

BEYOND THE BELL

Academic Competition Handbook

*A Resource Guide for
Principals and Coaches*

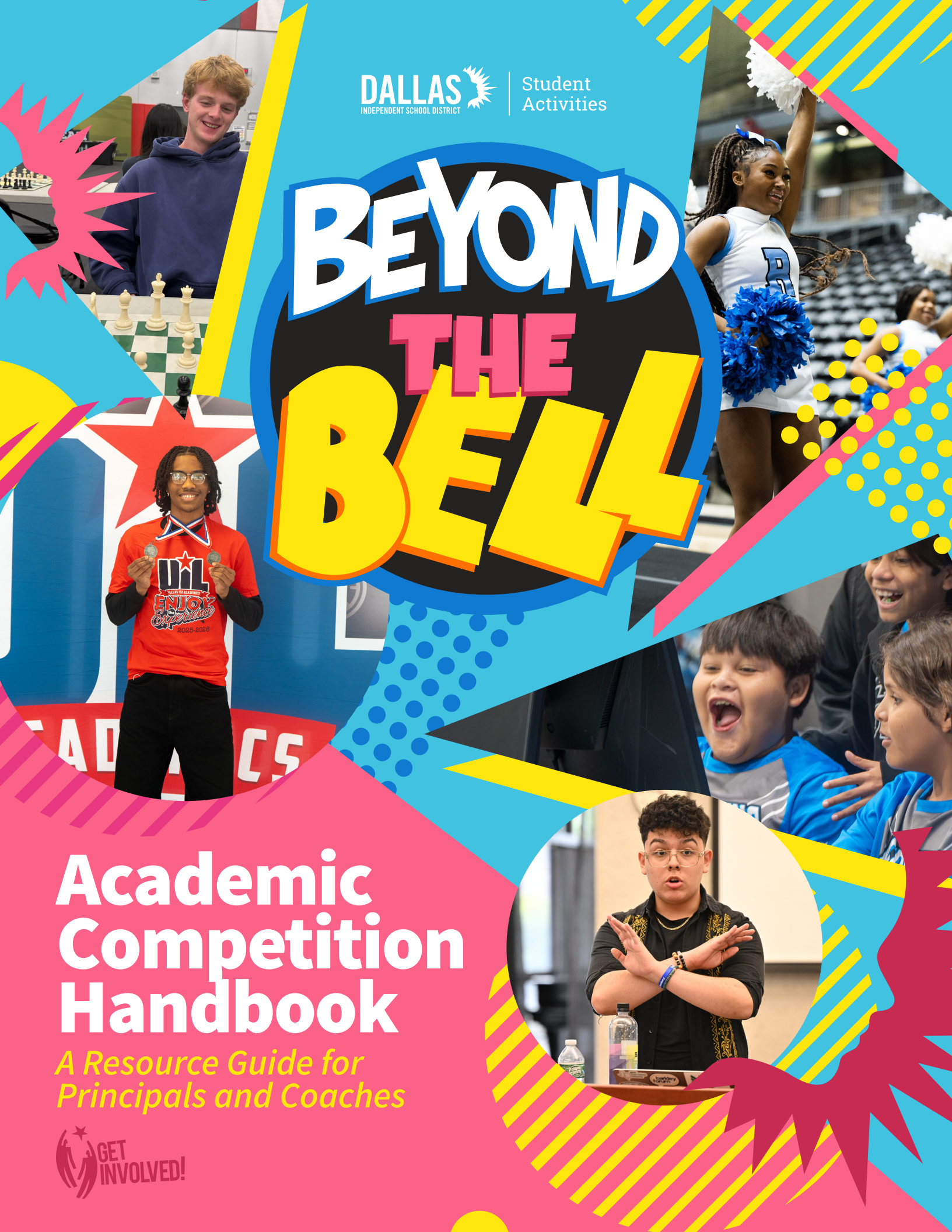


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Board of Trustees

The Board of Trustees establishes the policies by which schools operate. In carrying out the task of setting policy, the Board identifies needs and establishes priorities for the school system, allocates financial and human resources among the priority areas, and evaluates school performance.



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Introduction

The Student Activities Department takes pride in enriching students' lives through extracurricular activities. This year, our theme is ***Beyond the Bell***. We believe true transformation in a student's education happens when the final school bell rings, as students move beyond the traditional classroom into spaces where passions are discovered, leadership is forged, and potential is fully realized.



Long after the instructional day ends, our campuses come alive as students build essential skills, form lifelong friendships, and discover a profound sense of pride and belonging. Whether they are building school spirit in cheer, mastering strategy in Chess, Mahjong, and Esports, creating student publications, or training for rigorous academic and debate competitions like UIL, TMSCA, and Decathlon, learning ***Beyond the Bell*** captures the heart of a student's educational journey and the unforgettable moments that shape who they become.

These meaningful experiences are also deeply felt by the more than 1,900 teachers and coaches who play a vital role in enabling Dallas ISD students to participate in extracurricular activities. Many find great joy and professional fulfillment in mentoring students outside the traditional school hours, guiding them through the creative, strategic, and rigorous academic challenges offered across our 12 districtwide programs. The dedication of our teachers helps foster an environment where students can truly thrive ***Beyond the Bell***.

Our team is committed to equipping schools with instructional materials, professional development, stipends, and guidance. Additionally, we eliminate barriers to student participation by managing crucial logistics, including meals, transportation, study materials, awards, and travel arrangements for local, state, national, and global competitions.

The Student Activities Department believes extracurricular activities should be fun, memorable, and accessible. Every student deserves meaningful opportunities and quality programs that extend past the standard school day, encouraging them to take on challenges, discover new interests, develop critical skills, and make lasting friendships. We are committed to ensuring that every student in Dallas ISD has the support they need to excel, grow, and succeed ***Beyond the Bell***.



Support to Campuses

Purpose: The Student Activities Department creates experiences for students to participate in extracurricular activities at no cost while providing schools with the necessary resources and support to be successful.

The Student Activities Department provides the following support to schools:

- Access to study materials, workshops, and camps.
- Participation in the department's districtwide academic competitions and tournaments.
- Transportation to and from competitions.
- Meals at competitions.
- Student participation incentives.
- Payment of competition registration fees.
- Travel arrangements, transportation, and lodging applicable with advancement to regional, state, and national competitions.
- Training for teachers.
- Stipends for teachers.

For more information about academic competitions and the Student Activities Department, please visit the link below or contact us:

dallasisd.org/studentactivities

@disdactivities X Instagram Facebook



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Surveys Design to Improve Overall Experience

More than 31,091 elementary and secondary students and their teachers participated during the 25-26 school year in workshops, tournaments, and various academic competitions sponsored by the Student Activities Department. As a best practice, the department randomly sends out event surveys to get an assessment and suggestions from student and teacher participants.

Through the years, the feedback has guided the department in its planning and implementation practices, resulting in improved systems of operations, more stipends for teachers, and expanded participation opportunities as well as identifying better student preference incentives. Last school year, 939 students and teachers responded to the department surveys that were emailed to them after each event. Here are some of the results and feedback tallied from the survey.

Student Survey Questions & Results – 498 Responses

Have you ever participated in a competition like this?	
62%	38%
YES	NO

How satisfied are you with the incentives provided?				
53%	30%	13%	4%	1%
EXCELLENT	VERY GOOD	GOOD	FAIR	POOR

How many practices were held before the competition?			
23%	18%	13%	46%
BETWEEN 1-3	BETWEEN 4-6	BETWEEN 7-9	MORE THAN 10

Did you enjoy participating in this competition?				
76%	19%	1%	3%	0%
ALMOST ALWAYS	MOST TIMES	SOMETIMES	UNDECIDED	NO

Overall, did you have fun?				
75%	19%	5%	1%	0%
EXCELLENT	VERY GOOD	GOOD	FAIR	POOR

Teacher Survey Questions & Results –441 Responses

How satisfied are you with the overall participation experience?				
68%	21%	8%	2%	1%
EXCELLENT	VERY GOOD	GOOD	FAIR	POOR

How satisfied are you with the communication you received from the department?				
82%	12%	4%	1%	1%
EXCELLENT	VERY GOOD	GOOD	FAIR	POOR

How satisfied are you with the level of support from the department?				
78%	13%	7%	1%	1%
EXCELLENT	VERY GOOD	GOOD	FAIR	POOR

Participation in Extracurricular Activities

Participation in extracurricular and co-curricular activities is a priority for Dallas ISD. In fact, the School Leadership team and Board members believe that all students should be involved in at least one extracurricular or co-curricular activity each year. Students have the opportunity to participate in academic competitions, athletics, JROTC, visual and performing arts, and campus-based activities.

All Dallas ISD schools are required to track and document extracurricular participation for students and teachers. From the data collected, an annual report will be generated and given to the Dallas ISD leadership team and school board members to assess the extracurricular participation of individual campuses and at the districtwide level.

Dallas ISD Policies

- An extracurricular activity is an activity sponsored by UIL, the Board, or an organization sanctioned by a Board resolution. FM (Legal)
- Extracurricular activities include public performances, contests, demonstrations, displays, and club activities. FM (Legal)
- The extracurricular activity offerings shall be of sufficient variety and number to meet the wide range of interests and needs of the students. FM (Local)
- A “curriculum-related student group or club” means any student group or club that directly relates to the body of courses offered by the District. FM (Regulation)
- State Board and UIL rules shall govern interscholastic activities. FMF (Local)
- A student enrolled in a district or who participates in an extracurricular activity or a University Interscholastic League (UIL) competition is subject to district policy and UIL rules regarding participation only when the student is under the direct supervision of an employee of the school or district in which the student is enrolled or at any other time specified by resolution of a board. FM (Legal)
- A student may be removed from participation in extracurricular activities or may be excluded from school honor programs for violation of organizational standards of behavior of an extracurricular activity or violation of the Student Code of Conduct. FO (Local)

Campus Activity Coordinators

Campus activity coordinators are responsible for tracking and documenting student participation in all extracurricular and co-curricular activities by the three snapshot dates listed. Data will be pulled on each date and a campus-by-campus report will be generated.

The snapshot dates for the year are:

- Friday, October 16, 2026
- Friday, December 4, 2026
- Friday, March 19, 2027
- Friday, May 7, 2027

The steps for documenting student involvement in extracurricular and co-curricular activities are located at www.dallasisd.org/studentactivities.



Club/Extracurricular Activity Requirements

- Activities must be approved by the principal.
- Students and teachers should have a choice in participating.
- Students must attend at least nine meeting sessions in the same club to get participation credit.
- Activities should have a set meeting time, calendar of events, membership roster, and attendance sheets documenting participation.
- Activity/club should sponsor at least one event that occurs outside of the set meeting time.
- Activity/club must be posted on your school website.
- Activity/club must have student officers. (6th – 12th Grade Only)
- Activity/club should be fun and memorable.
- Activity/club should help students feel connected to the school or part of a team.
- Activity/club should engage participants in student-centered learning.



Categories Defined

Athletics – an organized sport that is sponsored by UIL and/or campus and provides students the opportunity to play on a competitive team with a fall and/or spring schedule of events. EXAMPLES: UIL Sports, Cheerleading, Intramural Sports, T-ball, Etc.

Academics – a program/organization that complements the academic curriculum and challenges students to demonstrate mastery of specific skills and knowledge while promoting one or more aspects of a field of study. EXAMPLES: Academic UIL, Chess, Debate, Yearbook, Etc.

Visual & Performing Arts – an organization/club that promotes visual and performing arts while providing students the opportunity to showcase their talents in the arts. EXAMPLES: Art Club, Ballet, Choir, School Play/Musical, Step Team, Etc.

Service & Leadership – an organization/club that advocates student leadership, volunteerism and scholarship while promoting community engagement and citizenship. EXAMPLES: 4-H Club, NHS, NJHS, PAL, Recycling Club, JROTC, HOSA, Etc.

Avocation – an organization/club that promotes hobbies outside of classroom work, particularly for pleasure or interest. EXAMPLES: Anime, Arts & Crafts, Board Games, Garden Clubs, Crochet, Etc.

