

WE SOAR! TOGETHER

Welcome

EAGLE AMBASSADORS



#TogetherWeSoar!

ARGYLE ISD
-#TogetherWeSoar-



Eagle Ambassadors

October 9, 2024



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Dr. Courtney Carpenter

Superintendent of Schools



Our Purpose & Call to Action

*At its heart, the Eagle Ambassador Program aims to build a **well-informed** school community that **cultivates open dialogue** and **collaboration**.*

*Through this program, we **aim** to create **ambassadors** that serve as a **conduit** to the **entire community of stakeholders** within Argyle ISD.*



Agenda for the Day

- Introductions ~ *District Leadership & Board of Trustees*
- Roll Call in the Room
- Just the Facts
- Points of Pride
- Argyle ISD: Overview as an Organization
 - Learner & Special Services
 - Financial & Operational Services
 - Staff & Student Services
 - Community & Engagement Services
- Future Sessions
- Reflection & Share-Outs



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Argyle ISD

Leadership Team Introductions



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Board of Trustees



Sam Slaton
Board President



Craig Hawkesworth
Board Vice President



Matt Slaton
Board Secretary



Dr. Leona McDade
Board Trustee



Rich McDowell
Board Trustee



Josh Westrom
Board Trustee



Leigh Ann Artho
Board Trustee



Eagle Ambassador Roll Call

In 30 seconds or less...

- *Share Your Name*
- *Share if you have Eagles in the District*
- *Share how long you've lived in Argyle ISD*



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Argyle ISD: *Just the Facts*



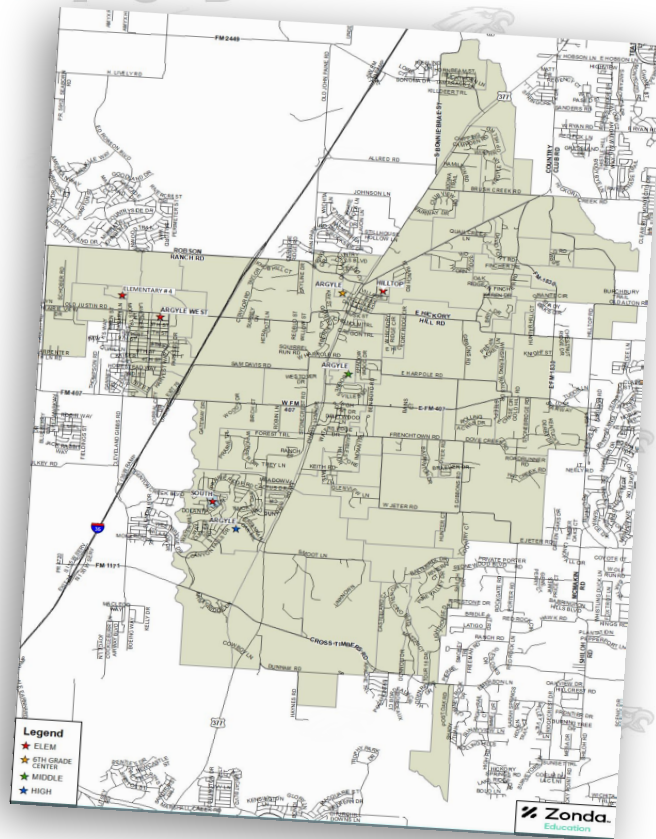
You will hear a high level overview,
jot down questions or things you wonder as we go throughout today
so we can help answer your
questions in our future sessions.
Hang on to your sticky notes.



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AISSD Includes 5 Municipalities

