

Belton ISD eNews

AUGUST 25, 2023



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MESSAGE FROM SUPERINTENDENT

Dear Parents,

We have had a great start to the school year in Belton ISD, and we are extremely happy to have everyone back on campus!

Last year we saw significant progress in our efforts to ensure an exceptional learning experience for each and every student. We doubled the number of Industry-based Certifications to 741, and we recognize that 319 students took dual credit courses last year. We applaud the 1,400 students who

challenged themselves with the rigorous coursework of Advanced Placement (AP) classes, and we are inspired by the 400 elementary students who took part in Academic UIL competitions. These are just a few of the exciting achievements of BISD students last year.



Last spring, we began sharing important information to make you aware of the significant changes to both the STAAR assessments and Texas State Accountability System (the rating system that assigns letter grades to campuses and districts).

Many school leaders believe there will be statewide fallout because of the changes to the STAAR assessments and the accountability system. We believe BISD will see an improvement in the passing rates on STAAR assessments and End of Course assessments yet a decline in school ratings.

I believe the implementation of the major changes to both the STAAR assessments *and* the Texas Education Agency's accountability system in the same school year demonstrates an agenda to discredit and disparage public schools for political purposes. Guidance from the TEA on the new school accountability system won't be finalized until September – right before they publish new accountability ratings for districts and schools. In October, another special session of the Texas Legislature is expected to discuss school vouchers.

Regardless of the challenges presented by these actions, BISD is committed to continuing our pursuit of exceptional experiences for each and every student. We will use the data from TEA to continuously improve, and we also continue to celebrate the fact that school is about far more than the STAAR test. I see that every day through our student experiences and I trust you see it as well.

Have a wonderful end of August, and thank you for your continued support of our Big Red Community.

Sincerely,

Matt Smith, Ed.D.
Superintendent

TOP STORIES



Lake Belton High School English Teacher Kate Kelly was named the Region 12 Secondary Teacher of the Year.

During the 2023-24 Convocation, Kelly was surprised with the announcement among 2,200 colleagues. The [2024 Region 12](#)

[Secondary Teacher of the Year](#) is selected by a committee of teacher peers. Kelly was chosen out of 77 school districts across a 12-county education area.

BISD Adopts Reduced Tax Rate; Taxpayers Should See Some Relief

"[The action taken by our Board](#) this evening shows their commitment to our staff despite the lack of funding from our legislature. We're thankful for our Board's commitment to our students and staff in Belton ISD given that public schools received no change to the basic allotment," Dr. Smith stated.

BOARD 
**Approves 2023-24
Budget and Tax Rate**

TRENDING TOPICS



The Texas Education Agency has released the **2023 Spring STAAR Results**. Using your student's unique code>access Skyward>TEA Family Portal.

There have been rising concerns over the safety of the **Saturn App** being used by children and teens. This app allows students and potentially others to see and share school schedules and activities. More details are available [here](#).

APP WARNING!



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](#).

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



LABOR DAY

SEPTEMBER 4, 2023



September 4: [Student / Teacher Holiday](#)
September 18: [Board Meeting](#)
September 21: [Southwest Elementary Construction Celebration](#)
September 21: [Lake Belton Middle Construction Celebration](#)
September 21: [Belton High Construction Celebration](#)
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](#)

[2023-2024 Academic Calendar](#)

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Belton ISD Communications

