

SCHOOL DISTRICTS

School districts in the Dallas–Fort Worth region are locally administered and independent of one another and the cities and towns they serve. For example, the Richardson Independent School District (RISD) includes students in Richardson, as well as parts of Dallas and Garland.

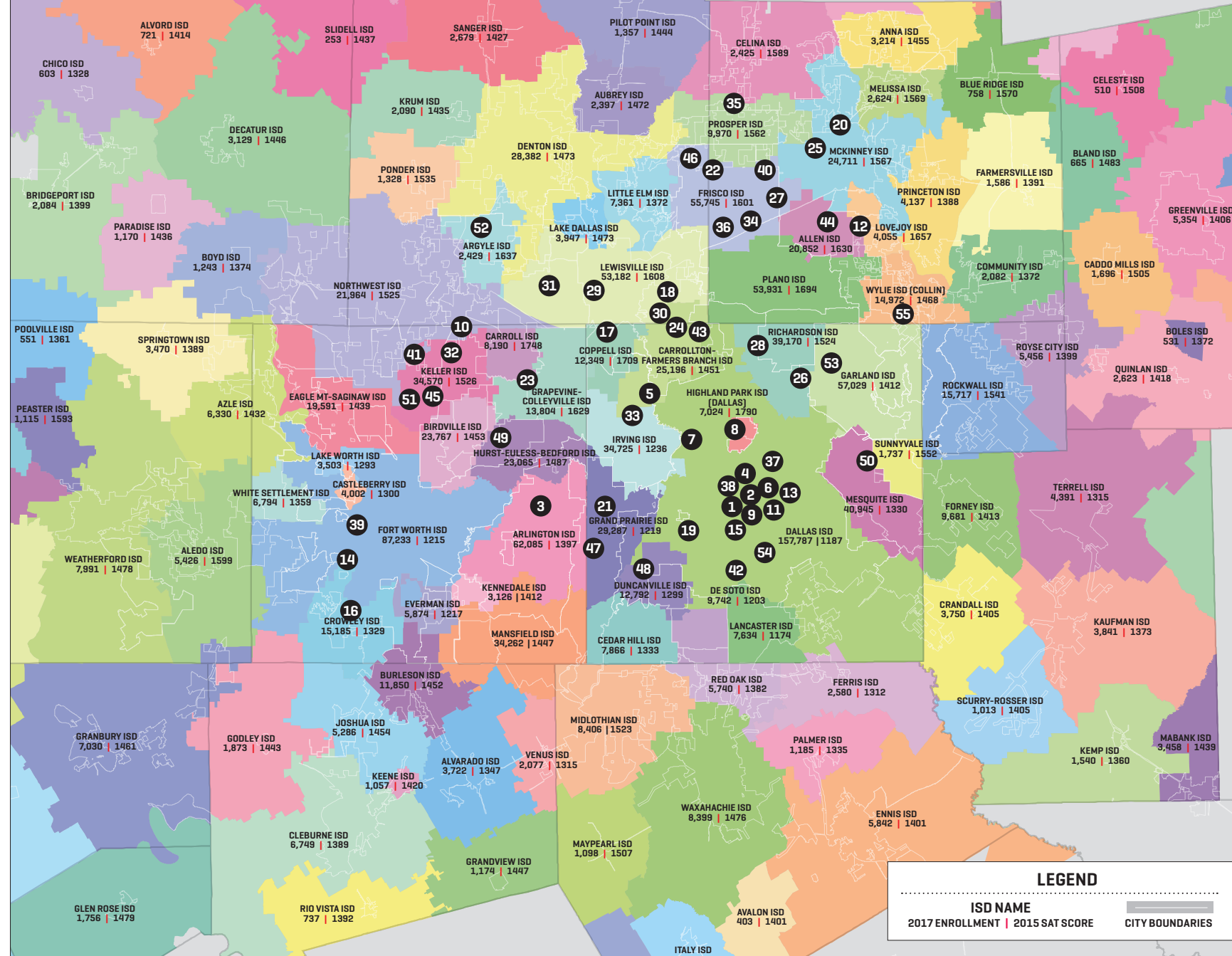
The Dallas Independent School District—or Dallas ISD—is the region’s largest school district, with approximately 158,000 students. Students attending Dallas ISD schools reside in Addison, Balch Springs, Carrollton, Cockrell Hill, Dallas, Farmers Branch, Garland, Highland Park, Hutchins, Mesquite, Seagoville, University Park, and Wilmer. Since 2007, the district has more than quadrupled the number of schools receiving an exemplary rating, the highest rating awarded by the Texas Education Agency.

