



NOVEMBER 2024

# BIG RED LETTERS

BELTON ISD SUPERINTENDENT DR. MALINDA GOLDEN

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Hello Belton ISD,

It is hard to believe that it is already November! This month always fills me with gratitude as we celebrate Thanksgiving, but it also fills me with a deep sense of patriotism and pride as we recognize both Veterans Day and Election Day. Our ability to vote each November is a gift, made possible by the bravery of our military personnel. Let's show our appreciation for their service and for the freedom they've preserved!

Another gift of our democracy is the ability to advocate. Advocacy is the act or process of supporting a cause and is our opportunity to engage with our elected officials. Belton ISD has already been actively engaging our stakeholders in developing legislative priorities for the 89th Texas Legislature, which will convene in January 2025. We are committed to working with our legislators starting this month and throughout the session to advocate for these priorities for our students, families, staff, and community. Please spend some time learning more about these priorities, adopted by our Board of Trustees a few weeks ago, in the document below.

As we look ahead to the approaching Thanksgiving holiday, I want to express my sincere gratitude for your unwavering support of our school district. Parent and community support is invaluable in fostering a positive and nurturing learning environment for our students. I am also grateful for the dedication of our outstanding teachers and staff. Their passion for education and commitment to our students' success inspires us all. Leading the Belton ISD community is a true blessing that I thank God for every day!

Sincerely,

Malinda Golden, Ph.D.  
Superintendent

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**FOLLOW ME!**

X @GOLDEN4ED

@BISDSUPERINTENDENT



# LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES 2024 - 2025

## OVERVIEW

These legislative priorities were drafted based on input from the Belton ISD community through listening circles with parents, city leaders, spiritual leaders, non-profit leaders, campus administrators, staff, and board members.



## STUDENT EXPERIENCE

**Our children are worth the cost.**

Texas ranks 42nd in the nation when it comes to per student funding for public education. Serving the needs of a large, diverse student population is costly. Parents and community members rely on our public schools to provide high-quality education and ensure a bright future for each and every student. Now is the time to invest in learning experiences that empower students to thrive in future careers while also addressing the growing mental health concerns in our society.

### LEGISLATIVE RECOMMENDATIONS:

- Increase the basic allotment to account for inflation
- Calculate funding based on enrollment
- Expand CTE program funding to include elementary
- Increase funding for special education programs
- Fund full-day Pre-K
- Increase safety allotment & mental health supports

*"The essence of public school is helping kids see their potential, to see dreams they have never seen before, and to pull kids out of generational poverty."*  
- BISSD parent

## TEACHER & STAFF EFFICACY

**When we support our teachers and staff,  
we support our children's future.**

High-quality teachers and staff are strongly linked to student achievement, graduation rates, and post-secondary success. As the profession faces unprecedented shortages, we must support retention, recruitment and development practices that strengthen the education workforce.

*"Our teachers and personnel are not just doing this for a job. It's a calling as much as a pastor is called. It is a deep and holy calling, and legislators need to know that. They (teachers) certainly don't get rich doing it, and they perform under tremendous pressure. They aren't first responders, but they are responders who shape our future."  
- Local community faith-based leader*

### LEGISLATIVE RECOMMENDATIONS:

- Increase compensation
- Reduce healthcare costs
- Provide differentiated compensation incentives for high-needs areas (Special Education, Bilingual, etc.)
- Provide multiple state-supported instructional resource options

## ACCOUNTABILITY & TRANSPARENCY

**It's time to measure what matters most.**

The purpose of the accountability system is to inform the public but our current system places too much emphasis on standardized testing. Students and schools are so much more than just one test on one day and our community deserves an accountability system that more accurately reflects the many factors that contribute to a quality education.

*"I wish our legislators would use a tool to measure success that is more broad and not one test. Capture the whole story, not a slice of it."  
- BISD PTO Leader*

### LEGISLATIVE RECOMMENDATIONS:

- Expand the scope of the state accountability system to include factors beyond STAAR test scores such as community engagement and financial reporting
- Ensure equal transparency and accountability for all public, private, and charter schools receiving public funds
- Modify required ballot language for bond elections

**Inspiring Dreams.  
Empowering Futures.**



**Belton ISD**



**BREAKING NEWS**

# **Belton ISD's Dual Language Immersion: Empowering Bilingual, Multicultural Success**



Belton ISD proudly offers dual language immersion programs, starting in elementary school, to prepare students for multilingual success. The district provides both one-way and two-way dual language options, fostering bilingualism and cultural exchange. Currently, eight percent of elementary students are enrolled, with two new sections added this year.

Belton ISD's Dual Language Immersion underscores the district's commitment to empowering students for a multicultural future.

# **Belton ISD Spirit Chain Raises Nearly \$10,000 for United Way of Central Texas**



Belton ISD schools upheld their tradition of supporting the United Way through the Spirit Chain fundraiser. Students bought chain links for 25 cents, creating long chains over two weeks, which were displayed around their campuses. The Spirit Chain Game took place at Tiger Stadium on October 25, where students showcased their chains on the football field before the LBHS game.

