

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.

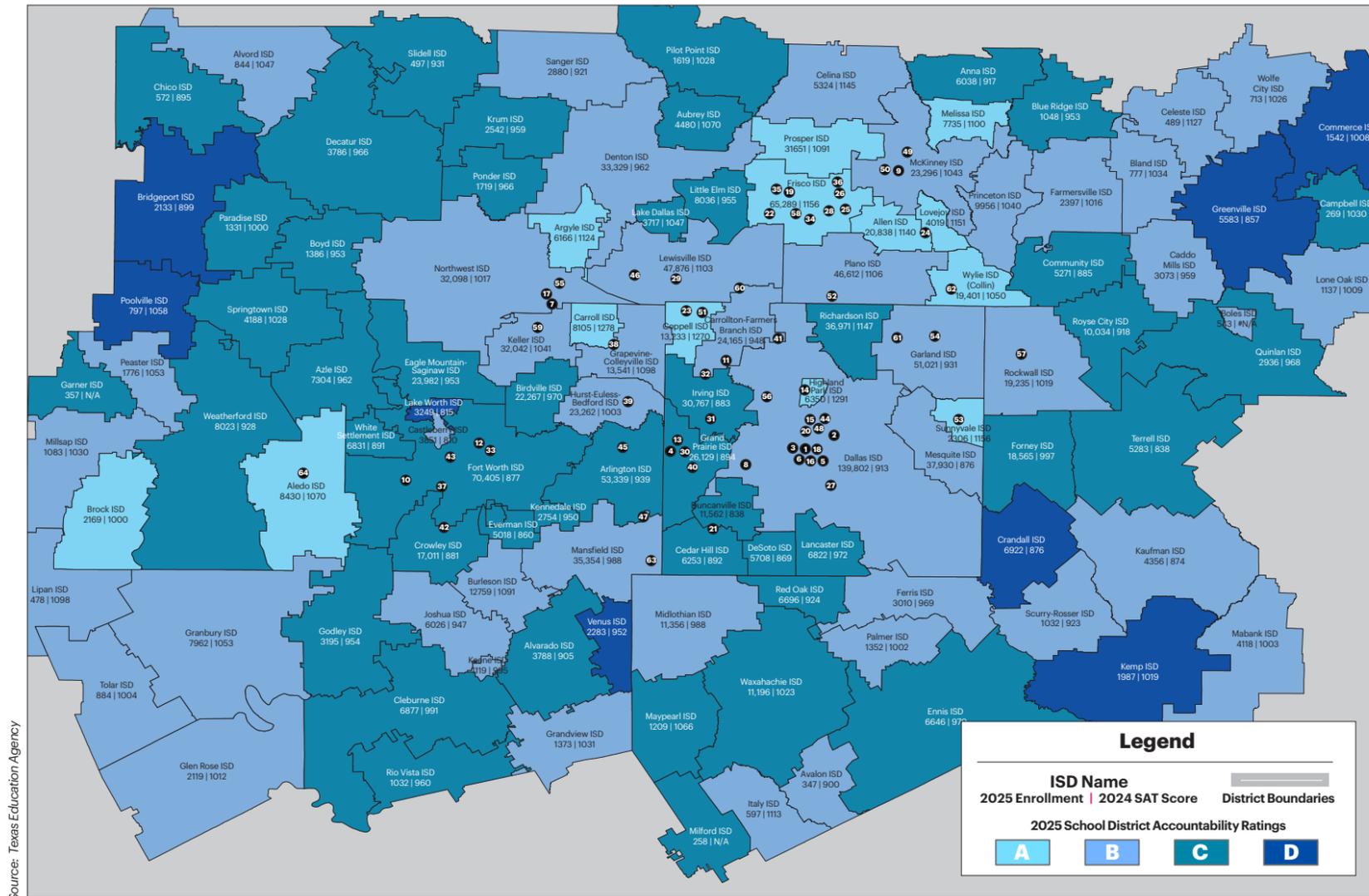
The Dallas Independent School District—or Dallas ISD—is the region’s largest school district with approximately 140,000 students. Students attending Dallas ISD schools reside in Addison, Balch Springs, Carrollton, Cockrell Hill, Dallas, Farmers Branch, Garland, Highland Park, Hutchins, Mesquite, Seagoville, University Park, and Wilmer.