Benefits & Rewards of Extracurricular Involvement

The Student Activities Department provides dozens of creative, fun, and challenging activities for elementary and secondary students. There's something for everyone – from chess, esports, and math and science contests to debate, cheerleading, and much more. Each activity is designed to keep students connected and involved in their campus community.

Participation

- Provides real-life lessons in leadership, teamwork, organization, and time management.
- Provides students with a way to stay active and make new friends.
- Allows students to discover and explore their talents and interests.
- Connects students to their school community.
- Reinforces classroom learning.
- Improves self-esteem and communication skills.
- Enhances academic performance and the overall educational experiences of students.

What the Studies Say

- Nationally, about 80% of all children aged 6-17 participate in at least one extracurricular activity per year.
- 75% of students who participate in clubs or sports say their schedule is “just right,” regarding the balance between classwork and extracurricular involvement.
- Participation in extracurricular activities, in general, appears to minimize the risk of dropping out of school.
- Research conducted by the National Center for Education Statistics found that participation in extracurricular activities has a positive correlation to the student's attendance, GPA, test scores, and expected educational goals.
- Students who participate in extracurricular activities are more likely to have higher academic achievement.

Teacher Stipends

All full-time professional employees with a teaching certification, who are selected by principals to serve as a coordinator or academic coach for a program and/or activity sponsored by Student Activities, are eligible to receive a stipend. The amount budgeted for each school varies based on program selection. The stipend amounts allotted for each campus are listed below by campus level.

Stipend payment is based on participation in Student Activities Department sponsored events with the required minimum number of students in attendance at each event. Student attendance less than the required minimum of students will be payable at 50 percent of the stipend amount per event. The minimum number of students per event is determined by the Student Activities Department.

For individual stipends for each program, see Resources and Forms Section.

- Elementary Schools - \$26,500
- Middle Schools - \$38,050
- High Schools - \$60,050

How to Increase Participation: Tips & Suggestions

Essential Requirements for Extracurricular Activities

- **Be fun, optional, and memorable:** Build strong connections to the school or team.
- **Stay structured yet student-centered:** Maintain a set meeting time, schedule of events, and diverse student population.
- **Empower growth:** Provide leadership opportunities, elect officers, and allow students to showcase their talents and skills.

Give Members Something to Do

- **Foster ownership:** Empower students with decision-making power and customize activities to their interests.
- **Structure roles:** Elect student officers with clear job descriptions and form a membership committee.
- **Drive engagement:** Host campus competitions to keep momentum high.

Be Enthusiastic as the Teacher or Sponsor

- **Build relationships:** Get to know your students and use social-emotional learning (warm-ups/closures) to build team bonds.
- **Recognize effort:** Offer incentives, praise accomplishments, and involve students in picking weekly MVPs.

Principals: Recruit People to Recruit – Enlist Campus Influencers

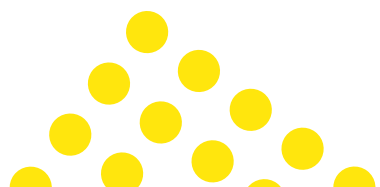
- **Gather input:** Survey and take nominations from members, faculty, and staff.
- **Leverage leadership:** Have assistant principals, coaches, and department leads make announcements during PLC meetings.
- **Coordinate support:** Invite Student Activities coordinators to staff meetings; designate and enlist proficient student coaches in Oracle.

Coordinator & Coaches: Attract and Retain Attention – Do Something to Be Seen & Heard

- **Be visible:** Set up info tables with live student demonstrations (chess, music, acting, etc.).
- **Market creatively:** Post “Ask Me About” stickers, run “Did You Know?” campaigns, and send personalized invitations.
- **Maximize school time:** Use morning announcements, advisory periods, and early-year interest meetings to spotlight clubs.

Tell Your Story and Grow – Tweet, Post, Tag & Announce It

- **Amplify your message:** Promote clubs and achievements via social media, word of mouth, and school announcements.
- **Celebrate wins:** Visually display trophies and banners to showcase student victories.



10 Tips for Recruiting Students

1

The Activities Fair (or Virtual Showcase)

Host high-energy, interactive booths. Use digital signup forms (Google Forms/Microsoft Forms) via QR codes for instant, paperless rosters.

2

Eye-Catching Digital & Physical Graphics

Ditch standard posters for vibrant, Canva-designed flyers, digital display boards around campus, and Linktree links on all materials.

3

Short-Form Video (Reels / Shorts)

Get students to film quick, trending, and authentic videos showcasing club culture, memes, and behind-the-scenes fun.

4

Cross-Platform Social Media

Build a recognizable team brand. Go beyond standard posts by using Instagram Stories and polls to keep members connected.

5

Campus Influencers (Staff & Student Advocates)

Partner with the “culture-building” teachers and trusted student leaders who naturally command attention to amplify your recruitment pitch.

6

Multichannel Announcements

Broadcast your wins, upcoming events, and shout-outs across all available channels such as morning announcements, school-wide apps.

7

Personalized Digital Invites

Have teachers nominate standout students, then send personalized digital invitations to join.

8

Classroom Takeovers & Collabs

Drop into relevant classes for 60-second pitches, or collaborate with teachers to show how your club connects to what they are learning.

9

Visible Activities

Treat every open practice, meeting, or event as a live advertisement. Take activities outside or to common areas so others see the fun happening in real time.

10

Incentives & Snacks

Keep attendance high by offering trendy snacks, themed food days, or unique club merch.

5 Strategic Action Items for Principals

1. **Co-Design a Strategic Growth Plan:** Meet with your campus activity coordinator to analyze current engagement data and design a roadmap to boost extracurricular participation.
2. **Empower the Leadership Team:** Delegate the oversight and advocacy of specific extracurricular categories to assistant principals and department chairs to ensure every club has administrator backing.
3. **Optimize District Resources & Stipends:** Stay sharp on current district offerings and stipend structures to ensure sponsors are properly compensated, motivated, and fully utilized. Reach out to Student Activities for help.
4. **Run a Talents & Passions Audit:** Survey staff digitally to uncover hidden talents, hobbies, and passions that could translate into exciting new student clubs.
5. **Streamline Compliance & Logistics:** Ensure all Student Activities academic coaches are promptly and accurately designated in Oracle to secure funding and official status.

Academic Competitions: An Overview

Academic UIL - Grades 2-12

The University Interscholastic League provides 22 high school and 18 elementary and middle school academic competitive events that challenge students to think critically while complementing the academic curriculum.

Cheer - Grades 4-12

Cheer creates and promotes school spirit while encouraging quality performance and high academic standards. Through the development of spirit and cheer technique, the cheerleaders will encourage their student body and their community through support in the promotion of athletic events and activities.

Chess - Grades K-12

The districtwide chess program provides students the opportunity to showcase their problem-solving and critical thinking skills at school and chess tournaments.

Debate - Grades 5-12

The partnerships with the Dallas Urban Debate Alliance and Debate|Able provide Dallas ISD secondary and elementary school students the opportunity to participate in competitive academic debate formats.

Decathlon - Grades 9-12

Academic Decathlon is a theme-based, ten-event scholastic team competition wherein students match their intellect with students from other schools.

Destination Imagination - Grades K-12

Destination Imagination motivates young people to look for the challenges in life and see them as opportunities for growth. DI inspires students to solve problems and to search for creative solutions.

Esports - Grades 4-12

With weekly practices and tournaments, students will be able to improve their skills and develop a sense of community and involvement at school and in the esports community.

Link Crew - Grades 9-12

Link Crew is a group of elite high school juniors and seniors who organize the freshman orientation and provide yearlong mentoring and support to the underclassmen, improving their overall first-year experience in high school.

Lone Star Challenge - Grades 4-6

Lone Star is a theme-based, four-event scholastic team competition wherein fourth, fifth, and sixth-grade students match their intellect with students from other schools.

Mahjong - Grades 6-8

The Dallas ISD Middle School Mahjong program introduces students to Mahjong, a strategy game that builds critical thinking and decision-making skills. The program offers students the chance to learn, practice, and compete through workshops and tournaments.

Pentathlon - Grades 6-8

Academic Pentathlon is a theme-based, five-event scholastic team competition wherein sixth, seventh, and eighth-grade students match their intellect with students from other schools.

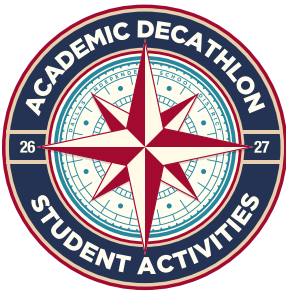
Student Publications - Grades 6-12

Student publications supported by Dallas ISD are secondary yearbook and high school newspaper programs. Members of student publications are charged with producing yearbooks and newspapers that showcase their design, writing, and photography skills.

TMSCA - Grades 3-12

Involvement in the Texas Math and Science Coaches Association invitational meets and state competitions provides students the opportunity to practice UIL math and science contests through grade level and team competitions.

Academic Decathlon (Grades 9-12)



Nine-member high school teams complete 10 exams in the subject areas listed below. Each team is made up of three Honor students (3.85+ GPA), three Scholastic students (3.5 – 3.84999 GPA), and three Varsity students (0 – 3.49999 GPA).

2026-2027 Theme: Journeys of Transformation: An Exploration of Travel and Transportation

ART
Travel and Transportation in Art

ECONOMICS
An Introduction to Economics and the Economics of Transportation

LITERATURE
Journeys, Quests, and Travel in Literature

MATHEMATICS
General Mathematics, Geometry, and an Introduction to Differential Calculus

MUSIC
Travel and Transportation in Music

SCIENCE
An Introduction to Animal Behavior and Migration

SOCIAL SCIENCE
An Introduction to Human Geography and Migration

ESSAY, INTERVIEW, SPEECH & SUPER QUIZ RELAY
NOVEL: The Remains of the Day by Kazuo Ishiguro

DATE	EVENT
October 31, 2026	Rockwall Invitational Meet
November 7, 2026	District
January 29-30, 2027	Regional
February 25 - 27, 2027	State
April 25-27, 2027	Nationals

PARTICIPATION NUMBERS

21
SCHOOLS

391
STUDENTS

Theme: The Roaring 20's.
Book: The Great Gatsby by
Scott F. Fitzgerald

Top Performing Schools:

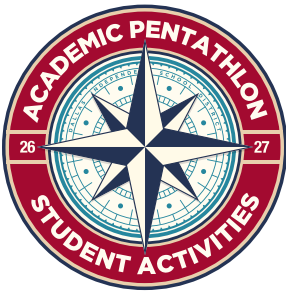
- Adams
- Hillcrest
- Lassiter
- Obama
- Rangel
- SEM
- Sunset
- TAG

2025-2026 Highlights

- Bryan Adams, Obama, TAG, SEM, and Lassiter attended the State ACDEC Competition.
- SEM Advanced to Online Nationals



Academic Pentathlon (Grades 6-8)



Nine-member middle school teams compete in five exams in the subject areas listed below. Each team must consist of three students from each GPA category: Honor (3.8 - 4.00), Scholastic (3.2 - 3.799, and Varsity (0.0 - 3.199).

2026-2027 Theme: The Journeys of Transformation: An Exploration of Travel and Transportation

The Academic Pentathlon theme parallels the high school Academic Decathlon program. Each student experiences team and individual competition in five events: literature, mathematics, fine arts, science, and social science.

The 2026-2027 novel will be The Lightning Thief (Percy Jackson and the Olympians, Book 1) by Rick Riordan

The five-event academic program strives to foster greater respect for knowledge, promote wholesome inter-school academic competition, and to further develop student communication skills.

Academic Pentathlon is uniquely designed to include students with a wide variety of academic abilities.

DATE	EVENT
March 6, 2027	District
April 11, 2027	Regionals
May 2027	Nationals



PARTICIPATION NUMBERS

39
SCHOOLS

436
STUDENTS

Theme: The Roaring Twenties
Book: Born to Fly: The First Women’s Air Race Across America by Steve Sheinkin

- At the district meet, top teams included Browne, Long, Sanger, Twain, Rosemont, Walker, DESA, & Todd.
- At the regional meet, top teams included TAG PG, Hulcy, Rangel, & Obama.

