

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.

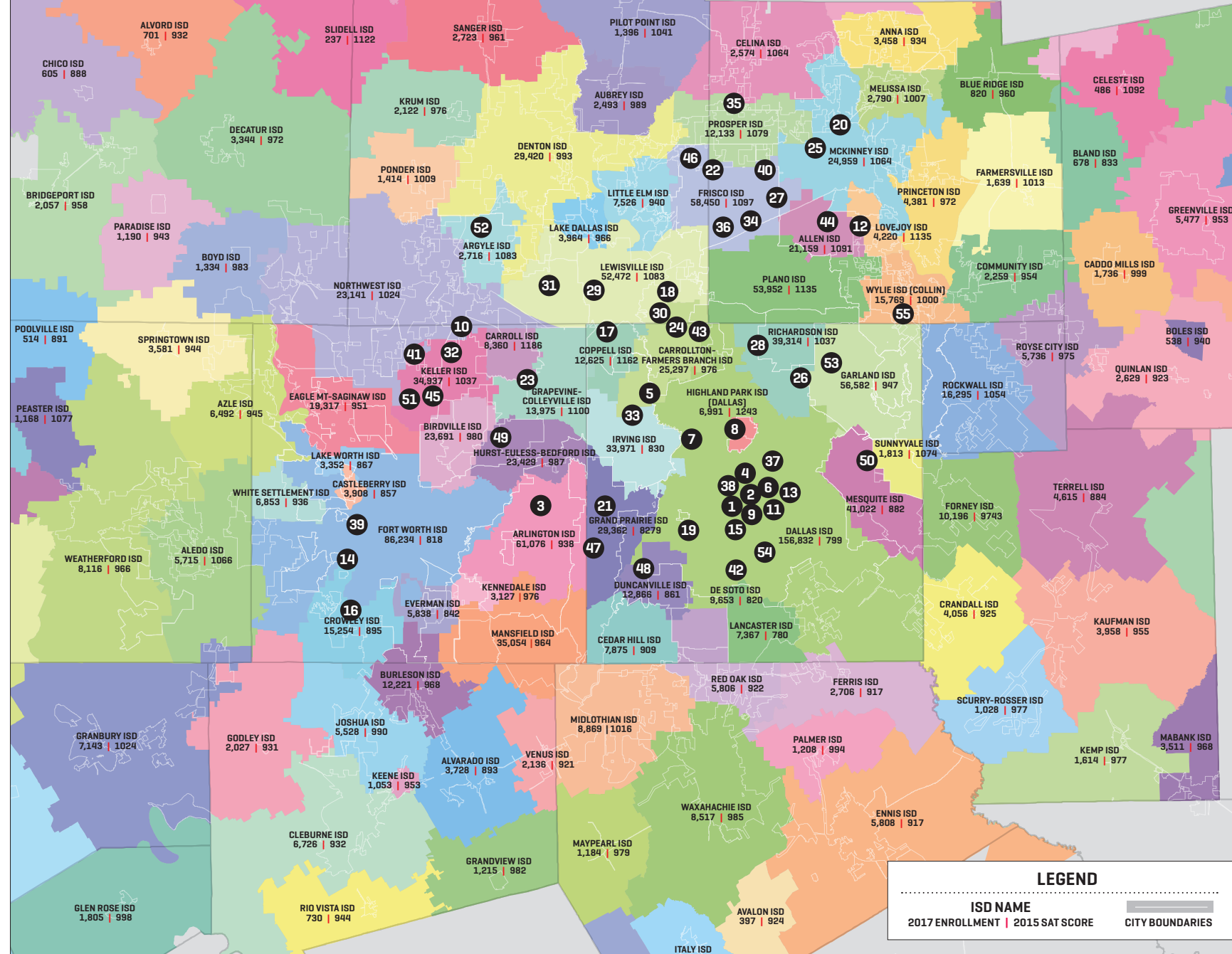
The Dallas Independent School District—or Dallas ISD—is the region’s largest school district with approximately 157,000 students. Students attending Dallas ISD schools reside in Addison, Balch Springs, Carrollton, Cockrell Hill, Dallas, Farmers Branch, Garland, Highland Park, Hutchins, Mesquite, Seagoville, 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 Westlake Academy [Westlake], 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 2018, 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 86,000 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.



U.S. NEWS & WORLD REPORT BEST HIGH SCHOOLS (2018)

RANK	SCHOOL	CITY
1	11 School For The Talented And Gifted (TAG)	Dallas
2	13 School of Science and Engineering Magnet (SEM)	Dallas
3	49 Imagine International Academy of North Texas	McKinney
4	79 Westlake Academy	Westlake
5	129 Irma Lerma Rangel Young Women's Leadership School	Dallas
6	133 Booker T. Washington HS for the Performing and Visual Arts	Dallas
7	134 Uplift Education—North Hills Prep HS	Irving
8	139 Uplift Education—Summit International Preparatory	Arlington
9	146 Uplift Williams Preparatory	Dallas
10	170 Highland Park HS	Dallas
11	198 Judge Barefoot Sanders Law Magnet	Dallas
12	208 Uplift Peak Preparatory HS	Dallas
13	231 Lovejoy HS	Lucas
14	333 Founders Classical Academy	Lewisville
15	337 Harmony Science Academy—Carrollton	Carrollton
16	389 School of Health Professions	Dallas
17	390 School of Business and Management	Dallas
18	434 Rosie Sorrells School of Education and Social Services HS	Dallas
19	516 Liberty HS	Frisco
20	526 Coppell HS	Coppell
21	528 Harmony Science Academy—Dallas	Dallas
22	546 Grand Prairie Fine Arts Academy	Grand Prairie
23	627 McKinney Boyd HS	McKinney
24	628 Harmony Science Academy—Euless	Euless
25	705 McKinney North HS	McKinney
26	761 Young Women's Leadership Academy	Fort Worth
27	799 Harmony School of Innovation—Forth Worth	Fort Worth
28	801 Fort Worth Academy of Fine Arts	Fort Worth
29	860 Creekview HS	Carrollton
30	879 Uplift Luna Preparatory Secondary School	Dallas
31	905 A Maceo Smith New Tech HS	Dallas
32	922 Wakeland HS	Frisco
33	936 Richardson HS	Richardson
34	945 Kathlyn Joy Gilliam Collegiate Academy	Dallas
35	1023 Dr. Wright L Lassiter Jr Early College HS	Dallas
36	1039 Centennial HS	Frisco
37	1082 Keller HS	Keller
38	1091 Smith HS	Carrollton
39	1136 Harmony School of Nature and Athletics	Dallas
40	1161 Independence HS	Frisco
41	1223 Flower Mound HS	Flower Mound
42	1224 Heritage HS	Frisco
43	1254 International Leadership of Texas—Garland HS	Garland
44	1291 Aledo HS	Aledo
45	1359 Texas Academy of Biomedical Sciences	Fort Worth
46	1405 Trinidad Garza Early College At Mountain View	Dallas
47	1451 Woodrow Wilson HS	Dallas
48	1483 L. D. Bell HS	Hurst
49	1668 North Garland HS	Garland
50	1704 Uplift Hampton Preparatory HS	Dallas
51	1744 John Dubiski Career HS	Grand Prairie

CHOOSING A DISTRICT

Choices abound for schooling in the Dallas–Fort Worth area: public, public charter, private or parochial, and 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 which 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 and support 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.