



Community Connection

Wisdom works wonders.

January 2025



January is School Board Recognition Month! Waco ISD honors its trustees for their guidance and leadership within the district. Check out this video where our students express their thoughts on what school board members do and show their appreciation for these dedicated individuals. Thank you to our trustees for your unwavering support!



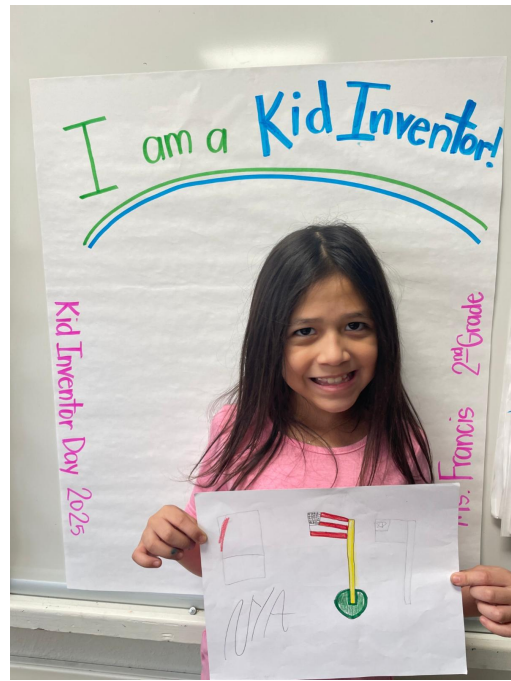
Waco ISD welcomed its new deputy superintendent, Dr. Melissa King-Knowles, to the district on January 6. Dr. King-Knowles immediately jumped into the work of the district, applying her more than 20 years of public education experience. We are excited to have her leadership in Waco ISD.

Waco ISD Attendance Boundaries Discussion Continues

Waco ISD held its third attendance boundaries committee meeting in January to continue discussion regarding the district's consideration of redrawing attendance boundary lines. The committee's goal is to make final recommendations to the Waco ISD Board of Trustees in March following town hall meetings to hear from the public. To view a comprehensive overview of the process, see meeting presentations, or review frequently asked questions, click [HERE](#). View photos [HERE](#).



Alta Vista Elementary Kid Inventor Day



Alta Vista Elementary students created inventions to improve a task or just make the world a better place! Students created inventions at home and also created inventions using Legos in the library's maker space as part of National Kid Inventor Day!

2021 Bond Program Updates



Construction crews are ahead of schedule on the new Kendrick Elementary School that will house up to 750 students when it opens in August 2025. Kendrick Elementary will welcome some of the students from Alta Vista Elementary when that school closes in June. Click [here](#) to view photos.

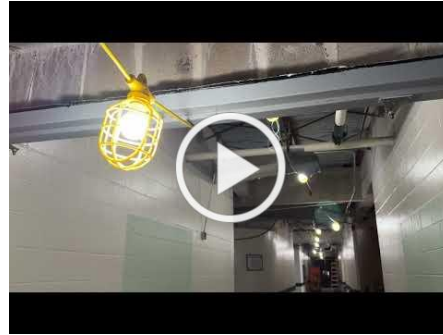
Progress continues on the new 370,000 square foot Waco High School with the walls all in place, including in the new beautiful auditorium. The new school is scheduled to open in August 2025. Click [here](#) to view photos of the latest construction work.



The new Tennyson Middle School will soon have its new track and football field completed, and staff returned in January from the holiday break to a new staff parking lot, easing congestion on the street during student pick-up and drop-off times. Click [here](#) to view photos.



South Waco Elementary early education teachers and the librarian started the semester in the new addition at the school which is also the main entrance as the existing building undergoes renovations. Students are excited to enjoy meals in their classroom which the cafeteria undergoes a make-over! Click [here](#) to view more photos.



Student and Staff Accolades



Congratulations to the Waco ISD Fine Arts Department and campus theater arts programs that earned the Texas Thespians Premier Communities for Theatre Education Award. The award is bestowed based on curriculum, scheduling standards, class sizes, facilities, theatre safety, technical equipment, production elements, overall support for the theatre program, and Thespian troupe involvement.

Congratulations to our Waco High men's varsity and junior varsity teams that have dominated their opponents on the field this season. The teams entered district play this week and is working to keep up their winning streak!



Congratulations to University High School multi-sport student athlete London Smith who has



committed to play college ball right here at home at Baylor University. London is also a respected basketball player. London is a role model both on and off the field. We look forward to following his college career.

Congratulations to our University High and Waco High band students who advanced to the all-region clinic and concert. Students met with other band members from across the region and learned new music together in a matter of hours and then performed several concerts together! University High School's Archie Hatten, IV and Waco High School's Tyler Sage, serve as the head band directors.



The Cesar Chavez Middle School cheer squad earned 2nd place in the Game Day category and 3rd in the Middle School Routine at a competition in Houston. Teacher D'Yonne Joiner coaches the team. Great job!



Message from the Board President

Dear Waco ISD Community,

Happy New Year! It's wonderful to see all our students and staff embracing the new year with so much energy, enthusiasm, and a love for learning. As we kick off another year, I want to take a moment to express my gratitude for the unwavering support of our community partners. Your continued involvement helps us go the extra mile—not only by creating meaningful learning opportunities but also by celebrating the successes and milestones that make our district so special.

