

Galena Park Independent School District
District Improvement Plan
2025-2026 Comprehensive Needs Assessment



Board Approval Date: August 11, 2025

Mission Statement

The mission of the Galena Park Independent School District is to prepare students to become productive citizens and lifelong learners.

Vision

Excellence In All, For All, By All

Value Statement

The first settler of the area was Ezekiel Thomas of South Carolina, who obtained the land as one of Stephen F. Austin's colonists. In 1833, one thousand acres of his property were sold at public auction to Isaac Batterson, who settled on the land and named the settlement "Clinton", after his former home in New York. In 1918, a one-room school was established, which had less than seventy students and one teacher. In 1924, the school was moved to the Fidelity Addition and renamed Fidelity School. A second teacher was added and the school taught grades 1st through 7th. Black students in the upper grades were transported to Wheatley High School in the Houston ISD. In 1926, the present Galena Park Elementary campus was the site of Clinton School, one of many schools belonging to the Harris County School District. Thirteen teachers taught grades 1st through 11th. On the secondary level, the courses taught were English, Latin, Spanish, history, math, science, and commercial subjects. In 1931 it became an individual elementary school. In 1928, the construction of a high school, the former Galena Park Middle School, was completed. For almost 100 years, the settlement was known as Clinton. The town attempted to establish a post office but the request was denied due to an existing post office bearing the town name in Hunt County. A group of citizens met, officially changing the name from Clinton to Galena Park, naming it after the Galena Signal Oil Company, one of the town's leading enterprises.

Galena Park Independent School District (GPISD) was established in 1930, with Mr. G. P. Smith serving as Superintendent. He was followed by J. C. Ingram, W. E. Driskill, Dr. Walton Hinds, W. C. Cunningham, Dr. Gerald D. Cobb, Dr. Don W. Hooper, Dr. Shirley J. Neeley, Dr. Mark Henry, and Dr. Angi Williams. Dr. John Moore is currently serving as Superintendent of Schools. GPISD is home to three high schools, five middle schools, fifteen elementary schools, and alternative programs. GPISD is supported by over 3,000 teachers, administrators, and classified and auxiliary personnel making it one of the largest employers in east Harris County. The District spans 37 square miles outside of Loop 610 East and boasts a student enrollment of over 21,000. Together, everyone throughout GPISD maintains the core values of communication, being flexible and understanding, expecting everyone to do their part, and accepting NO excuses.

In May 2016, the Board of Trustees and voters approved a \$290 million bond to undergo construction projects designed to facilitate academic excellence throughout GPISD. The bond projects were used to fund the construction of replacing six new elementary campuses and a new 10th grade center, renovating and upgrading all campuses and facilities, and acquiring land for future facility needs.

In May 2024, the Board of Trustees and voters approved the largest bond referendum in the district's history: a \$530 million bond package to rebuild two elementary campuses, completion of a high school replacement, renovations for two elementary schools and two middle schools, as well as numerous plans of improvement across all campuses.

These bond projects enabled GPISD to continue to provide our students with state-of-the-art educational facilities and equipment so they can prosper as productive citizens and lifelong learners and realize our vision of "Excellence in All, for All, by All."

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Comprehensive Needs Assessment

Needs Assessment Overview

Needs Assessment Overview Summary

Where We Are Now:

Galena Park ISD continues to deliver effective instruction to our diverse and growing student population in grades Pre-K through 12 and takes great pride in its academics. A variety of outstanding instructional programs are designed to meet the ever-changing needs of the students we serve. Our instructional programs include bilingual education, English as a Second Language (ESL), advanced placement classes, pre-advanced placement classes, dual credit, gifted and talented, special education, Career and Technical Education (CTE), tutorials alternative educational programs as well as a CTE Early College High School. The District has dropout recovery programs to help our students: Pregnancy Related Services and PEP child care, Accelerated Center for Education, Night School, 21st Century Community Learning Centers, and the Optional Flexible School Day Program. In addition, the District takes great pride in outstanding fine arts, CTE, athletic, academic UIL, LOTC, and JROTC programs. Several of our award-winning programs have been recognized at the district, regional, and state levels.

State Compensatory Education

The goal of State Compensatory Education is to increase academic achievement and reduce the dropout rate of at-risk students. Galena Park ISD provides funds for supplemental state compensatory education programs and services for students who are identified as at risk. The programs and services were designed for these students using district test results to improve and enhance the regular education and summer school programs. Each campus oversees the administration of each supplemental State Compensatory Education Program.

