



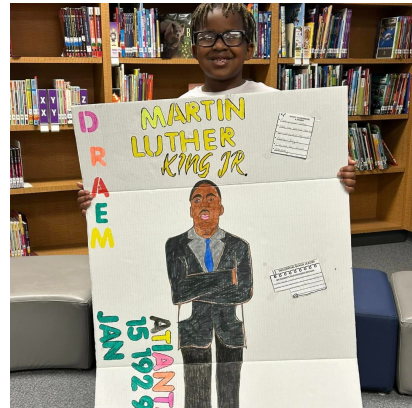
Community Connection

Wisdom works wonders.

February 2025



Black History Month was celebrated across the district with campuses hosting multiple events and students participating in learning opportunities that highlighted the contributions and history of African Americans. Thank you to the parents, teachers, and community members for your support during the celebrations. Click [HERE](#) to view more photos, and [HERE](#) to watch a recap of several programs.



Kids Future Chef National Challenge



Waco ISD elementary students whipped up their favorite family recipes as they went head-to-head in the 15th Annual Elementary Future Chefs Challenge sponsored by

Sodexo and hosted by Waco ISD Child Nutrition Services. Congratulations to all who participated! Click [HERE](#) to view more photos from the event.

Waco ISD Attendance Boundaries Discussion Continues



Waco ISD held two attendance boundary committee meetings as well as two public hearings during the month of February to continue the discussion regarding the district's consideration of redrawing attendance boundary lines for the 2025-2026 school year. The committee's goal is to make final recommendations to the Waco ISD Board of Trustees in March. The final public hearing is scheduled for March 4 at G.W. Carver Middle School. To view a comprehensive overview of the process, see meeting presentations, or review frequently asked questions, click [HERE](#).

H-E-B Celebrity Cookoff Event



The Waco ISD Education Foundation's annual fundraiser, the H-E-B Celebrity Cookoff, was a huge success! Twenty-five "celebrity" chefs/teams, both amateur and professional, along with community sponsors helped to raise just under \$123,000. All funds raised go directly back to the Education Foundation, and then in turn, go back into the classroom to fund innovative teacher grants. To view more photos from the event, click [HERE](#). To watch a recap video of the event, click [HERE](#).



New Leadership Named to Several Key Roles

In February, the district announced the hiring of three key leadership roles. Congratulations to these new & familiar faces to our Waco ISD team!

Suzanne Hamilton was promoted to serve as the district's new Assistant Superintendent of Student Services and Support. A Waco ISD graduate and dedicated educator with 18 years of experience, Hamilton has served in multiple capacities within the district, including as a teacher, principal, and district-level administrator. Click [HERE](#) to read more about Ms. Hamilton.



Nkechinyere Washington was named the new executive director of special education. Washington brings 15 years of extensive experience in special education, educational leadership, program development, and student-centered support to her new role. Click [HERE](#) to read more about Ms. Washington.

The district is proud to welcome back Esrom Martinez as the new athletic coordinator and head football coach of the Waco High School Lions. A seasoned athletic coach with 15 years of experience, Martinez is well-known in Central Texas football circles for his leadership and commitment to student-athlete development both on and off the field. Click [HERE](#) to read more about Coach Martinez.



Student and Staff Accolades

Waco ISD's very own Communications team captured 29 Texas School Public Relations Association (TSPRA) awards including two Best of Shows and two Crystal awards, the highest honor in a single category. This is an amazing testament to the incredible work this team does every day!



Waco ISD Executive Director of Communications, Wendy Sledd, was installed for a second term as vice president of the West Central region of the Texas School Public Relations Association (TSPRA). In this role, Mrs. Sledd supports school PR professionals from Abilene to Lampasas by organizing training and keeping members informed on key public education issues!

Parkdale Elementary teacher, Stacey Lumley, was selected from more than 1,000 teachers across Central Texas as a Whatateacher! Her students received some cool swag, and Ms. Lumley will enjoy free Whataburger meals for a year!



The Waco High Lady Lions basketball team had a strong season, and made it to the playoffs. Congratulations to these amazing student athletes!

The University High Trojans basketball team pulled out a double overtime win to advance to round 4 of playoffs! Keep making Waco ISD proud, gentlemen!



The Waco High boys soccer team



secured there spot in the playoffs and continue a strong run in district play with a perfect record of 6-0! Best of luck in the playoffs!

Yeilin Salazar from Cesar Chavez Middle School participated in the Lions Clubs International Foundation Peace Poster Contest where she received 1st place locally, 2nd place in the District, and 3rd place in the State! The theme for the 2024-2025 contest was "Peace Without Limits".



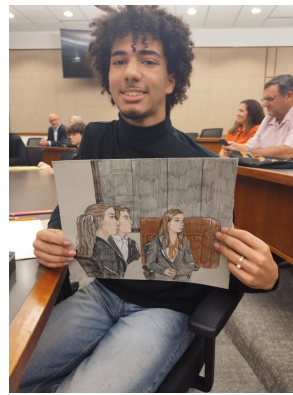
University High School students Kevin Gutierrez, Osmar Cazares, and Cristian Martinez earned 1st place in the Science Chemistry Division at the Regional Science and Engineering Fair, and will now advance to the Texas Science Fair.

Waco High and University High students have been selected from among more than 2 million Texas high school students to present on a topic of their choice to Texas Association of School Board officials, school superintendents and other administrators across the state. This select group of students will present about the impact of technology on education and the student.



The Waco High Mock Trial team represented the district well as they argued their cases while competing against other districts in the Regional Mock Trial Contest. This semi-finalist team, instructed by Rick Lowe, had an amazing run during the competition! Click [HERE](#) to view more photos.

