

Proud Traditions, An Exciting Future

DIALOGUE

A publication of the Dickinson Independent School District



Bond Referendum

Dickinson ISD voters are being asked to consider a \$94.2 million bond referendum during the November 3 election. The bond, which would not require a tax increase, features eight projects including the district's third junior high school campus.

more on pages 6-10



Supporting our Gators...

The Dickinson ISD Gator Wellness Center is available at McAdams Junior High for Dickinson ISD employees and students. Find out more about the resources available to those with mental health needs.

more on pages 4-5

Board of Trustees calls for \$94.2 million bond referendum on November 3 ballot

Dickinson ISD will ask voters to consider a \$94.2 million bond referendum during the November 3 election. The Board of Trustees approved calling for the election at the August board action meeting.

The bond referendum was originally scheduled for May; however, due to COVID-19 precautions, May elections were cancelled. At the August board action meeting, the Board of Trustees approved calling for the election to be held as part of the general election on November 3.

If the bond is approved, the district's tax rate will not increase. The growing housing population, appraisals and refinancing of existing debt all contribute to lowering the tax rate. The 2020 tax rate approved by the Board of Trustees in August, reflects a more than 10 cent tax decrease from \$1.45 to \$1.344.

The district's Facility Task Force asked the Board of Trustees to call for the election at a presentation this past January. The Facility Task Force, which consists of 45 community leaders, parents, teachers, administrators and business owners from across Dickinson ISD, began meeting last November with district administration and PBK Architects. The committee reviewed demographic projections, various scenarios to address identified district needs, financial capacity, and priority needs at multiple campuses and district facilities. These discussions were used to reach consensus on the recommended bond projects.

"The committee of community members discussed several variables that are impacting our education system in Dickinson, especially recent legislative changes and historical and projected growth to our

community. After analyzing several options, the committee unanimously voted to request a bond election to better prepare for our future," said Nakia Welch, Facility Task Force member and parent of two Dickinson ISD students.

The chart on this page details the list of projects the Facility Task Force recommended to the Board of Trustees to accommodate the growing student enrollment and the recently approved legislation requiring districts to develop a plan to implement full-day pre-kindergarten for qualifying students.

The Facility Task Force considered different scenarios, and the option the group believes will work best for future growth and allow the district to develop a plan to implement full-day pre-kindergarten is to build a third junior high school and realign the grade configurations at the elementary, middle school and junior high levels. If the bond is approved, the district

will realign the grade levels when the new junior high opens to have grades Pre-K to grade 3 in elementary school, grades 4-5 in middle school and grades 6-8 in junior high.

The additions and renovations at the Transportation Center, Technology Center, and Agriculture Center are related to student enrollment growth. The cinder running track at McAdams Junior High would be replaced with asphalt similar to the track at Kranz Junior High. The parking lot at Hughes Road Elementary has major subsidence and drainage issues. Parking lot flooding is a major concern at this campus.

Security improvements are recommended for all campus vestibules. Front entrances would be renovated so that visitors do not directly enter the school's front office. Instead, they would check-in with a receptionist at a secure transaction window before entering the main school building.

See Bond 2020, page 7

PROPOSED 2020 BOND PROJECTS

| PROJECT | COST |
|---|--------------|
| New 1,200-student Junior High School | \$73,700,000 |
| Transportation Center Additions & Renovations | \$11,600,000 |
| Technology Center Additions & Renovations | \$1,500,000 |
| Agricultural Center Additions & Renovations | \$3,200,000 |
| McAdams Junior High School Running Track Replacement | \$300,000 |
| Hughes Road Elementary Parking Lot Improvements | \$2,000,000 |
| District-Wide Security Vestibule Improvements | \$1,500,000 |
| Lobit Ed Village & Kranz Junior High School Safety Upgrades | \$400,000 |

PROPOSED BOND TOTAL: \$94,200,000

A Message from Superintendent Carla Voelkel...

The start of the 2020 school year has certainly been unique as we began with all Remote Instruction in August and opened our doors to receive pre-kindergarten, kindergarten, and small groups of students for Face-to-Face Instruction on August 31st. Beginning with a smaller transition allowed us to work out some of the kinks with our re-entry protocol prior to welcoming back grades 1-12 for Face-to-Face on September 14th. The preparation to begin the reopening of our schools has been extremely challenging for the district and each campus, however, because of the overwhelming commitment of staff throughout DISD and the tremendous support from our parents and community, we are moving forward and we will put forth our best to provide an exceptional education experience for all students.

After much reflection and planning, we have detailed protocols for the health and safety of staff and students, and after extensive training, we are using multiple formats for teaching, learning, collaboration, and communication. District initiatives that came to a screeching halt in March, are now back at the forefront.

Our Strategic Planning Design Team, made up of 90 parents, community members, students, teachers and administrators began meeting virtually on September 28th to complete the important work that was started on January 7, 2020. This special team is developing a roadmap that will point the district forward for the future. The charge for this team is to assist the District in reaching its goals

of providing students with high-quality experiences so they are engaged, collaborative problem-solvers, critical thinkers, and ready for life beyond high school. The team will continue creating a comprehensive strategic framework in order to provide a culture of trust, collaboration, continuous improvement, and innovation. The strategic framework will include: beliefs, vision, mission, profiles of a learner, leader and high-quality teaching, goals, performance objectives, and strategies. The Strategic Planning Design Team should complete its work in early 2021.

In the fall of 2019, the DISD Facility Task Force, made up of parents, community members, teachers, and administrators, had several meetings to review demographic data, legislative requirements, and current facilities. On February 3, 2020, the Dickinson ISD Board of Trustees unanimously approved the eight recommendations in the \$94,200,000 bond proposal brought forth by the Facility Task Force. The bond was on the ballot for the May 2020 elections, however, due to COVID, all elections were postponed. Bond 2020 will be on the November 3rd election ballot, and it does not include a tax rate increase for Dickinson ISD residents.

The purpose of Bond 2020 is to address growth and security needs within our district as well as the state-mandated requirement for full-day pre-kindergarten.

The main purpose of this issue of Dialogue is to make you aware of the eight items contained in the bond and to share demographic projections for the future. Please read



Carla Voelkel
Superintendent

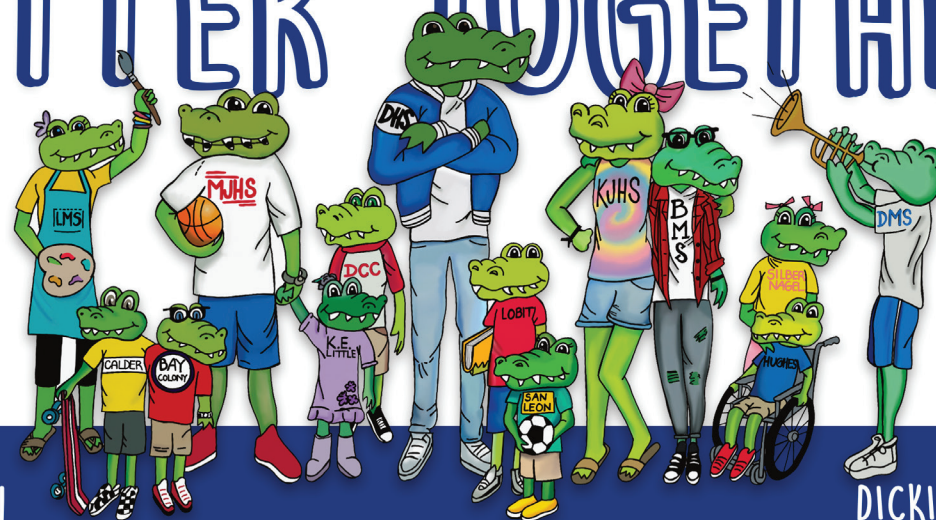
this information carefully and be informed about the upcoming bond. This is an important item that will be the ballot on November 3rd, and you get to decide, but only if you vote.

