

# CHAPTER 12: EDUCATION

Fort Worth's schools are striving to provide quality education for all students, and to produce a skilled workforce capable of filling high-paying jobs in local businesses. In response to the demand for an educated workforce, Fort Worth is offering an increasingly wider variety of opportunities for education, both in the public and private realm.

## EXISTING CONDITIONS AND TRENDS

The City of Fort Worth is served primarily by the Fort Worth Independent School District. The Fort Worth ISD serves slightly less than half (47 percent) of the city's land area and, based on Planning and Development Department estimates, 68 percent of the city's school-aged population. Due to the geographic layout of Fort Worth, 15 additional independent school districts (ISDs) provide educational facilities and services to portions of the city. Private schools have also become a major provider of education for Fort Worth residents. In addition to primary and secondary schools, Fort Worth offers residents many opportunities for higher education, including Tarrant County College, with four Fort Worth campuses and a Downtown facility; Texas Wesleyan University; Texas Christian University; Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary; and the University of North Texas Health Science Center.

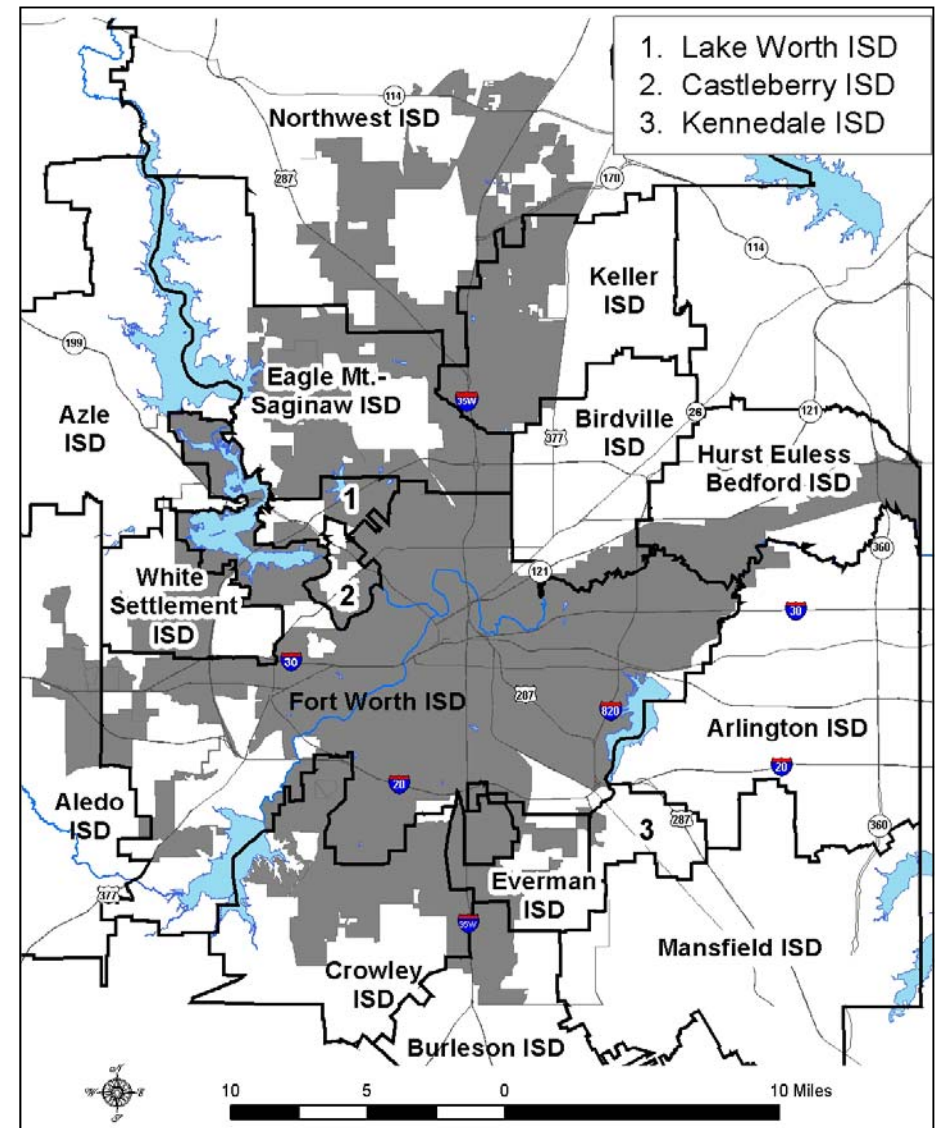
One of the most important issues facing school districts in Fort Worth is growth in student enrollment. Unlike private schools that have the option of limiting their enrollment, public schools must accommodate growth while continuing to nurture academic achievement for all students. In an effort to keep pace with enrollment growth, ISDs must issue voter approved bonds to build new schools and improve existing facilities. All of these ISDs seek to provide a physical environment that supports high levels of student achievement, promotes positive human relations and open communication, and celebrates the diverse multi-cultural nature of Fort Worth.