Top Performing Schools:

- Browne
- DESA
- Hulcy
- Long
- Obama
- Rangel
- Rosemont
- Sanger
- TAG PG
- Todd
- Twain
- Walker

Academic UIL (Grades 9-12)



For a complete description of UIL events, visit:
www.uil texas.org/academics/academic-contests.

- Accounting
 - Calculator
 - Computer Applications
 - Computer Science
 - Current Issues & Events
 - Literary Criticism
 - Mathematics
 - Number Sense
 - Ready Writing
 - Science
 - Social Studies
 - Congress
- Spelling & Vocabulary
 - CX Debate
 - Lincoln-Douglas Debate
 - Extemporaneous Speaking
 - Prose Interpretation
 - Poetry Interpretation
 - Headline Writing
 - Editorial Writing
 - Feature Writing
 - News Writing
 - Copy Editing
 - One-Act Play

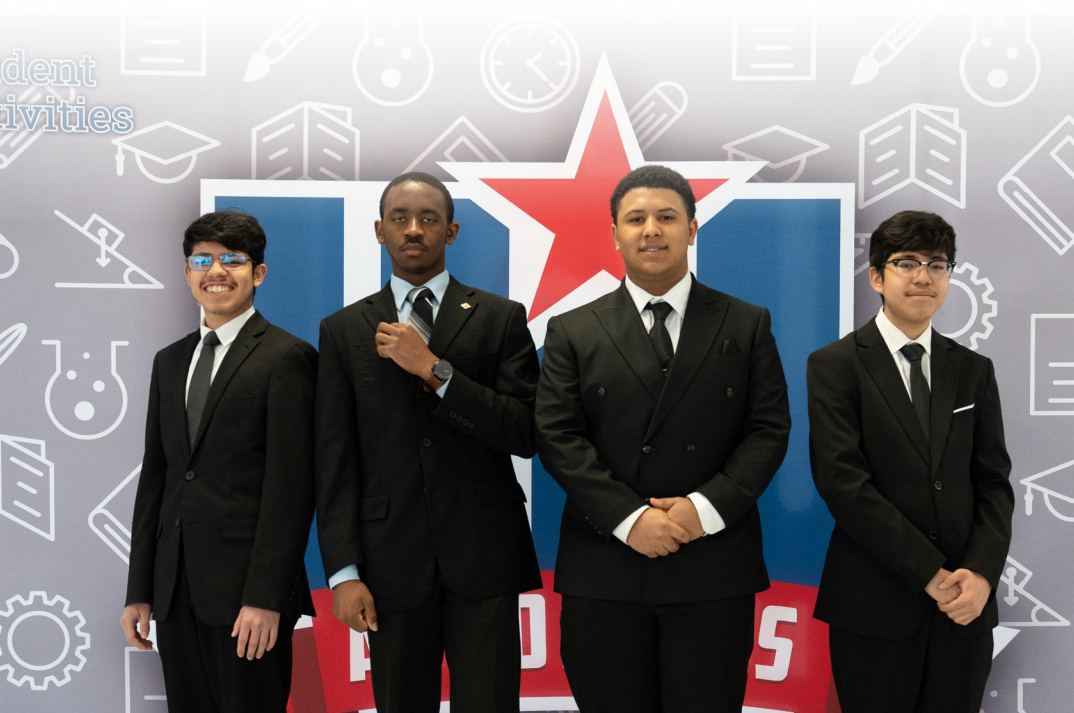
DATE	EVENT
April 3, 2027	District
April 23-24, 2027	Regionals
May 17-18, 2027	State

PARTICIPATION NUMBERS
23 SCHOOLS
545 STUDENTS

- District 4A-11 First Place – Irma Rangel; Second Place – Obama.
- District 5A-13 First Place – SEM; Second Place – TAG.
- SEM was the 5A Region 2 Champion!
- Schools that advanced to the state level for UIL Academics: SEM, Law Magnet, & Lassiter,

Top Performing Schools:

- Lassiter
- Law Magnet
- Obama
- Rangel
- SEM
- TAG



Academic UIL (Grades 6-8)



For a complete description of UIL events, visit:
www.uiltexas.org/aplus/events

6th Grade

- Chess
- Number Sense
- Ready Writing
- Spelling
- Maps, Graphs & Charts
- Dictionary Skills
- Listening Skills
- Calculator Applications
- Mathematics
- Social Studies
- Science I

7th Grade

- Chess
- Number Sense
- Ready Writing
- Spelling
- Maps, Graphs & Charts
- Dictionary Skills
- Listening Skills
- Calculator Applications
- Mathematics
- Editorial Writing
- Science 7
- Modern Oratory
- Oral Reading
- Impromptu Speaking

8th Grade

- Chess
- Number Sense
- Ready Writing
- Spelling
- Maps, Graphs & Charts
- Dictionary Skills
- Listening Skills
- Calculator Applications
- Mathematics
- Editorial Writing
- Science 8
- Modern Oratory
- Oral Reading
- Impromptu Speaking

DATE	EVENT
December 5, 2026	Online Fall Academic Meet
February 20, 2027	Spring Academic Meet

PARTICIPATION NUMBERS

45 SCHOOLS 1,456 STUDENTS

- Long MS had 32 top three finishers.
- Travis had 24 top three finishers.
- Solar Girls had 23 top three finishers.
- TAG PG had 21 top three finishers.

Top Performing Schools:

- Franklin
- Garcia
- Hulcy
- Long
- Longfellow
- Rosemont
- Sanger
- STAG
- Travis
- Trinity Heights
- Walker
- Williams



Academic UIL (Grades 2-6)



The University Interscholastic League A+ is a comprehensive program of academic competitions that includes lower grades starting in the second grade. Dallas ISD has partnered with UIL A+ Academics to provide 17 different event options for its second through eighth grade students to compete in the during fall and spring semesters.

For a complete description of UIL events, visit:
www.uiltexas.org/aplus/events

2nd Grade

- Chess
- Creative Writing
- Storytelling

3rd Grade

- Chess
- Number Sense
- Storytelling
- Ready Writing
- Spelling

4th Grade

- Chess
- Number Sense
- Listening Skills
- Ready Writing
- Spelling
- Maps, Graphs & Charts
- Dictionary Skills

5th Grade

- Chess
- Number Sense
- Listening Skills
- Ready Writing
- Spelling
- Maps, Graphs & Charts
- Dictionary Skills
- Social Studies

PARTICIPATION NUMBERS

115

SCHOOLS

2,724

STUDENTS

Top Performing Schools:

- Caillet
- Dealey
- DeGolyer
- Harry Stone
- Hexter
- Kiest
- Lakewood
- San Jacinto
- Solar Girls
- Williams

DATE	EVENT
December 13, 2026	Online Fall Academic Meet – All Schools
February 27, 2027	Spring Academic Meet – UIL North
March 7, 2027	Spring Academic Meet – UIL South



Cheer (Grades 4-12)



The Dallas ISD cheer program provides elementary and secondary students the opportunity to participate in a variety of activities that not only promote school spirit but encourage quality performance and high academic standards. Cheerleaders encourage and promote school spirit by attending

and performing at sporting events, pep rallies, school assemblies, competitions, parades, and other special events and ceremonies.

Throughout the year, cheerleaders attend district-sponsored camps and clinics that are designed to teach teamwork, leadership, and cheering skills and techniques. Dallas ISD's annual Cheer Showdown workshop and Regional Cheer Challenge competition prepare high school squads for the UIL State Spirit Championships.

Cheer Showdown is a district-sponsored pre-UIL event that is structured to mimic the UIL Spirit prelims in which the schools experience the look and flow of the state championships. At the Spirit Competition, cheerleaders compete in three categories: crowd leading, fight song, and band dance.

Cheer Challenge provides cheerleaders the opportunity to perform before judges and the public. Top teams receive gold, silver, and bronze medals. All participating high school teams advance to the UIL State Spirit Championships.

DATE	EVENT
September 12, 2026	MS Cheer Camp
September 26, 2026	ES Cheer Camp D1
October 3, 2026	ES Cheer Camp D2
October 15, 2026	HS Cheer Showdown
October 17, 2026	MS Cheer Challenge
November 9-13, 2026	ES Virtual Fall Showcase
December 5, 2026	HS Cheer Challenge
January 13-16, 2027	UIL Spirit State Competition
January 23, 2027	MS Cheer Challenge
February 6, 2027	ES Showcase Finals

PARTICIPATION NUMBERS

221
SCHOOLS

4,242
STUDENTS

Top Performing Schools:

- Hulcy
- Long
- Roosevelt
- Skyline
- Spence
- Todd
- Woodrow Wilson
- WT White

Program Highlights:

- 14 High Schools participated in the UIL State Spirit Competition where Woodrow Wilson and Roosevelt made it to the finals each placing within the top 20 schools in the state.
- 2,286 students participated in the elementary cheer program at the campus level.



Chess (Grades K-12)



The districtwide chess program provides students the opportunity to play the game of chess in a safe competitive environment. Students will have the opportunity to compete with their peers on their campus and at the Dallas ISD tournaments.

- Campus Chess Program requires a minimum of 10 members.
- The program is available to students in grades K-12.
- Students meet and play chess for a minimum of four days per nine weeks grading period.
- Students will have the opportunity to attend club meetings and practice for competitions throughout the school year utilizing both on-campus scheduling and virtual platforms such as ChessKid.
- Chess supplies will be provided to chess coaches as needed. Coaches are responsible for managing and storing all chess supplies.
- For students to participate in tournaments, coaches will verify that students are academically eligible to compete.
- Student Activities will provide transportation to district events. The coaches are responsible for completing all field trip paperwork and meeting deadlines.

DATE	EVENT
October 24, 2026	Secondary Fall Tournaments
November 7, 2026	D2 Elementary Fall Tournament
November 14, 2026	D1 Elementary Fall Tournament
December 7 - 10, 2026	K-2 ChessKid Tournament
May 8, 2027	Secondary Spring Tournaments
May 10-13, 2027	K-2 ChessKid Tournament
May 15, 2027	Elementary Spring Tournaments



PARTICIPATION NUMBERS

206
SCHOOLS

6,037
STUDENTS

- Increased participation by 255 students.
- Hosted 2 virtual K-2 tournaments.

Top Performing High Schools:

- Hillcrest
- Law Magnet
- Northlake
- SEM
- Sunset
- TAG Mag

Top Performing Middle Schools:

- Dealey - 2
- Long - 2
- Obama - 2
- Travis - 1
- Williams - 1

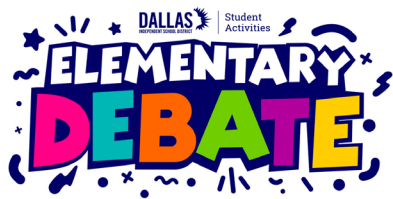
Top Performing Elementary Schools: (D1)

- Chapel Hill
- Dealey
- Downtown Mont.
- Peabody
- Peeler
- Rosemont
- Travis

Top Performing Elementary Schools: (D2)

- Douglass
- Guzick
- Lakewood
- Mount Auburn
- Runyon
- Sanger

Elementary Debate (Grade 5)



The Dallas ISD Elementary Debate Program provides fifth-grade students the opportunity to develop critical thinking, effective communication, and confident public speaking skills through academic debate. Students learn to

analyze complex issues, evaluate multiple perspectives, conduct research, and construct evidence-based arguments while engaging in respectful discourse with their peers.

In the fall, students attend an annual debate workshop that introduces debate fundamentals, argument development, research strategies, and public speaking techniques. The workshop provides guided instruction and practice to prepare students for competitive debate.

During the second semester, students may participate in debate tournaments that provide opportunities to apply and showcase their skills in a competitive setting. During tournament competition, students present and defend positions on age-appropriate topics, respond to opposing viewpoints, and demonstrate effective reasoning, communication, and rebuttal skills before a judge. Judges provide constructive feedback that helps students reflect on their performance, make adjustments, and continue developing their debate skills throughout the season. Each campus may designate up to 12 students to represent their school in tournament competition.