As always, thank you for your continued support of Dickinson ISD. We are truly blessed with outstanding students, parents, staff, and community members.

With gratitude,

C. Voelkel

BETTER TOGETHER



ARTWORK BY:
LOBIT MIDDLE SCHOOL
ART TEACHER MRS.
LAURA DOHERTY

2020-2021

DICKINSON ISD

We are "Better Together"

Dickinson ISD has a special tradition of having all campuses share the Gator mascot. Lobit Middle School art teacher Laura Doherty drew the picture to the left on her own this past summer as a visual reminder of unity. The school district had already chosen the "Better Together" theme but had not announced it. Laura's drawing is a perfect visual representation of that theme so the district asked her permission to use it to illustrate the theme.

While we had hoped that by the end of the summer, the COVID-19 pandemic would be under control and school could resume as normal, that was unfortunately not the case. As Gator Nation has shown numerous times before, we are Gator Strong and will come together to make sure our students have what they need to be successful. We all bring unique qualities to Gator Nation, and when combined together, these qualities make us a powerful and strong team.

OUR MISSION

The mission of the Dickinson Independent School District is to ensure that all students have safe and successful learning opportunities that help them reach their full potential and add quality throughout their lives.

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Superintendent

Ryan Boone
Deputy Supt. for Business & Operations

Lee Courville
Deputy Supt. for Educational Services

Robert Cobb
Asst. Supt. for Administration

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DIALOGUE

is the official newsletter for Dickinson ISD and is published four times a year by the Public Information Office.

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Director of Marketing and Digital Media

Jade Wise
Communications Specialist

STAY CONNECTED

For more Dickinson ISD news and information, sign up to receive the district's weekly email newsletter, "Gator Bytes."

Visit the district's website at www.dickinsonisd.org to enter your email address at the bottom of the homepage.

Employee daycare renamed to honor late Dickinson ISD board member Rosella Scott

The Dickinson ISD employee daycare center, Gator Academy, will now be known as the Rosella Scott Gator Academy. The Board of Trustees approved renaming the facility at the September 14 board meeting in honor of the late Rosella Scott, who passed away in July. She had previously served on the Board for 18 years from 1996-2014.



Rosella Scott

Gator Academy opened at the start of the 2013-2014 school year as a convenient and affordable daycare option for young children of Dickinson ISD employees.

“On April 1, 2013, it was a motion by Rosella Scott that made the hiring of the first daycare director a reality. For seven years, the doors of Gator Academy have been opened and it continues to be a very successful program,” said Superintendent Carla Voelkel. “It stays full from August until the end of the school year with small children ranging in age from six weeks to age five. Many of our young Gators got their start at Gator Academy and I know that after it opened, Rosella spent much time at Gator Academy rocking the babies,” Voelkel added.

Scott had a love of children and daycare centers, as she had owned and served as the director of several daycare centers in Texas City and Clear Lake over the years and used her knowledge and expertise to help others get started in the daycare business.

Scott, who was the longest serving African American on the Dickinson ISD Board of Trustees, was an active



Rosella Scott’s husband and several of her children were invited to attend the September 14 board meeting for the vote to rename the district’s employee daycare, Rosella Scott Gator Academy.

member of the community and in her church and was a founder of the first branch of the NAACP in Galveston County. She and her husband, Klimite Scott, were the proud parents of 11 children, 25 grandchildren and 35 great-grandchildren.

“In honor of Rosella Scott’s commitment to children and to Dickinson ISD and because of her love of daycare, I recommend that Gator Academy be renamed in her memory. I am recommending the Board of Trustees approve Rosella Scott Gator Academy as the new name for this district facility dedicated to loving our smallest Gators,” said Voelkel at the board meeting.

The district is ordering new signage for the facility and a dedication ceremony will be held later this school year once COVID-19 precautions allow for the event.

Education Foundation grant provides new book vending machine for DHS freshmen

A new vending machine at the Dickinson High School Ninth Grade Center this school year is providing students with a different type of treat than a drink or snack and instead rewarding them with books they can keep.

The Dickinson ISD Education Foundation recently held a ribbon-cutting ceremony for the new book vending machine, which was awarded to DHS through a \$5,000 innovative teaching grant to promote the campus-wide “Gotta Keep Reading” initiative.

“We do not have a library at the new Ninth Grade Center, so we wanted to have a way for the students to get books fast, as well as having an awards system,” said DHS Librarian Deanna Williams.

Students earn coins for attendance, good behavior or other incentives and they can then redeem the coin for a book, which they get to keep.

“We wanted to pick out a lot of books that are interesting and engaging to high school students and once they see their peers with a book, it would encourage students to work on earning a book themselves. We are excited to use the vending machine this year and we hope that it will spread throughout the year,” said DHS Associate Principal Courtney Ramirez.



Top photo: Dickinson High School Associate Principal Courtney Ramirez and Principal Dr. Billye Smith cut the ribbon unveiling the new book vending machine at the DHS Ninth Grade Center. Bottom photo: Library Clerk Kim Hoyt, Education Foundation Director Amanda Flannery, Associate Principal Courtney Ramirez, Librarian Deanna Williams, Principal Dr. Billye Smith and Education Foundation Event Coordinator Amy Garza show off the new book vending machine at the DHS Ninth Grade Center.

DICKINSON INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT

QUESTIONS?
CONCERNS?

JUST
ASK!

Dickinson ISD offers a “Just Ask” online communication tool to help stay connected with our Gator Nation families.

If you have a question about Dickinson ISD, visit

www.dickinsonisd.org/page/JustAsk

or click on the Just Ask button on the right-hand side of the district homepage at www.dickinsonisd.org

Supporting employees and students...

Gator Wellness Center born out of Rebuild Texas Fund grant

A series of life-changing events in Dickinson ISD over the past few years brought to the forefront the importance and deep need for extensive mental health resources to assist students, employees and their families. The district's vision came to life in August 2019 with the awarding of a \$1.2 million grant from the Rebuild Texas Fund to provide the resources and expertise needed to build a social emotional learning framework which is again changing lives, but this time for the better.

In August 2017, Hurricane Harvey blew through Dickinson ISD dropping more than 50 inches of rain in a matter of hours and devastating families with the loss of homes, vehicles and precious personal belongings. A few months later, the community was rocked as our neighboring school district faced an unimaginable school shooting tragedy. The recent COVID-19 pandemic greatly heightened fears as students, parents and employees faced the unprecedented school closure and quarantine. Each one of these events alone can create mental health challenges for the most stable of individuals, but when combined in a rather short period of time, along with the daily struggles of abuse,

domestic violence, death, bullying, and other forms of trauma faced by families, the need for a comprehensive mental health program becomes very apparent.

"The Social Emotional Learning framework is a proactive approach to empower parents to prevent adverse childhood experiences and trauma before they happen and support students, families, staff and the community that have been affected when they happen," said Dickinson ISD Social Emotional Learning Specialist Amy Cmaidalka.

Cmaidalka, who served as an elementary teacher and school counselor in Dickinson ISD for 15 years, was an instrumental part in writing the grant and took on the role of Social Emotional Learning Specialist upon approval of the grant. She spent the past year building a multi-levelled framework to provide Dickinson ISD schools and the community with a toolbox full of resources that are making a positive impact on the mental health of students and their families. Along with Cmaidalka's position, Dickinson ISD was also able to hire a licensed professional counselor and a bilingual clerk to assist with translation.

Dickinson ISD is the proud home of the Gator mascot, which is carried throughout the district's 14 campuses, so Cmaidalka developed the program title "Gator Wellness" as a way to market the mental and behavioral program throughout the district. Whether you are a student, parent, employee or a community member, you are a Gator and your mental health is important.

