

# Schools - Public Education

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.

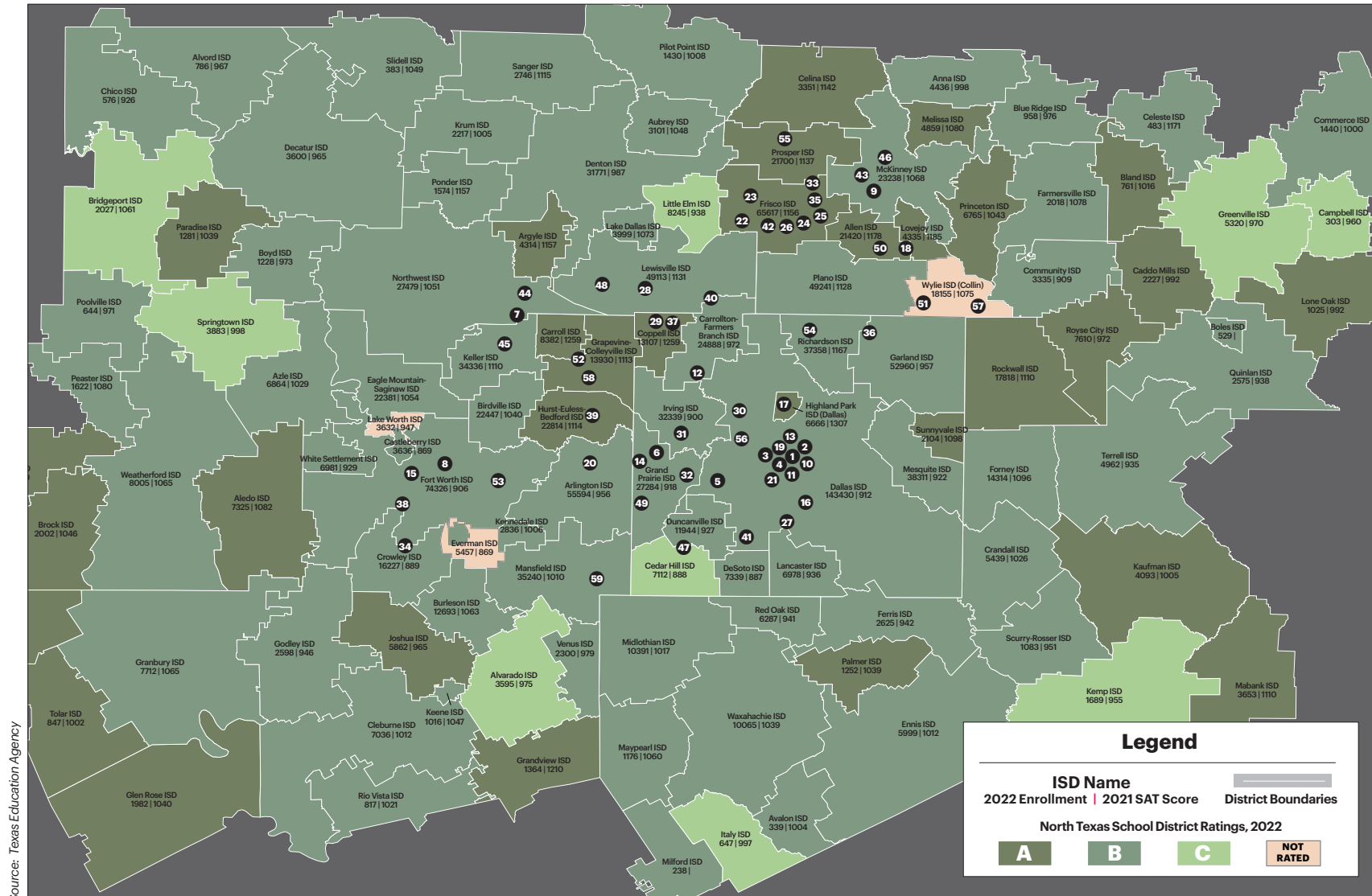
The Dallas Independent School District—or Dallas ISD—is the region’s largest school district with approximately 143,000 students. Students attending Dallas ISD schools reside in Addison, Balch Springs, Carrollton, Cockrell Hill, Dallas, Farmers Branch, Garland, Highland Park, Hutchins, Mesquite, Seagoville, University Park, and Wilmer.

Dallas ISD hosts 28 magnet schools and academies, 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 being 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), Grand Prairie Fine Arts Academy (Grand Prairie), and Young Women’s Leadership Academy (Fort Worth).