The Fort Worth ISD completed a five-year strategic planning process that produced a vision, a mission statement, and three strategic goals: 1) student achievement, 2) operational efficiency and effectiveness, and 3) family involvement and community partnerships. Each strategic goal has performance standards. The district uses the strategic plan, called Vision 2010, to prepare its annual budget.

### Fort Worth ISD

In 2010-2011, more than 81,000 students were served by the Fort Worth ISD in 80 elementary schools, 24 middle schools and sixth grade centers, 13 high schools, and 27 special campuses. Although the District's growth is less dramatic than that of its suburban counterparts, the Fort Worth ISD has been challenged in handling changes in student population. In addition, a highly mobile student population is challenging for facilities planners. Fort Worth ISD's biggest enrollment jumps in recent years have been driven by the growing Hispanic population in the City's Northside and the urbanization of the City's southwest region. According to the Texas Education Agency, in the academic year 2010-2011, the district's Hispanic enrollment constituted 59 percent, while the percentage of African American students was 23 percent, and white students was 14 percent.

School District Boundaries



The Fort Worth Independent School District serves 47 percent of the city's land area and 68 percent of the city's school-aged population. The remainder of the city's land area is within the jurisdictions of 15 other independent school districts. (Source: Planning and Development Department, 2011.)

In 2010-2011, Fort Worth ISD had 23,106 students (28% of the total student population) with limited proficiency in English; 21,938 of these were enrolled in bilingual and English as a Second Language (ESL) programs. These students are expected to transition into English within three to four years.

**Other ISDs**

Although the Fort Worth Independent School District serves the majority of residents in the City, 15 additional independent school districts serve students on the periphery of the city limits: Aledo, Arlington, Azle, Birdville, Burleson, Castleberry, Crowley, Eagle Mountain-Saginaw, Everman, Hurst-Euless-Bedford, Keller, Kennedale, Lake Worth, Northwest, and White Settlement. The portion of Fort Worth that is in the Arlington ISD contains a wastewater treatment plant and no residential uses.

Many school districts in suburban communities are facing issues of student population growth. In the past five years, Keller ISD’s enrollment has increased by 6,965 students, and Eagle Mountain-Saginaw ISD has grown by 54 percent. Keller ISD serves approximately 32,746 students in far north Fort Worth and eight other nearby cities. In 2011, Keller ISD had 14 elementary schools, three intermediate schools, four middle schools, and three high schools within Fort Worth city limits.

Eagle Mountain-Saginaw ISD, located in northwest Fort Worth, had 16,708 students in 2010-2011. Because of the location of its schools in Fort Worth’s extraterritorial jurisdiction, it is anticipated that an increasing percentage of Eagle Mountain-Saginaw ISD students will be Fort Worth residents as these areas are annexed. This is also true for Northwest ISD, the second largest school district in terms of land area in Fort Worth, which has grown by 77 percent over the last five years and had an enrollment of 15,370 in 2010-2011. Northwest ISD has been one of the fastest growing school districts in the state and is expected to double in size during the next five years with a 20-year projection reaching 90,000 students.