"Through Gator Wellness, we focus on social emotional learning, resiliency, relationship building, trauma informed practices and overall wellness. We have developed a team that has implemented programs and become a trainer of trainers so that the program is sustained," said Cmaidalka.

These programs include Character Strong, Second Step, Superheroes Social Skills, Emotional Backpack Project, Journey for Hope, Niroga Dynamic Mindfulness, Youth Mental Health First Aid, Mental Health First Aid, Psychological First Aid, As+K About Suicide to Save a Life, Trauma Informed Care, Equity Cultural Responsiveness, Calm Crusaders anxiety group, Crisis Prevention Institute, Emotional Poverty, Registered Behavior Technician, along with many others. The district is also in the process of creating a family resource center where families can come to check out resources and receive training and a variety of supports.

"Through our collaborative partnerships, we offer trainings and coaching to area early childhood centers, have developed a comprehensive counseling model, provided parent and community engagement events, as well as parenting help and trauma and grief support," said Cmaidalka.

Dickinson ISD works closely with Mental Health America of Greater Houston and has created an amazing relationship that has opened up many networking and training opportunities for the district. In addition, partnerships with the Hackett Center at the Meadows Mental Health Policy Institute, DePelchin Children's Center, Family Service Center, UTMB and a variety of other mental health agencies are an important part of the overall vision of wellness. The training received during the 2019-2020 school year will unfold for years to come as school counselors, nurses, social workers, teachers and administrators work to

implement the strategies taught to help students overcome mental health challenges.

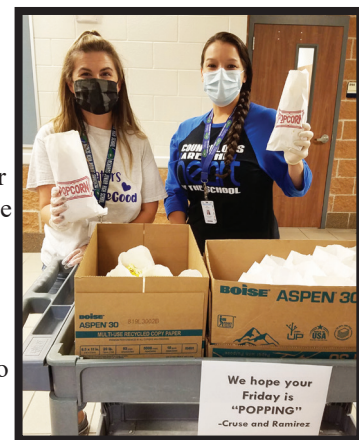
Prior to the grant, the district began a major initiative with Restorative Practices. This program, which is endorsed by the Texas Association of School Boards, is a differentiated approach to building and sustaining relationships and managing behavior in a proactive manner instead of responding reactively. The Restorative Practices approach fosters a sense of belonging over exclusion, social engagement over control and meaningful accountability over punishment. It builds positive interactions and creates environments of trust and empathy, whether in the classroom, on the practice field or on the school bus.

Restorative Practices was launched with extensive training opportunities during 2019-2020 back to school professional development for not only teachers and administrators, but also bus drivers, cafeteria workers and support personnel. Parent training was also included through an informational meeting at the beginning of the year. Throughout the school year, implementation support and extra training were provided to help ensure this approach becomes systemic throughout the district. Combined with the learning and resources from our SEL grant, counselors and teachers have additional tools to meet the needs of students so that they can face life's challenges and be successful.

In August, all staff received Character Strong training that focused on social emotional learning and character development. All teachers will be implementing the curriculum that addresses Self-Awareness, Self-Management, Social Awareness, Relationship Skills, Responsible Decision-Making, Patience, Kindness, Honesty, Respect, Selflessness, Forgiveness, Commitment, and Humility.

Going forward, our goal is to make sure everything that has been set in motion continues to grow and with additional time, training and practice, becomes part of our district and campus culture. Cmaidalka is working on writing grant proposals to sustain all of the programs that are now in place. The district now has a team of highly trained educators ready to use the skills and resources that have been provided to effectively respond to the needs of our students and families.

Because of Rebuild Texas, "we have a social emotional learning framework in place that is proactive and preventative and it has allowed us to be better prepared during the COVID-19 pandemic to implement a Mental Health Wellness Support system during the quarantine," said Cmaidalka. "When a crisis occurs, we are prepared and we can respond quickly."



McAdams Junior High counselor Shelby Cruse and Cebrina Ramirez surprise staff with popcorn to show appreciation for all their hard work to start off the school year.



Dickinson ISD counselors participate in a virtual Character Strong training earlier this year.



Silbernagel Elementary Counselor Tameka Henry is shown working with a group of fourth graders last school year during a group counseling lesson called "Relaxing With Friends." The lesson is part of Dickinson ISD's major initiative with Restorative Practices.

New COVID-19 Dashboard tracks cases to keep Dickinson ISD community informed

Dickinson ISD created a COVID-19 Dashboard in September to keep the community aware of COVID-19 cases within the school district. A link to this resource can be found under the Quick Links section on the left-hand side on the district homepage at www.dickinsonisd.org. The information is updated every Friday with COVID-19 data for the district and it is then submitted every Monday to the Texas Education Agency.

At the bottom of the district's COVID-19 Dashboard, there is a direct link to the TEA COVID-19 data. On the TEA Dashboard, you are able to see the number of COVID-19 cases in Texas public schools. In addition, the Dashboard features a link to the new Galveston County Dashboard that was released on September 18. This new Galveston County Dashboard provides an abundance of COVID-19 data for Galveston County, and it can be filtered in a variety of ways.

Recently, the CDC updated the definition for a suspect case of COVID-19. Following guidance from the Galveston County Health District, our nurses are using the clinical criteria below to evaluate students and staff.

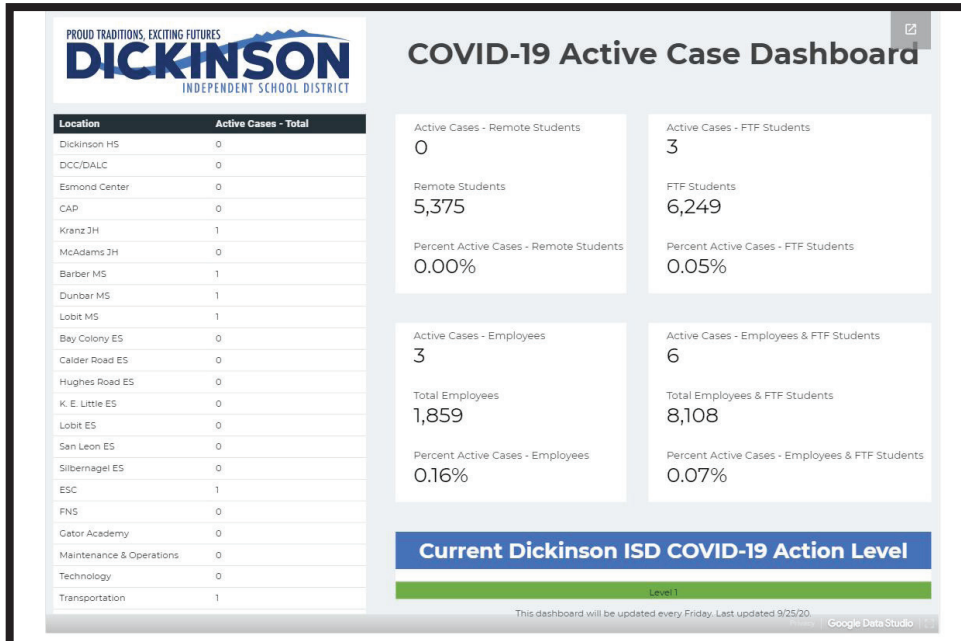
- At least two of the following symptoms: Fever (100°), chills, rigors, myalgia, headache, nausea or vomiting, diarrhea, fatigue, congestion or runny nose
- OR
- Any one of the following symptoms: Cough, sore throat, shortness of breath, new olfactory disorder, new taste disorder

The procedures outlined in the DISD Re-entry Plan will be followed when students or staff exhibit these symptoms.

For contact tracing, seating charts are required in all classrooms, cafeterias, and libraries. In order to improve contact tracing procedures, assigned seats are also required

on all school buses. This includes all AM routes, PM routes, and bus trips for extra-curricular events.

