

Tarrant County

Board Summaries - March 2024

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Arlington ISD

Board Meeting/Briefing

(March 21 regular meeting [agenda](#) and [video](#))

HB3 Goal Progress

The administration made a [presentation on middle-of-year \(MOY\) student outcomes](#) for reading and math in grades PK-4 through 3rd grade.

Early Literacy & Reading measured using CIRCLE for Pre-K 4, mCLASS for K through 2, and STAAR Benchmark for 3rd grade.

Early numeracy and math outcomes based on CIRCLE for Pre-K 4, NWEA MAP for K through 2, and STAAR Benchmark for 3rd grade.

The percentage of students at or above the benchmark has increased at all grade levels over last year's MOY results and most are on track to meet their end-of-year (EOY) goals.

The administration described their response process after analyzing the MOY outcomes including campus-aligned coaching and sessions tailored to specific screeners and grade levels for clarity and relevance.

Why It Matters

Texas House Bill 3 requires ISDs to set goals in three academic areas. This reporting is part of that requirement. The board and stakeholders need to see student progress towards EOY goals, compare them to past year outcomes, and provide information on the interventions established by the district to respond to the MOY outcomes.



Crowley ISD

Board Meetings

(March 7 called meeting [agenda](#) and [video](#), March 28 regular meeting [agenda](#) and [video](#))

2024-25 School Year Calendar

The administration made a [presentation on proposed calendars for the 2024-25 school year](#).

The board approved "Draft A" of the [2024-25 calendar](#) for schools that follow a traditional schedule that includes no changes to school day start and end times.

More than 1,400 parents/guardians, employees, and students were surveyed to provide feedback on two versions of the calendar. Draft A was liked overall by 65% of respondents as compared to 35% who disliked it.

Why It Matters

The district must seek stakeholder input and find alignment with education partners when creating a calendar. Parents and staff have preferences for professional development days and staff work days, on which there will be no school for students, which must also be taken into consideration.

District Financial Health Report

The administration made a [presentation on the district's financial health](#).

This report included historical financial data back to 2010 to help illustrate how district revenue is now not keeping up with district expenses.

The presentation tied this gap directly to inaction by the Texas state legislature. The presentation stated that "Crowley ISD is facing a legislative-created structural deficit from the Legislature's failure to increase funding despite a \$32.7 billion budget surplus and an inflation rate that has spiked to 19% since 2019." 2019 was the last time the basic allotment (the amount ISDs receive per student) was increased.

The report also included the district's staffing guidelines and their 'Budget Reduction Decision Matrix' which they will use in developing a budget for next year.

Three scenarios for end-of-year projections for 2023-24 were presented. The best-case scenario presented has a \$1.7 million deficit, the worst-case scenario has a \$16 million deficit, and the most likely scenario has a \$7.5 million deficit.

Why It Matters

Texas ISD funding is calculated by average student attendance based on a basic allotment per student (currently \$6,160 per year). Administrations and boards must find the best ways to educate students in 2024 with the same amount of per-student funding they received in 2019, despite inflation of 19% since then. This has resulted in staffing cuts and school closures in many districts that are unpopular with families in the district. Reports like this help to inform those families of the reasons for these changes.



Fort Worth ISD

Board Meetings

(March 5 special meeting [agenda](#) and [video](#), March 26 regular meeting [agenda](#) and [video](#))

6th Grade Centers - Middle School Consolidations

The board approved items related to the consolidation of 6th-grade centers with their associated middle schools.

The consolidation of Wedgwood 6th Grade School with Wedgwood Middle School was [approved](#) for the 2024-2025 school year was approved with the rationale: "Enrollment at Wedgwood 6th Grade and Wedgwood Middle Schools has steadily declined since the 2018-2019 school year, with the combined student population now approximately half of the peak enrollment. Combining sixth, seventh, and eighth grades at Wedgwood Middle School would allow the district to address the inequitable distribution of resources among schools and create improved opportunities for all students to attend a thriving campus community."

The consolidation of Leadership Academy at Forest Oak Sixth Grade and Leadership Academy at Forest Oak Middle School for the 2024-25 school year was initiated last year in a filing with the TEA. Board action this month came in the form of [approval](#) of up to \$3.7 million in 2021 Bond funds to be used for "the Forest Oak 6th Grade Relocation Project."

Why It Matters

Driven by declining enrollment and informed by a Facilities Audit and community feedback, the administration and trustees must consider school closures and consolidations to reduce operational costs (by closing/consolidating underutilized facilities) and maximize academic offerings at remaining campuses.

Texas Academic Performance Report (TAPR) Annual Report

A [public hearing](#) for the presentation of the [FWISD TAPR](#) and annual report is required by the Texas Education Agency (TEA) within 90 days of the report's release.

Like all Texas ISDs, Fort Worth ISD remains 'not rated' because the issuance of 2023 A-F ratings under the final 2023 rule is pending and subject to change based on judicial rulings or decisions from the 88th Legislature during a special called session.

This annual report also includes the district's accreditation status, financial report, campus performance objectives, report on violent or criminal incidents, and student performance in postsecondary institutions.

Why It Matters

This TEA-required annual report ensures that the Board and the public are aware of the data available to the public related to the academic performance of the district's students and other indicators of district health. The [FWISD TAPR](#) provides comprehensive data on student outcomes disaggregated by race, socioeconomic status, language, and special education categories.



Mansfield ISD

Board Meeting

(March 26 regular meeting [agenda](#) and [video](#))

CTE Update

The administration presented a [Career & Technical Education \(CTE\) update](#) to the board.

Mansfield ISD has 12,183 High School students (grades 9-12) which are the focus of CTE programming. CTE programming is offered at five traditional high school campuses, seven middle school campuses, and the Ben Barber Innovation Academy (BBIA). There are 1,800 students at BBIA each session.

Mansfield ISD students earned 1,304 Industry-Based Certifications last year, an increase of 276 over the preceding year. An industry-based certificate is a credential you earn to show proficiency in a particular area or skill. Schools and organizations offer many certificates specializing in a specific field, such as healthcare or technology.

Why It Matters

Creating pathways to college and career opportunities is an important responsibility of our public schools. Districts always need to be looking at ways to increase opportunities for students after they graduate.