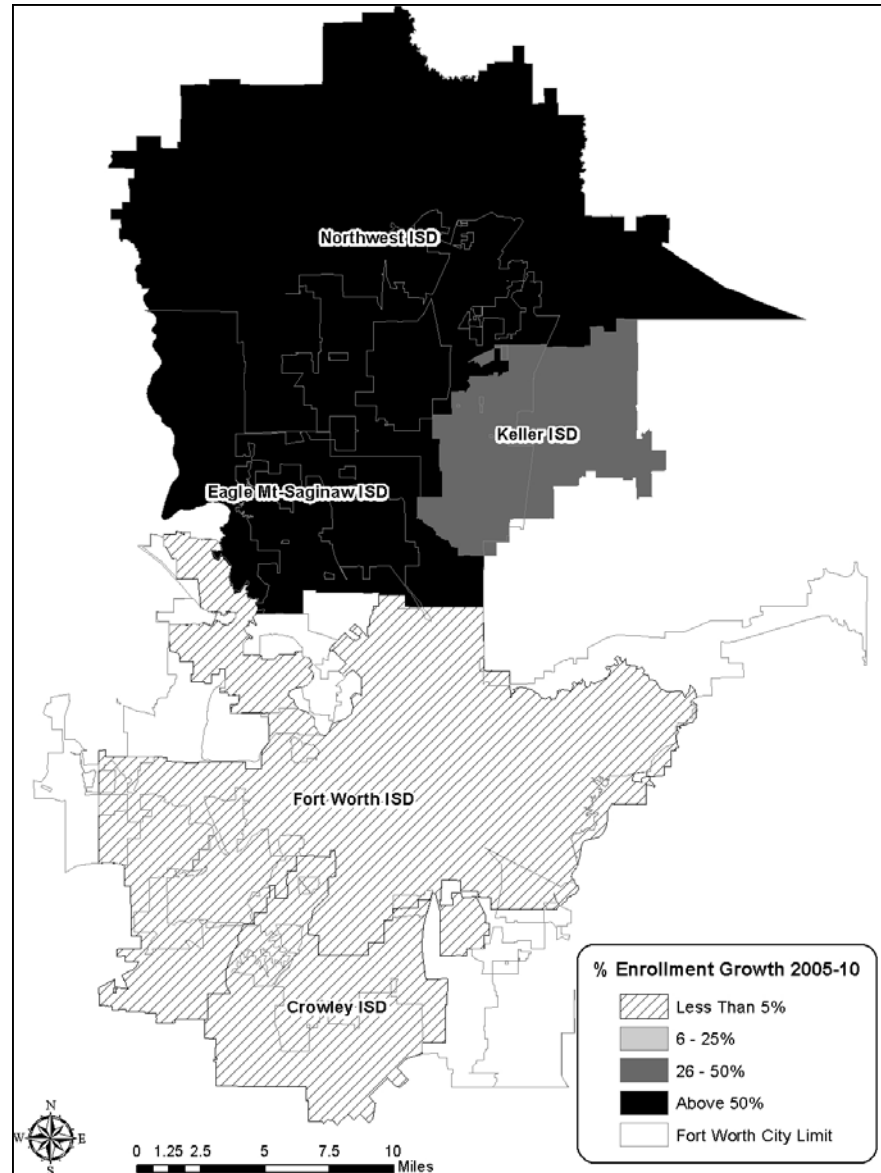
Crowley ISD, the fourth largest school district in terms of land area in Fort Worth, experienced rapid growth related to the development occurring in southwest Fort Worth from 2000 to 2005. Over the past five years, the growth in Crowley ISD has leveled off. Most students that attend Crowley schools live in southwest Fort Worth. Student population at the eight elementary schools, two middle schools, four intermediate schools, one ninth-grade campus and one high school located within Fort Worth’s city limits is 11,344, which represents 74 percent of Crowley ISD’s total student population.

**School Facilities**

The City and the Fort Worth area ISDs work cooperatively to address issues such as the building of new schools and expansion of existing schools. In addition, the City distributes large multifamily development proposals and subdivision plats for residential development to the appropriate ISDs for comment and to assist in planning for future growth.

The Fort Worth ISD’s 1999 \$435 million school improvement bond package addressed fundamental and critical needs related to overcrowding, safety, and structural repairs. The bond package included \$121 million to fund construction of

**Enrollment Growth in Selected Independent School Districts**



Most of the school districts serving outlying areas of Fort Worth are growing rapidly. While Fort Worth ISD enrollment has remain relatively even, suburban districts grew at a rapid pace. Keller ISD added 6,965 students, Northwest ISD added 6,665 students, and Eagle Mountain-Saginaw ISD added 5,847 students in the last 5 years. (Source: Texas Education Agency, 2011.)

new elementary schools and sixth-grade centers to relieve overcrowding and to limit the size of elementary schools to 900 students or less. With funds from the bond package, seven new schools have been built and improvements made to every campus in the district. Dolores Huerta and Seminary Hills Park elementary schools opened in August 2004. Many schools have new classroom wings that include libraries, science labs and/or music rooms. Renovations include improved cafeterias, kitchens and libraries at many sites. The Fort Worth ISD's 2007 \$593.6 million school bond package includes funding for two new middle schools and four elementary schools, improved classroom technology, science labs, new classrooms, and the reduction of portable classrooms.