Dickinson ISD is remaining vigilant with COVID-19 safety protocols so that the district can keep employees and students healthy and keep our buildings open.



Dickinson ISD



Social Emotional Learning (SEL)

- Comprehensive Counseling Program
- Professional School Counselors
- Family & Community Engagement
- UHCL SEL Screener Project



Mental Health Wellness & Awareness

- Professional Development
- Community Partnerships
- Resources for Faculty and Staff



Supports & Services

- Social Workers
- Home bound
- Transition Services
- UTMB TCHAT
- Crisis Prevention & Response
- Community Referral

Dickinson ISD is committed to our children, mental health awareness, education, and families. The Gator Wellness Center is located at McAdams Junior High.



For more information:



Amy Cmaidalka acmaidalka@dickinsonisd.org or 281-229-7662

TEXAS CHILD HEALTH ACCESS THROUGH TELEMEDICINE (TCHAT)

TCHAT is a school-based telemedicine service that will provide **FREE** access to behavioral health services for students.

How Does TCHAT work?

- ▶ The school counselor will identify an at-risk student in need of mental health services.
- ▶ With parent permission, the student will be referred to the TCHAT program, a school-based telemedicine service.
- ▶ An initial diagnostic evaluation will be completed by a University of Texas Medical Branch (UTMB) child and adolescent psychiatrist or psychologist followed by a limited number of visits with a mental health care professional.
- ▶ Once the student has utilized their allotted visits, UTMB will help facilitate ongoing care for the student with a local mental health clinician.

Advantages of TCHAT:

- ▶ **Free** – visits are offered at no cost to the school district or student
- ▶ **Immediate** – limited wait time between referral and initial evaluation of the student
- ▶ **Evidence-based treatment** – medication and/or therapy services are available
- ▶ **Convenient** – visits are conducted at the school decreasing the amount of time families are away from work and students are away from school to attend appointments
- ▶ **Secure** – health information shared over a secure telemedicine network
- ▶ **Community oriented** – UTMB will help connect students to local mental health resources

About UTMB Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences:

The Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences is dedicated to excellence in clinical service, education, and research in psychiatry.

Our child and adolescent psychiatry faculty and therapists are committed to providing high quality care across our region to child and adolescent patients with mental health needs.

PARENTS

Please speak to your school counselor if you are interested in having your child evaluated through the TCHAT program. If you would like specific information related to the TCHAT program please contact Ashley Colangelo, UTMB TCHAT Program Manager, at (409) 747-8308 or alcolang@utmb.edu.



This program is brought to you by UTMB and Texas Child Mental Health Care Consortium (TCMHCC). To learn more about TCMHCC please visit their website at <https://www.utsystem.edu/pophealth/tcmhcc>

Working together to work wonders.



BOND 2020

**ELECTION DAY:
NOV. 3, 2020**

Eight areas identified in \$94.2 million bond referendum proposal

NEW JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL #3



Projected Cost: \$73.7 million

The district's third junior high school would be built to house up to 1,200 students in grades 6-8. It would be located on land the district has purchased in the rapidly developing area on the southern edge of the district between Hughes Road and Mall of the Mainland.

HUGHES ROAD ES PARKING IMPROVEMENTS

Projected Cost: \$2 million

This project includes demolishing and replacing the front and rear concrete parking lots, replacing the drives, bus loops and the underground storm drainage system.



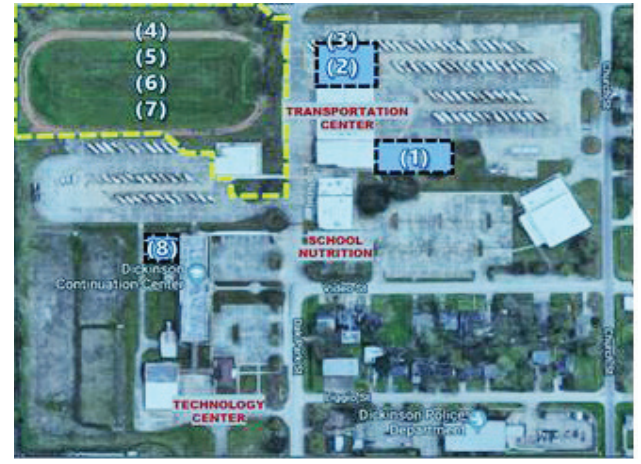
LOBIT AND KRANZ SAFETY UPGRADES



Projected Cost: \$400,000

This project will enhance safety and security at the Lobit Education Village and Kranz Junior High, by providing manually-operated opaque window shades on all interior classroom windows.

TRANSPORTATION CENTER ADDITIONS



Projected Cost: \$11.6 million

1. Construct a building addition to enlarge the Driver's Room, Lunch Room, Offices and Support Spaces and renovate existing space.
2. Construct six additional service bays including a tool room and storage.
3. Relocate existing bus wash equipment to a new bay.
4. Construct additional concrete paved parking lot for buses and District vehicles.
5. Install a new bus parking entrance.
6. Install parking lot lighting at bus parking.
7. Install a fueling station at the new bus parking lot.
8. Provide and install two portable buildings at the Dickinson Continuation Center.

AGRICULTURAL CENTER ADDITIONS



Projected Cost: \$3.2 million

1. Construct a 6,000 square foot addition to house additional cattle and lamb pens and an arena.
2. Install a 10 foot wide permeable grid system at the existing building and the new building addition.
3. Expand the concrete parking lot of vehicles and trailer parking.
4. Construct a new 1,000 square foot Ag Shop (addition) and support spaces adjacent to the drive-thru.
5. Provide and install a 10 foot wide roll off waste management system.

TECHNOLOGY CENTER ADDITION/RENOVATION

Projected Cost: \$1.5 million

1. Construct an addition to the existing warehouse for more cubicles and storage, and complete minor renovations to existing space.
2. Renovate the existing Technology Cottage to include a new conference room and support spaces.



McADAMS JHS RUNNING TRACK REPLACEMENT

Projected Cost: \$300,000

1. Replace the existing cinder running track with new asphalt paving.



What are the concerns with the existing McAdams track?

- Competitive disadvantage compared to the Kranz Junior High track.
- Kids are frequently playing on and digging holes in the running surface.
- The track poses a health concern as the surface has become a "cat box" to feral cats and wild hogs.

DISTRICT-WIDE SECURITY IMPROVEMENTS



Projected Cost: \$1.5 million

- Renovate existing security vestibules at all schools to provide a transaction window and controlled access button device at the receptionist's desk.
- Provide ballistic window film at the entry vestibule at all schools.



BOND 2020

**ELECTION DAY:
NOV. 3, 2020**

Bond 2020: Planning for the Future

Dickinson ISD is a fast growing community which has increased by approximately 3,200 students over the past 10 years to now serve more than 11,500 students. While the COVID-19 pandemic has disrupted school somewhat, all indications are that the growth is not stopping as new students are moving into the district and continuing to enroll in Dickinson ISD. A decade from now, student enrollment is projected to increase to 14,500 as more housing developments continue to build out. This includes the large Lago Mar development in the southwest corner of the school district, which will feature 4,000 homes.

Implementing Full-Day Pre-Kindergarten at Elementary Campuses

Not only does the proposed bond provide the district with resources for future growth, it also provides additional classroom space to implement a full-day program for four-year-old students who meet the qualifications for pre-kindergarten. The two main ways a student qualifies for pre-kindergarten are that the family meets the income guidelines for the free and reduced price meal program or that the child is limited English speaking.

The Texas Legislature approved House Bill 3 in 2019, which requires school districts to offer full-day pre-kindergarten classes to qualifying students and that classes meet high quality requirements. Currently, Dickinson ISD pre-kindergarten students only attend for a half-day, morning or afternoon, program.