DATE	EVENT
October 24, 2026	Student Workshop & Practice
January 30, 2027	Winter Tournament
April 24, 2027	Spring Tournament

PARTICIPATION NUMBERS

68
SCHOOLS

640
STUDENTS

- Top Program Recipient: Bush ES
- Tournament 1 Debate Topic: Artificial Intelligence does more harm than good.
- Tournament 2 Debate Topic: All vehicles should be electric.
- Student participation increased by 70% from the 24-25 school year!

Top Performing Schools:

- Bush
- Kahn
- Kiest
- Sanger
- Solar Prep for Girls
- Travis
- Webster



Secondary Debate (Grades 6-12)



Middle and high school students can participate in debate workshops and tournaments. The Dallas Urban Debate Alliance provides participants with evidence, topic summaries, curriculum, lesson plans supporting Policy, World Schools and Community Action Debate formats. The

program goals are to increase debate opportunities for Dallas ISD students and to improve students' critical thinking, public speaking, and research skills.

The 2026-2027 secondary policy debate topic is Health Insurance.

Resolved: The United States federal government should establish national health insurance in the United States.

DATE	EVENT
September 12, 2026	HS Fall Debate Workshop
September 26, 2025	MS Fall Debate Workshop
October 3, 2026	HS Scrimmage & Tournament #1
October 17, 2026	MS Scrimmage & Tournament #1
October 31, 2026	HS Tournament #2
November 7, 2026	MS Tournament #2
December 5, 2026	HS Tournament #3 (TFA Qualifier)
December 12, 2026	MS Tournament #3
January 23, 2027	MS Tournament #4
January 30, 2027	HS Tournament #4
February 11, 2027	HS UIL CX Debate District for 3A-9; 4A-11; 5A-13
February 20, 2027	MS Tournament #5 & UIL (TBD)
March 6, 2027	HS Tournament #5
March 11-13, 2027	TFA State Tournament @ UNT Denton
March 19-20, 2027	HS UIL CX Debate State Tournament @ UT Austin
March 19-21, 2027	Urban Debate National Championship @ Wake Forest University
April 24, 2027	MS Dallas City Championship
May 1, 2027	HS Dallas City Championship

PARTICIPATION NUMBERS

54 SCHOOLS **2,676** STUDENTS

- Six students were awarded \$18,000 in scholarships for the Parrish Charitable Foundation Debate tournament
- Four students were awarded \$2000 in scholarships for the Inaugural Texas Sports Debate Championship
- 19 students qualified for and competed at the Texas Forensic Association (TFA) State Championship
- TFA State Champion - Policy Debate Top Speaker
- 6 students qualified for and competed at the Urban Debate National Championship (UDNC)
- SECOND Place at the UDNC
- \$5000 scholarship awarded to UDNC Finalists
- \$1000 scholarship awarded for National Association of Urban Debate Leagues (NAUDL) Debater of the Year Finalist
- 14 students qualified for and competed at National Speech and Debate Association (NSDA) National Championship: Hillcrest, Obama and TAG
- Obama policy team 15th in the nation at NSDA National Championship
- Solar Prep for Boys - MS NSDA National Champions in Policy Debate
- Sudie Williams - Top Speaker in Policy Debate at MS NSDA Nationals and 2nd place team
- Irma Rangel - 2nd place in WS Debate at MS State Championship
- TAG - First team to qualify at compete at the Tournament of Champions (TOC) - WS Debate

MS Top Performing Schools:

- Longfellow
- Solar Boys
- Solar Girls
- Sudie Williams
- Travis

HS Top Performing Schools:

- Hillcrest
- Law Magnet
- Rangel
- Seagoville
- TAG

Destination Imagination (Grades K-12)

Destination Imagination (DI) teams have a maximum of seven members for competitive teams and nine members for Rising Stars teams. DI motivates young people to look for the challenges in life and see them as opportunities for growth. It inspires students to solve problems, search for creative solutions, and work cooperatively with others.

2026-2027 Challenge Summaries

The Technical Challenge prompts students to complete tasks by using engineering, research, strategic planning, and related skills.



Teams will design a mechanical sorting system and present a creative story about a character navigating an accidental arrival in the wrong place.

- **Sorting System:** Build a mechanism to categorize team-provided items.
- **Misplaced Character:** Present a story about a character arriving in the wrong location.
- **Influential Character:** Include a character who impacts the story's outcome.
- **Arrival Effect:** Design and execute a dynamic visual or auditory arrival effect.
- **Team Choice Elements:** Showcase two unique talents or strengths within the presentation.

The Engineering Challenge asks students to explore and apply engineering skills and tools to design and build solutions for specific applications.



Teams will design a mechanical sorting system and present a creative story about a character navigating an accidental arrival in the wrong place.

- **Sorting System:** Build a mechanism to categorize team-provided items.
- **Misplaced Character:** Present a story about a character arriving in the wrong location.
- **Influential Character:** Include a character who impacts the story's outcome.
- **Arrival Effect:** Design and execute a dynamic visual or auditory arrival effect.
- **Team Choice Elements:** Showcase two unique talents or strengths within the presentation.

PARTICIPATION NUMBERS

116
SCHOOLS

1,241
STUDENTS

- 94 Schools and 849 students participated at the Dallas ISD Winter Blitz Workshop
- 47 Elementary Schools participated in the Dallas ISD Rising Stars Program
- 36 teams from 27 schools advanced to the State DI Competition
- 8 teams advanced to the DI Global Finals Competition
 - New Tech
 - Bryan Adams
 - Townview TAG (2x)
 - Williams TAG
 - Lakewood
 - Gonzalez
 - Withers
- At Globals here are each teams placing, not sure how you think we should word this.
 - New Tech - 2nd place
 - Bryan Adams - 3rd place
 - Townview TAG
 - Engineering - 10th place
 - Fine Arts - 21st place
 - Williams TAG - 11th place
 - Lakewood - 11th place
 - Gonzalez - 12th place
 - Withers - 15th place
- New Tech HS received the Renaissance Award for Outstanding Performance for Secondary Level



The Scientific Challenge blends the curiosity of scientific research with the creative expression of performance art.

Teams will research applied science to present a story about two competitive rivals racing toward the same goal, propelled by a live-action montage.



- **Rivalry Story:** Create a narrative about two rivals attempting to achieve the same goal.
- **Applied Science:** Research and integrate applied science concepts into the presentation.
- **Dual Demonstrations:** Design and execute two distinct demonstrations of applied science.
- **Live-Action Montage:** Create and present a dynamic, live-action montage to move the story forward.
- **Team Choice Elements:** Showcase two unique talents or strengths within the presentation.

The Fine Arts Challenge helps students develop acting and creative skills through artistic media, theater arts, scriptwriting, and prop design.

Teams will craft and present an original fable featuring non-human characters, incorporating natural materials, interactive scenery, and an animated prop.



- **Original Fable:** Present a team-created fable featuring an exaggerated, non-human character and a clear lesson.
- **Natural Materials:** Use natural resources to build or enhance at least one physical element.
- **Interactive Scenery:** Design and create set pieces that dynamically change or react during the performance.
- **Animated Prop:** Build a mechanical or manually controlled prop that brings a specific element to life.
- **Team Choice Elements:** Showcase two unique talents or strengths within the presentation.

The Improvisational Challenge is all about research, spontaneity, and storytelling. Teams receive topics and quickly produce skits.

Teams will improvise a two-act comedic skit about a famous duo navigating a ridiculous situation using only background music and a randomly selected tool.



- **Famous Duo:** Create a two-act improvisational skit centered around a well-known pair.
- **Ridiculous Situation:** Use Act 1 to show how the duo gets into a randomly selected, absurd scenario.
- **Tool Resolution:** Use Act 2 to show the duo attempting to resolve the situation using a random tool.
- **Background Music:** Incorporate selected background audio to guide the tone of each act.

Destination Imagination (CONTINUED)

The Service Learning Challenge is designed to engage students in public service that addresses real-life community issues.

Teams will design and execute a real-world community service project, presenting their impact through a live theatrical story set inside a video game world.

- **Community Project:** Identify, carry out, and evaluate a project addressing a real-world need.
- **Video Game Narrative:** Present a story about a character attempting to achieve an objective inside a video game world.
- **Game Mechanics:** Incorporate a game resource, a desperate situation, and a physical resource tracker.
- **Project Integration:** Seamlessly blend real-world project data and outcomes into the fictional presentation.
- **Team Choice Elements:** Showcase two unique talents or strengths within the presentation.



The Rising Stars for Early Learners Challenge offers simple experiences with the creative process, and it gives young kids (preschool through 2nd grade) a place to work together and make new friends.

Teams will research animal senses to present a play about a group of animals discovering and exploring a mysterious object within their habitat.

- **Animal Play:** Present a creative story about animals discovering a mysterious object in their environment.
- **Sensory Exploration:** Demonstrate how at least two different animals use their unique senses to inspect the object.
- **Habitat Set:** Design and build a physical set that realistically or creatively depicts where the animals live.
- **Object Model:** Design and construct a physical, three-dimensional model of the mysterious object for the play.



All teams will have the opportunity to solve an Instant Challenge. These challenges require teams to engage in quick, creative, and critical thinking.

In a world with growing cultural connections, increased levels and types of communication, and a new need for real-time teamwork and problem-solving, the ability to solve problems quickly is becoming increasingly critical.

- Each team will be asked to solve an Instant Challenge for their DI tournament. The team must think on their feet by applying appropriate skills to produce a solution in a short period of time.
- Instant Challenges are performance-based, task-based, or a combination of the two. Although each Instant Challenge has different requirements, all Instant Challenges reward teams for their teamwork. Instant Challenges are kept confidential until it is time for teams to solve them.



DATE	EVENT
December 12, 2026	Winter Blitz
February 6, 2027	Dallas Regionals
April 9-10, 2027	Lone Star State Finals
May 20-23, 2027	Global Finals

Esports (Grades 4-12)



Since starting as a pilot program in August 2019, esports has sparked mania and excitement among student gamers in Dallas ISD. Just like traditional sports, esports requires teamwork, critical thinking,

communication, collaboration, creativity, and leadership among every team member to be successful. Students in grades 4-12 are eligible to participate in their schools’ esports clubs, leagues, and tournaments.

Dallas ISD provides participating schools with coach stipends, gaming consoles, controllers, gaming laptops, refurbished desktop computers, and other incentives. Students have the opportunity to learn and play games including Rocket League, Smash Bros., Fortnite, and Mario Kart.

DATE	EVENT
October 17, 2026	HS Esports
October 31, 2026	MS Esports
November 14, 2026	ES Division 2 Esports
December 5, 2026	ES Division 1 Esports
March 6, 2027	HS Esports
April 10, 2027	ES Division 2 Esports
April 24, 2027	ES Division 1 Esports
May 1, 2027	MS Esports



PARTICIPATION NUMBERS

191 SCHOOLS 4,207 STUDENTS

- Introduction of the Switch 2 with Mario Kart World!
- TexSEF State was attended by 25 students from New Tech, TAG, and Hillcrest.
- 9th Place Rocket League - New Tech
- 9th Place Mario Kart - New Tech
- 5th Place Marvel Rivals - New Tech
- 5th Place Super Smash Bros. - TAG

Top Performing Schools:

- Botello
- Casa View
- Degolyer
- DESA
- DHPS
- Garcia
- Geneva Heights
- Gill Prestonwood
- Gilliam
- Hillcrest
- Jefferson
- Kahn
- Longfellow
- MLK
- Moroles
- New Tech
- Reinhardt
- Richardson
- Rogers
- SEM
- Silberstein
- STAG
- Sudie TAG
- Sunset
- TAG
- Tasby
- Terry
- Titchie
- Walnut Hill
- Weiss

Link Crew (Grades 9-12)

LINKCREW

An elite group of juniors and seniors, Link Crew Leaders organize and implement the freshman orientation on their campuses. In addition to orientation, leaders will meet periodically during the year to touch

base, discuss problems, and plan fun social events for the freshman class.

The freshman transition program provides members of the freshman class with support and guidance to improve their overall first-year experience in high school.