- Argyle
- Bartonville
- Denton
- Flower Mound
- Northlake



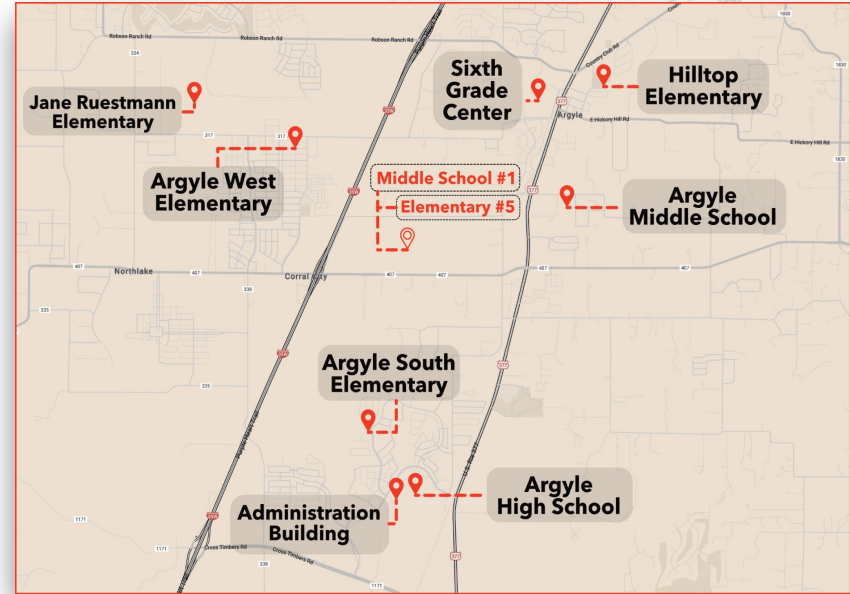
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7 Campuses | 6,097 Students | >700 Employees

- Hilltop Elementary
- Argyle South Elementary
- Argyle West Elementary
- Jane Ruestmann Elementary
- Argyle Sixth Grade Center
- Argyle Middle School
- Argyle High School



Fast-Growth District

As our student population continues to grow, we are hiring additional staff to support and serve our expanding community.

12%

Average Growth rate of student population, over the last five years.



Bond 2022 – Current Projects

Argyle ISD voter-approved bond in May 2022 for \$267,885,000 (no tax rate impact)

- Elementary No. 4 (JRE) – **OPEN**
- Middle School No. 1 – **Fall 2026**
- Elementary No. 5 – **Fall 2027**
- High School Stadium at Canyon Falls – **Fall 2025**
- Indoor Activity Center at Canyon Falls – **Fall 2025**



10-Year Strategic Growth Plan

- **Elementary Campuses**
- **Middle Schools**
- **High Schools**



10-Year Strategic Growth Plan Considerations

The Board of Trustees & District will...

- Examine growth **semi-annually** and **plan accordingly**
- **Review & revise** growth outlook plan as needed
- Continually review of **bonding capacity**
- Collaborate with **district's demographer** (Zonda) & district's **financial advisor** (RBC)
- Continue **collaboration** with local municipalities



Future Bond & Growth Planning

- Reconvene Bond 2023/24 Committee
- Review latest demographer report
- Review projects from last year's bond propositions
- Determine a revised recommendation for the Board of Trustees to consider
- Board of Trustees consider a Bond for May 2025



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Argyle ISD: *Points of Pride*



Academic Points of Pride

- We serve **36 languages** in AISD: Top - *Telugu, Spanish, Tamil, Gujarati, Hindi*
- **81%** of Argyle HS students enrolled in Advanced Placement courses score at least a 3 or higher on the exam, **earning college credit**
- SAT/ACT averages **exceed** regional, state, and national averages
 - SAT - 1152
 - ACT - 23.7
- Started SAT Boot Camp this year - **over 80** students involved
- AHS hosted **SAT School Day** Opportunity this year
- 1 National Merit Semi-Finalist in 2024-2025
- 37 AHS Students - National Recognition College Board (Rural, Hispanic, African American, and First Generation)
- **Comparison Group:** Melissa, Aledo, Lovejoy, FMHS, Lake Travis, Dripping Springs, Eanes, Carroll



Extracurricular Points of Pride

- **13-time Lone Star Cup Champions** (Academics, Fine Arts, & Athletics)
- **8** Different Sports with **25 total State Championships**
- **8-time Marching Band State Champions** – record for most state championships won of any marching band in Texas, regardless of classification
- **Full production** theatre classes **7-12th grade**



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Argyle ISD as an *Organization*



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Leadership Team



Dr. Chris Daniel
Deputy
Superintendent



Dr. Dawn Jordan
Assistant
Superintendent



Liz Stewart
Chief Financial
Officer



Rick Herrin
Chief Communications
Officer



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Argyle ISD: Financial & Operational Services

Liz Stewart
Chief Financial Officer



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Finance and Operational Services

