



Community Connection

Wisdom works wonders.

March 2025



Waco ISD recently held the annual Men's and Women's Empowerment Summits where secondary students across the district were invited to participate in a morning full of learning and celebration. The 5th annual men's event exposed the young men to different career possibilities, etiquette, and societal opportunities. Click [HERE](#) to watch a recap of the event.

The 4th annual women's event introduced the female students to inspiring speakers discussing mindset, social media presence, and etiquette. Click [HERE](#) to watch a recap of the event. Thank you to Baylor University and the Junior League of Waco for your partnership to bring these events to Waco ISD students!

To view more photos from each summit, please click below:

[Men's Empowerment Summit](#)

[Women's Empowerment Summit](#)



Waco ISD Special Olympics Basketball Game



The district hosted the 6th Annual Waco ISD Unified Basketball Game, and it was a great reminder that inclusion matters! The game between Waco High School and University High School was a celebration of teamwork, perseverance, and school spirit. Students of all abilities from both campuses played together, side by side, while fans cheered them on to victory. Congratulations to the University High Trojans for getting the win and the game-winning ball! Click [HERE](#) to view more photos from the game, and [HERE](#) to watch the game recap.

Waco ISD Attendance Boundaries Finalized



Waco ISD held its fifth and final attendance boundary committee meeting to conclude the discussion regarding the district's consideration of redrawing attendance boundary lines for the 2025-2026 school year. The committee,

comprised of community members, parents, and staff, studied the current attendance maps, attended three public hearings to receive community input, and created a recommendation for the Waco ISD Board of Trustees to consider for the 2025-2026 school year.

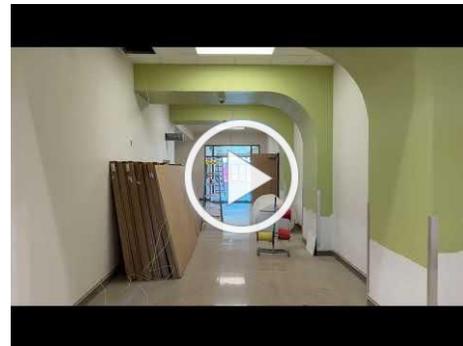
During the March 27 Board of Trustees meeting, trustees voted to accept the attendance boundary committee's recommendations for new attendance boundaries for the 2025-2026 school year within Waco ISD. The vote passed unanimously.

Moving forward, the district will clearly articulate a "grandfathering" procedure that aligns with the policy related to how the new attendance boundaries will be implemented. These procedures will outline which grade levels the new boundaries impact and will take into consideration families that may have multiple students within the district. WISD will clearly communicate the timeline and implementation to all families ahead of opening the 2025-2026 transfer window and returning student enrollment.

To view a comprehensive overview of the process, see meeting presentations, or review frequently asked questions, click [HERE](#). Click [HERE](#) for a Spanish version of the video.

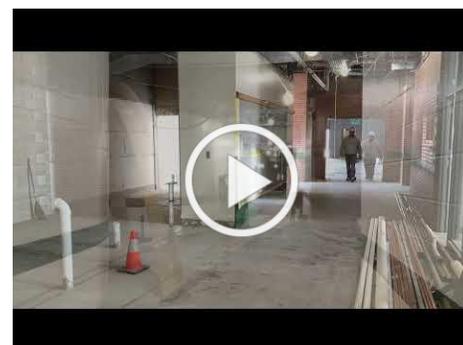
2021 Bond Program Updates

Construction on the new Kendrick Elementary is nearing completion. The campus will house up to 750 students when it opens its doors to welcome them this fall. Click [HERE](#) to view photos.



Significant progress continues on the new 370,000 square foot Waco High School. The finishing details will soon be in place to welcome its first senior class. Click [HERE](#) to view photos.

South Waco Elementary's renovations are coming along as planned. Once the project is completed, the new and renovated South Waco will total 91,600 square feet. Click [HERE](#) to view photos.



Superintendent's Scholars Celebration



Waco ISD honored 175 scholars in 8th-11th grades whose performance on the PSAT placed them not only top in the district, but in the nation! These students have bright futures and their desire to learn is cultivated through the Superintendent's Scholars program in the Advanced Academics Department, under the direction of Paula Miller. Congratulations to these amazing students, and a special thank you to their parents for continuing the love of learning at home! Click [HERE](#) to view more photos of the event.

Student and Staff Accolades

Waco ISD's Purchasing Department was selected for the Texas Association of School Business Officials Award of Merit for following professional standards in the acquisition of goods and services. WISD is one of only two Texas school districts out of more than 1,200 selected for this honor annually for the past 17 years! Click [HERE](#) to read the full story.



