



Community Connection

Wisdom works wonders.

April 2026

Sixty Seconds with Spicer



The Andrew Billings Weight Room Dedication



Waco ISD recently held the official unveiling of the Andrew Billings Weight Room at Waco High School! Mr. Billings, a current NFL player and Waco ISD alumni, is well-known in the community for his philanthropic efforts and commitment to youth through his foundation. This cutting-edge facility was made possible by the generous donation from the Billings Family Find-a-Way Foundation. This space is not just a gym; it represents a steadfast commitment to excellence in athletics.

Equipped with the latest workout technology, free weights, and functional training spaces, this space will empower students to push their limits and achieve their personal best. With areas for strength training, conditioning, and team workouts, the weight room is designed to inspire teamwork and resilience. Click [HERE](#) to view more photos from the dedication.

Student and Staff Accolades



Congratulations to Dr. Qunisha Johnson, Principal of University High School, and Ms. Haley Dean, Principal of Hillcrest Elementary Magnet School! They have been selected for the Holdsworth Campus Leadership Program starting this summer, and were chosen from over 100 applicants statewide.

In this program, they will enhance their leadership skills through executive coaching and collaborative learning. They will tackle real challenges at their schools and focus on continuous improvement to better support underserved students.



Waco ISD is excited to welcome Ms. Jamie Johnson as the new volleyball coach at University High School. With a strong background as a dedicated mother, mentor, and advocate, Coach Johnson has impressive credentials, including a full scholarship in volleyball and basketball, and degrees in University Studies and Athletic Administration.

The district is proud to celebrate Karmen Logan, Executive Director of School Improvement, and her incredible achievement of marking 35 years of dedication, passion, and service to Waco ISD.



Trevor Morris, a talented 5th-grade chef from Hillcrest Elementary Magnet School, has cooked his way to victory! After impressing judges with his culinary skills, he has won the Central Region title and is now headed to the National Finals of the 2026 Future Chefs Challenge! Click [HERE](#) to cast your vote for Trevor.

Lake Air Montessori PDS students: Grace Scott, Romina Dracos, Eliza Smith, and Ciera Saldana earned second place at the Texas History Day competition for the performance titled, "The Industrial Revolution: The Story of Injustice Flames," securing a spot in the National History Day competition held in Washington D.C. in June.



Daniella Mercado, a senior at Waco High School, applied to six Ivy League colleges, and received acceptance letters to three. Ultimately, Daniella chose Harvard to further her education this fall where she will major in economics with a pre-law track.

Board Meeting



Did you miss the April 23 Board of Trustees meeting? Click [HERE](#) to watch the full board meeting.

The next regular meeting will be held on May 14, 2026, at 6 p.m. in the Waco ISD Conference Center, 115 S. 5th Street.

Outstanding Community Partner

Each month, Waco ISD recognizes a community partner making a difference for students and families with the Waco ISD Award for Outstanding Community Partners. April's Community Partner is the Billings Family Find-a-Way Foundation.

Through the Huddle Up for Teachers Initiative, the Foundation sponsors mini-grants for educators at Dean Highland, J.H. Hines, Provident Heights, and West Avenue Elementary Schools. A total of 40 grants, each valued at \$250, are awarded to teachers to procure classroom supplies.

Mr. Billings, accompanied by a team of experienced coaches, organizes the Andrew Billings Youth Football Camp each summer at the Waco ISD stadium. This camp is offered free of charge to the youth of Waco, and has benefited over 600 young athletes since its inception in 2022.

Additionally, the Foundation conducts three Bikes & Books: Riding for Perfect Attendance events throughout each academic year—in the fall, in the spring, and at the conclusion of the school year. Every 12 weeks, students with fewer than two absences are entered into a drawing to win a bicycle, a helmet, and a bicycle safety book. To further promote literacy, Mr. Billings also spearheads a book giveaway to help students establish their personal home libraries. This initiative fosters both consistent school attendance and a passion for reading among students at Dean Highland, J.H. Hines and Provident Heights Elementary Schools.

The Billings Family Find-a-Way Foundation has been a longstanding collaborator with Waco ISD, and we are exceedingly fortunate to have such a generous and committed partner!



Notable District Events

Waco ISD is always busy celebrating and bringing together our students and staff. Click the photo(s) below to view more pictures from each event.



Mark your calendar!



2026 GRADUATION DETAILS!

WACO ISD STADIUM

7:30 PM



<https://tinyurl.com/kcf5cjz7>



University High School
May 21, 2026

Scan Here



For Additional
Graduation Updates.

Waco High School
May 22, 2026

ICYMI



Waco ISD

April 15 at 9:02 AM · 🌐

COMPETE WITH PRIDE, STRIVE FOR EXCELLENCE! Congratulations to the [University High School](#) athletes who have qualified for the Area Meet at Corsicana High School this Fri... [See more](#)



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