Financial Management	Operational Services
Budgeting	Construction
Payroll	Technology
Purchasing	Transportation
Accounts Payable	Maintenance
Accounts Receivable	Student Nutrition
Audit	Custodial Contract
Risk Management	
Investments	





Christine Arrington
Accounts Receivable &
Administrative Assistant



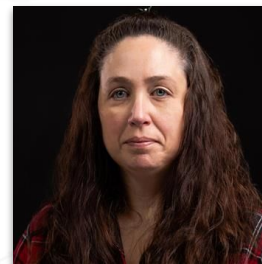
Athena Nance-Young
Purchasing & Risk Management
Specialist



Cecilia Coker
Payroll
Coordinator



Megan Owens
Accounts Payable



**Leigh Ann
Richards**
Accounts
Payable



-#TogetherWeSoar- Operations Staff



Jeff Koehn
Construction
Manager



Tommy Ledford
Executive Director of District
Operations



Greg Royar
Chief Technology
Officer



Amy Bresnahan
Director of Student
Nutrition



Albert Rutledge
Director of Transportation



Angel Garcia
Director of Maintenance



Excellence in Financial Management

- Honored for exceptional transparency and accessibility of financial information.
- **Rated "A" for Superior Achievement for 22 consecutive years.**
- Awarded "**Transparency Stars**" by the Texas Comptroller in 2023 for Traditional Finances and Debt Obligations.
- Completed the **State Efficiency Audit Report** (VATRE Prerequisite)



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Argyle ISD: Learner & Special Services

Dr. Dawn Jordan
Assistant Superintendent for Learner Services



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Learner Services Team



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Special Education Team



Dr. Mark Ruggles
Director of Special
Education



Melissa Kistler
Administrative
Assistant



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Learner Services - Hats we wear



Assessments
Accountability
Student Teachers
Federal Programs
Counseling, Library
Professional Learning
PEIMS and Enrollment
Eduphoria & Evaluations
Title IX & McKinney-Vento
Curriculum and Instruction
Special Programs: ESL, SPED, 504, GT, PK
Career & Technical Education (CTE)



Learner Services: Goals

- ★ Ensure instructional alignment
- ★ Implement district-wide high yield instructional strategies
- ★ Increase CTE program offerings, participation, & completers
- ★ Provide high-quality resources
- ★ HQPK - professional development plan
- ★ Perform in the top 50% of comparable high achieving districts on STAAR Meets and Masters



Learner Services: Goals

- ★ Develop Transition Teams for HS and MS
- ★ Collaborative Visioning
- ★ Curriculum Adoption Timelines and Committees
- ★ Implementation Plans - TIA, Bilingual Programs
- ★ Special Education Program alignment and continuum of services



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Argyle ISD: Staff & Student Services

Dr. Chris Daniel
Deputy Superintendent



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Staff and Student Services

What we do under Staff Services:

- Human Resources
- Talent Development
- Benefits and Leave

What we do under Student Services:

- Safety and Security
- Policy Services
- Discipline and Student Code of Conduct
- Grievances (FNG Process)
- Nurses/Health Services



Human Resources Staff



Morgan Griffard
Administrative Assistant/
Benefits and Leave



Jessica Mayer
Human Resource Specialist



Safety & Security Staff



Eli Davis
Chief of Police



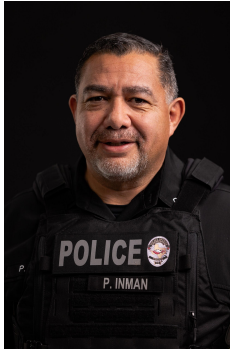
Michael Lemish
Network & Security
Coordinator



Argyle ISD Police Department



Eli Davis
South Elementary



Paul Inman
Argyle Middle School



Gilbert Velo
Hilltop Elementary



Gustavo Melo
West Elementary



Gabby Williams
Jane Ruestmann
Elementary



Brandon St. John
Argyle High School



Kyle Barton
Sixth Grade Center

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Argyle ISD: Communications & Engagement

Rick Herrin
Chief Communications Officer



You will hear a high level overview, **jot down questions or things you wonder** as we go throughout today so we can help answer your questions in our future sessions.
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OUR MISSION

To engage in transparent, effective and open communication, with AISD families, staff and community. Our objective always remains to keep all district stakeholders connected and informed.

