



OCTOBER 2026

# BIG RED LETTERS

BELTON ISD SUPERINTENDENT DR. MALINDA GOLDEN



## DESTINATION 2031

Inspiring Dreams. Empowering Futures.

---

### *Superintendent Message*

Dear Belton ISD Community,

October is always a season of deep focus and hard work across our campuses. As academic expectations pick up momentum and the routines of the school year set in, it is a crucial time for us to wrap our support around both our students and staff. In the busyness of this season, we anchor ourselves in our core purpose: Inspiring Dreams and Empowering Futures.

In Belton ISD, our mission is to ensure every student is equipped to pursue their highest aspirations and make a meaningful impact in our world. We bring this commitment to life through rich learning experiences guided by our Journey of a Graduate vision—fostering the critical skills, resilient character, and confidence required for lifelong success.

As we celebrate student progress this fall, we remain grounded in a vital principle: achievement is merely a snapshot, but growth is the true story. While assessments give us valuable insight, real learning unfolds step-by-step over time. I am deeply proud of the daily perseverance, curiosity, and growth our students demonstrate in our classrooms.

That continuous growth is made possible because our students are present and engaged. I want to extend my sincere gratitude to our families for making school attendance a top priority. Thanks to your partnership, our attendance rates this fall have reached their highest level in years—a direct reflection of your commitment to your children's learning.

Thank you to our dedicated parents, staff, and community partners for your unwavering support. Together, we are building an exceptionally bright future for each and every learner in Belton ISD.

Sincerely,

Malinda Golden, Ph.D.





[ OCTOBER 2026 | GOLDEN MOMENTS ]

## Priority 1: Students

### Three Belton ISD Seniors Earn National Merit Semifinalist Honors

Three Belton ISD seniors—Anya Jinadatha of Belton High School, along with Shreya Muni and Guru Rajkumar of Lake Belton High School—were named semifinalists in the 2027 National Merit Scholarship Program following their high-achieving PSAT/NMSQT scores. All three credit their academic success to personal consistency and strong support from family, peers, and teachers.

Highly involved in school leadership, athletics, and academic competitions, each student plans to pursue pre-med or biophysics tracks in college with long-term goals in medicine and research. Their semifinalist standing qualified them to compete for upcoming National Merit Scholarships and finalist honors.



Six additional Belton ISD seniors were named Commended Scholars: Alexandra Bui, Aiden Walker and Vishnuprasad Kakarla of Lake Belton High School, and Kirra A. Martin, Andrew N. Rabroker and Charles K. Wagner of Belton High School.

## Two Belton ISD Students Named National Math Stars Second Consecutive Year

Belton ISD celebrated two third-graders, Apollo Barth of Lakewood Elementary and Katie He of Sparta Elementary, who were selected as 2026 National Math Stars. They joined previous honorees to bring the district's total to four stars and nine finalists since joining the program in 2025.



Selected from a pool of 161 local students who scored in the top 5% nationally on the Renaissance Star Assessment, Barth and He completed a rigorous, multi-stage application process to earn the distinction, which carries 10 years of individualized math enrichment and mentorship.

---

## Student Once Helped by Sparta Teacher Returns the Favor

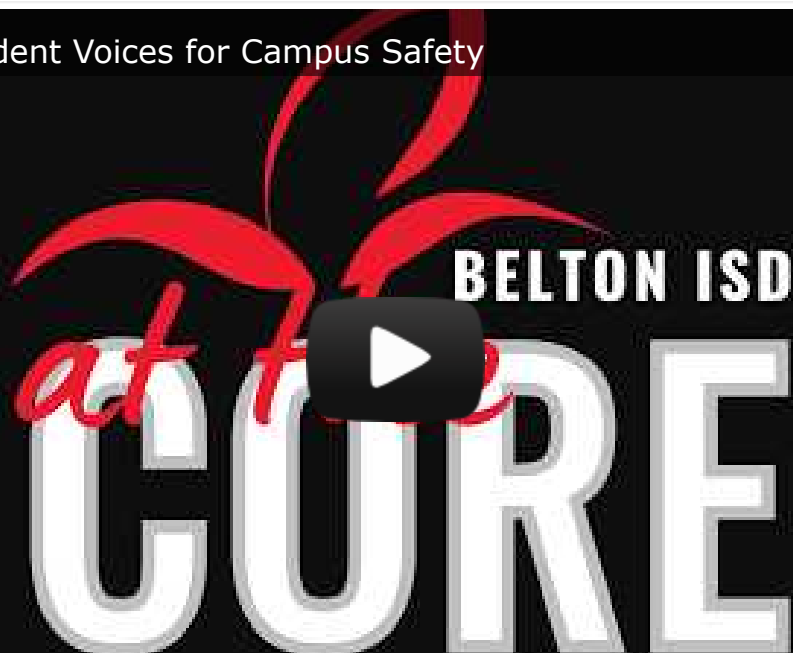
Belton Middle School sixth-grader Jude Ruiz used his 3D printing talent to design and donate a custom raised clipboard for Brett York, a Sparta Elementary third-grader in need of an adapted writing surface. The project came full circle through Sparta special education teacher Jenn Hoelscher, who previously taught Jude and helped him build his confidence in elementary school.



Jude, who runs his own venture called Print Kid 3D, previously created fidgets for Special Olympics athletes and classrooms, and he declined payment for Brett's custom board to give back to his former teacher's classroom.