January is also School Board Recognition Month, and I want to take this opportunity to thank my fellow board members for their dedication to Waco ISD. Public schools in Texas thrive because of the local accountability and strong community connections that school boards bring to the table. Together, we are accountable not only to the voters who entrust us with this responsibility but also to the future generations of students who will grow and thrive in our schools.

The future is bright for Waco ISD, and I am filled with gratitude for the privilege of serving alongside such a committed board as we continue to shape the path forward for our students, staff, and district.

Thank you for your continued support and partnership. Let's make this year our best one yet!

Stephanie Korteweg



Board Meeting Recap



Did you miss the January 23 Board of Trustees meeting? Get a quick update by watching the meeting recap video. Check out this [LINK](#) for the full board meeting from January 23, 2025.

The next regular meeting will be held on February 27, 2025, at 6 p.m. in the WISD Conference Center, 115 S. 5th Street.

Outstanding Community Partner

Prosper Waco was honored as the Waco ISD Community Partner of the Month for January. Since 2022, with generous support from the Gates Foundation, Prosper Waco has contributed over \$400,000 to Waco ISD to aid in the recruitment and retention of high-quality classroom teachers. Over its ten years of existence, Prosper Waco has pursued grant funding, resulting in a total contribution of more than \$1.4 million to Waco ISD. This funding has supported initiatives such as placing college and career navigators in schools and beyond.



Message from the Superintendent

Dear Waco ISD Community,

Happy New Year! I hope 2025 is off to a wonderful start for you and your family. It's hard to believe we've already entered the second semester of the school year. As the saying goes, "Time flies when you're having fun!" During my structured campus visits, I've certainly had a great time visiting campuses, engaging with students, staff, and families to discuss what's going well in Waco ISD and where we can grow. The students' honest—and often hilarious—insights have brought many smiles to my face during these discussions. If I haven't yet visited your student's campus, rest assured I'll be there soon and would love for you to join me to share your thoughts.



We have also been hard at work on our attendance boundaries. Our third committee meeting brought together parents, staff, and community members to evaluate maps for elementary, middle, and high schools, focusing on program equity, special education services, bilingual education, and transportation. I'm thrilled to announce our fourth meeting will take place in early February, followed by three town hall-style meetings to hear directly from you, our valued stakeholders. Your input is critical as we shape the future of our district, and I encourage you to attend. A final recommendation is expected to go before the Waco ISD Board of Trustees in either March or April.

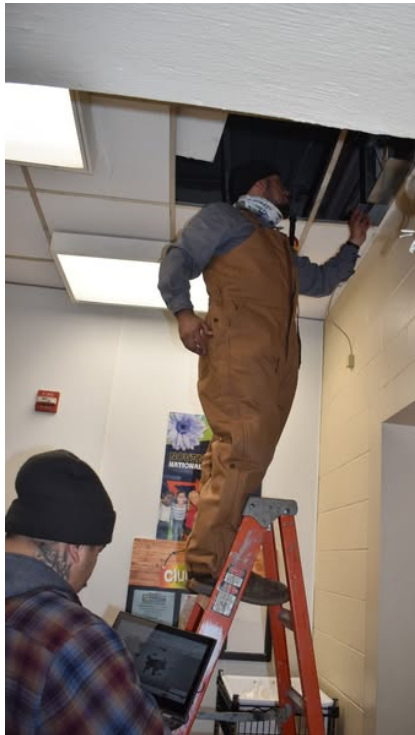
Additionally, I'm excited to share that I was able to start the Superintendent Student Advisory Committee meetings for our two high schools and extended this leadership opportunity to all four of our middle schools. These groups are a vital part of our mission, giving students a voice to share campus challenges and collaborate on solutions that break down barriers to their success.

It's an honor to work alongside our incredible staff, students, and families to continue building a brighter future for Waco ISD. Thank you for your ongoing support and commitment to our students. Together, we're making a difference! Let's continue to #InspireExcellence.

Warm regards,



Click [here](#) to find the 2024-2025 instructional calendar.



We want to recognize the heroes working behind the scenes during our cold winter weather, ensuring that buses and schools were warm and ready to welcome students. Our maintenance staff and bus drivers arrived hours earlier than usual so that Waco ISD could provide a welcoming environment and ensure that teaching and learning continued without interruption.

Waco High School JROTC hosted its annual drill meet, welcoming 32 schools and hundreds of cadets to go head-to-head in eight different competitions. Not



only did the event provide leadership opportunities for our students, but it was also an economic boost to the area with our out-of-town guests purchasing gas, meals, and other items in our city. Command Sergeant Major Willie Jones and 1st Sergeant Davis lead the program. See photos [HERE](#).

Thank you to Operation Warm and Douglass Subaru for their collaborative effort to provide warmth to Waco ISD's students. Students in need were invited to Waco Family Medicine to select their new coats. See photos from the event [HERE!](#)



Did you catch Waco ISD on the big screen? Waco ISD showed off the district to recruit new teachers to the district by airing a commercial on movie screens at local theaters through the Christmas holiday and into the new year! Check out our vacancies [HERE](#).

Community Resources



We can all play a part in helping to keep Waco ISD safe! Our anonymous online reporting system, STOPit, is available to all students, staff, families, and the community. You can report bullying, violence, and other safety concerns anytime by following this link: www.wacoisd.org/STOPit.



Did you know ALL Waco ISD students ride FREE on the Waco Transit System? Yes, even during summer break! Take advantage of this great resource today.

Visit <http://wacotransit.ridesystems.net/routes>
Download the Ride System app.



Try email marketing for free today!