Embracing a vision of expanding partnerships, our department strives to build valuable relationships and connections that support every student and staff member.



What we do...

- District Mass Notifications (email, text)
- District & Campus Website management
- All District Social Media Platforms (Facebook, X, Instagram & Flickr)
- **District, Staff & Eagle Partner Newsletters**
- Insights Magazine
- Photography & Videography
- **Campus Communicators Program**
- District-wide events (Eagle Bash, Homecoming, Convocation, Groundbreakings)
- **Staff & Student Recognitions & Appreciations**
- AISD Branding & Promotion



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COMMUNICATIONS TEAM



Rick Herrin

Chief Communications
Officer



Laura Truebenbach

Communications &
Marketing Coordinator



Chris Sayler

Digital Content
Specialist



Tiffany Shawhart

Administrative
Assistant



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Community Connections: Eagle Partners Program

The Eagle Partner Program allows local businesses and organizations the unique opportunity to partner with Argyle ISD in order to support teachers and staff. Argyle ISD has more than 50 Eagle Partners!



Meeting Schedule

Date	Topics
October 9	• District & Departmental Overviews • School Funding Referendum (VATRE)
November 20	• Strategic Growth & Facilities Planning
January 15	• School Funding • Legislative Advocacy • Role of a Board Member
February 19	• Curriculum & Instruction • Student & School Safety
March 19	• Communications, Partnerships, & Engagement
April 22	• School Board Meeting & Recognition (6:00pm)





Argyle ISD

School Funding Referendum
(VATRE)

Why are we here?



A Statewide School Funding Crisis

School districts **across Texas have adopted deficit budgets** because of lack of action at the **state level** to update **outdated funding formulas**. Some districts have **cut student programs and educational staff** to reduce costs.

- **Fox 4:** Texas school districts making cuts after state fails to pass funding increase
- **Houston Public Media:** Amid a lack of state funding, challenges lie ahead for Houston-area school districts in multi-million dollar budget deficits
- **KERA:** North Texas school districts face millions in budget cuts, closures & layoffs to fend off deficits
- **KXAN:** 'At what cost?': Many Central Texas districts make cuts as they face million-dollar deficits
- **WFAA:** North Texas school districts are stretching financially for the 2024-25 school year



Potential Strategies to Balance Budget

- ❑ **Pause staff raises** for teachers, staff, and support
- ❑ **Increase class-size ratios** across all levels **and caseloads** for support staff
- ❑ Reevaluate, modify or **eliminate ratios for enrollment-based staffing matrix**
- ❑ Analyze, **eliminate low-enrollment programs and classes**
- ❑ **Increase fees** in non-core programs and activities
- ❑ Modify **busing qualification** criteria



What is a VATRE?

AKA: School Funding Referendum



What is a Voter-Approval Tax Rate Election?

A Voter-Approval Tax Rate Election (VATRE) is a special election that gives the community the power to decide whether to approve a new tax rate for their school district.

Why does it matter?

It impacts the funding available for school programs, staff, and student services.



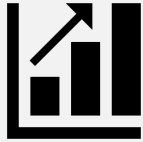
What is Argyle ISD's history of a Voter-Approval Tax Rate Election?

In 2012, Argyle ISD voters approved a then-called **Tax Ratification Election**. At the time, election dates were chosen by school districts.

Since 2019, Argyle ISD has consistently lowered the Maintenance & Operations tax rate.



Why is AISD Holding a School Funding Referendum?



20%

**Rising
Inflation
Since
2019-2020**



76%

**Increased Student
Population Since
2019-2020**



69%

**Increased Staff
Population Since
2019-2020**

- No increase to the state's student funding allotment since 2019



The Impact of Inflation

- **Rising Fuel Prices:** Since 2019-2020, fuel costs have surged, significantly increasing transportation expenses for the district.
- **Increased Utility Rates:** The cost of electricity, water, and gas has risen sharply, putting additional strain on the district's operational budget.
- **Rising Insurance Premiums:** Since 2019-2020, the cost of insuring school properties and liability coverage has escalated.