Title I

The goal of Title I is to provide additional supplemental support to students who meet the low socio-economic criteria. In Galena Park ISD, all campuses receive Title I funds based on the number of low socio-economic students. Funds are focused on increasing student academic achievement in the core content areas. Funds provide supplemental staff, support after-school tutorials, and supplemental instructional materials. In addition, parent involvement activities are supported for each campus.

Title I, Part C Migrant

The goal of Title I Part C, Migrant is to ensure that migrant children are provided with appropriate educational services, including supportive services, that address their special needs in a coordinated and efficient manner. In Galena Park ISD, students are provided with clothes that meet our dress code, school supplies, and coordination of other education, health, nutrition, and social services in our community. The District Migrant Coordinator meets/conferences with Priority for Service (PFS) migrant students and parents to monitor the services and growth of PFS students a minimum of twice a quarter. To ensure PFS students receive the appropriate individualized services to address their academic needs quarterly. PFS student progress reviews are conducted and coordination of supplemental materials and resources for both reading and math are provided as needed. In addition, training for migrant parents is provided throughout the year to ensure student success.

Where We're Going:

Based on feedback from this year's District Needs Assessment Survey, Parent Involvement Survey results, department input, assessment data, District Planning and Advisory Committee (DPAC) recommendations, and end-of-year program evaluations, the following sections outline our strengths and priority needs for 2024-2025. We will maintain efforts to support the District goals established by our Board of Trustees. The 1:1 student device program continues to provide exciting learning opportunities that incorporate technology in the classroom. Technology enhancements and remote learning are significant initiatives for the school year. The District will continue to implement the superintendent's focus areas of Accountability/Own It, Growth/Improvement in EVERY department and EVERY campus, Follow-up and Follow-through, Quality Curriculum/Engaging Lessons, Quality Instruction, Quality Professional Learning for Leaders, and Excellence in All We Do.

District Accountability Rating	
2022-2023	Ongoing Litigation
2021-2022	91 - A
2020-2021	Not Rated: Declared State of Disaster
2019-2020	Not Rated: COVID-19
2018-2019	88 - B
2017-2018	Not Rated: Harvey Provision

Attendance, Dropout, & College Readiness Data						
	2018-2019	2019-2020	2020-2021	2021-2022	2022-2023	2023-2024
Attendance	96.2%	98.4%	96.7%	93%	93.5%	N/A
Drop-Out (7-8)	0.3%	0.3%	0.5%	1.0%	0.6%	N/A
Drop-Out (9-12)	2.7%	1.9%	2.4%	2.7%	2.6%	N/A
4 Year Graduation Rate	88.7%	92.2%	94%	89.3%	89.6%	N/A
Advanced Course/Dual Enrollment	N/A	53.7%	50.3%	54.6%	N/A	N/A

STAAR/EOC Summary (Approaches Grade Level or Above)			
Subject	Year	State	District
All Subjects	2023	76%	77%
	2022	74%	74%
	2021	67%	62%
	2020	-	-
	2019	78%	78%
ELA/Reading	2023	77%	76%
	2022	75%	71%
	2021	68%	63%
	2020	-	-
	2019	75%	73%
Mathematics	2023	75%	78%
	2022	72%	76%
	2021	66%	63%
	2020	-	-
	2019	82%	84%
Science	2023	77%	77%
	2022	76%	75%
	2021	71%	66%
	2020	-	-
	2019	81%	82%
Social Studies	2023	78%	76%
	2022	75%	72%
	2021	73%	62%
	2020	-	-
	2019	81%	79%

Demographics

Demographics Summary

Galena Park ISD consists of three high schools, five middle schools, fifteen elementary schools, one alternative program, one early head start, and two daycare centers staffed by approximately 3,200 employees, making us one of the largest employers in east Harris County. The District includes 34 square miles outside of Loop 610 East and has a student enrollment of 21,400.

The following schools were established as follows:

1928 – Galena Park High School

1931 – Galena Park Elementary School (Rebuilt in 2018)

1943 – Cloverleaf Elementary School (Rebuilt in 2019)

1944 – Jacinto City Elementary School (Rebuilt in 2020)

1947 – Woodland Acres Junior High School (1979 Woodland Acres Middle School)

1950 – Galena Park Junior High School (1991 Galena Park Middle School)

1952 – MacArthur Elementary School & Pyburn Elementary School

1954 – Cimarron Elementary School

1955 – Fidelity Manor High School

1956 – Fidelity Manor Elementary School & North Shore Junior High School (1979 North Shore Middle School)

