



Community Connection

Wisdom works wonders.

August 2026



In the August episode of *60 Seconds with Spicer*, Dr. Spicer was joined by some dynamic partners in school spirit: cheerleaders from both University High School and Waco High School to kick-off a new school year!

Ready! Set! Learn!



The first school bell rang on August 12 to mark the beginning of the 2026-2027 school year. Class is officially in session, and our students and staff are already doing amazing things! Click [HERE](#) to view more first day photos from across the district.

Waco ISD Publishes Inaugural Magazine



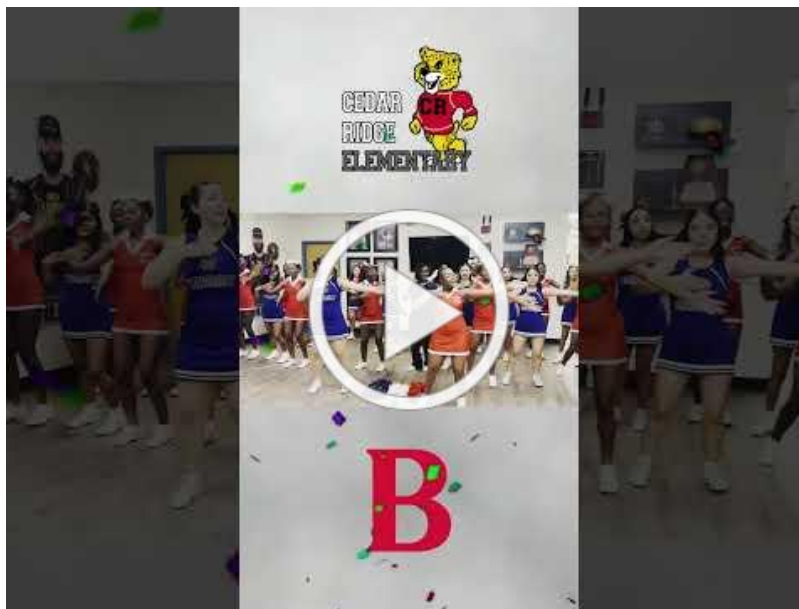
Waco ISD is excited to unveil the premier issue of *WISDom*, a brand-new magazine celebrating the extraordinary stories, achievements, and milestones happening across the district. Aligned with the mission to cultivate wisdom, inspire growth, and pursue excellence, *WISDom* brings parents, staff, and community members closer to the heart of the district's schools. Inside, readers will find spotlight features on student accomplishments, innovative classroom initiatives, and the dedicated educators making a difference every day.

Click [HERE](#) to view the digital magazine, pick up a copy in your child's campus office, or find a magazine stand across Waco at one of the district's community partner locations. A Spanish version of *WISDom* will be available soon!

Waco ISD Demonstrates Strong Academic Growth Across District in 2025-2026 State Accountability Results

The Texas Education Agency (TEA) released accountability ratings for the 2025–2026 school year, showcasing a year of significant academic growth and momentum across Waco ISD.

"Waco ISD is on a clear upward trajectory," said Superintendent Dr. Tiffany Spicer. "While state accountability scores are a part of the story, it's not the entire journey. We look at student growth, achievement, experiences and make sure we speak to the whole child. This past year, we saw incremental growth, and we are excited about what is to come. We hit our highest score since the state implemented new standards in 2023, nearly 60 percent of our campuses saw score increases, and both of our high schools raised their letter grades. Waco ISD is in pursuit of excellence, and excited to see the future as we improve exponentially." Click [HERE](#) to read more.



Student and Staff Accolades



Waco ISD students and staff continued to work through the summer to prepare our final graduating class of the 2025-2026 school year. Congratulations to the 2026 summer graduates! Click [HERE](#) to view more photos.

The Waco ISD Fine Arts Department recently received the prestigious award of the Texas Art Education Association District of Distinction. This marks the eighth consecutive year of recognizing WISD's excellence in Fine Arts! Out of more than 1,200 eligible districts across Texas, Waco ISD was one of only 109 districts to earn this top honor for the 2025-2026 school year.



Waco ISD had several students from Waco High and University High honored during the Waco Municipal Court's annual Teen Court Awards. A special congratulations goes to three students from University High who were named Lawyer of the Year! Click [HERE](#) to view more photos.

The Waco Education Foundation awarded \$300 First Year Teacher Mini Grants to every Waco ISD first-year teacher, brand new to the teaching profession. This grant helped them purchase supplies to set-up their very first classroom. Click [HERE](#) to view more photos.





Ms. Keli Jackson-Freeman was honored as the 2026 Baylor University Social Work Task Supervisor of the Year. For the past five years, Keli has given compassionate guidance and dedication to the interns from the Garland School of Social Work at Baylor. Congratulations, Keli for this outstanding honor!

Board Meeting



Did you miss the August 20 Board of Trustees meeting? Click [HERE](#) to watch the full meeting.

The next regular meeting will be held on September 17, 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. August's Community Partner is the Waco Striders Running Club.

Over the past two years, the Waco Striders Running Club has proven to be an invaluable partner to Waco ISD through their dedicated support of the Superintendent Superhero 5K and Fun Run. Building on their timing work from last year, the Striders took this year's event to the next level by introducing an upgraded tracking and timing system for all of our participants.

Their commitment goes far beyond race day. Two weekends before the run, team members walked the entire course alongside district staff to inspect the route, flag potential safety concerns, and guarantee a smooth experience for everyone involved.

Leading up to the event, they diligently monitored registration data to catch and correct errors behind the scenes, and when race day arrived, they were right there on the ground providing hands-on, real-time support from start to finish. Waco ISD is proud to honor the Waco Striders for their extraordinary generosity, technical expertise, and devotion to the district's students, staff, and families.



Waco ISD's 2026 Convocation looked a little different this year. The district attended the Baylor Center for School Leadership Culture of Joy event. In a powerful shift toward collaboration, it was a unique opportunity for multiple school districts across Region 12 to come together as a collective regional group to celebrate the profession of education and catalyze a culture of joy across Central Texas! Click [HERE](#) to view more photos.



Family Fest and the 2nd Annual Superhero Fun Run were huge successes! It was a morning full of fitness and fun. The event offered free health screenings, immunizations, entertainment, lunch and a free backpack filled with school supplies for each registered student. Many thanks to our numerous community partners and staff for making the event possible for our students and families. Click [HERE](#) to view photos from the Superhero Fun Run, and [HERE](#) to view photos from Family Fest.

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!



WACO INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT

2026 Open House

8

High School
SEPTEMBER 8 FROM 5-7 PM

15

Elementary School
SEPTEMBER 15 FROM 5-7 PM

17

Gwama/Gwahca/P-Tech
SEPTEMBER 17 FROM 5-7 PM

23

Middle School
SEPTEMBER 23 FROM 5-7 PM





Click the photo to read the full post!

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

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