The Waco ISD Police Department was awarded the prestigious designation of "Accredited Law Enforcement Agency" by the Texas Police Chiefs Association Law Enforcement Accreditation Program. The WISD Police Department is only one of 213 to earn the honor out of more than 2,500 law enforcement agencies across the state. Click [HERE](#) to read the full story.

Career Technical Education Teacher Miguel Limones received a \$7,500

Technology Grant through the generosity of ESC Region 12. Mr. Limones will use the grant to purchase new camera equipment and accessories to continue teaching students how to capture images including athletics, fine arts, school events, and more as he prepares them for work beyond high school. Click [HERE](#) to view more photos.



The Greater Waco Advanced Manufacturing Academy Cloud Chaser students won 1st place and earned the Teamwork and Airmanship awards at the Aerial Drone Competition. The team is instructed by CTE teacher Randall Weidner.



Waco High School students participated in the TMEA Region Jazz Honor Band. More than 70,000 students compete for a spot in a region band or choir, and approximately 13% of students in Texas qualify for the all-region jazz band. The students are under the direction of Band Director Tyler Sage and Assistant Band Directors Austin Lemmons and Michelle Lenker.

Students from Cesar Chavez Middle and Waco High Schools earned 1st place at the Special Olympics event, with David and Nectalin earning gold and silver medals in the skills competition.



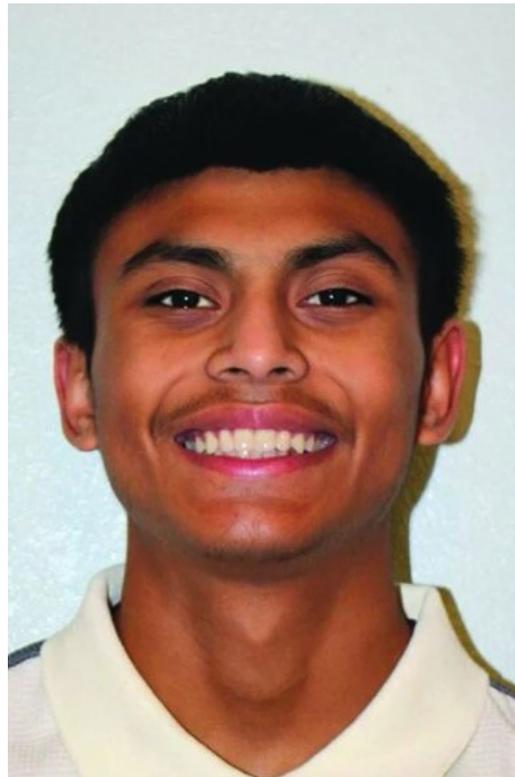
University High School students earned 5 of the top 10 placings in the ESC Region 12 Citizen Bee competition, showcasing their knowledge in civics, government, history, and the Constitution. Trojan Kevin Gutierrez earned the highest score on the written



test and placed 4th overall. Teacher Telly Ramsey prepared the students for the competition.

Waco High and University High theater arts students competed in the district One Act Play contest where they presented incredible productions. Waco High recently competed in the Bi-District competition, and will advance to the Area competition! Break a leg, Lions!

Click [HERE](#) to view photos from Waco High's production, and [HERE](#) to view photos from University High's production.



Waco High School senior Treniti Freeman, and University High School senior Osmar Cazares were two of 24 students in McLennan County honored for their community service work with Service Above Self: 2025 Youth Citizenship Awards by the Waco Rotary Club. Osmar was a finalist and received a \$2,000 scholarship!

The Waco High Lions soccer team had



an incredible season! The team went undefeated during district play and advanced to the second round of playoffs. Amazing job, Lions!

Congratulations to the Waco High Lady Lions soccer team for its dedication and commitment in the 2024-2025 season. What a fantastic group of student athletes both on and off the field!



The University High Lady Trojan soccer team had a fantastic season that led them to the first round of the playoffs. Your Trojan spirit showed your hard and heart work that went into your success!



The University High Trojan soccer team finished their season as Bi-District champions! Congratulations to a hard working group of student athletes that represented Waco ISD well.



The University and Waco High powerlifting teams were **HEAVY** lifters and saw **BIG** results in their regional and state meets!!
Job well done to this amazing group of student athletes!



**REGION 2 - D1 REGIONAL
POWERLIFTING MEET
RESULTS**

BRAYDEN CHELMO - STATE QUALIFIER
CARLOS NAVARRO - 2ND PLACE - STATE QUALIFIER



Great Job!!!