Here's the breakdown of funds raised:

- Elementary campuses: \$6,359.02
- Middle School campuses: \$1,177.52
- High School campuses: \$143.25

Including employee contributions, Belton ISD raised nearly \$10,000 this year for the United Way of Central Texas.

# Belton New Tech's 10th Annual Zombie Run

Belton New Tech @Waskow held its tenth annual Zombie Run, featuring 50 runners and a Kiddy Costume Candy Run. The event included family-friendly activities like a bounce house, face painting, and bracelet making. Human runners began the race with zombies chasing them, adding to the thrill. Awards were given to the top runners, best costume, and the “deadliest” zombie. Proceeds will fund a free flu shot clinic in partnership with Belton H-E-B and other sponsors.





SAVE THE DATE!



**November 11:** District Closure

**November 12:** Parents as Partners Virtual Lunch and Learn: Online Safety for your Child

**November 12:** Parents as Partners Dyslexia Night and Student Artwork Display

**November 14:** Parents as Partners Bilingual/ESL Families

**November 15:** Special Olympics Bowling

**November 18:** Regular Board Meeting

**November 21:** Parents as Partners CTE Showcase

**November 25-29:** District Closure

**December 16:** Regular Board Meeting

**December 20:** Two-Hour Early Release

**December 23-January 3:** District Closure

**January 6-7:** Student Holiday

**Special Programs**  
November 12, 2024

**PARENTS AS PARTNERS** BELTON

5:45-6:00 Refreshments  
6:00-6:30  
6:30-7:00  
7:00-7:30  
30-minute repeated sessions

**30 Minute Sessions**  
Each session will be repeated every 30 minutes

Belton ISD Administration Bldg.  
400 N. Wall St. Belton, TX

An interpreter will be available

**Dyslexia at a Glance**  
For parents of students grades K-12

- Awareness and characteristics of dyslexia
- Qualifications of staff who provide services
- Contact information for the specialists

**Reading by Design - Dyslexia program overview - for grades K-12**  
For parents of students grades K-12

- Scope and sequence
- Lesson components
- Effective strategies
- Progress monitoring

**Testing, Accommodations, and Modifications**  
For parents of students grades K-12

- Testing identification and services
- STAAR Accommodations and Modifications
- Resources for Information for SAT, PSAT, and TSI

**Artwork Celebration**

- All student artwork will be displayed in the hallways

**CHILDCARE**  
Ages 3 and up  
<https://forms.gle/g8H3qyRY93T6sAZb7>

Please RSVP



**BELTON ISD**

For questions email  
[donna.shriner@bisd.net](mailto:donna.shriner@bisd.net) or [misty.norwood@bisd.net](mailto:misty.norwood@bisd.net)

**Programas Especiales**  
12 de Noviembre de 2024

**PARENTS AS PARTNERS** BELTON

5:45-6:00 Refrigerios  
6:00-6:30  
6:30-7:00  
7:00-7:30  
Sesiones repetidas de 30 minutos

**Sesiones de 30 minutos**  
Cada sesión se repetirá cada 30 minutos

Habrà una intérprete disponible

Sesiones repetidas de 30 minutos  
Edificio de Administración de Belton ISD  
400 N. Wall St. Belton, TX

**Un vistazo a la dislexia**  
Para los padres de estudiantes en los grados K-12

- Conciencia y características de la dislexia.
- Cualificaciones del personal que proporciona los servicios.
- Información para contactar a los especialistas.

**Reading by Design (Lectura por diseño) - Descripción general del programa de dislexia**  
Para los padres de estudiantes en los grados K-12

- Alcance y secuencia.
- Componentes de la lección
- Estrategias efectivas.
- Seguimiento del progreso.

**Evaluaciones, adaptaciones y modificaciones**  
Para los padres de estudiantes en los grados K-12

- Identificación de las evaluaciones y servicios.
- Adaptaciones y modificaciones para el examen STAAR (Evaluación de preparación académica del estado de Texas).
- Recursos con información sobre:
  - SAT (Prueba de aptitud académica).
  - PSAT (Examen preliminar de aptitudes académicas).
  - TSI (Evaluación de la iniciativa para el éxito de Texas).

**Celebración de obras de arte**

- Todas las obras de arte de los estudiantes se exhibirán en los pasillos.

**CUIDADO DE NIÑOS**  
a partir de 3 años o más  
<https://forms.gle/g8H3qyRY93T6sAZb7>  
Por favor reserve



**BELTON ISD**

Preguntas a los correos electrónicos  
[donna.shriner@bisd.net](mailto:donna.shriner@bisd.net) o [misty.norwood@bisd.net](mailto:misty.norwood@bisd.net)

## 2024-2025 Academic Calendar

Take the Journey

**Stay Connected**

**We are Hiring**

**Belton Independent School District**

**400 North Wall Street | [www.bisd.net](http://www.bisd.net) |  
[communications@bisd.net](mailto:communications@bisd.net)**