In 2022, six area schools were recognized as Blue Ribbon Schools increasing the total number of awards to 55 since 2014. The Blue Ribbon designation is a national honor awarded to those schools that have achieved academic excellence or made significant progress in closing the achievement gap.

The Fort Worth ISD dominates Tarrant County, serving approximately 74,000 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 Leadership Academy Network, a system of six leadership academies made possible by a partnership with the Texas Wesleyan School of Education and authorized by Texas Senate bill 1882—the Texas Partnership Opportunity—to improve academic performance.



Source: Texas Education Agency

## Choosing a District

Choices abound for schooling in the Dallas-Fort Worth area: public, public charter, private or parochial, and homeschooling. Should you want to send your kids to public school, rest assured that the Dallas-Fort Worth area has many fine choices.

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 [commitpartnership.org](http://commitpartnership.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

### 4 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.

### 5 District Characteristics

Each district has a unique profile. Visiting district websites will reveal their distinct features and offerings.

# U.S. News & World Report Best High Schools (2022)

Rank	School	City
1	8 School For The Talented And Gifted (TAG)	Dallas
2	20 Irma Lerma Rangel Young Women's Leadership School	Dallas
3	22 School of Science and Engineering Magnet (SEM)	Dallas
4	48 Judge Barefoot Sanders Law Magnet	Dallas
5	118 Trinidad Garza Early College At Mountain View	Dallas
6	120 Grand Prairie Fine Arts Academy	Grand Prairie
7	127 Westlake Academy	Westlake
8	130 Young Women's Leadership Academy	Fort Worth
9	135 Imagine International Academy of North Texas	McKinney
10	141 School of Health Professions	Dallas
11	173 School of Business and Management	Dallas
12	180 Uplift Education - North Hills Prep HS	Irving
13	219 Booker T. Washington SPVA	Dallas
14	232 Grand Prairie Collegiate Institute	Grand Prairie
15	258 Texas Academy of Biomedical	Fort Worth
16	272 Barack Obama Male Leadership Academy	Dallas
17	281 Highland Park HS	Dallas
18	306 Lovejoy HS	Lucas
19	333 Dr. Wright L Lassiter Jr Early College HS	Dallas
20	336 Uplift Summit International HS	Arlington
21	343 Rosie Sorrells School of Edu. and Soc. Services HS	Dallas
22	468 Reedy HS	Frisco
23	484 Wakeland HS	Frisco
24	516 Centennial HS	Frisco
25	579 Liberty HS	Frisco
26	649 Lebanon Trail HS	Frisco
27	678 Kathlyn Joy Gilliam Collegiate Academy	Dallas
28	713 Founders Classical Academy	Lewisville
29	717 Coppell HS	Coppell
30	792 Uplift Williams Preparatory HS	Dallas
31	836 Uplift Infinity HS	Irving
32	844 Young Women's Leadership Academy at Arnold	Grand Prairie
33	861 Heritage HS	Frisco
34	880 Harmony School of Innovation - Forth Worth	Fort Worth
35	952 Independence HS	Frisco
36	1021 International Leadership of Texas - Garland HS	Garland
37	1027 New Tech HS at Coppell	Coppell
38	1130 Fort Worth Academy of Fine Arts	Fort Worth
39	1274 Harmony Science Academy - Euless	Euless
40	1372 Harmony Science Academy - Carrollton	Carrollton
41	1378 Uplift Hampton Preparatory HS	Dallas
42	1421 Frisco HS	Frisco
43	1442 McKinney Boyd HS	McKinney
44	1444 Byron Nelson HS	Trophy Club
45	1474 Keller HS	Keller
46	1616 McKinney North HS	McKinney
47	1626 Cedar Hill Collegiate HS	Cedar Hill
48	1628 Flower Mound HS	Flower Mound
49	1675 John Dubiski Career HS	Grand Prairie
50	1682 Allen HS	Allen
51	1697 Wylie HS	Wylie
52	1732 iUniversity Prep	Grapevine
53	1739 Young Men's Leadership Academy	Fort Worth
54	1807 Richardson HS	Richardson
55	1821 Prosper HS	Prosper
56	1859 Uplift Heights Preparatory HS	Dallas
57	1872 Wylie East HS	Wylie
58	1954 Colleyville Heritage HS	Colleyville
59	1968 Mansfield HS	Mansfield