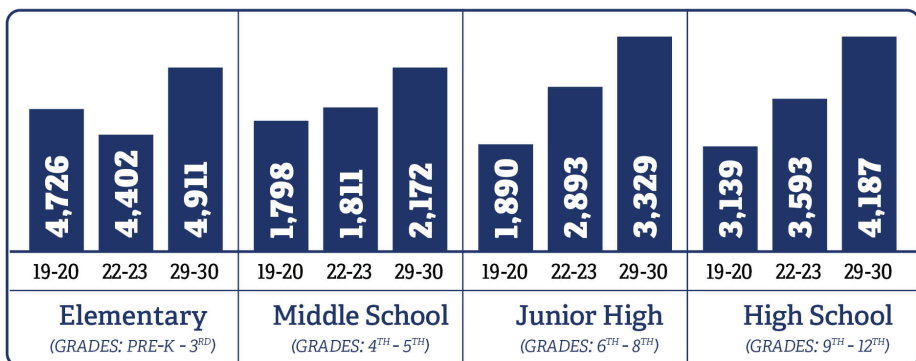
House Bill 3 provides districts five years to fully implement full-day pre-kindergarten classes, but the district must show it is making progress each year. The district currently does not have the classroom space needed to change from half-day to full-day pre-kindergarten at all elementary campuses; however, Dickinson ISD took the first step toward meeting this requirement by creating one full-day pre-kindergarten class at Silbernagel Elementary this school year.

Realigning Grade Configurations for Pre-K to 8th Grade

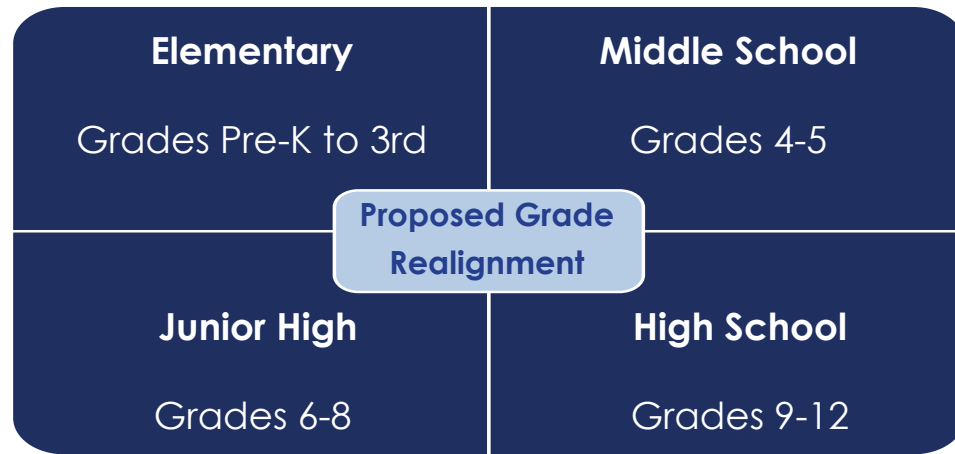
As part of the 2020 bond referendum, Dickinson ISD proposes to realign grade levels throughout the district if the bond is approved. The new alignment would include pre-kindergarten to third grade in elementary schools, grades 4-5 in middle school, grades 6-8 in junior high and grades 9-12 in high school. The realignment would begin with the opening of the third junior high, which is the primary project outlined in the bond proposal.

By realigning the grade levels, more space would be available at the elementary level for full-day pre-kindergarten classes. There would also be a secondary alignment of grades 6-8 at junior high campuses, which assists the district with staffing for secondary programs, such as fine arts and athletics. Projections show this realignment scenario also most adequately addresses future growth needs for the district for the longest period of time.

What is Dickinson ISD's Projected Growth?



*These numbers are based off the proposed realignment of grade levels that would take place no earlier than August 2022.



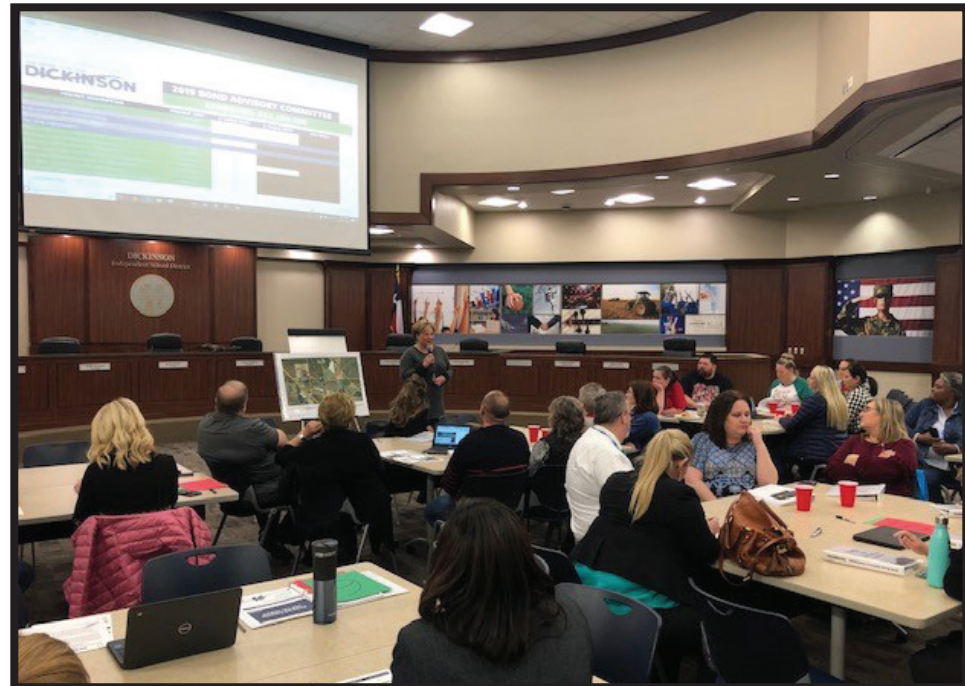
Bond 2020 proposes \$94.2 million for Dickinson ISD

continued from page 1...

In addition, ballistic window film would be added to all front entrance areas. Lobit Education Village and Kranz Junior High have large classroom windows on all interior walls. Safety upgrades at these campuses would provide manual operated opaque window shades for all interior classroom windows.

“Dickinson ISD is a fast-growing district, and we are committed to providing high quality experiences in safe and secure learning environments for our students. Because of the support of Dickinson ISD residents, five bond referendums since 1999 were all very successful, and we have been able to accommodate our growing enrollment and facility needs. Our anticipated enrollment in 2022 is projected to exceed 12,500 students. The 2020 Facility Task Force developed a recommendation that is fiscally sound, aligns with our district’s mission and goals, and it will prepare DISD for future growth as well as provide us with space needs to meet the recent legislative requirement for full-day pre-kindergarten,” said Carla Voelkel, DISD Superintendent.

A special Bond 2020 section has been added to the Dickinson ISD website at www.dickinsonisd.org/bond for more information about the 2020 Bond Referendum.



Dickinson ISD Superintendent Carla Voelkel presents information in Fall 2019 about facility and program needs to members of the district's Facility Task Force.