Four elements of a yearlong Link Crew program:

Academic Follow-Ups: These are designed to educate and inspire freshmen throughout the year, as well as give them specific tools needed to be successful in high school

Social Follow-Ups: These are designed to continue the Link Crew connection and foster a feeling of safety and security for the ninth graders.

Leader-Initiated Contacts & Structured Leader-Initiated Contacts:

Link Leaders are called upon to step up on their own to contact ninth graders throughout the year. Structured contacts are ones that leaders do with the coordinator's instruction, guidance, and supervision.

Link Leader Development & Meetings: These are regularly scheduled meetings where the Link Crew Leaders are educated, celebrated, informed, and motivated to be better mentors.

PARTICIPATION NUMBERS

7
SCHOOLS

371
STUDENTS

Program Participating Campuses:

- Adams
- Adamson
- Business
- Gilliam
- JBS Law Magnet
- Seagoville
- Skyline



Lone Star Challenge (Grades 3-5)



Nine-member elementary school teams compete in the subject areas listed below. Schools may have one team per campus.

The 2026-2027 Theme: 1960’s

MATH

Fundamental Math Concepts

LITERATURE

The Wednesday Wars by Gary D. Schmidt

SCIENCE

One Giant Leap: Innovations of Technology, Communication, and Travel

SOCIAL STUDIES

“The Times They are a Changin’” Presidents and Protests

SUPER QUIZ

Peace, Love, and Music: Popular Culture of the 1960s

DATE	EVENT
May 1, 2027	Regional Competition

PARTICIPATION NUMBERS

99
SCHOOLS

958
STUDENTS

Region V Champion: Dealey.
Theme: Africa.
Book: A Long Walk to Water by Linda Sue Park.

Top Performing Schools:

- Lakewood (D1 Regional Champion)
- Dealey (D2 Regional Champion)
- Botello
- Highland Meadows
- Maple Lawn
- Moreno
- Oliver
- Solar Girls
- Soto
- Sudie Williams
- Travis
- Trinity Heights
- Walnut Hill



Mahjong (Grades 6-8 - MS Only)



The Dallas ISD Middle School Mahjong program introduces students to a fast-growing strategy game that builds critical thinking, pattern recognition, and decision-making skills. As a brand-new opportunity for middle schools across the district, students will participate in engaging workshops and competitive tournaments while learning the fundamentals of Mahjong in a fun and supportive environment.

To support the launch of this exciting program, participating campuses will receive Mahjong kits and curriculum resources designed to help students master this unique game and compete with confidence!

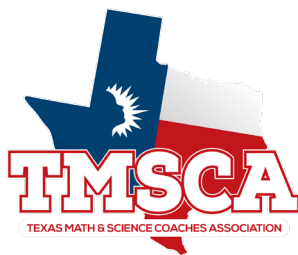
DATE	EVENT
November 7, 2026	Student Workshop
February 27, 2027	Tournament #1
April 10, 2027	Tournament #2

NEW PROGRAM!

- Introduced at 28 campuses as part of Extended Learning Opportunities' after-school programming.
- Officially launched with the Student Activities department in Spring 2026 through an inaugural student workshop, welcoming 85 students representing 11 campuses.
- Expanded Student Activities programming by introducing a new competitive and enrichment opportunity for students!



Texas Math & Science Coaches Association (Grades 3-12)



TMSCA's mission is to promote excellence in UIL Math and Science by offering competitive opportunities at both the grade level and team level. Through participation in invitational and state meets, students develop the skills and experience needed for success in UIL contests. Contests include - Number Sense, Calculator, Mathematics, & Science.

MATHEMATICS:

The TMSCA Mathematics Test is a multiple-choice competition that challenges students to apply mathematical concepts and problem-solving skills across a broad range of topics, from foundational arithmetic and number sense to advanced algebra, geometry, trigonometry, and calculus.

NUMBER SENSE:

The TMSCA Number Sense Test challenges students to solve mathematical problems mentally with speed and accuracy. Success requires strong computational skills, mathematical reasoning, and the ability to recognize efficient problem-solving strategies.

CALCULATOR APPLICATIONS:

The TMSCA Calculator Applications Test challenges students to apply mathematical concepts and calculator proficiency to a variety of quantitative problems. Questions cover a broad range of topics appropriate to each division and reward both accuracy and efficiency.

SCIENCE:

The TMSCA Science Test is a multiple-choice competition that challenges students to apply scientific concepts and critical thinking across a range of disciplines. Questions emphasize scientific reasoning, conceptual understanding, and the analysis of real-world phenomena.

To get more information, visit www.tmsca.org

DATE	EVENT
September 19, 2026	Elementary Dallas ISD Invitational
September 26, 2026	Secondary Dallas ISD Invitational
March 19, 2027	TMSCA HS State Meet
April 9, 2027	TMSCA MS State Meet

PARTICIPATION NUMBERS

81
SCHOOLS

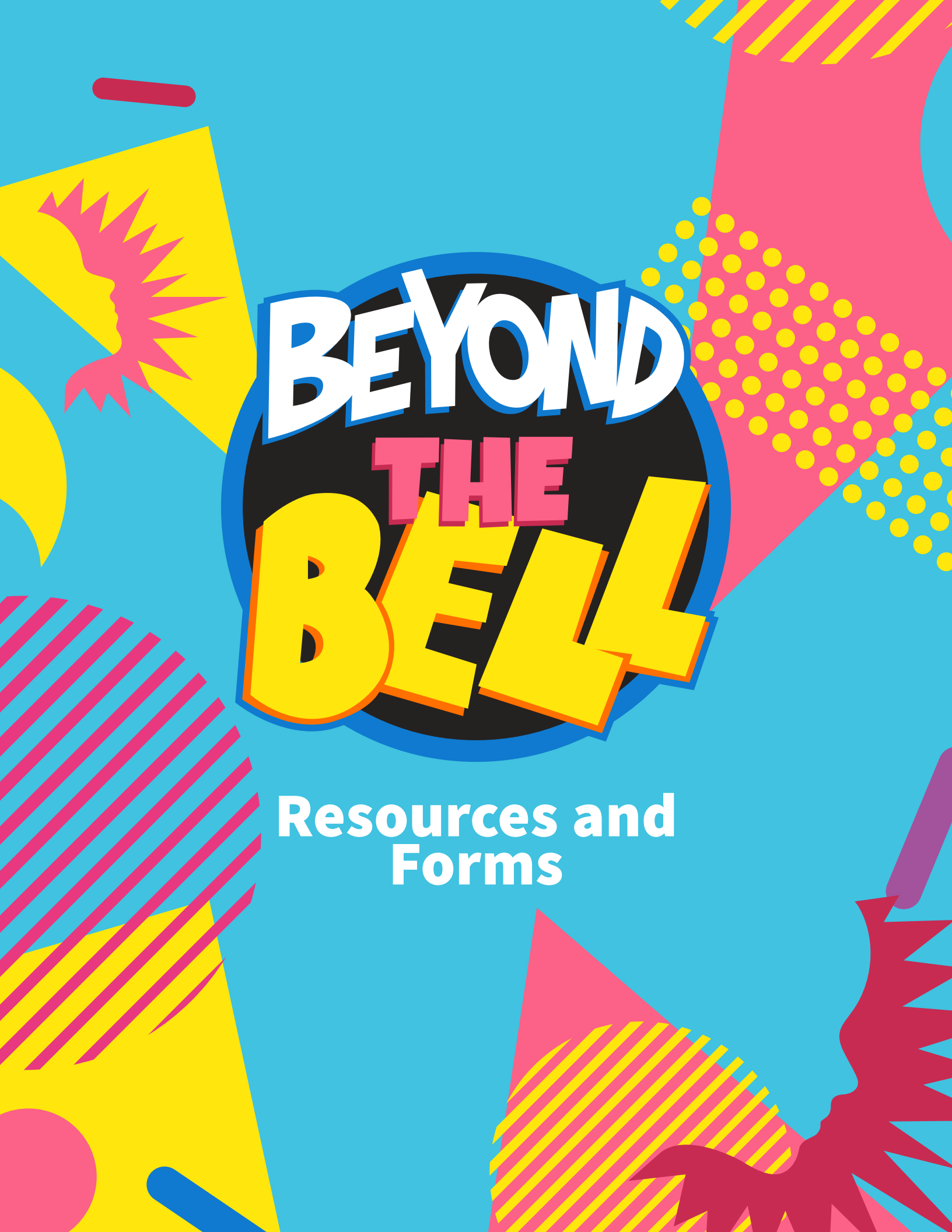
1,771
STUDENTS

- Historic growth - more students participating than ever before!
- A total of 136 students from 12 campuses competed at the TMSCA High School State Meet.
- SEM captured the State Sweepstakes, earning first- or second-place team awards in every competitive category.
- Two graduating seniors received scholarships in recognition of their exceptional cumulative individual performance.
- Six students from Dealey and four students from Williams earned Top 10 finishes in their respective events at the TMSCA Middle School State Meet.

Top Performing Schools:

- SEM
- Lassiter
- Dealey
- Williams





BEYOND THE BELL

Resources and
Forms

Resources and Forms

- Responsibility Checklist
- Principal Worksheets
- Field Trip & Transportation Request Quick Steps
- Guidelines for Overnight Trips
- UIL Eligibility Calendar
- UIL Professional Acknowledgement Form
- Policies Overview
- Coach Agreement Forms
 - Academic Decathlon Coach
 - Academic Pentathlon Coach
 - Campus Activity Coordinator
 - Districtwide Chess Coach
 - Destination Imagination Team Manager
 - Elementary Head Debate Coach
 - Esports Coach
 - High School Assistant Debate Coach
 - High School Head Debate Coach
 - High School Junior Varsity Cheer Coach
 - High School Spirit
 - High School Varsity Cheer Coach
 - Link Crew Coordinators
 - Lone Star Challenge Coach
 - Middle School Assistant Debate Coach
 - Elementary Cheer Coach
 - Middle School Cheer Coach
 - Middle School Head Debate Coach
 - High School Newspaper
 - TMSCA Coach
 - UIL Coach
 - Middle School Yearbook
 - High School Yearbook

Responsibility Checklist

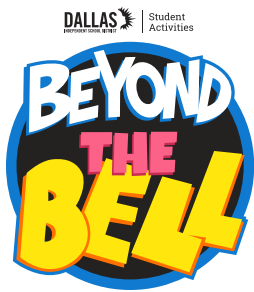
Principal Responsibilities:

- Designate a Campus Activity Coordinator for your school.
- Recruit certified teachers to coach and manage individual academic competitions.
- Enter selected coaches in Oracle by scheduled deadline. (A selection of a coach indicates intent to participate.)
- Approve field trips for bus transportation.
- Provide support and leadership for the district priority that requires all students to participate in at least one extracurricular or co-curricular activity each year.
- Approve all clubs.

Coach Responsibilities:

- Read & accept coaching responsibilities as outlined in coach agreements.
- Attend training, meeting, and competitions as scheduled.
- Recruit, build, and coach a team with at least the minimum student participation requirement for designated academic competitions.
- Verify all students are academically eligible to compete in the competition – meaning they must be passing all classes.
- Submit the required paperwork by the requested deadlines of the competition.
- Sponsors must have student emergency contact information in their possession at the site of the event/competition.
- Register student contestants using the designated registration system for each contest.
- Complete all field trip paperwork required by the campus and district.
- Arrange transportation at least 21 days before the contest date.
- Adhere to district policy regarding at least one adult chaperone for every 10 students for school-related trips.
- If your students use their own transportation, please stay on site until the last student is picked up.
- Make sure all volunteers complete the online volunteer application at <https://dallasisd.voly.org/>.
- Adhere to the department's "no reimbursement" policy regarding all expenses relating to academic competitions.
- Maintain documentation of student participation in academic competitions via dallasisd.org/activities
- Keep attendance and membership rosters of each activity.
- Keep an inventory and store all materials and equipment purchased by the Student Activities Department. (Materials and equipment are property of the campus.)