---

## At The Core: Student Voices for Campus Safety



## Priority 2: Staff

### Day in The Life: School Resource Officer



## Priority 3: Community

### Two Belton ISD Schools Earn Purple Star Designation

Belton ISD's two newest campuses, Hubbard Branch Elementary and James L. Burrell Elementary, earned the Purple Star Campus Designation, bringing the district's total to six designated schools. The distinction recognized their dedicated commitment to supporting military-connected students and families through specialized transition programs and campus liaisons.



Hubbard Branch and Burrell joined Belton High School, Lake Belton Middle School, High Point Elementary and Charter Oak Elementary as the district's six currently designated Purple Star campuses.

With military-connected students making up nearly 30 percent of the district, the new designations highlighted Belton ISD's ongoing efforts to create welcoming, supportive environments for military families across its campuses.



### **Belton ISD Expands Lifesaving CPR Training with 12 New Training Kits**

Belton ISD expanded its lifesaving training capabilities by acquiring 12 new CPR in Schools Training Kits through its partnership with the American Heart Association. The \$8,700 investment ensured every campus across the district received equipment to support hands-only CPR and AED instruction for students and staff.

Each new kit features 10 inflatable manikins and AED simulators, enabling schools to train up to 30 people per session. The district added the kits as part of its push to become an official AHA District of Lifesavers, building on its annual training of over 2,400 employees and all graduating students.

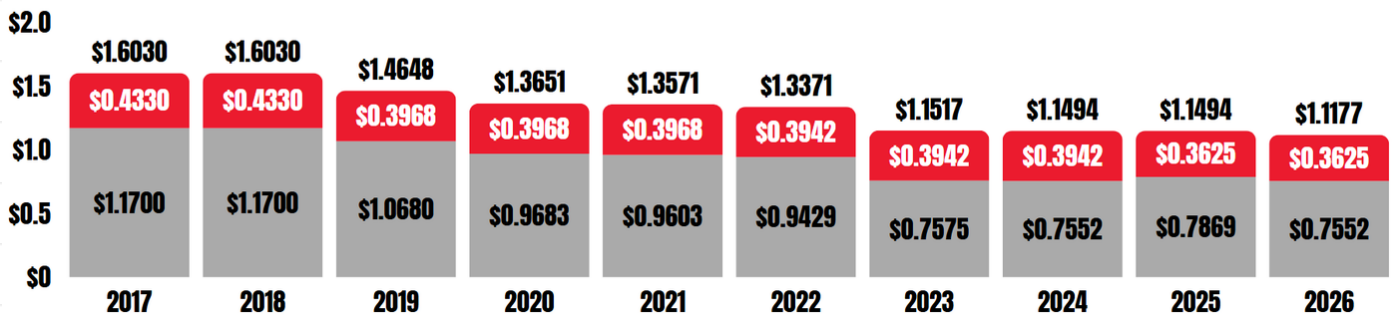
---

## ***Priority 4: Financial Management***

### **Tax Rate**

We have demonstrated a consistent commitment to being good stewards of taxpayer resources by lowering the total tax rate by 28% since 2017. From modernizing technology and improving facilities to rewarding excellence in teaching, every financial decision reflects Belton ISD's commitment to maximizing resources, protecting taxpayer investments and creating lasting opportunities for each and every student.

● M&O Tax Rate ● I&S Tax Rate



## Important Dates

# ELECTION INFORMATION

## VOTE EARLY

Monday, Oct. 19 – Friday, Oct. 30

### LOCATIONS

BELTON: County Annex  
MORGAN'S POINT: Events Center  
TEMPLE: District Administration Building

## ELECTION DAY

Tuesday, Nov. 3

### LOCATIONS

Check the Bell County Elections webpage for locations county-wide.

## WHAT'S ON THE BALLOT?

Federal, State, County, and Local government ballot items

Visit the [Bell County Elections](#) webpage for more information and sample ballots.



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



October 8-9 : Student Holiday: Fall Break

**October 12:** Fall Break (District closed)

**October 13:** Parents as Partners: Fentanyl and Opioid Awareness (Virtual)

**October 13:** Parents as Partners: DL/ESL Parent Meeting

**October 19:** Regular Board Workshop & Meeting

**October 20:** Parents as Partners: Dyslexia

**October 30:** Student Holiday: Parent/Teacher Conference Day

---

**November 10:** Parents as Partners: Helping Students Cope with Anxiety (Virtual)

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

**November 16:** Regular Board Workshop & Meeting

**November 23-27:** Thanksgiving Break (District closed)

---

**December 1:** Parents as Partners: DL/ESL Family Meeting

**December 10:** Parents as Partners: Online Safety

**December 14:** Regular Board Workshop & Meeting

**December 18:** Student Early Release

**December 21-January 1:** Winter Break (District closed)

---

## *Important Links*

**2026-2027 Student Calendar**

**Take the Journey**

**Stay Connected**

**Digital Backpack**

**We are Hiring**

---



**FOLLOW ME!**

X @GOLDEN4ED

@BISDSUPERINTENDENT



## About Us

Email: [communications@bisd.net](mailto:communications@bisd.net)

Website: [www.bisd.net](http://www.bisd.net)

Location: 400 North Wall Street | PO Box 269 Belton, Texas 76513

Phone: [254-215-2000](tel:254-215-2000)

Facebook: [facebook.com/BeltonISD](https://facebook.com/BeltonISD)

Instagram: [@BeltonISD](https://www.instagram.com/BeltonISD) Twitter: [@BeltonISD](https://twitter.com/BeltonISD)



**Belton ISD**