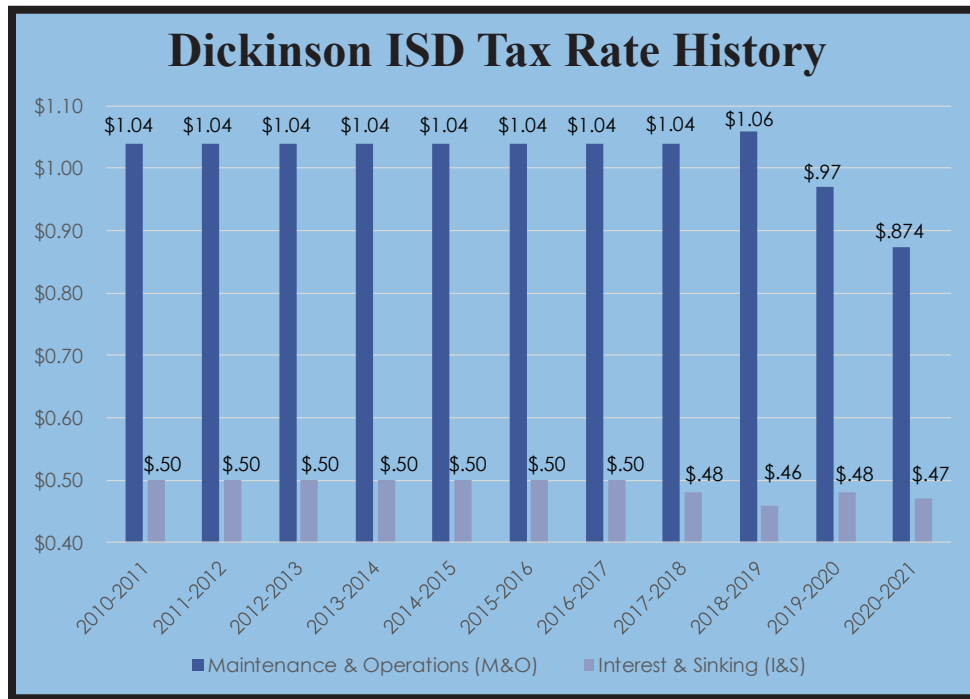
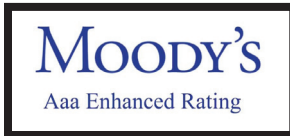


2020 Bond will not require a tax increase

If the Dickinson ISD 2020 Bond Referendum is approved, taxpayers will not see an increase in the tax rate. Taxpayers will actually see a decrease in the district's tax rate. The 2020 tax rate approved by the Board of Trustees in August reflects a more than 10-cent tax decrease from \$1.45 in 2019 to \$1.344 for 2020.

Dickinson ISD has been very successful in managing bond funds and construction. Over the last 10 years, \$25 million has been saved through bond refinancing.

Currently, Dickinson ISD has a Standard & Poors AAA Long Term Rating and a Moody's Aaa Enhanced Rating. Both are the highest ratings assigned by these financial organizations.



Dickinson ISD 2020 Bond Frequently Asked Questions

WHAT IS A BOND?

A school district is required by law to hold an election and get permission from voters to sell bonds and levy taxes to pay for them. Bond are sold to fund capital improvements, which are typically too large to be included in operating budgets. Bond money can be used for new facilities, expansion and renovation of facilities, technology, equipment, buses and land for future facilities. Bond money can not be used for employee salaries, utilities, gasoline and other operating expenses.

HAS THE DICKINSON ISD TAX RATE DECREASED THIS YEAR?

Yes. In 2019-2020, the tax rate was \$1.45/\$100, and for 2020-2021, the approved tax rate is \$1.344/\$100. A home with an appraised value of \$250,000 will have a savings of \$265 with this lower tax rate.

With the passage of House Bill 3 during the 86th legislative session, Dickinson ISD receives additional state funding, and we now have required tax rate compression. HB 3 provides for additional tax rate reduction in future years based on the amount of local and state property value growth, and HB 3 legislation now limits a school district's adjusted tax levy to no more than 2.5% more than the prior year.

HOW IS IT POSSIBLE FOR THIS BOND PACKAGE TO RESULT IN NO TAX RATE INCREASE?

- The bond package will result in no tax rate increase due to increased residential development, local property value growth, and the District's management of long-term debt.
- The District is experiencing increased enrollment because of residential growth in the district, especially east of I-45 and south of Hughes Road.
 - This property value growth equates to more property tax revenue to pay bond debt without a tax rate increase.
 - Based on projections of property value growth and interest rates, the District's tax rate will not change because of the 2020 bond.
 - The District works with a Financial Advisor to actively manage outstanding bond debt. At every opportunity, the District pays debt early and/or refinances debt to save costs. Because of the conservative debt management strategies used, DISD has provided taxpayers more than \$25 million in interest cost savings during the past ten years.
 - The debt management strategies utilized by DISD are similar to an individual refinancing their home mortgage when interest rates decline.

House Bill 3 included changes to school bond referendum required language

Required Language

- As part of House Bill 3 passed by the 86th Texas Legislature in 2019, all ballot language for school bond elections must include the statement, "This is a property tax increase."
- However, the Dickinson ISD 2020 Bond will not increase the district's current tax rate.

Dickinson Independent School District General and Special Election

Dickinson ISD Proposition A

THE ISSUANCE OF \$94,200,000 BONDS FOR SCHOOL BUILDINGS, SCHOOLS SITES AND NEW SCHOOL BUSES AND THE IMPOSITION OF TAXES SUFFICIENT TO PAY THE PRINCIPAL OF AND INTEREST ON THE BONDS. THIS IS A PROPERTY TAX INCREASE.

FOR _____
 AGAINST _____



Early Voting

- Joe Faggard Community Center, 1750 State Highway 87, Port Bolivar
- MUD 12 Building, 2929 Highway 6, Hitchcock
- West County Building, 11730 Highway 6, Santa Fe
- Dickinson Community Center, 2714 Highway 3, Dickinson
- Kemah Community Center, 800 Harris Street, Kemah
- Friendswood First Baptist, 202 E. Heritage Drive, Friendswood
- Moody Methodist Church, 2803 53rd Street, Galveston
- High Island ISD, 2113 6th Street, High Island
- Greater St. Matthews Baptist Church, 6333 Highway 6, Hitchcock
- Galveston County Courthouse, 722 21st Street, Galveston
- La Marque Community Room, 1109 Bayou Road, La Marque
- Nessler Center, 2010 5th Avenue North, Texas City

The Dickinson ISD Bond Referendum is being conducted by Galveston County as part of the November 2020 general elections; therefore, Dickinson ISD voters can cast their ballot at any Galveston County early voting polling location. Picture identification or a voter registration card is required to vote.

October 13 - 16, 2020

8 a.m. - 5 p.m.

October 19 - 23, 2020

8 a.m. - 5 p.m.

October 24, 2020

7 a.m. - 7 p.m.

October 25, 2020

1 - 6 p.m.

October 26 - 30, 2020

7 a.m. - 7 p.m.

- Bacliff Volunteer Fire Department, 600 Grand Avenue, Bacliff
- North County Building, 174 Calder Road, League City
- Galveston County Justice Center, 600 59th Street, Galveston
- Seaside Baptist Church, 16534 Termini – San Luis Pass Road, Jamaica Beach

- Galveston ISD Administration Bldg, 3904 Avenue T, Galveston
- Hitchcock City Hall, 7423 Highway 6, Hitchcock
- Carver Community Center, 6415 Park Avenue, Texas City
- Clear Lake Shores Clubhouse, 1006 South Shore Drive, Clear Lake Shores

- Creekside Intermediate, 4320 W. Main Street, League City
- COM North Campus, 200 Parker Court, League City
- Jacob White Building, 2000 W. Parkwood, Friendswood
- Public Works Operation Center, 1701 W. League City Parkway, League City
- Santa Fe ISD Museum, 13304 Highway 6, Santa Fe
- COM Main Campus, 1200 Amburn Road, Texas City
- IBC Bank, 2301 FM 646 West, Dickinson
- League City Recreation Room, 450 West Walker, League City
- Old Friendswood Junior High, 402 Laurel, Friendswood
- Blue Building, 144 Park, Suite 200, League City
- The Watershed, 1751 E. League City Parkway, League City

Election Day

- Galveston County Justice Center 600 59th Street, Galveston
- Galveston County Courthouse, 722 21st Street, Galveston
- Joe Faggard Community Center, 1750 State Highway. 87, Port Bolivar
- High Island ISD, 2113 6th Street, High Island
- Moody Methodist Church, 2803 53rd Street, Galveston
- Galveston ISD Administration Building, 3904 Avenue T, Galveston
- Friendswood First Baptist Church, 202 E. Heritage Drive, Friendswood
- Texas A&M Campus, 200 Seawolf Park, Galveston
- Rebecca Sealy, 404 8th Street, Galveston
- Seaside Baptist Church, 16534 Termini-San Luis Pass Road, Jamaica Beach
- MUD 12 Building, 2929 Highway 6, Hitchcock
- Hitchcock ISD Administration Building, 7801 Neville, Hitchcock
- Greater St. Matthews Baptist Church, 6333 Highway 6, Hitchcock

The Dickinson ISD Bond Referendum is being conducted by Galveston County as part of the November 2020 general elections; therefore, Dickinson ISD voters can cast their ballot at any Galveston County voting day polling location. Picture identification or a voter registration card is required to vote.

