months sooner than if we had waited for the 2022 Bond to pass. We are thankful that because of the Board’s action in August 2021, we were able to maximize savings and avoid increased costs.

Please join me in celebrating the BISD Board of Trustees for their leadership and prudent financial stewardship.

Sincerely,

Matt Smith, Ed.D.  
Superintendent

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## TOP STORIES



earned this distinction.

### Belton ISD Earns Superior Fiscal Accountability Rating

Chief Financial Officer Melissa Lafferty shared Belton ISD’s School [Financial Accountability Rating System of Texas](#) rating. BISD received a rating of (A) Superior Achievement with a score of 96 points for the 2022-2023 school year based on the 2021-2022 fiscal year data. This is the 12th consecutive year the district has



### BHS Coach Brett Sniffin Celebrates 100th Win

Belton High School’s [Coach Brett Sniffin](#) celebrated his 100th win as the head football coach. With the Friday Night Lights beaming at Tiger Stadium, Belton’s 27-22 conference victory over Connally High School was the win that made history for Coach Sniffin.



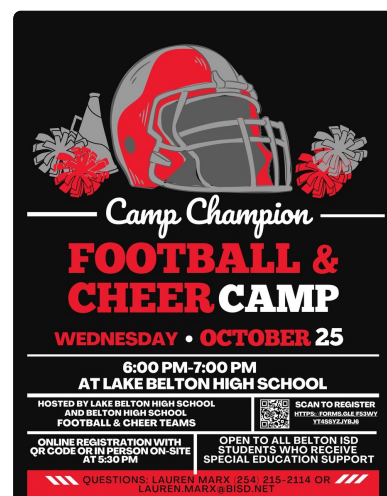
### Welcome Rodney Marek: Belton ISD's New Facilities and Construction Director

Rodney Marek is coming to BISD from Huntsville ISD where he’s served as the Maintenance and Operations Coordinator since 2018. He has been in education for more than 20 years and has a wealth of experience in facilities management and construction.

## TRENDING TOPICS

### Camp Champion: Football and Cheer

Camp Champion is a one-day camp that allows each and every Belton ISD student (ECSE-12th) who receive special education services to participate in a sport that is currently in season. BHS and LBHS athletes model drills and facilitate activities for our students with special needs. This is a fun way to bring the whole BISD community into one event and let our students with special needs experience what it is like to be on the playing field. Please register [here](#).



### Belton ISD's Spirit Chain Fundraiser United Students for a Stronger Community

Belton ISD schools continued its tradition of raising funds for the [United Way](#) through its Spirit Chain fundraiser. The Spirit Chain Game was held at Tiger Stadium on October 13 when students displayed their chains on the football field before the BHS game. Along with contributions from staff members, Belton ISD raised close to \$6,600 for the United Way of Central Texas.



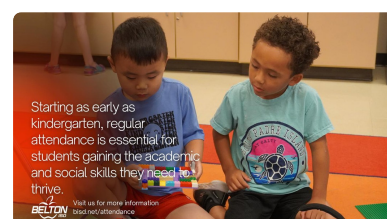
### Free and Reduced School Meal Application

Belton ISD families are invited to submit a Free and Reduced School Meal Application for the 2023-24 school year. Free and Reduced meal applications are for more than just meals! The application is available [online](#).



### Attendance Matters

We realize some absences are unavoidable due to medical obligations or other circumstances. But, we also know that when students miss too much school— regardless of the reason – it can cause them to fall behind academically. Absences can be submitted online [here](#).



## GET INVOLVED

ENGAGE & EMPOWER WITH   
VOLUNTEER AND PARTNERSHIP SYSTEM

Belton ISD believes the learning experiences of our students are enhanced through the engagement of our community. That's why we welcome your partnership! Whether you are a parent, guardian, community member or business leader, we are excited to have you join us.

If you would like to serve with us, sign up with our new [volunteer management system](#).

## VOLUNTEER READERS NEEDED



**HUMILITY + CONSISTENCY + SIMPLICITY**

### What is Education Connection?

Education Connection is in partnership with 14 school districts and 119 elementary schools. **Approved volunteers** and select **elementary students** practice reading together and engage in conversations about the books being read. Education Connection volunteers (Literacy Partners) serve with *consistency* and *humility* while keeping it *simple*. The program involves a **WEEKLY 1x1** reading session with **TWO** children for **15 MINUTES EACH** for the school year from approximately **SEPTEMBER - MAY**.

### How Can I Get Involved?

1. **August 14, 2023, register** to be a volunteer with Education Connection at: [www.education-connection.org](http://www.education-connection.org)
2. Complete a background check with the district you choose to read in. (on our website)
3. Attend **one** required training session.

Call or email us at 512.813.5918 | [info@education-connection.org](mailto:info@education-connection.org)



# 2023 Board of Trustees

**PARENTS AS  
PARTNERS** 

*District Wide*  
**PARENT  
TEACHER  
CONFERENCES**

**Tuesday - October 31**

Conferences are available all day!  
Please register with your teacher for a  
conference time.



## UPCOMING EVENTS

October 30: [Professional Learning / Student Holiday](#)

October 31: [Parents as Partners: Parent Conferences / Student Holiday](#)

November 10: [Student / Teacher Holiday](#)

November 13: [Board Meeting](#)

November 20-24: [Student / Teacher Holiday](#)

December 11: [Board Meeting](#)

December 15: [Early Release](#)

December 18 - January 1: [Student / Teacher Holiday](#)

January 2-3: [Student Holiday / Teacher Workday](#)

[2023-2024 Academic Calendar](#)

[Take the Journey](#)

[Stay Connected](#)

[We're Hiring](#)

### About Us

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Instagram: [@BeltonISD](https://www.instagram.com/BeltonISD) Twitter: [@BeltonISD](https://twitter.com/BeltonISD)



**Belton ISD Communications**