Dallas ISD hosts 30 magnet schools and academies, some gaining national recognition. 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 School for the Talented and Gifted, and the School of Science and Engineering at Yvonne A. Ewell Townview Center in Dallas, are consistently recognized 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), Grand Prairie Collegiate Institute (Grand Prairie), Highland Park High School (Highland Park), Uplift Academy (across DFW), and Young Women’s Leadership Academy (Fort Worth).

Fort Worth ISD dominates Tarrant County, serving approximately 70,000 students. The district serves most of the city of Fort Worth, as well as Benbrook, Westover Hills, and Westworth Village. Students from parts of Forest Hill, Haltom City, and Kennedale also attend FWISD schools.

Both FWISD and DISD are home to Early College, P-Tech, and T-STEM programs that offer students the opportunity to graduate with transferable college credit or even dual high school and tuition-free Associate’s degrees.



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.

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 (2025)

Rank	School	City
1	9 School For The Talented And Gifted (TAG)	Dallas
2	15 Irma Lerma Rangel Young Women's Leadership School	Dallas
3	23 School of Science and Engineering Magnet (SEM)	Dallas
4	54 Grand Prairie Collegiate Institute	Grand Prairie
5	84 Judge Barefoot Sanders Law Magnet	Dallas
6	119 School of Health Professions	Dallas
7	131 Westlake Academy	Westlake
8	171 Trinidad Garza Early College At Mountain View	Dallas
9	188 Imagine International Academy of North Texas	McKinney
10	193 World Languages Institute	Fort Worth
11	194 Uplift Education - North Hills Prep HS	Irving
12	233 Young Women's Leadership Academy	Fort Worth
13	238 Grand Prairie Fine Arts Academy	Grand Prairie
14	242 Highland Park HS	Highland Park
15	287 Booker T. Washington SPVA	Dallas
16	316 Rosie Sorrells School of Ed. and Social Services HS	Dallas
17	345 James M Steele Accelerated HS	Roanoke
18	353 Marvin E Robinson School of Bus. and Management	Dallas
19	365 Founders Classical Academy	Frisco
20	395 Dr. Wright L Lassiter Jr Early College HS	Dallas
21	452 Cedar Hill Collegiate HS	Cedar Hill
22	482 Reedy HS	Frisco
23	490 Coppell HS	Coppell
24	507 Lovejoy HS	Lucas
25	541 Liberty HS	Frisco
26	552 Independence HS	Frisco
27	577 Barack Obama Male Leadership Academy	Dallas
28	598 Centennial HS	Frisco
29	634 Founders Classical Academy	Lewisville
30	650 Uplift Grand HS	Grand Prairie
31	751 Uplift Infinity HS	Irving
32	768 North Lake Early College HS	Irving
33	879 IM Terrell Academy for STEM and VPA	Fort Worth
34	891 Lebanon Trail HS	Frisco
35	982 Wakeland HS	Frisco
36	988 Heritage HS	Frisco
37	993 Fort Worth Academy of Fine Arts	Fort Worth
38	1016 iUniversity Prep	Grapevine
39	1019 Harmony Science Academy - Euless	Euless
40	1062 Young Women's Leadership Academy at Arnold	Grand Prairie
41	1132 Early College HS	Farmers Branch
42	1162 Harmony School of Innovation - Fort Worth	Fort Worth
43	1243 Texas Academy of Biomedical	Fort Worth
44	1288 Uplift Peak Preparatory HS	Dallas
45	1302 Uplift Summit International HS	Arlington
46	1314 Flower Mound HS	Flower Mound
47	1330 Arlington Collegiate HS	Arlington
48	1373 Uplift Luna Preparatory HS	Dallas
49	1463 McKinney North HS	McKinney
50	1468 McKinney Boyd HS	McKinney
51	1496 New Tech HS at Coppell	Coppell
52	1512 Harmony School of Innovation - Dallas	Dallas
53	1518 Sunnyvale HS	Sunnyvale
54	1522 Harmony School of Innovation - Garland	Garland
55	1536 Byron Nelson HS	Trophy Club
56	1563 Uplift Williams Preparatory HS	Dallas
57	1569 Rockwall HS	Rockwall
58	1794 Frisco HS	Frisco
59	1825 Keller HS	Keller
60	1832 Harmony Science Academy - Carrollton	Carrollton
61	1845 North Garland HS	Garland
62	1871 Wylie HS	Wylie
63	1948 Mansfield Lake Ridge HS	Mansfield
64	1996 Aledo HS	Aledo