Tuesday, November 3, 2020

7 a.m. - 7 p.m.

- West County Building, 11730 Highway. 6, Santa Fe
- Santa Fe ISD Museum, 13304 Highway 6, Santa Fe
- La Marque Community Room, 1109 Bayou Road, Suite B, La Marque
- Carver Community Center, 6415 Park Avenue, Texas City
- COM Main Campus, 1200 Amburn Road, Texas City
- Nessler Center, 2010 5th Avenue North, Texas City
- Calvary Baptist Church, 517 18th Avenue North, Texas City
- Texas City Central Fire Station, 1721 25th Street, Texas City
- Mid-County Building, 9850 Emmett Lowry Expressway, Texas City
- Ferguson Elementary, 1910 S. Compass Rose, League City

- Dayspring Church, 2215 FM 646, Santa Fe
- Dickinson Community Center, 2714 Highway 3, Dickinson
- Ministry of Encouragement, 3424 Highway 3, Dickinson
- Dickinson City Hall, 4403 Highway 3, Dickinson
- McAdams Junior High, 11415 Hughes Road, Dickinson
- IBC Bank, 2301 FM 646 West, Dickinson
- San Leon Volunteer Fire Department, 337 12th Street, San Leon
- Bacliff Volunteer Fire Department, 600 Grand Avenue, Bacliff
- Old Friendswood Junior High, 402 Laurel, Friendswood
- Kemah Community Center, 800 Harris Street, Kemah

- Clear Lake Shores Clubhouse, 1006 South Shore Drive, Clear Lake Shores
- Hometown Heroes Park, 1001 East League City Parkway, League City
- Creekside Intermediate, 4320 West Main Street, League City
- North County Annex, 174 Calder Road, League City
- The Watershed, 1751 E. League City Parkway, League City
- League City Recreation Room, 400 West Walker, League City
- League City Intermediate., 2588 Webster Street, League City
- COM North Campus, 200 Parker Court, League City
- Dominion Church, 6400 Calder Road, League City
- The Blue Building, 144 Park Ave., Suite 200, League City
- Public Works Operation Center, 1701 E. League City Parkway, League City
- Jacob White Building, 2000 Parkwood, Friendswood
- Hope Lutheran Church, 1804 South Friendswood Drive, Friendswood

Frequently Asked Questions about the Dickinson ISD 2020 Bond...

Continued from page 8

WHERE WILL THE PROPOSED JUNIOR HIGH BE BUILT?

Dickinson ISD owns a 36-acre tract of land in the southern portion of the district. The 36 acres is located near the Cobblestone development.

WHY ARE GRADES BEING REALIGNED AND WHY IS 6th GRADE MOVING TO JUNIOR HIGH?

The realignment of grades will provide additional space at the elementary schools to accommodate full day Pre-K as well as additional growth. Moving sixth grade to junior high will make available the opportunity for our junior high campuses to adopt a middle-level secondary model. In grades 6-8, state curriculum TEKS are bundled, so having these grades together will result in stronger alignment of TEKS structure. Sixth grade students will not be grouped during the school day with seventh and eighth grade students for academic classes, elective classes, or lunch. Currently, 1,192 schools statewide have a grades 6-8 middle-level model. Additionally, this transition will eliminate travel for some of our teachers who currently split time between our middle school and junior high campuses.

WHO IS ELIGIBLE TO VOTE IN THE ELECTION?

Voting in the 2020 Dickinson ISD bond election is open to any registered voter living within the Dickinson ISD boundaries. You do not have to have a student attending Dickinson ISD schools in order to vote.

DOES THE DISTRICT RECEIVE STATE FUNDING FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF SCHOOLS?

No. Dickinson ISD does not receive any state funding for the construction of schools.

WHY AREN'T TECHNOLOGY DEVICES INCLUDED IN THIS BOND ISSUE?

DISD realizes it is not where it needs to be with technology devices; however, a long-term bond is not the best resource for funding these purchases. The life of a device is short-term (5 years or less), and with bond funds, taxpayers would still be paying for devices when they are no longer in use.

Instead of using bond funds for devices, Dickinson ISD has committed additional local and federal funds for technology devices, and it took advantage of the Operation Connectivity bulk order program that was made available by TEA in July. 2020 technology upgrades for students and teachers have included hot spots (800), laptops (1,800) and Chromebooks (4,247). Each year, local and federal funds will be used to continue adding devices so that adequate technology equipment is available to meet the instructional needs of our students and teachers.

BOND 2020

DICKINSON INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT

YOU get to decide,
but only if YOU VOTE

NO TAX RATE INCREASE

WWW.DICKINSONISD.ORG/BOND

Updates in Special Education



Contact Person for Special Education Referrals

Phone Number:
281-229-6020

<http://bit.ly/2wwMWfn>



Beginning with the 2017 school year, the Texas Education Agency (TEA) changed the way it reports special education enrollment in school systems. TEA no longer includes a target for a school system's total numbers of students in special education as part of state monitoring.

For special education representation, TEA only reports on over-representation within certain race, ethnicity and disability categories, as required by federal law. **School systems cannot use this reporting data to delay, deny or prevent a referral for an evaluation for special education services.**



Special education/IDEA eligibility:

The Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, also known as IDEA, is a federal law that gives eligible students with disabilities the right to receive special education services and assistance in school. **To be eligible for special education services, a student with a disability must need instruction that is specially designed to meet the student's unique needs based on that disability.**



Who can request an evaluation for special education?



Parents or Guardians:

A parent or guardian has the right to request a special education evaluation at any time. It is best to submit this request in writing to your school's principal or to the school district's special education director. If your child is pre-school age and not yet enrolled in school, send the letter to the district's special education director.



School:

If the school knows or has reason to suspect that the student has a disability and a need for special education services, the school must refer the student for a special education evaluation.

More information on evaluation timelines can be found at: direc.to/dVYR

A parent or guardian has the right to request a special education evaluation at any time.

Resources for Families

TEA has created topic specific information for families. Scan the QR code or use the link to access these resources.



direc.to/dVYr

Family members can call or log on to find answers to their questions as well as general information about special education.

SpEdTex.org
1.855.773.3839

Actualizaciones en Educación Especial



Persona de contacto para las remisiones de educación especial

Número de teléfono:
281-229-6020

<http://bit.ly/2wwMWfn>



A partir del año escolar 2017, la Agencia de Educación de Texas (TEA, por sus siglas en inglés) cambió la forma en que informa la inscripción a la educación especial en sistemas escolares. La TEA ya no incluye un objetivo para el número total de estudiantes en educación especial del sistema escolar como parte de la supervisión del estado.