2026-2027 COACH SELECTION WORKSHEET

Activity (Title)	Grade Level	Stipend %	Assigned Coach/es	EID # (or #'s)
High School Selections (9-12)				
Campus Activity Coordinator	All Campuses	100%		
Academic Decathlon	9-12	100%		
Academic Decathlon	9-12	100%		
Cheerleader - Varsity	9-12	100%		
Cheerleader - Freshman	9-12	100%		
Cheerleader - JV	9-12	100%		
Cheerleader - HS Spirit	9-12	100%		
Chess	9-12	100%		
Chess	9-12	100%		



2026-2027 COACH SELECTION WORKSHEET

Activity (Title)	Grade Level	Stipend %	Assigned Coach/es	EID # (or #'s)
High School Selections (cont'd)				
HS Head Debate Coach	9-12	100%		
HS Asst Debate Coach	9-12	100%		
Destination Imagination	9-12	100%		
Destination Imagination	9-12	100%		
Newspaper	9-12	100%		
TMSCA	9-12	100%		
TMSCA	9-12	100%		
UIL Coach (multiple)	9-12	100%		
Yearbook	9-12	100%		



2026-2027 COACH SELECTION WORKSHEET

Activity (Title)	Grade Level	Stipend %	Assigned Coach/es	EID # (or #'s)
Middle School Selections (6-8)				
Campus Activity Coordinator	6-8	100%		
Academic Pentathlon	6-8	100%		
Academic Pentathlon	6-8	100%		
Middle School Cheerleader	6-8	100%		
Chess	6-8	100%		
Chess	6-8	100%		
Destination Imagination	6-8	100%		
Destination Imagination	6-8	100%		
Esports	6-8	100%		



2026-2027 COACH SELECTION WORKSHEET

Activity (Title)	Grade Level	Stipend %	Assigned Coach/es	EID # (or #'s)
Middle School Selections (cont'd)				
Middle Debate Coach	6-8	100%		
Middle Asst Debate Caoch	6-8	100%		
TMSCA	6-8	100%		
TMSCA	6-8	100%		
UIL Coach (multiple)	6-8	100%		
Yearbook	6-8	100%		



2026-2027 COACH SELECTION WORKSHEET

Activity (Title)	Grade Level	Stipend %	Assigned Coach/es	EID # (or #'s)
Elementary School Selections (K-6)				
Campus Activity Coordinator	K-6	100%		
Cheer Sponsor ES	4-6	100%		
Chess	K-2	100%		
Chess	3-6	100%		
Chess	3-6	100%		
Destination Imagination	K-6	100%		
Destination Imagination	K-6	100%		
Elementary Debate	5	100%		
Esports	4-6	100%		



2026-2027 COACH SELECTION WORKSHEET

Activity (Title)	Grade Level	Stipend %	Assigned Coach/es	EID # (or #'s)
Elementary School Selections (cont'd)				
TMSCA	3-6	100%		
UIL Coach (multiple)	2-6	100%		



2026-2027 COACH SELECTION WORKSHEET

Activity (Title)	Grade Level	Stipend %	Assigned Coach/es	EID # (or #'s)
Elementary School Selections (K-5)				
Campus Activity Coordinator	K-5	100%		
Cheer Sponsor ES	4-5	100%		
Chess	K-5	100%		
Destination Imagination	K-5	100%		
Destination Imagination	K-5	100%		
Elementary Debate	5	100%		
Esports	4-5	100%		
Lone Star Challenge	4-5	100%		
TMSCA	3-5	100%		



2026-2027 COACH SELECTION WORKSHEET

Activity (Title)	Grade Level	Stipend %	Assigned Coach/es	EID # (or #'s)
Elementary School Selections (cont'd)				
UIL Coach (multiple)	2-5	100%		

STUDENT ACTIVITIES DEPARTMENT

2026-2027

STIPEND VARIATIONS BY CAMPUS COMPOSITION

SCHOOL VARIATIONS	ACADEMIC DEATH LON	ACADEMIC PENTATLON	CHEER***	CHESSE	DEBATE	DESTINATION IMAGINATION *	ESPORTS	LINK CREW** / WEB**	LONE STAR CHALLENGE	STUDENT PUBLICATIONS	TMSCA	UIL ACADEMICS	MAJONG
PK-2				1 K-2ND COACH		2 STIPENDS (ONLY 1 STIPEND PER COACH)*							
PK-4			1- ES COACH	1- K-2ND COACH 1- 3-4TH GRADE COACH		2 STIPENDS (ONLY 1 STIPEND PER COACH)*	1 - GRADE 4 COACH		1 - GRADE 4 COACH		UP TO 2 STIPENDS (ONE STIPEND PER COACH)	1 ES UIL CAC	
PK-5			1- ES COACH	1- K-2ND COACH 1- 3-5TH GRADE COACH	1 - GRADE 5	2 STIPENDS (ONLY 1 STIPEND PER COACH)*	1 - 4-5TH COACH		1 - 4-5TH COACH		UP TO 2 STIPENDS (ONE STIPEND PER COACH)	1 ES UIL CAC	
PK-6			1- ES COACH	1- K-2ND COACH 2 - 3-6TH COACHES	1- GRADE 5 COACH	2 - ES & 1 - GRADE 6TH (ONLY 1 STIPEND PER COACH)*	1 - 4-6TH COACH		1 - 4-6TH COACH		2 - ES 2 - MS (ONE STIPEND PER COACH)	1 ES UIL CAC	
PK-7		2 - 6-7TH COACHES	1- ES COACH 1- MS COACH	1- K-2ND COACH 1 - 3-5TH COACH 2 - 6-7TH COACHES	1 - GRADE 5 COACH 1 - MS HEAD DEBATE 1 - MS ASSIST DEBATE	2 - ES & 2 - GRADE 6-7TH (ONLY 1 STIPEND PER COACH)*	1 - 4-5TH COACH 2 - 6-7TH COACHES		1 - 4-6TH COACH	1 YEARBOOK ADVISOR	2 - ES 2 - MS (ONE STIPEND PER COACH)	1 ES UIL CAC 1 MS UIL CAC	
PK-8		2 - 6-8TH COACHES	1- ES COACH 1- MS COACH	1- K-2ND COACH 1 - 3-5TH COACH 2 - 6-8TH COACHES	1 - GRADE 5 COACH 1 - MS HEAD DEBATE 1 - MS ASSIST DEBATE	2 - ES & 2 - GRADE 6-8TH (ONLY 1 STIPEND PER COACH)*	1 - 4-5TH COACH 2 - 6-8TH COACHES		1 - 4-6TH COACH	1 YEARBOOK ADVISOR	2 - ES 2 - MS (ONE STIPEND PER COACH)	1 ES UIL CAC 1 MS UIL CAC	1 - MS COACH
3-8		2 - 6-8TH COACHES	1- ES COACH 1- MS COACH	1- 3-5TH COACH 2 - 6-8TH COACHES	1 - GRADE 5 COACH 1 - MS HEAD DEBATE 1 - MS ASSIST DEBATE	2 - ES & 2 - GRADE 6-8TH (ONLY 1 STIPEND PER COACH)*	1 - 4-5TH COACH 2 - 6-8TH COACHES		1 - 4-6TH COACH	1 YEARBOOK ADVISOR	2 - ES 2 - MS (ONE STIPEND PER COACH)	1 ES UIL CAC 1 MS UIL CAC	1 - MS COACH
4-8		2 - 6-8TH COACHES	1- ES COACH 1- MS COACH	1- 4-5TH COACH 2 - 6-8TH COACHES	1 - GRADE 5 COACH 1 - MS HEAD DEBATE 1 - MS ASSIST DEBATE	2 - ES & 2 - GRADE 6-8TH (ONLY 1 STIPEND PER COACH)*	1 - 4-5TH COACH 2 - 6-8TH COACHES		1 - 4-6TH COACH	1 YEARBOOK ADVISOR	2 - ES 2 - MS (ONE STIPEND PER COACH)	1 ES UIL CAC 1 MS UIL CAC	1 - MS COACH
MS 6-8		2 - COACHES	1- MS COACH	2 - 6-8TH COACHES	1 - MS HEAD DEBATE 1 - MS ASSIST DEBATE	2 - STIPENDS (ONLY 1 STIPEND PER COACH)*	2 - 6-8TH COACHES	WEB **DEPENDENT OF 6TH GRADE ENROLLMENT		1 YEARBOOK ADVISOR	2 - MS (ONE STIPEND PER COACH)	1 MS UIL CAC	1 - MS COACH
MS 7-8		2 COACHES	1- MS COACH	2 - 7-8TH COACHES	1 - MS HEAD DEBATE 1 - MS ASSIST DEBATE	2 - STIPENDS (ONLY 1 STIPEND PER COACH)*	2 - 7-8TH COACHES	WEB **DEPENDENT OF 7TH GRADE ENROLLMENT		1 YEARBOOK ADVISOR	2 - MS (ONE STIPEND PER COACH)	1 MS UIL CAC	1 - MS COACH
6-10	2 - 9-10TH GRADE COACHES	2 - 6-8TH COACHES	1- MS COACH	2 - 6-8TH COACHES 2 - 9-10TH COACHES	1 - MS HEAD DEBATE 1 - MS ASSIST DEBATE 1 - 9-10TH HEAD COACH	2 - GRADE 6-8TH & 2 - GRADE 9-10TH (ONLY 1 STIPEND PER COACH)*	2 - 6-8TH COACHES 2 - 9-10TH COACHES	WEB **DEPENDENT ON 6TH GRADE ENROLLMENT AND/OR BASED ON FRESHMAN ENROLLMENT		1 YEARBOOK ADVISOR 1 NEWSPAPER ADVISOR (HS ONLY)	2 - MS 2 - HS (ONE STIPEND PER COACH)	1 MS UIL CAC 1 HS UIL CAC	
6-11	2 - 9-11TH GRADE COACHES	2 - 6-8TH COACHES	1- MS COACH	2 - 6-8TH COACHES 2 - 9-11TH COACHES	1 - MS HEAD DEBATE 1 - MS ASSIST DEBATE 1 - 9-11 HEAD COACH	2 - GRADE 6-8TH & 2 - GRADE 9-11TH (ONLY 1 STIPEND PER COACH)*	2 - 6-8TH COACHES 2 - 9-11TH COACHES	WEB **DEPENDENT ON 6TH GRADE ENROLLMENT AND/OR BASED ON FRESHMAN ENROLLMENT		1 YEARBOOK ADVISOR 1 NEWSPAPER ADVISOR (HS ONLY)	2 - MS 2 - HS (ONE STIPEND PER COACH)	1 MS UIL CAC 1 HS UIL CAC	
6-12	2 - 9-12TH GRADE COACHES	2 - 6-8TH COACHES	1- MS COACH	2 - 6-8TH COACHES 2 - 9-12TH COACHES	1 - MS HEAD DEBATE 1 - MS ASSIST DEBATE 1 - HS HEAD DEBATE 1 - HS ASSIST DEBATE	2 - GRADE 6-8TH & 2 - GRADE 9-12TH (ONLY 1 STIPEND PER COACH)*	2 - 6-8TH COACHES 2 - 9-12TH COACHES	WEB **DEPENDENT ON 6TH GRADE ENROLLMENT AND/OR BASED ON FRESHMAN ENROLLMENT		1 YEARBOOK ADVISOR 1 NEWSPAPER ADVISOR (HS ONLY)	2 - MS 2 - HS (ONE STIPEND PER COACH)	1 MS UIL CAC 1 HS UIL CAC	
HS 9-12	2 - COACHES		1 CHEER VARSITY 1 CHEER JV 1 CHEER FRESH 1 CHEER HS SPIRIT	2 - 9-12TH COACHES	1 - HS HEAD DEBATE 1 - HS ASSIST DEBATE	2 - STIPENDS (ONLY 1 STIPEND PER COACH)*	2 - 9-12TH COACHES	**BASED ON FRESHMAN ENROLLMENT		1 YEARBOOK ADVISOR 1 NEWSPAPER ADVISOR (HS ONLY)	2 - HS (ONE STIPEND PER COACH)	1 HS UIL CAC	

*For DESTINATION IMAGINATION, only 1 stipend is available per coach/certified teacher regardless of the number of teams per campus.