Utilities



51%

Increase

Fuel



44%

Increase

Insurance



45%

Increase



Fast-Growth District

As our student population continues to grow, we are hiring additional staff to support and serve our expanding community.

12%

**Average Growth rate of
student population, over the
last five years.**



Understanding School Finance

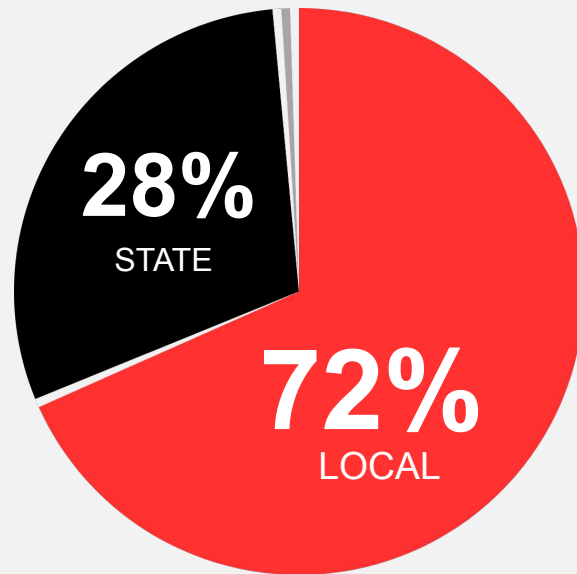
Argyle ISD



How are schools funded?

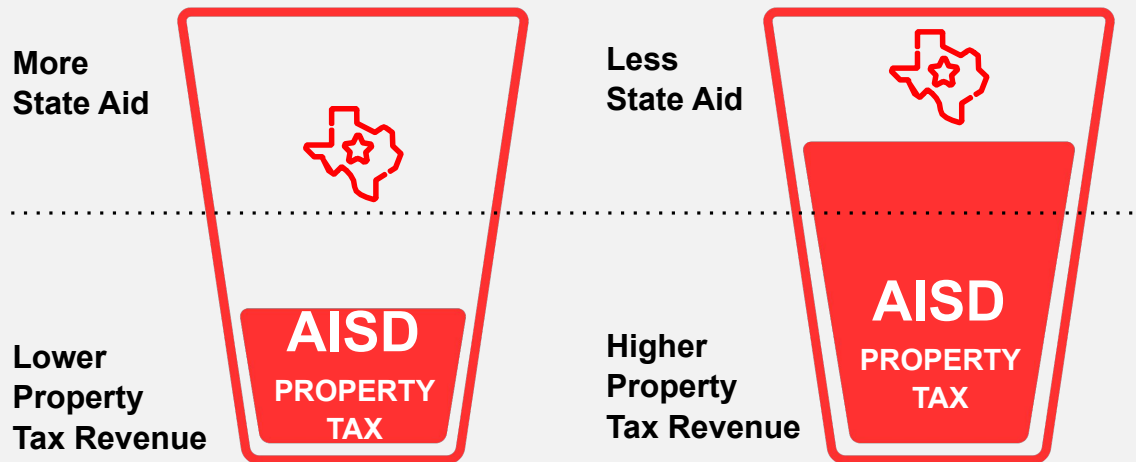
Public schools in the state of Texas are funded from three main sources: **local school district property taxes**, **state funds**, and **federal funds**.

- Local/Other: Property taxes make up 72% of Argyle ISD's operating budget.
- State: The state provides 28% of the budget, but this amount is shrinking as property values in the district rise.
- Federal: Federal funds cover specific reimbursements and account for just .002% of the budget.



School Taxes by the Glass

Local property taxes fill the glass first, and the state fills in any space that is left.



**This creates a relationship between local and state funds where when local tax collections increase, state funds to a school district decrease.*



How are taxes applied to the budget?

School budgets and tax rates are made up of two parts: **Maintenance and Operation (M&O)** and **Interest and Sinking (I&S)**. The money generated from each part can only be used for specific types of expenses.