Residents of Keller ISD have approved over \$564 million in funding in four separate bond elections since 2000. The funding has allowed the district to accommodate rapid growth in student enrollment over the last decade. The funds were used for new schools, improving existing facilities, purchasing technology equipment, and providing security measures.

In May 2007, residents in Crowley ISD voted to approve a \$416 million bond program to help meet the demand for new classrooms created by rapid growth. Two intermediate schools, both located in Fort Worth, were completed in 2010 using funding from the 2007 bond. Since growth has leveled off the last few years, no new facilities are planned until 2015.

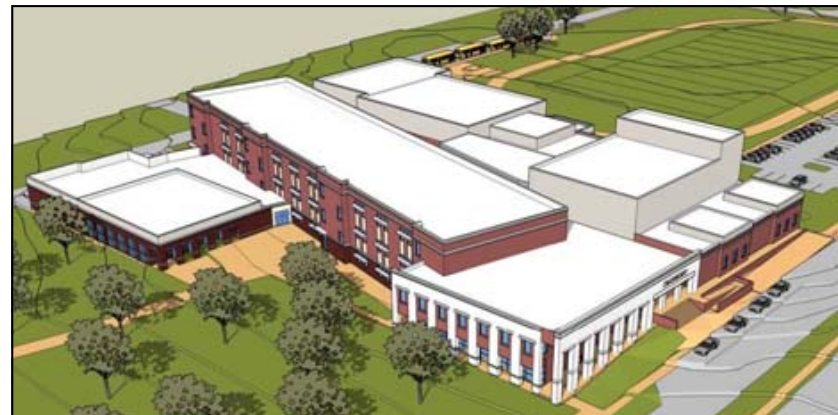
In May 2008, residents in the Eagle Mountain-Saginaw Independent School District voted to approve a \$394 million bond package. Prompted by record growth, the package includes two elementary campuses, one middle school, a new high school campus, purchase of land for future expansion, and renovations and additions at several existing facilities.

Also in May of 2008, Northwest ISD approved a new bond measure authorizing the district to spend \$260 million for seven new elementary schools, one additional middle school, technology infrastructure, and building renovations.

**Community Partners**

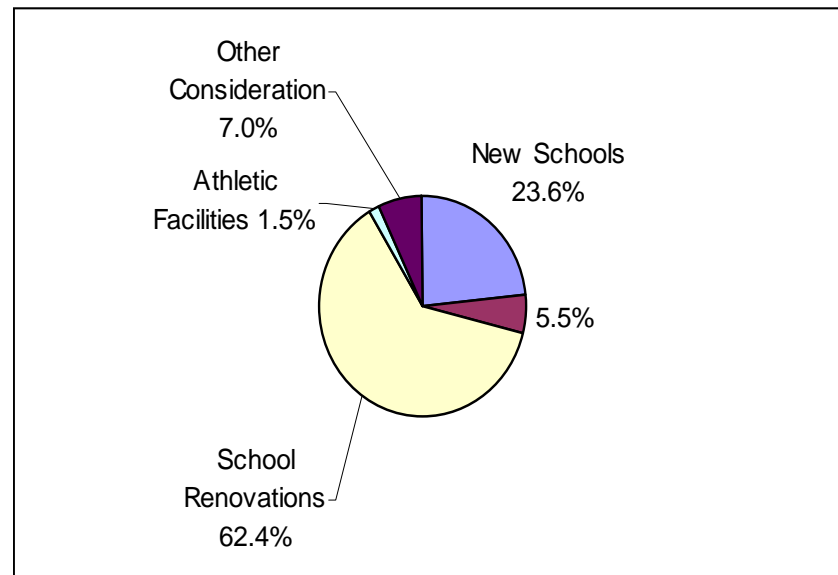
For 25 years, the partnership effort in the FWISD has provided support and recognition to teachers and students. Today, more than 400 businesses, organizations, and churches are partnering with schools through the Adopt-A-School and Vital Link student internships programs. Business volunteers mentor, tutor, provide incentives for academic improvement, serve as career day speakers, assist teachers and administrators, and put student interns to work in their businesses. The business community has sponsored the Outstanding Teacher Recognition Dinner since 1984, and corporate sponsors recognize other teachers for exemplary work in their content areas. TEAM FWISD, a mentoring program which was launched in the spring of 2003 with a grant from the U.S. Department of Education, is currently serving 18 schools in the FWISD. The program has mentors from all parts of the community including businesses, college students, police officers and firemen, and other City employees. In 2005-2006, over 340,000 hours were recorded by active parent volunteers who devoted time to help their children's schools by assisting