Dallas ISD hosts 15 magnet schools, including several that have been nationally recognized. Booker T. Washington High School for the Performing and Visual Arts is 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, are consistently 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 [Highland Park], Uplift Academy [Arlington, Dallas, Irving], Lovejoy High School [Lucas], and Fort Worth Academy of Fine Arts [Fort Worth].

In 2017, 139 area districts and K-12 schools received all distinctions available from the Texas Education Agency, and six area schools were recognized as Blue Ribbon Schools, a national honor awarded to those that have achieved academic excellence or made significant progress in closing the achievement gap.

The Fort Worth ISD dominates Tarrant County, serving approximately 87,000 students. The district serves most of the city of Fort Worth, as well as those of Benbrook, Westover Hills, and Westworth Village. Students from parts of Forest Hill, Haltom City, and Kennedale also attend FWISD schools. The district is home to the brand new magnet school, L.M. Terrell Academy for STEM and Visual and Performing Arts, which will open prior to the 2018–2019 school year.



CHOOSING A DISTRICT

Choices abound for schooling in the Dallas–Fort Worth 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 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.

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 SayYesToDallas.com will reveal their distinct features and offerings.

US NEWS & WORLD REPORT BEST HIGH SCHOOLS (2017)

RANK	SCHOOL	CITY
1	4 School For The Talented And Gifted	Dallas
2	9 School of Science and Engineering Magnet	Dallas
3	79 Uplift Education - Summit International Preparatory	Arlington
4	92 Booker T. Washington HS for the Performing and Visual Arts	Dallas
5	96 Uplift Education - North Hills Prep HS	Irving
6	99 Irma Lerma Rangel Young Women's Leadership School	Dallas
7	139 Uplift Williams Preparatory	Dallas
8	141 Highland Park HS	Dallas
9	232 Judge Barefoot Sanders Law Magnet	Dallas
10	253 Westlake Academy	Westlake
11	259 Rosie Sorrells School of Education and Social Services HS	Dallas
12	283 Lovejoy High School	Lucas
13	310 School of Health Professions	Dallas
14	321 Fort Worth Academy of Fine Arts	Fort Worth
15	336 School of Business and Management	Dallas
16	442 Harmony School of Innovation - Fort Worth	Fort Worth
17	463 Coppell HS	Coppell
18	483 Harmony School of Innovation - Dallas	Carrollton
19	567 Trinidad Garza Early College At Mountain View	Dallas
20	627 McKinney North HS	McKinney
21	659 Grand Prairie Fine Arts Academy	Grand Prairie
22	668 Wakeland HS	Frisco
23	674 Grapevine HS	Grapevine
24	721 Smith HS	Carrollton
25	722 McKinney Boyd HS	McKinney
26	748 Harmony Science Academy - Dallas	Dallas
27	770 Liberty HS	Frisco
28	797 Richardson HS	Richardson
29	810 Founders Classical Academy	Lewisville
30	850 Creekview HS	Carrollton
31	955 Flower Mound HS	Flower Mound
32	985 Keller HS	Keller
33	991 Jack E. Singley Academy	Irving
34	996 Centennial HS	Frisco
35	1100 Prosper HS	Prosper
36	1114 Frisco HS	Frisco
37	1137 Woodrow Wilson HS	Dallas
38	1154 Dr. Wright L. Lassiter Jr. Early College HS	Dallas
39	1268 Texas Academy of Biomedical Sciences	Fort Worth
40	1277 Heritage HS	Frisco
41	1393 Timber Creek HS	Fort Worth
42	1457 Kathlyn Joy Gilliam Collegiate Academy	Dallas
43	1486 Turner HS	Carrollton
44	1543 Allen HS	Allen
45	1590 Central HS	Keller
46	1597 Lone Star HS	Frisco
47	1615 John Dubiski Career HS	Grand Prairie
48	1855 Harmony School of Nature and Athletics	Dallas
49	1898 L. D. Bell HS	Hurst
50	1913 Poteet HS	Mesquite
51	1923 Fossil Ridge HS	Keller
52	1926 Argyle HS	Argyle
53	1963 North Garland HS	Garland
54	1991 A. Maceo Smith New Tech HS	Dallas
55	1992 Wylie HS	Wylie