M&O

- Purpose: Funds the day-to-day operations of the school district.
 - Teacher and staff compensation
 - Instruction
 - Classroom supplies
 - Utilities
 - Transportation

Similar to things like:
car fuel, routine maintenance, groceries, clothing,
cleaning supplies, and utilities like electricity and water



I&S

- Purpose: Pays for the district's debt, including bonds issued for major capital projects, like:
 - New school construction
 - Major renovations/Facility upgrades
 - Furniture, equipment and/or purchase of land

Similar to things like:
a new home, house renovations, kitchen
appliances, new mechanical systems or a
new car



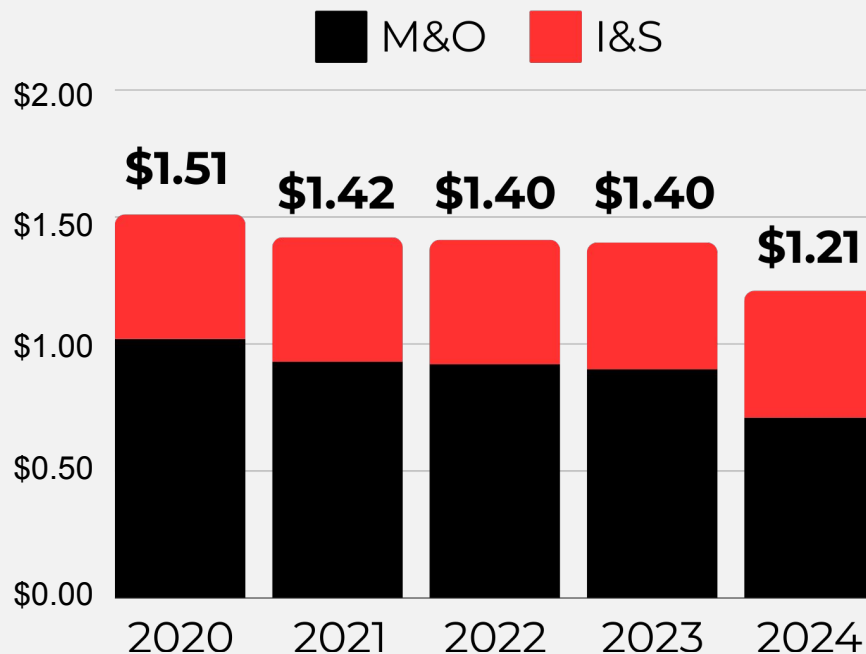
Underfunded or Unfunded State Mandates

While the state has not updated funding levels since 2019, it has also **required districts to pay for new programs**. This decreases the funding going to teachers or the classroom.

Required Program	District Cost
Security Mandates	483% more than the state allotment
Special Education	151% more than the state allotment



Argyle ISD Tax Rate



2023-2024:

M&O Tax Rate **Decreased** by \$0.1854.

Resulting Decrease: \$1,090.42 in school taxes for the average homeowner.



Since 2022:

Average Homeowner's Taxes will still be **\$637.55 lower** even with the proposed increase.



What Happens in a VATRE?



VATRE IMPACT

✓ If Approved:

- The M&O tax rate increases to the proposed rate of \$0.7869.
- **More funding becomes available for specific district needs.**
- AISD will recommend future competitive compensation for teachers and staff.

✗ If NOT Approved:

- The tax rate stays the same.
- The district may need to consider cuts or adjustments to its budget such as:
 - **Class Size Increases**
 - **Program Reductions or Eliminations**
 - **Staff reductions**

**Reduced resources and support could negatively impact student achievement and outcomes*



Cost to Taxpayers, If Approved...

Increase in M&O Tax Rate:

- **\$0.077** cent increase per \$100 of taxable home value

PROPOSED AISD M&O TAX RATE	+	AISD CURRENT I&S TAX RATE	=	TOTAL PROPOSED ISD TAX RATE
\$0.7869		\$0.50		\$1.2869

Monthly Impact on Homeowners:

If approved, the tax rate impact for Argyle ISD taxpayers would be an **increase of \$6.42 per month for every \$100,000 of taxable home value.**

For **homeowners 65 and older whose property taxes are frozen, this increase **will not affect** their taxes unless they have made significant improvements to their homes.*



What will I see on my ballot?