Para la representación de educación especial, la TEA solo informa sobre la excesiva representación dentro de ciertas categorías de raza, grupo étnico y discapacidad, según lo exige la ley federal. **Los sistemas escolares no pueden utilizar estos datos para retrasar, negar o evitar una remisión para una evaluación para los servicios de educación especial.**



Elegibilidad para educación especial/IDEA

La Ley de Educación para Personas con Discapacidad, también conocida como IDEA (por sus siglas en inglés) es una ley federal que otorga a los estudiantes elegibles con discapacidad el derecho a recibir servicios de educación especial y asistencia en la escuela. **Para ser elegible para los servicios de educación especial, un estudiante con discapacidad debe necesitar instrucciones especialmente diseñadas para satisfacer las necesidades únicas del estudiante basadas en esa discapacidad.**



¿Quién puede solicitar una evaluación para la educación especial?



Padres o tutores legales:

Un padre o tutor legal tiene el derecho a solicitar una evaluación de educación especial en cualquier momento. Es mejor presentar esta solicitud por escrito al director de su escuela o al director de educación especial del distrito escolar. Si su hijo está en edad preescolar y aún no está inscrito en la escuela, envíe la carta al director de educación especial del distrito.



Escuela:

Si la escuela sabe o tiene razones para sospechar que el estudiante tiene una discapacidad y una necesidad de servicios de educación especial, la escuela debe derivar al estudiante para una evaluación de educación especial.

Puede obtener más información sobre los plazos de evaluación en: direc.to/dVYR

Un padre o tutor legal tiene el derecho a solicitar una evaluación de educación especial en cualquier momento.



Recursos para las familias

La TEA ha creado información específica para las familias. Escanee el código QR o utilice el enlace para acceder a estos recursos.



direc.to/dVYr

Los miembros de la familia pueden llamar o conectarse para encontrar respuestas a sus preguntas, así como información general sobre la educación especial.

SpEdTex.org
1.855.773.3839

OCT. 2 7pm Ridge Point

OCT. 9 7pm Clear Falls

OCT. 16 7pm Clear Creek*

OCT. 23 7pm @Brazoswood

NOV. 6 7pm Clear Brook

NOV. 13 7pm @Clear Springs

NOV. 20 7pm Clear Lake**

NOV. 27 6pm @Katy***

*HOMECOMING **SENIOR NIGHT
***IF NO MAKEUP GAME IS NEEDED

DICKINSON FOOTBALL 20

PURCHASE TICKETS AT WWW.DICKINSONISD.ORG/ATHLETICS @DICKINSONISD

GATORS

New guidelines in place for DHS 2020 football season

Due to new requirements from the University Interscholastic League (UIL) and local and state health officials, the capacity at Sam Vitanza Stadium must be limited for the 2020 football season.

All spectators and all participating student groups must adhere to social distancing requirements and wear a facemask/covering over the nose and mouth. Seating will only be allowed every other row, and seating will be blocked off to maintain a minimum of six feet of distance between groups.

Ticket Sales:

- No season tickets will be sold. (Previous season ticket holders will be given the same seats in 2021 as they have had for many years.)
- Parents with a student participating in the event will be given a priority time slot to purchase tickets before tickets become available to the general public, and parents of 2021 seniors will be given first priority. (Participants include: varsity football, marching band, varsity cheerleaders, drill team, athletic trainers, and Gator Nation Media.)
- All tickets will be sold online, and the cost per ticket is \$8.
 - Monday (9 a.m. - 1 p.m.) – parents of senior participants will be able to purchase tickets (limit of 2).
 - Monday (2 p.m. - 6 p.m.) – parents of remaining participants (limit of 2).
 - Tuesday (9 a.m. until all tickets are sold) – DISD employees, DHS students and general public will be able to purchase tickets (limit of 2).
- Tickets will not be sold at the gates on the night of varsity football games.
- Tickets will be sold on a weekly basis for each game.
- No passes will be accepted at the gate. (This includes DISD gold cards, 24 6-A pass, coaches pass, etc.)

TICKETS

For the 2020-2021 school year, all Dickinson High School athletic tickets will be sold online. There will be no paper tickets sold in person. Visit <https://gofan.co/app/school/TX17702> to purchase your tickets the week of the game. More information about ticket sales can be found on this page.

GATOR NATION Media

Due to COVID-19, UIL is allowing live airing of high school football games this school year. Follow Dickinson High School Gator Nation Media YouTube Channel to watch the home games in Sam Vitanza Stadium.

Two DHS athletes recognized on Touchdown Club Pre-Season Team

Two Dickinson High School varsity football players were named to the Touchdown Club of Houston's 2020 All-Greater Houston Pre-Season High School Football Team. Canon Boone, a DHS senior offensive lineman, and Keith Cooper, a DHS senior defensive lineman, were both among 40 athletes selected from Houston area high schools. They were honored this year via a virtual presentation on September 17. Congratulations to both Canon and Keith. We are Gator Proud!



Canon Boone



Keith Cooper

General Information for Sam Vitanza Stadium:

- Individuals who are confirmed to have, suspected of having, are experiencing symptoms of, or have been in close contact with an individual who has been confirmed to have COVID-19 may not enter the stadium. A health screening form will be required upon entry.
- Social distancing and facemask/covering requirements must be followed. No congregating will be permitted in any area. This includes under the stands, in the restrooms and concessions areas, or the parking lots.
- Only participants will be allowed on the field prior, during, and after the game.
- Students younger than 9th grade will not be admitted without an adult. Younger students must remain seated in the stands throughout the game with the adult.
- Games will be streamed by Gator Nation Media and Texan Live.

Away Games:

- Ticket sales for all away games will be online.
- Information will be posted weekly.

NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION
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Excellence and Equity in Education
 DICKINSON INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT

If you need this information in an alternate format, please contact the Public Information Office at 281-229-6080.
 Si necesitan esta información en una forma alternativa, favor de llame a la oficina de información pública al numero 281-229-6080.

COVID-19 precautions prompt first-ever Remote Instruction school year start for 2020

The first day of school this year was one for the history books as all Dickinson ISD students started the 2020-2021 school year working remotely from home due to the COVID-19 pandemic precautions, while teachers provided Remote Instruction from their classrooms.

Parents were asked to choose either Face-to-Face Instruction or Remote Instruction for their students and those choosing Face-to-Face Instruction were phased back into the school building in phases. Self-contained Special Education classes, pre-kindergarten and kindergarten

students returned the week of August 31, followed by all other Face-to-Face Instruction students on September 14. In total, the split was nearly equal with approximately half of the district's students returning to Face-to-Face Instruction while the other half continued with Remote Instruction. Going forward, parents can only move their students from one instructional method to the other at the change in the nine week grading periods, as long as they have followed the procedures for letting the campus know beforehand.

Several months and hundreds of hours of planning went into the start of the new school year. Teachers were provided several days of Google Classroom training to make sure they were prepared to provide remote instruction from their classrooms. The Technology Department worked to make sure as many devices as possible were distributed to students in need. In addition, they helped coordinate the purchase or additional devices after the Board of Trustees approved more than \$2 million in Chromebooks, laptops and

hotspots through a combination of Dickinson ISD funds and Texas Education Agency Operation Connectivity funds. The Chromebooks and hotspots will assist with student technology needs, while the laptops will be distributed to teachers to use in providing remote instruction. Operation Connectivity is a joint effort among Governor Greg Abbott, the Texas Legislature and the Texas Education Agency to assist with providing \$200 million in devices and reliable internet connections to Texas students. The program provides matching funds for districts to use to purchase devices and hotspots.

While the school district had hoped that by the end of the summer, the COVID-19 pandemic would have been under control and school could have resumed as normal, that was unfortunately not the case. However, as Gator Nation has shown numerous times before, employees, students and parents are Gator Strong and will come together to be successful despite the challenging circumstances.



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