

# Belton ISD eNews

SEPTEMBER 21, 2023



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## MESSAGE FROM SUPERINTENDENT

Dear Big Red Community,

As we approach the end of the first six-week grading period of the new school year, I'd like to take a moment to reflect on the incredible journey we've undertaken together and express my gratitude for your hard work and dedication. I want to extend my heartfelt appreciation to our students for their commitment to learning. Your curiosity, enthusiasm, and dedication is inspiring.

BISD plans for improvement on an annual basis. The 2023-24 campus objectives were adopted by the Board of Trustees during their September 18 meeting. The campus objectives align to BISD's goals and key progress measures. Identifying critical action steps that support the district goals – and holding ourselves accountable to them – keeps our district focused and striving for continuous improvement.



I want to let you know, last week our Board approved a resolution indicating our intention to join a lawsuit directed at the Texas Education Agency (TEA). We are joining this lawsuit because the TEA and Education Commissioner Mike Morath violated state law when they missed key deadlines in changing the state accountability system.

The Board of Trustees has been advocating for accountability reform since last October when they approved our Legislative Priorities. Trustees and staff met with lawmakers throughout the Legislative Session and specifically asked local representatives to address the TEA's lack of transparency and thoughtful leadership in the accountability system changes. BISD also sent a letter to our representatives and senator in March outlining our concern on this topic and proposed solutions. No solutions were reached during the legislative session and TEA took no action to address their inadequate plan. Our decision to join the lawsuit continues our advocacy efforts on this topic.

Regardless of the actions of the TEA, Belton ISD remains focused on providing exceptional learning experiences for each and every student. This commitment was exemplified last week when Lake Belton High School student Shrey Gupta was named a National Merit Semifinalist. Principal Steele Hantgin and I were there to congratulate him when he found out he was receiving this tremendous achievement. Shrey is among 16,000 high school students nationwide to be named a 2024 National Merit Semifinalist. The Big Red Community is incredibly proud of him.

One of the best things about BISD is our supportive community. I thank our parents and guardians, because your involvement in your child's education is so meaningful to ensure their success.

Have a great week,

Matt Smith, Ed.D.  
Superintendent

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## TOP STORIES

### **Belton ISD Board Approves Resolution to Join Lawsuit Against TEA**

On Friday, September 15, the Belton ISD Board of Trustees held a Special Board Meeting and approved a resolution indicating their intention to join a [lawsuit](#) directed at the Texas Education Agency (TEA).

**BELTON ISD BOARD  
APPROVES RESOLUTION TO  
JOIN LAWSUIT AGAINST TEA**



**SMART Tag**

All students must have a SMART Tag ID. SMART Tag is a full-featured system designed to ensure authorized ridership resulting in increased safety and security of students who utilize school bus transportation. Radio Frequency Identification (RFID) technology and cloud-connected tablet computers in each school bus provide accurate, near real-time information. Please read

more [here](#).



**Parents as Partners: Student Access to Library Selections**

Parents have a very important role in their child's learning, especially reading. Knowing what your child is reading, and being able to either read with them, ask questions, or have discussions on their reading is important. With that in mind, we have made sure you can access materials that your child checks out in our

libraries. Learn how [here](#).

If parents do not wish for their child to have access to specific books available in the library, they are encouraged to speak with their child's school librarian. The librarian can ensure a student is unable to check out any book flagged by parents.

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**TRENDING TOPICS**

**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](#).



**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](#).



## United Way Kids' Campaign

Belton ISD is once again partnering to support the United Way through the Kids' Campaign/Spirit Chain event. Spirit chain links will be "sold" for 25 cents on each campus from Sept. 25 through Oct. 6 to raise money for the United Way. **The Spirit Chain game is on October 13.** Last year, BISD proudly raised \$12,000!



## Meet BISD Nominations Being Accepted

Do you know a BISD World-Class Employee? Meet BISD is an opportunity to spotlight teachers, staff and administrators who are changing lives in the Big Red Community. Do you want to recommend someone who personifies our world-class competencies? Submit a nomination [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](#).



# 2023 Board of Trustees

## UPCOMING EVENTS



October 9: [Student / Teacher Holiday](#)

October 13: [United Way Spirit Chain Game](#)  
October 16: [Board Meeting](#)  
October 30: [Professional Learning / Student Holiday](#)  
October 31: [Parent Conferences / Student Holiday](#)  
November 10: [Student / Teacher Holiday](#)  
November 13: [Board Meeting](#)  
November 20-24: [Student / Teacher Holiday](#)

[2023-2024 Academic Calendar](#)

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## About Us

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**Belton ISD Communications**