State Qualifiers
Niya Smith
Jennifer Martinez
Nija Smith

REGION 2 DIVISION 1

Niya Smith - 1st
Nija Smith - 3rd
Jennifer Martinez - 2nd
Delila Torres - 5th
Brittany Leija - 5th
Overall Team Place - 7th



**5AD2 THSWPA STATE
CHAMPIONSHIP
POWERLIFTING MEET
RESULTS**

SOPHIA GONZALES - 2ND PLACE - 220 WEIGHT CLASS
DANNA FUENTES - 6TH PLACE - 242+ WEIGHT CLASS
ALIVEYAH THOMAS - 8TH PLACE - 148 WEIGHT CLASS



Message from the Board President

Dear Waco ISD Community,

The Waco ISD Men's and Women's Empowerment Summits were nothing short of extraordinary! Seeing our students inspired and uplifted by this experience was truly powerful. A heartfelt thank you to Baylor

University and the Junior League of Waco for their unwavering support in making these summits possible. Your generosity and commitment to our students remind us how truly fortunate we are to have such incredible community partners.

As we return from spring break, the pace of the school year accelerates, and we enter one of the busiest—and most meaningful—times of the year. The months ahead will be filled with well-earned celebrations of our students' and staff's hard work and accomplishments. But before we reach those milestones, there is still important work to be done. I do not doubt that, together—students, teachers, staff, families, and our community—we will push forward with determination and pride to finish this year stronger than ever.

Thank you for being the heart of Waco ISD. Your dedication, support, and belief in our students make all the difference.

With gratitude,

Stephanie Korteweg



Board Meeting Recap



Did you miss the March 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 March 27, 2025.

The next regular meeting will be held on April 24, 2025, at 6 p.m. in the WISD Conference Center, 115 S. 5th Street.

Outstanding Community Partner

Cooper Foundation was honored as the Waco ISD Community Partner of the Month for March. Since 1947, Cooper Foundation has awarded Waco ISD 31 grants totaling over \$755,000. They recently awarded a grant to University High School to fund new uniforms for the mariachi band, the Trojanos. The lasting impact and support the Cooper Foundation has given to Waco ISD over the past 78 years is truly remarkable. The Cooper Foundation is vested within the Waco community and Waco ISD!



Message from the Superintendent

Dear Waco ISD Community,

Playoff soccer season is here, and the excitement is contagious! Watching the University and Waco High boys' teams, along with the University High girls, compete has been nothing short of thrilling. Beyond the field, Waco ISD has been buzzing with incredible events—the Special Olympics Unified Basketball Game, our annual job fair, and both the Men's and Women's Empowerment Summits. Spring has certainly arrived in Waco ISD, bringing with it a season of energy, achievement, and opportunity.



As a district, we are in the midst of transformative growth and innovation, shaping a brighter future for our students, staff, and community. The final phase of our 2021 bond projects is nearly complete, and in August, we will proudly open the doors to the new Kendrick Elementary, the new Waco High, and the renovated South Waco Elementary. These state-of-the-art spaces will not only enhance learning but will also inspire the next generation of leaders, thinkers, and changemakers.

As we move through the spring semester, we continue to build on the momentum of the past months. Our students are not only excelling academically but are also developing as leaders, athletes, and artists through their extracurricular activities and community involvement. Whether in the classroom, on the field, or on the stage, their hard work and dedication make us incredibly proud.

Thank you for your continued support in making Waco ISD a place where students thrive.

Warm regards,

Tiffany Spicer, Ph.D.
#WISDomWorksWonders

University High School students continues to offer free volunteer tax services through April 10 in partnership with the IRS Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) Program. Teacher Andrew Pierce supervises the program. Click [HERE](#) to learn more about the program.

FREE TAX SERVICES

University High School
3201 S. New Road
(Use the Gymnasium/Student Parking lot entrance)
In Person, Room: W1505



January 28 - April 10, 2025
Tuesdays and Thursdays
(Excluding holidays and closures)
4:30 - 6:30 p.m.

Please bring your Picture I.D., Social Security card, and tax documents for each person on the return



Connecting today's ideas to tomorrow's leaders.

Scholarships Now Available!



Due April 25

For more information and application requirements please visit, www.wacoisd.org/ef-scholarships.

Attention Class of 2025! Don't miss your opportunity to apply for scholarships through the Waco ISD Education Foundation! Applications and qualification details can be found by visiting wacoisd.org/ef-scholarships



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.



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.

Waco ISD | 501 Franklin Ave | Waco, TX 76701 US

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