**For LINK CREW/WEB, only for schools that have been identified as participating in the program per School Leadership

***For CHEER, only the 22 comprehensive high schools qualify for Freshman, Junior Varsity, Varsity & Spirit

FIELD TRIP/TRANSPORTATION REQUEST INSTRUCTIONS

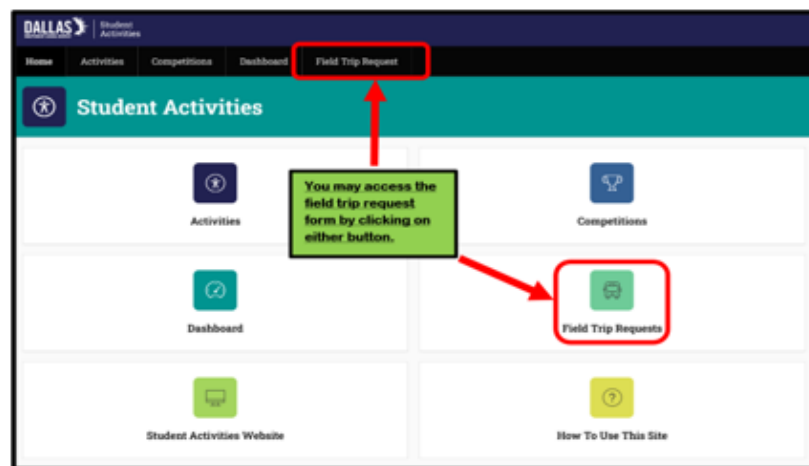
The site to submit Field Trip requests has changed to:

[Dallasisd.org/activities](https://dallasisd.org/activities)

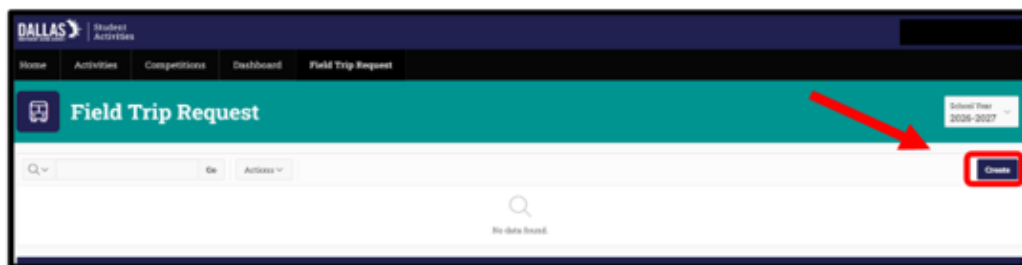
1. You will need to login using your EAD credentials. (see screenshot below).



2. Go to the site, click on the Field Trip Request option (see screenshot below).



3. Click the "Create" button to access the field trip request form.



Once on the form, make sure to follow the steps listed below.

3. Choose the Program (i.e: Chess, Cheer, Esports, etc.)
4. Select the transportation type
 - All "in district" transportation will be provided by the Dallas ISD Transportation Department.
 - Input Number of Students, Staff, Non-Staff and Grade Level.
 - In the Special Needs Request field, add any additional information needed to accommodate your trip accordingly.

FIELD TRIP/TRANSPORTATION REQUEST INSTRUCTIONS

5. Complete Academic Coach Information

- Select the coaches name and input the current contact phone number, then click on the blue square. **To add additional coaches traveling and/or attending with students, select the blue square next to the cell phone field to be added (see screenshot below).**

The screenshot shows the 'Field Trip Entry' form with several sections. A red box highlights the 'Transportation' section, which includes radio buttons for 'Dallas ISD Transportation', 'Charter Bus', 'Wheelchair Accessible Bus', 'Airplane', 'Walking', 'Parent Provided', 'Teacher Provided', 'No Transportation Required', and 'Other'. Below these are input fields for 'Number Of Students', 'Number Of Staff', 'Number Of Non Staff', and a 'Grade Level' dropdown. A red arrow points to the 'Trip Status' dropdown in the 'General Information' section, which is currently set to 'Unsubmitted'. Another red arrow points to the 'Academic Coach' dropdown in the 'Coach Information' section. A third red arrow points to the 'Cell Phone' input field. A fourth red arrow points to a blue 'Add Coach' button with a plus icon. A green callout box with black text says: 'Once your information has been added, make sure to press the blue "Add Coach" button.' At the bottom, there is a 'Trip Information' section and a yellow warning box titled 'Trip Requirements' stating: 'Field Trips must be submitted with 21 days in advance of the trip, failure to do so can result in no transportation being available.'

6. Complete the Trip Information section: (screenshot below)

- Select trip date (anything not submitted 21 days in advance is subject to transportation department's approval).
- Select Destination

FIELD TRIP/TRANSPORTATION REQUEST INSTRUCTIONS

- o If the destination is not included in the drop-down list provided please contact Omar Ovalle at ovalle@dallasisd.org or via cell phone: 469-439-1093.

- Select Departure and Return time
- In the Additional Information box, include any trip notes.
 - o Example: Fall Chess Tournament

If you need to add additional dates, select the blue square next to the trip notes button. (See screenshot above)

7. Click the "Submit Field Trip" button once you have completed entering trip information.

The screenshot shows the 'Field Trip Request - Form' interface. Key features and annotations include:

- Documentation Requirements:** Two sections list required documents. Red boxes highlight the first section (For In County and Out-Of-County trips) and the second section (For Overnight and Out-Of-State trips). Red arrows point from these sections to a green box stating: "You may access/download the fillable field trip forms in this section."
- Linked Competitions:** A dropdown menu for selecting competitions.
- Trip Details:** Fields for Trip Date, Destination, Departure Time, and Return Time. A red box highlights the "Add Date" button, with a green box stating: "You may add multiple dates if needed."
- Student Roster:** A section for entering students. A green box states: "Once date(s) have been added, make sure to press the blue 'Add Date' button. Date will NOT be added unless this step is completed. You will receive an error message."
- Documentation:** A section for uploading documentation. A red arrow points from this section to the "Submit Field Trip" button at the bottom right.

Additional Steps: (Please read)

If you are required to submit any additional documentation as requested by your principal or by the Student Activities Department, you will need to click the "Submit" button first and then return to the form in edit mode. (see screenshot below)

1. Click on the pencil (edit button) next to the field trip request you just submitted. (Screenshot below)

The screenshot shows the 'Approved Requests' table. A red box highlights the edit button (pencil icon) next to the first row of data.

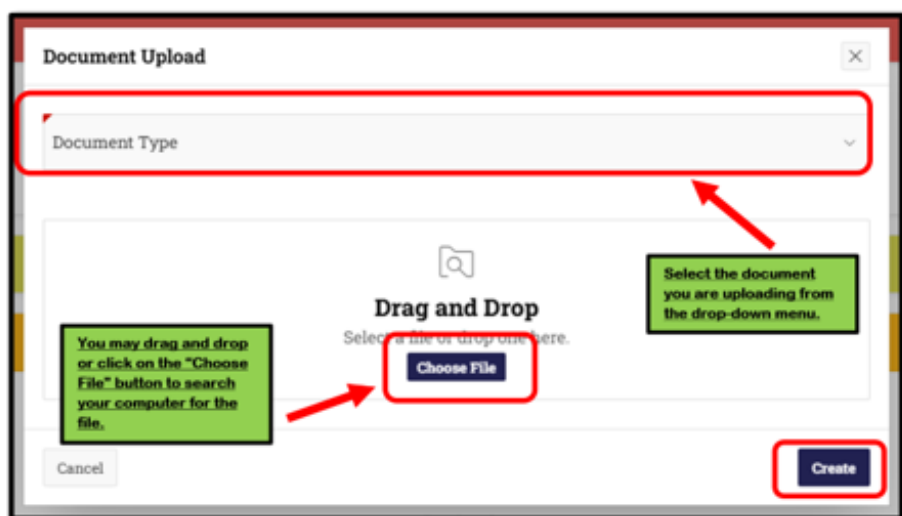
Field Trip Number	Trip Status	School Year	Grade Band	Submitter	School	Event Name	Trip Dates	Academic Coach List	Transportation Needs	Number Of Students	Number Of Staff	Number Of Non Staff	Trip Type	Principal Approved On	Student Activities Approved On
1003871	Approved	2025-2026	Elementary School			TMSCA - TEXAS MATH AND SCIENCE COACHES ASSOCIATION	10/18/2025		Dallas ISD Transportation	25	2	0	In County	10/3/2025	10/9/2025

FIELD TRIP/TRANSPORTATION REQUEST INSTRUCTIONS

2. Scroll down to the "Documentation" section of the form and click on "Add Document".



3. Once you have clicked on "Add Document", the following box will open.
4. You can either "Choose File" or drag and drop them. Make sure to select the file name for the document you are trying to add from the drop down menu under "Document Type".
5. You will click on the create button to attach.



For Overnight/Out of State Accommodations:

1. Overnight Accommodations Field Trips
 - The Student Activities Department will handle accommodations.
 - You must submit additional documentation for overnight trips.
 - List of Students with Emergency Contact Information
 - Parent Permission Slip Forms
 - Chaperone Statement Acknowledging Responsibilities & Duties
 - Overnight Security Plan
 - Parent Meeting/Agenda (i.e: agenda, sign-in sheet, written conversation recaps)

Checklist for Overnight Trips

- Adhere to registration deadlines.
- Provide a complete list of participants to Student Activities that includes the student, coach, chaperone's gender, school identification, and grade.
- Conduct parent meeting for students who are participating in the overnight trip. Make sure to include proof/documentation of the parent meeting when submitting the field trip request.
- Submit a transportation request for principal and district to approve.
- Submit an I-Expense report via Oracle for meals for students, coaches, and chaperones (Cash Advance Steps will be provided upon the director's approval).
- Request \$35 per day (student or teacher).
- Use only for meals that are purchased at restaurants, including fast food establishments.
- Remember snacks from grocery and convenience stores are not covered in meal allowance.
- In-state sales and hotel-occupancy taxes will not be reimbursed by the District (Provide businesses with the District's Texas Sales Tax Exemption Certificate).
- Handwritten tips or gratuities will not be considered for reimbursement by the District.
- Report competition results to Student Activities.
- Complete a reimbursement expense report via I-Expense within 10 days after the competition using the Cash Advance Reconciliation Steps (Available upon the director's approval).
- Scan and attach all receipts to the report.
- Hand deliver the remaining cash to Treasure Services in the Administration Building, 9400 North Central Expressway. (Get a receipt for the remaining cash and upload it to the expense report.)

Guidelines for Overnight Trips

- Student Activities will pay registration fees and arrange lodging, transportation, and meals for students, coaches, and chaperones for overnight trips.
- Adhere to department "no reimbursement" policy regarding all expenses relating to academic competitions.
- Follow District and campus policy regarding field trips, cash advancements, receipts, tips, sales taxes, and agendas.
- Cash advancement and mileage reimbursement must be approved in advance by the Student Activities director.
- When traveling with students, the actual costs of meals will be allowed, in lieu of per diem, not to exceed the GSA meal allowance per person. Breakfast, lunch, and dinner should be reported separately. Itemized receipts must be attached to the report. The number of persons eating, individual names, and the name of the group should also be included. Groups of 10 or more must use a Sales Tax Exemption Certificate. Tips in excess of 20 percent (before tax) are not allowed.



