School districts in the Dallas–Fort Worth area have many fine public schools. Beyond the major school districts, there are numerous smaller ones. Each district has a unique profile. Visiting district websites and reading the expanded district profiles at mydallasmove.com will reveal their distinct features and offer insights.

Choosing a district

You have lots of choices for schooling in the Dallas area. Public, public charter, private, or parochial, or home schooling. Should you want to send your kids to public school, you are assured that the Dallas–Fort Worth area has many fine public schools.

In Texas, public school districts operate independently and are governed by locally elected school boards that locally implement state guidelines through a selection of instructional programs, curriculum, and school policies that are often less subject to state laws than other public schools. Local districts are governed by an independently elected school board of trustees that hires a superintendent as CEO, sets a district philosophy (vision and mission) and local policies; selects a curriculum within the state guidelines; and sets the local ISD tax rate, budget, and district boundaries.

Here’s what you need to consider in finding the right school district for you:

1. The district and school’s philosophy vs. your family’s interests and needs

Vision, mission, goals
Size of school and class size
Grades level alignment (K-4, K-5, K-6, etc.)
Curriculum variations
Parent engagement

2. Student achievement and performance (including staff and teacher performance)

The Dallas County area education coalition, COMMEd and its partners offer a way of best assessing student achievement in schools and districts. Find it online at commit2dallas.org.

3. Program offerings and compatibility with your child’s interests and needs

Athletics
Career and technology
Dual credit
Extra-curricular activities
Fine arts
Gifted and talented
Performing arts
Special education

4. District characteristics

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5. The district and school’s academic history

A number of local school districts have a history of academic excellence or made significant progress in the past.

Excellence or made significant progress in the previous 5 area schools were recognized as Blue Ribbon Schools, have been nationally recognized, including several that have been nationally receiving an Exemplary rating, the state’s highest rating.

6. The district and school’s enrollment

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7. Size of school and class size

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