ARGYLE INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT – PROPOSITION A – SPECIAL ELECTION FOR TAX RATE RATIFICATION

☐ FOR	)	RATIFYING THE AD VALOREM TAX RATE OF \$1.2869 PER \$100 VALUATION IN THE ARGYLE INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT FOR THE CURRENT YEAR, A RATE THAT WILL RESULT IN AN INCREASE OF 10.4 PERCENT IN MAINTENANCE AND OPERATIONS TAX REVENUE FOR THE DISTRICT FOR THE CURRENT YEAR AS COMPARED TO THE PRECEDING YEAR, WHICH IS AN ADDITIONAL \$6,915,000.
☐ AGAINST	)	



Planned Use of VATRE Funds

2024 - 2025

Initial Allocation: \$2,500,000

- **Staff Retention Payment: \$890,000**
 - One-time supplemental payment for 24-25 school year currently taken out of fund balance.
- **2% Mid-Point Pay Increase: \$885,000**
 - Ongoing annual increase in salaries.
- **Budget Deficit Offset: \$400,000**
 - Reduces the remaining budget shortfall.
- **Classroom Ratios & Future Pay Increases: \$325,000**
 - Supports maintaining **elementary class size ratios (22:1)** and future salary increases.

Argyle ISD

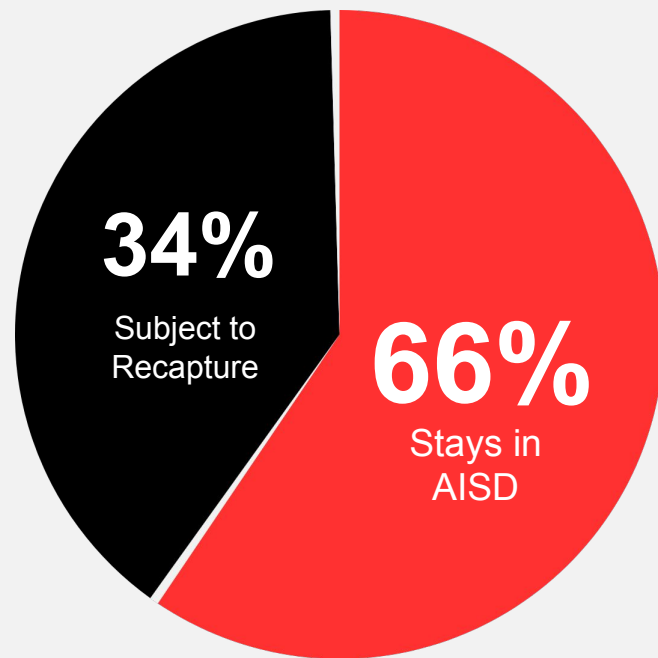
2025 - 2026

- **Ongoing 2% Pay Increase: \$885,000+**
 - Recurring salary increase, adjusted for additional staff.
- **2%-4% Recurring Pay Increase**
 - As determined by the Board of Trustees.
 - 1% = \$450,000
- **Potential Budget Deficit Balance**
 - Addresses any remaining shortfall IF no additional state support.
- **Additional Full-Time Teachers: ~\$68,000 per employee**
 - Ensures maintaining **elementary class size ratios (22:1)** and any possible campus support positions



What about Recapture?

Proposition A would bring about \$3.8 million in new revenue to Argyle ISD. Argyle ISD would keep about \$2.5M and the remainder would be subject to recapture by the state.



Questions?



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Call to Action

Before we come back together in November, find a way you can be an Argyle ISD ambassador in our community and share what you learned!



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AB Communication



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Why did you choose Argyle ISD for your family?

ROUND 1:

Partner A: Speaks first: 30 seconds to answer

Partner B: Listens only

ROUND 2:

Partner B: Speaks first: 30 seconds to answer

Partner A: Listens only



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Share-Out

A *Partner A* that would like to share from their pair?

A *Partner B* that would like to share from their pair?

A *Partner A* that would like to share from their pair?

A *Partner B* that would like to share from their pair?



How can you use your ambassadorship to inform & influence others in our community?

ROUND 1:

Partner A: Listens only

Partner B: Speaks first: 30 seconds to answer

ROUND 2:

Partner A: Speaks first: 30 seconds to answer

Partner B: Listens only



-#TogetherWeSoar-
Share-Out

A *Partner A* that would like to share from their pair?

A *Partner B* that would like to share from their pair?

A *Partner A* that would like to share from their pair?

A *Partner B* that would like to share from their pair?



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