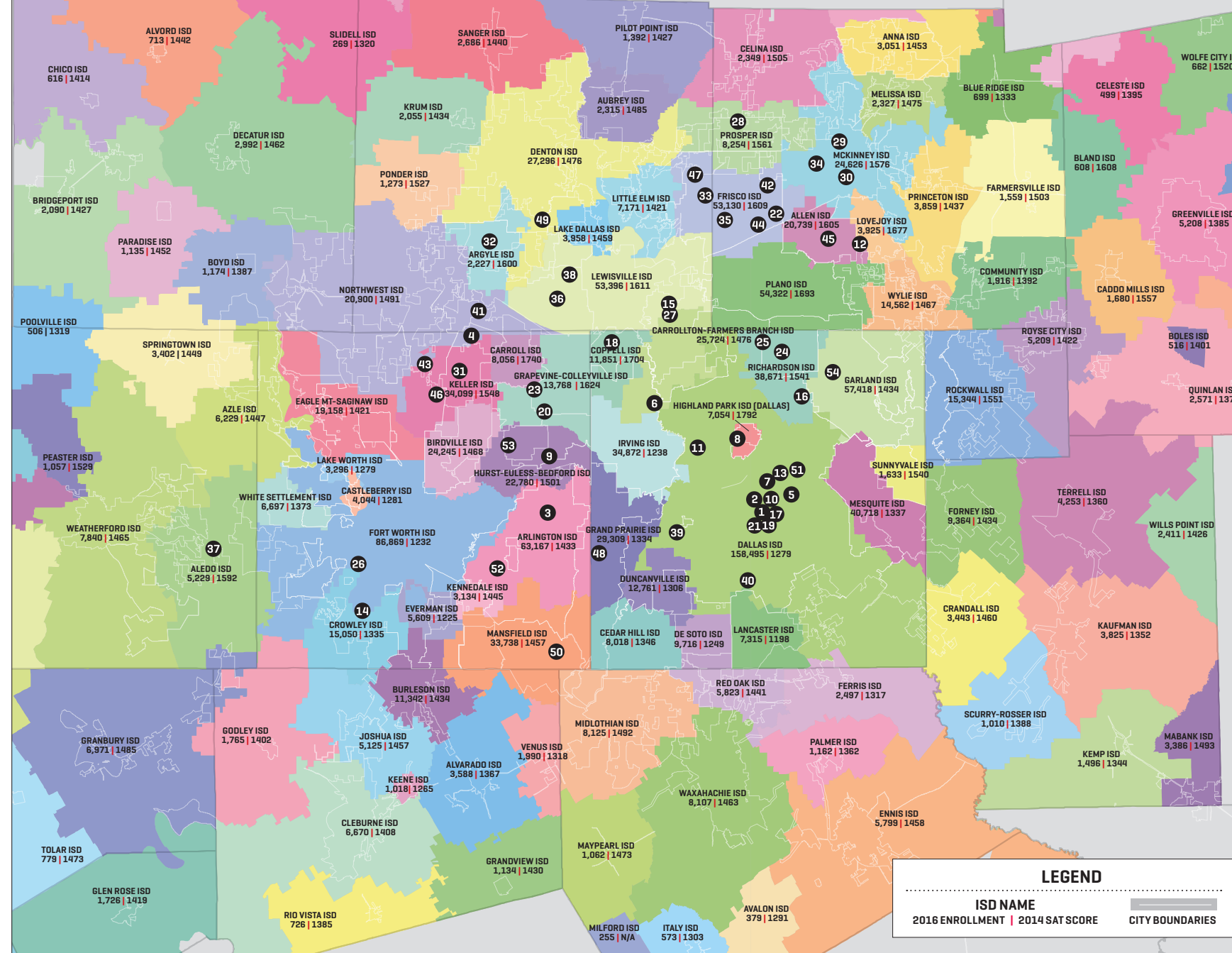


# SCHOOL DISTRICTS

School districts in the Dallas–Fort Worth region are locally administered and independent of each other. District lines generally relate to city boundaries, but are not exclusive to them. For example, the Richardson ISD includes students in Richardson and parts of Dallas and Garland. The Dallas Independent School District—or Dallas ISD, as it is known locally—is the region’s largest school district, with about 160,000 students. Students attending Dallas ISD schools live in Addison, Balch Springs, Carrollton, Cockrell Hill, Dallas, Farmers Branch, Garland, Highland Park, Hutchins, Mesquite, Seagoville, University Park and Wilmer. Since 2007, the district has more than quadrupled the number of schools receiving an Exemplary rating, the state’s highest rating. In Tarrant County, the Fort Worth ISD dominates, with about 85,000 students.