2026-2027 UIL Grading Periods/Eligibility Calendar

Tue	AUGUST 11	1st day of school – Cycle 1 starts
Fri	AUGUST 28	3-week grade check
Fri	SEPTEMBER 18	End of first six weeks – All grades must be checked
Fri	SEPTEMBER 25	Grace period ends – students may lose eligibility if a class is failed; or gain eligibility if necessary
Fri	OCTOBER 9	End of CYCLE 1 - All grades must be checked
Mon	OCTOBER 12	Start of CYCLE 2
Fri	OCTOBER 16	Grace period ends for Cycle 1 Students may lose eligibility if a class is failed; students may gain eligibility if passing all classes
Fri	OCTOBER 30	3-week grade check for only ineligible students
Fri	NOVEMBER 6	Grace period ends – students may gain eligibility if passing all classes
Fri	NOVEMBER 20	3-week grade check for only ineligible students
Mon	NOVEMBER 23	THANKSGIVING BREAK STARTS All students become academically eligible at the end of the school day on Friday, November 21 through Saturday, November 29. ALL INELIGIBLE STUDENTS RESUME INELIGIBILITY ON DECEMBER 1
Fri	DECEMBER 4	Grace period ends – students may gain eligibility if passing all classes
Fri	DECEMBER 18	End of CYCLE 2 - All grades must be checked
Mon	DECEMBER 21	WINTER BREAK STARTS All students become academically eligible at the end of school day on Friday, December 19 through Saturday January 3 ALL INELIGIBLE STUDENTS RESUME INELIGIBILITY ON JANUARY 6
Tue	JANUARY 6	Start of CYCLE 3
Tue	JANUARY 12	Grace period ends for Cycle 2 Students may lose eligibility if a class is failed; students may gain eligibility if passing all classes
Fri	JANUARY 22	3-week grade check for only ineligible students
Fri	JANUARY 29	Grace period ends – students may gain eligibility if passing all classes
Fri	FEBRUARY 12	3-week grade check for only ineligible students
Fri	FEBRUARY 19	Grace period ends – students may gain eligibility if passing all classes
Fri	MARCH 5	End of CYCLE 3 - All grades must be checked
Mon	MARCH 8	Start of CYCLE 4
Mon	MARCH 12	Grace period ends for Cycle 3 Students may lose eligibility if a class is failed; students may gain eligibility if passing all classes
Mon	MARCH 15	SPRING BREAK STARTS All students become academically eligible at the end of school day on Friday, March 13 through Saturday March 21 ALL INELIGIBLE STUDENTS RESUME INELIGIBILITY ON March 23
Fri	APRIL 2	3-week grade check for only ineligible students
Fri	APRIL 9	Grace period ends – students may gain eligibility if passing all classes
Fri	APRIL 23	3-week grade check for only ineligible students
Fri	APRIL 30	Grace period ends – students may gain eligibility if passing all classes
Fri	MAY 14	3-week grade check for only ineligible students
Fri	MAY 21	Grace period ends – students may gain eligibility if passing all classes
Tue	MAY 26	Last Day of School

University Interscholastic League

PROFESSIONAL ACKNOWLEDGEMENT FORM

STATE OF TEXAS

COUNTY OF _____

§
§

BEFORE ME, the undersigned authority, on this the _____ day of _____, 20____, personally appeared _____, who after being duly sworn upon his/her oath stated as follows:

- (1) I am _____ of _____, Texas.
- (2) I am currently employed by the _____ Independent School District in the following capacity: _____. I am in charge of district students who participate in activities of the University Interscholastic League.
- (3) I have read and am familiar with, and will continue to read the Leaguer, an online official publication by the UIL, located on UIL web site.
- (4) I have read and am familiar with, and will continue to read the UIL Constitution and Contest Rules, activity manuals and other League bulletins and will keep myself informed as updated editions are received, in the contests for which I am responsible, throughout my tenure with this school district.
- (5) I understand the contents of the UIL Constitution and Contest Rules and activity manuals and relevant web sites in my activity(s) as they are applicable to me, to the students in my charge, to the school to which I am assigned, and to the school district.
- (6) It is my intention to comply with all of the provisions of the UIL Constitution and Contest Rules. Further, in the event of an official rules change, or an official interpretation, I understand that I will be responsible for abiding by said rules after official notification of the change or interpretation.
- (7) It is my intention to describe to my students all applicable provisions of the UIL Constitution and Contest Rules within a UIL activity of which I am in charge. If I do not understand a provision of the UIL Constitution and Contest Rules, I shall seek a written clarification. If a student, parent, or any other person requests more than a description of the UIL Constitution and Contest Rules, I will refer them to my district's superintendent or designee, or the UIL staff for opinions and explanations, and to the UIL State Executive Committee for official interpretations.
- (8) I am giving this professional acknowledgement to acknowledge the above stated facts and the professional responsibility I freely accept with respect to my actions or omissions in activities of the UIL, and to assure my students, the parents of my students, my school, my school district, and UIL officers: (a) that I am aware of those actions and omissions that constitute violations of the UIL Constitution and Contest Rules; (b) that I am aware of the ranges of possible penalties that may be imposed following a violation; and (c) that I am aware of the persons against whom the UIL may impose penalties.
- (9) In particular, I acknowledge my understanding of the penalties that may be assessed against me should I fail to comply with the provisions of the UIL Constitution and Contest Rules.
- (10) I acknowledge that I am making this sworn statement to be filed with my superintendent.

This professional acknowledgement is made solely for the purpose set forth herein and does not waive any right nor constitute any admission.

Signed: _____
Signature of Coach/Sponsor/Director

(Notary Seal)

Notary Public in and for the State of Texas
My commission expires on: _____

This form is to be filled in and notarized only once, at the beginning of employment of a high school coach, academic sponsor, and music and One-Act Play director. It is to be filed in the superintendent's office.

Policy Overview Guide

Extracurricular & Co-curricular Activities

- An extracurricular activity is an activity sponsored by the UIL, the Board, or an organization sanctioned by a Board resolution. FM (Legal)
- The extracurricular activity offerings shall be of sufficient variety and number to meet the wide range of interests and needs of the students. FM (Local)
- A “curriculum-related student group or club” means any student group or club that directly relates to the body of courses offered by the District. FM (Regulation)
- State Board and UIL rules shall govern interscholastic activities. FMF (Local)

Student Participation

- A student enrolled in the Dallas ISD or who participates in an extracurricular activity or a UIL competition is subject to District policy and UIL rules regarding participation. FM (Legal)
- A student shall be allowed in a school year a maximum of ten extracurricular absences not related to post-district competition before state and a maximum of two absences for state competition. FM (Local)
- No student will be penalized in any way or excluded from any activity of the organization because of failure to perform on Sunday or other Sabbath or religious holy day or any other good reason. FME (Regulation)
- A student enrolled in extracurricular activities must meet the No Pass/No Play requirements for eligibility to participate. A student must receive a grade of 70 or better in any course for eligibility purposes. FM (Legal), EIA (Regulation)
- A student may be removed from participation in extracurricular activities or may be excluded from school honors for violation of organizational standards of behavior of an extracurricular activity or violation of the Student Code of Conduct. FO (Local)
- Schools may not charge fees for field trips required as part of a basic education program or course. FP (Legal)
- Students involved in UIL competition above the UIL-district level that requires an overnight trip shall have their expenses paid by District. FM, FMG
- Students should, whenever possible, be transported in school or chartered buses. Vans can be used if they meet the requirements of the Transportation Code. FMG (Regulation)

Dallas ISD Policies: Quick Reference Guide

Student Activities & Field Trip Policy Codes

DEE: Compensation & Benefits
Expense Reimbursement

EIA: Academic Achievement
Grading/Progress Reports to
Parents

FM: Student Activities Student
Activities School-Sponsored
Publications

FMA: Student Activities School-
Sponsored Publication

FME: Student Activities
Performances

FMF: Student Activities Contests
and Competition

FMG: Student Activities Travel:
Guidelines for Field Trips, Tours,
and Excursions

FO: Student Discipline
Extracurricular Standards of
Behavior

FP: Student Fees, Fines, and
Charges

Policy Overview Guide (continued)

Field Trips

- All field trips must be submitted electronically for approval. FMG (Regulation)
- In-county field trips sponsored by Athletics, JROTC, Student Activities, Visual and Performing Arts, and Computer Science and Technology only require the principal's approval via District's electronic platform. FMG (Regulation)
- Overnight and out-of-county field trips (including District-sponsored field trips) require approval from School Leadership. FMG (Regulation)
- A plan for medical emergencies and a security plan for monitoring rooms during the night to ensure the safety of participants must be submitted for overnight trips. FMG (Regulation)

Sponsors & Chaperones

- Sponsors and coaches are responsible for knowledge of and compliance with rules for eligibility and participation. FM
- At least one adult chaperone for every 10 students for school-related trips. FMG (Regulation)
- Make sure all volunteers complete the online volunteer application at <https://dallasisd.voly.org>. FMG (Regulation)
- Chaperones are responsible for student safety and stay with students and monitor their behavior for the entire field trip. FMG (Local)
- Water activities (including swimming, boating, and water skiing) that do not have a certified lifeguard on duty at all times are prohibited. FMG (Regulation)
- Employee reimbursement, if any, will occur within ten business days after the final receipt of all adequate documentation by the Accounts Payable Department. DEE (Regulation)

Parents

- A parent is entitled to full information regarding the school activities of a parent's child except as provided by Education Code 38.004 (regarding child abuse investigations). FM (Legal)

Student Publications

- The District's educators shall exercise editorial control over the style and content of student speech in school-sponsored expressive activities so long as their actions are reasonably related to legitimate pedagogical concerns. FMA (Legal)
- All publications edited, printed, or distributed in the name of or within the District schools shall be under the control of the school administration and the Board. FMA (Local)

Resources

Board Policy Online:

<https://pol.tasb.org/PolicyOnline?key=361>

Employee Handbook:

<https://www.dallasisd.org/Page/41758>

Student Code of Conduct:

<https://www.dallasisd.org/studenthandbook>



Consent to Participate in Authorized or Sponsored Student Club/Activity

In accordance with law, the District must receive written parental consent before a student is permitted to participate in a District- or campus-authorized or sponsored club/activity. This form must be signed and returned to _____ (*name or position*) before the student will be allowed to participate in these clubs/activities.

(Please print.)

Student's name:	
Current grade level:	
Campus:	

Parent consent to participate

I consent for my child, _____ (*student's name*), to participate in the following authorized or sponsored clubs/activity:

(Check all that apply.)

- ☐ All student clubs/activities authorized or sponsored by the District.
- ☐ All student clubs/activities authorized or sponsored by the campus.
- ☐ My child may only participate in the following student clubs/activities authorized or sponsored by the District or campus, please specify below:

--

Parent's signature:	
Date:	

CURRICULUM-
RELATED ACTIVITIES

A "curriculum-related student group or club" means any student group or club that directly relates to the body of courses offered by the District. Activities of a student group or club directly relate to the school curriculum if the group meets any of the following criteria:

1. The subject matter of the group is actually taught or will soon be taught in a regularly offered course.
 2. The subject matter of the group concerns the body of courses as a whole.
 3. Participation in the group is required for a particular course.
 4. Participation in the group results in academic credit.
- School sponsorship applies only to curriculum-related groups or clubs sponsored and promoted by the school.

SCHOOL
SPONSORSHIPDISTRICT SPONSORED
STUDENT
EXTRACURRICULAR
ACTIVITIES/CLUBS

The district shall develop and implement a variety of student extracurricular activities/clubs to meet the wide range of student interests.

The district-wide student extracurricular activities are designed to increase student participation in activities outside of the regular school day to include but not limited to: after school hours, weekends, and other non-school days.

REHEARSALS,
PRACTICES, AND
RECORDING

Practice involving students from more than one building at any time shall **follow the standard field trip process** have the written approval of the appropriate executive director.

Students assembled for ~~practice, rehearsal,~~ recording a program, ~~television~~ **broadcasting**, or for any other purpose outside their own building will first have the project approved **from the appropriate district department and follow the standard field trip process** in writing by the appropriate executive director as requested by principals.

Students participating in rehearsals or practice sessions of any kind within their own building will terminate such activities no later than 10:30 p.m. or 30 minutes prior to the end of the custodian's regular workday, whichever is earlier.

Additional information on student activities and conduct at these activities may be found in the Code of Conduct.

FIELD DAY

~~The week of May 1 of each year is proclaimed as Child Health Week. The District traditionally has field days for students on this occasion. The field day will be considered a school activity. Activity fund-raising projects will be held on days other than field day.~~

On field days in the District's elementary schools, activities' procedures will be observed.

PARENTAL CONSENT

In accordance with law, the District must receive parental consent before a student is permitted to participate in a District- or campus-authorized or sponsored activity/club.

Beginning in the 2026-27 school year, this consent form will be part of the registration process.