Waco High art student, Tyrone McNary, advanced to the state contest in the courtroom artist category of mock trial. This is the third state qualifier from WHS in the last four years!



Tennyson Middle School choir students, instructed by teacher Jacob Garcia, participated in the 2025 All Region Choir. Thousands of Texas middle school students begin their journey at the beginning of the school year with fewer than 800 selected for these distinguished ensembles. What an honor!

Waco ISD elementary and middle school students from across the district demonstrated their knowledge in the annual WISD UIL competition. What an inspiring group of students! Click [HERE](#) and [HERE](#) to view more photos.



University High School seniors Mia Gonzales and Gia Mondial were selected to play softball in the Super Centex FCA Victory Bowl this summer. Congratulations, ladies!

Message from the Board President

Dear Waco ISD Community,

The Waco ISD Education Foundation's H-E-B Celebrity Cookoff was a powerful reminder of the unwavering support our district receives from the Waco community. Whether you sponsored the event, purchased a table, attended, or volunteered, your involvement was instrumental in making it a

success. Several trustees and I had the pleasure of hosting a booth, allowing us to strengthen our bond as a team while personally thanking our stakeholders for their continued support.

As we look toward the spring, I could not be prouder of the perseverance, dedication, and hard work our students, teachers, staff, and families demonstrated. From ongoing academic success to the growing sense of unity within our schools—fueled by the generosity of our incredible community partners—it is evident that we are building something truly special together.

Thank you for your continued support and commitment to Waco ISD!

Sincerely,

Stephanie Korteweg



Board Meeting Recap



Did you miss the February 27 Board of Trustees meeting? Get a quick update by watching the meeting recap video. Check out this [LINK](#) for the full board meeting from February 27, 2025.

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

Outstanding Community Partner

Douglass Subaru was honored as the Waco ISD Community Partner of the Month for February. Over the past two school years, they have sponsored 20 different classrooms collectively by donating \$500 to each classroom through the Subaru Loves Learning initiative. Douglass Subaru and the district also recently teamed up to host Operation Warm, an event where 120 winter coats were gifted to students served by Waco ISD's Student Services and Support department. Waco ISD is truly grateful for Douglass Subaru's support of our students and teachers alike!



Message from the Superintendent

Dear Waco ISD Community,

This is an exciting time to be part of Waco ISD! From celebrating CTE Month and cheering on our students in UIL competitions to hosting meaningful Black History Month events and welcoming new leaders to our district, our community is thriving with energy and momentum. We were thrilled to see our student-athletes excel, with the Waco High girls' basketball team and the University High boys' basketball team advancing to the playoffs.



We are also making significant strides in shaping the future of Waco ISD. The conversation around attendance boundaries continues to progress, with community town hall meetings at Tennyson Middle School and Alta Vista Elementary providing valuable feedback from parents and stakeholders. If you couldn't attend, there's still time to make your voice heard—join us for our final meeting on March 4 at 6 p.m. at G.W. Carver Middle School. Your input is essential as we plan for the district's future.

As we celebrate the diversity and achievements of our students and staff this spring, I encourage you to stay engaged. Whether attending school events, volunteering, or simply staying informed, your involvement helps foster a positive, collaborative environment for our students. Together, we are building a future of growth, opportunity, and success!

Warm regards,

Tiffany Spicer, Ph.D.
#WISDomWorksWonders



Hillcrest PDS Elementary Magnet's Showtime Company put on a fantastic production of the Junie B. Jones musical, "Junie B.'s Essential Survival Guide to School JR." This talented group of 4th and 5th graders is under the direction of music teacher, Paula Hoover. To view more photos from the performance, click [HERE](#). To watch some special interviews from the cast, click [HERE](#).



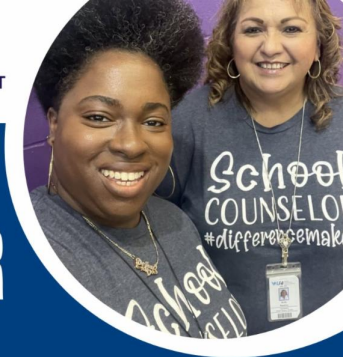
February is Career & Technology Education Month (CTE). Students can enroll in career classes such as criminal justice, health sciences, welding, robotics, automotive, culinary arts, and more. These comprehensive programs allow students to receive hands-on training and valuable experience.



SCHOOL COUNSELOR DAY

THANK YOU
FOR ALL YOU
DO!

February 3, 2025



Waco ISD celebrated all of our amazing counselors during National School Counseling Week. This week recognizes the important roles that school counselors play in the lives of our students, and is celebrated during the first full week of February.

The CenTex Teen Book Fest on the Brazos, presented by LIT Waco and Waco ISD, was a huge success where students interacted with authors and illustrators while developing a love of literacy! Thank you to the WISD Transportation Department for providing bus transportation for students, and Waco ISD's Child Nutrition Services staff for providing free lunch to them as well! Click [HERE](#) to view more photos.






2025
LAW ENFORCEMENT
TORCH RUN
**POLAR
PLUNGE**



Officer Girsh, Jr. Sgt. Martinez Lt. Freeman Chief Goodman Officer Steiner

**SPONSOR THESE WACO ISD POLICE OFFICERS
WHO ARE TAKING THE PLUNGE FOR OUR
STUDENTS ENROLLED IN
SPECIAL EDUCATION CLASSES!**

Saturday, March 1, 2025
Hawaiian Falls Waco
9 AM

Scan Here
To Sponsor



Scan the QR code, or click [HERE](#) to donate.



Are you interested in joining the Waco ISD team? The district's Human Resources Department is looking for top notch folks to make WISD even better! 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.

Free Bus Rides
for all Waco ISD students

More Information
254-750-1900
www.waco-texas.com/transit



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!