**Fort Worth ISD New School Construction**



Jean McClung Middle School, pictured above, is one of five new schools that was part of the 2007 bond program. Jean McClung Middle School opened fall 2011. (Sources: Fort Worth ISD, Planning and Development Department, 2011.)

**Allocation of Fort Worth Independent School District 2007 Bond Program**



The Fort Worth ISD's 2007 bond program provided \$593.6 million, primarily for school renovations. (Source: Fort Worth ISD, 2009.)

teachers and staff, joining booster clubs, sponsoring proms, chaperoning field trips, and raising funds for supplies and equipment to enhance instruction.

**Student Performance**

Texas’ accountability system for public schools is one of the nations most rigorous. The Texas Education Agency (TEA) uses the Academic Excellence Indicator System (AEIS) to rate schools based on a number of factors, including Texas Assessment of Knowledge and Skills (TAKS) scores, attendance rates, percentage of students completing an advanced course, and dropout rates. In the spring of 2003, Texas public school students took the state’s newest accountability test, TAKS, for the first time. The test’s objective is to see how well students are learning the state’s curriculum. Each year, schools must increase scores on the TAKS to meet AEIS criteria for acceptable, recognized, and exemplary status.

In 2010-2011, 75 percent of all students in a school had to pass all sections of the test to earn a rating of recognized, and 90 percent had to pass to earn exemplary status. In the 2010-2011 school year, 39 out of 139 rated schools in Fort Worth ISD earned an exemplary or recognized status. The percentage of Fort Worth ISD Juniors and Seniors who passed one or more Advanced Placement exams increased from 8 percent in 2009 to 8.3 percent in 2010.

**Dropout Rates**

For the class of 2009, the Texas Education Agency reported that in FWISD the four-year dropout rate (grades 9 through 12) was 17.2 percent. Within the four-year period, 23.1 percent of African Americans, 17.8 percent of Hispanics, and 7.5 percent of Whites left school without obtaining a diploma.

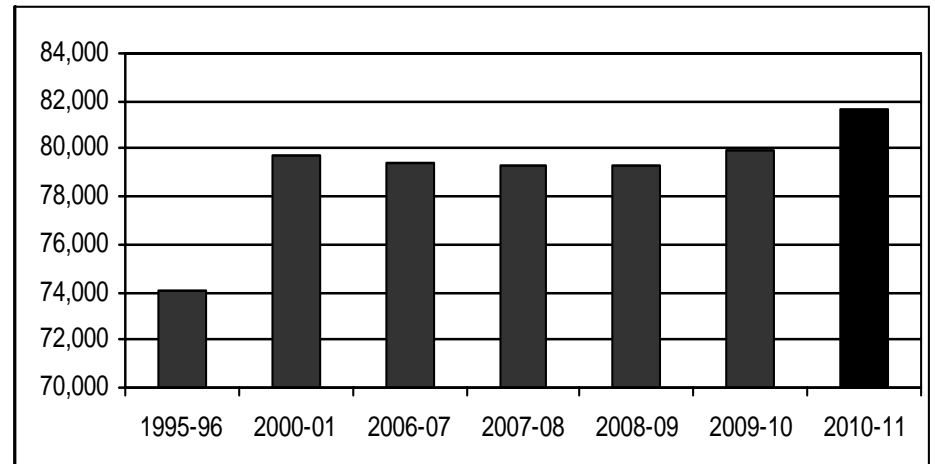
Several initiatives undertaken by the district show promise for reducing the dropout rate. A comprehensive truancy prevention program, in collaboration with the district attorney’s office, provides assistance and support to parents and students who have a high number of absences. Consequences for failure to cooperate include a mandated visit to truancy court. Success High School offers students an opportunity to attend classes at night so they can work and still keep up with their studies. New Lives School provides special services for pregnant and parenting teens. Various programs such as Communities in Schools, Vital Link, Fort Worth After-School, 21st Century Grant Schools, and campus-based mentoring programs also encourage students to stay in school.