Dallas ISD hosts 15 magnet schools, including several that have been nationally recognized. Its Booker T. Washington High School for the Performing and Visual Arts is located in the heart of the Dallas Arts District and includes several internationally known artists among its alumni. The arts magnet, along with the School for the Talented and Gifted and the School of Science and Engineering at Yvonne A. Ewell Townview Center in Dallas, were recognized as among the best high schools in the nation by U.S. News and World Report. Other area schools recognized by U.S. News include Highland Park High School, Fort Worth Academy of Fine Arts, Uplift Academy, and Harmony charter schools.

In 2016, 45 area high schools received seven of seven available distinctions from the Texas Education Agency, and 5 area schools were recognized as Blue Ribbon Schools, a national honor awarded to schools that have achieved academic excellence or made significant progress in closing the achievement gap.



## 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, rest 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 local expectations that often exceed state minimums.

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
- Grade 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, COMMIT! and its partners offer a way of best assessing student achievement within schools and districts. Find it online at [commit2dallas.org](http://commit2dallas.org).

### 3 PROGRAM OFFERINGS AND COMPATIBILITY WITH YOUR CHILD’S INTERESTS AND NEEDS

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

### CHARTER SCHOOLS

In 1995, the 74th Texas Legislature passed legislation giving the state the authority to create open-enrollment charter schools. These schools are subject to fewer state laws than other public schools with the idea of ensuring fiscal and academic accountability without undue regulation of instructional methods or pedagogical innovation. Like school districts, charter schools are monitored and accredited under the statewide testing and accountability system.

### 4 DISTRICT CHARACTERISTICS

Each district has a unique profile. Visiting district websites and reading the expanded district profiles at [mydallasmove.com](http://mydallasmove.com) will reveal their distinct features and offerings.

## US NEWS & WORLD REPORT BEST HIGH SCHOOLS (2016)

RANK	SCHOOL	CITY
1	School For The Talented And Gifted	Dallas
2	School of Science and Engineering Magnet	Dallas
3	Uplift Education - Summit International Preparatory	Arlington
4	Westlake Academy	Westlake
5	Irma Lerma Rangel Young Women's Leadership School	Dallas
6	Uplift Education - North Hills Prep HS	Irving
7	Booker T. Washington HS for the Performing and Visual Arts	Dallas
8	Highland Park HS	Dallas
9	Harmony Science Academy - Euless	Euless
10	Judge Barefoot Sanders Law Magnet	Dallas
11	Uplift Williams Preparatory	Dallas
12	Lovejoy High School	Lucas
13	Uplift Peak Preparatory	Dallas
14	Harmony School of Innovation - Forth Worth	Fort Worth
15	Harmony School of Innovation - Dallas	Carrollton
16	Harmony Science Academy - Dallas	Dallas
17	School of Health Professions	Dallas
18	Coppell HS	Coppell
19	Rosie Sorrells School of Education and Social Services HS	Dallas
20	Colleyville Heritage HS	Colleyville
21	School of Business and Management	Dallas
22	Liberty HS	Frisco
23	Grapevine HS	Grapevine
24	Richardson HS	Richardson
25	Pearce HS	Richardson
26	Fort Worth Academy of Fine Arts	Fort Worth
27	Creekview HS	Carrollton
28	Prosper HS	Prosper
29	McKinney North HS	McKinney
30	McKinney HS	McKinney
31	Keller HS	Keller
32	Argyle HS	Argyle
33	Wakeland HS	Frisco
34	McKinney Boyd HS	McKinney
35	Frisco HS	Frisco
36	Flower Mound HS	Flower Mound
37	Aledo HS	Aledo
38	Marcus HS	Flower Mound
39	Trinidad Garza Early College At Mountain View	Dallas
40	Kathlyn Joy Gilliam Collegiate Academy	Dallas
41	Byron Nelson HS	Trophy Club
42	Heritage HS	Frisco
43	Timber Creek HS	Fort Worth
44	Centennial HS	Frisco
45	Allen HS	Allen
46	Central HS	Keller
47	Lone Star HS	Frisco
48	John Dubiski Career HS	Grand Prairie
49	Guyer HS	Denton
50	Mansfield HS	Mansfield
51	Woodrow Wilson HS	Dallas
52	Martin HS	Arlington
53	L. D. Bell HS	Hurst
54	North Garland HS	Garland