



SEPTEMBER 2025

# BIG RED LETTERS

BELTON ISD SUPERINTENDENT DR. MALINDA GOLDEN

[--- Click Here to Translate This Newsletter ---](#)

Hello Belton ISD,

It always amazes me at the start of the year how quickly our students learn and adjust to new schedules, routines, and expectations. It is truly a lesson in adaptability that may often get overlooked, and I commend our students and staff for navigating this exceptionally well!

As we have successfully welcomed our students back over the last few weeks, the Belton Independent School District Board of Trustees approved a \$161.8 million bond referendum to be included in the November 4, 2025, election.

The referendum includes four propositions that will be on the ballot:

- Proposition A (\$92.9M) - Safety & Learning Spaces - security cameras, playground fencing, exterior lighting, HVAC, roofing; significant updates and modernization at Sparta Elementary, Lakewood Elementary, DAEP, Belton Middle School, and transportation
- Proposition B (\$43.7M) - Athletic Stadiums - Construction of a competition stadium at Lake Belton HS and renovations for Tiger Field at Belton HS

- Proposition C (\$6M) - Technology - replacing student and staff devices
- Proposition D (\$19.2) - Swim Center upgrades - additional pool space, new locker rooms and restrooms

If all four propositions are approved in November, Belton ISD taxpayers will see an approximate \$5.22 annual increase in property taxes for the average home valued at \$348,832 after the application of the homestead exemption. There will be no increase for homeowners 65 years of age and older.

You will be receiving additional information about the proposed projects on your child's campus in the coming weeks. You can access information and resources about the bond and election information on our website: [www.bisd.net/bond2025](http://www.bisd.net/bond2025).

We've had a tremendous start to the year and I appreciate all that you do to partner with us on your child's learning journey in Belton ISD.

Sincerely,

Malinda Golden, Ph.D.  
Superintendent



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**Belton ISD**



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### **First-Day Excitement Fills Campuses Across the Big Red Community**

On August 12, 2025, Belton ISD welcomed 13,500 students back to school. Across 20 campuses, more than 2,000 employees greeted students from pre-K through 12th grade, setting the tone for a year of learning and growth. From first-day hugs to bustling hallways, the Big Red Community is back in action.



## New Campus Leaders Named

Belton ISD welcomed two new principals for the 2025-2026 school year. Cheyenne Babb is leading James L. Burrell Elementary after serving as principal at Rockdale Junior High, where she was recognized for elevating student voice and academic growth. Rachel Ramirez has been named principal of Lake Belton Middle School, bringing 18 years of experience and a strong record of building collaborative partnerships. Both leaders officially began their new roles on August 4, 2025, and quickly started working with their teams to ensure a strong start to the school year.



**Cheyenne Babb**  
James L. Burrell Elementary



**Rachel Ramirez**  
Lake Belton Middle School

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## Belton ISD Board Approves Balanced Budget

At their August 18 meeting, the Belton ISD Board of Trustees approved the 2025-2026 budget and tax rate, ensuring a balanced budget while keeping the total tax rate unchanged at \$1.1494. The plan prioritized staff pay increases, special education services, CTE expansion and early literacy and math interventions. Trustees also adopted a disaster penny resolution to generate \$2 million to offset costs from the May 2024 tornado.



## "Game On, Belton ISD!" Convocation Brings Energy to New School Year

Belton ISD kicked off the 2025-2026 school year with its annual convocation on August 8, 2025, at the University of Mary Hardin-Baylor's Mayborn Campus Center. More than 2,000 employees came together for the pep rally-style event, celebrating teamwork, student success and the power of collective impact. Superintendent Dr. Malinda Golden reminded staff that *"our profession makes all other professions possible,"* underscoring the vital role that each and every Belton ISD employee plays in shaping the future.

# GAME ON, BELTON ISD!



# CONVOCATION 2025

## Coming Soon: Parent Consent Information

Families, please be on the lookout for more information and forms about providing consent for your student's participation in certain health and counseling services, as well as clubs. More details will be shared soon via ParentSquare.



# UPCOMING UPDATES

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### We value your feedback!

Your experience matters! Please take a moment to [complete our survey](#) and support Belton ISD in building a culture of value, support and engagement.

# How did we do? **BELTON** ISD

**Your experience matters to us.**



Please scan the code and tell us about your interaction with us.

## Digital Backpack

Families can find all community flyers through our digital backpack, [Community Connections](#). This platform offers a convenient way to access approved flyers from local organizations, featuring upcoming events, programs and opportunities for your family.

To submit a flyer for approval, please click [here](#).

# COMMUNITY

*Connections*

Digital Backpack for Families in





# GOLDEN moments



SEPTEMBER 25



S A V E T H E D A T E !



**September 9:** Parents as Partners – Online Resources

**September 15:** Regular Board Meeting

**September 16:** Parents as Partners – Standards Based Learning for Elementary

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**October 9-13:** Student Fall Break

**October 13:** District Closure (Fall Break)

**October 14:** Parents as Partners – Fentanyl and Opioid Awareness

**October 20:** Regular Board Meeting

**October 31:** Parent Conference Day (Student Holiday)

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**November 10:** Student Holiday

**November 11:** District Closure (Veterans Day)

**November 17:** Regular Board Meeting

**November 20:** Parents as Partners – CTE Showcase

**November 24-28:** District Closure (Thanksgiving Break)

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**2025-2026 Student Calendar**

**Take the Journey**

**Stay Connected**

**Digital Backpack**

**We are Hiring**

## About Us

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**Belton ISD**