1959 – Green Valley Elementary School

1961 – North Shore Elementary School

1962 – North Shore High School

1970-1971 – both Fidelity schools closed (buildings were demolished in 1986)

1979 – Kenneth J. Tice Elementary School

1982 – W. C. Cunningham Middle School

1991 – Purple Sage Elementary School

1998 – James B. Havard Elementary School

2000 – Dr. Gerald Dallas Cobb Sixth Grade Campus

2003 – Joyce Zotz Education Center & Normandy Crossing Elementary School

2005 – Dr. Shirley J. Williamson Elementary School

2007 – Sam Houston Elementary School

2015 – Early College High School (established at San Jacinto College - North)

2018 – North Shore 10th Grade Center

2024 - Accelerated Center for Success

Student Demographics		
African American	14.89%	3,185
White	2.44%	521
Asian	0.48%	103
Hispanic	81.43%	17,632
American Indian/Alaskan Native	0.13%	27
Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander	0.03%	6
Two or More Races	0.61%	131

Student Programs/Indicators		
Economically Disadvantaged	88.32%	18,893
Emergent Bilingual	41.48%	8,874
Special Education	12.55%	2,685
At-Risk	70.95%	15,178

Student Achievement

Student Achievement Strengths

The number of students participating in the dual credit program has grown significantly over the past several years. The chart below provides a summary of the growth in dual credit enrollment in Galena Park ISD since 2017. For 2023-2024, 7 students successfully completed the Associate of Arts degree and 45 graduated with the Associate of Applied Science degree from San Jacinto College. 112 students earned technical certifications in a variety of fields.

Dual Credit Course Enrollment			
	2022	2023	2024
9th grade	140	139	140
10th grade	396	280	192
11th grade	394	504	639
12th grade	402	400	500
Total	1332	1323	1471

GPISD is proud to recognize the outstanding accomplishments of students selected to the Texas Music Educators Association All-State Band, All-State Choir, or All-State Orchestra. Over the past three years, GPHS had 11 students and North Shore Senior High had 13 students recognized as All-State members.

North Shore Senior High has a strong athletic program for their boys' and girls' teams that have advanced to regionals in several areas over the past five years. Several of these athletes have earned college athletic scholarships.

Family and Community Engagement

Family and Community Engagement Summary

It is the goal of the schools in Galena Park Independent School District to develop strong partnerships with parents and other family members of our students. Parents, other family members, and schools working as partners increase student achievement and develop positive attitudes about self and school. Galena Park ISD is committed to providing outreach to all parents and family members that encourages meaningful involvement in their child(ren)'s education and social-emotional development.

The key factor in the family-school partnership is the relationship between the teacher, student, and parent/family members. Teachers are professionals who manage a variety of instructional resources. Parents/family members are the child's first teachers and play a vital role in their children's education. Organizational support from the school board, district administrators, parent facilitators, counselors, social service workers, and building principals enable teachers and parent/family members to effectively develop the partnerships. Students are the true beneficiaries of a close family-school partnership.

The partnership between home and school will be supported by:

1. Developing a process that continuously assesses, plans and implements strategies that build the partnership.

a. A district-wide committee of parents, teachers and administrators will review the annual school evaluations of the content and effectiveness of parent and family involvement activities in increasing participation of parent/family members and whether there are barriers to greater participation. The evaluation will be conducted through a written/electronic survey in English and Spanish each year. The committee will use the results of the survey to offer revision suggestions for the district parent and family engagement policy if necessary.

b. A parent and family engagement coordinator will assist parent facilitators on each campus with the parent and family engagement efforts by providing technical assistance and other support necessary to assist schools in planning and implementing effective programs. The parent and family engagement facilitator will work in collaboration with his/her site-based decision-making committees, other school staff, parents, other family members and community resources.

c. The parent facilitators, counselors and social services workers, PTA representatives, faculty, and staff on each campus will provide direct services to families to reduce barriers to student learning. The services include parenting education, counseling, referrals, advocacy, and relationship building to encourage positive attitudes toward education and to promote the concept of parents/parent figures as the child's first teacher, and to promote a meaningful, two-way communication between the home and the school.

2. Developing Home-School Compacts to strengthen communication between home and school.

a. The home-school compacts are to be developed jointly with students and parents.

b. The compacts are to be reviewed and revised on an annual basis to meet the changing needs of students, parents and the schools.

3. Developing opportunities for the full participation of all parents and family members including those who lack language skills, those who are disabled, or those who are economically disadvantaged.

Full realization of the partnership will be achieved through ongoing commitment and active participation by parents, other family members, schools, as well as school and district staff.