The Fort Worth Chamber, the Fort Worth Hispanic Chamber, and the Metropolitan Black Chamber of Commerce have joined forces in an annual stay-in-school effort to address the drop out problem. A Stay-In-School summit focused on grassroots efforts to keep students in school, and other strategies are being developed and implemented. They include a focused mentoring initiative for high schools, campus/community liaisons, a community awareness campaign, a community scholarship program, and professional development for teachers.

**Private Schools**

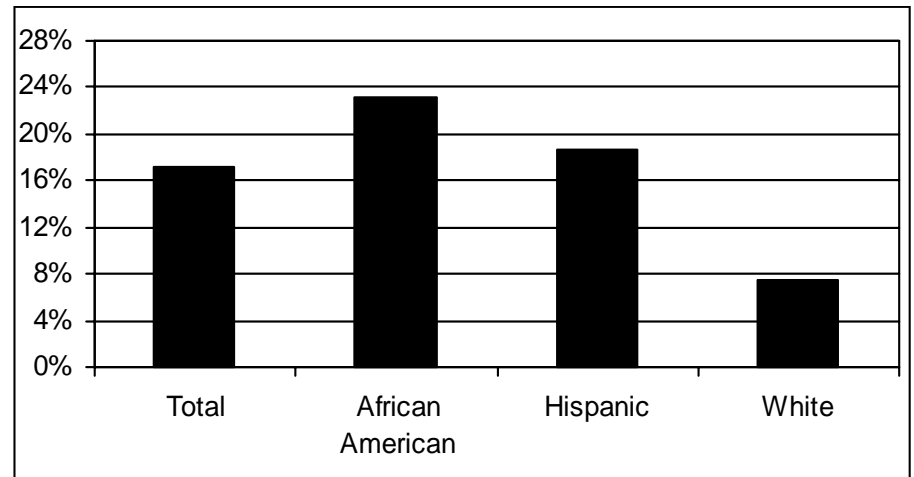
Many private schools are available to Fort Worth residents. Tarrant County has 79 private schools, including 40 in Fort Worth. Approximately 13,500 students are

**Fort Worth Independent School District Enrollment**



Overall student enrollment in Fort Worth ISD has increased over the last fifteen years, but at a much slower rate than suburban ISDs on the City’s outskirts. (Source: Texas Education Agency, 2010.)

**Fort Worth Independent School District Dropouts 2009-10**



In the class of 2010, 23.1 percent of African American students dropped out, along with 18.7 percent of Hispanic students and 7.5 percent of White students. (Source: Texas Education Agency, 2010.)



enrolled in private schools in Fort Worth. Fort Worth Country Day School in southwest Fort Worth has an enrollment of 1,115 students in kindergarten through twelfth grade. Nolan Catholic High School, located in East Fort Worth, has 1,029 students from grades eight to twelve. Trinity Valley School and Temple Christian School, both offering all grade levels, have 964 and 657 students, respectively.

### Universities and Colleges

Fort Worth offers many higher education opportunities. Texas Christian University (TCU), a private university located in southwest Fort Worth, has an enrollment of 9,142 students (7,853 undergraduates and 1,289 graduate students). TCU offers 118 undergraduate areas of study, 56 masters level programs, and 21 areas of doctoral study. Texas Wesleyan University (TWU), located in southeast Fort Worth, has 2,538 students at its main campus, and 795 students attend the TWU Law School in Downtown Fort Worth. Tarrant County College (TCC) has campus facilities in Downtown as well as two other campuses in Fort Worth: Northwest Campus and South Campus. Two additional campuses are located in Hurst (Northeast) and Arlington (Southeast). In addition to their standard Associates Programs, TCC offers a Continuing Education Program that provides opportunities for individuals to stay current on new developments in their present occupations or in new fields. TCC is the seventh largest college or university in Texas with a fall 2010 enrollment over 49,000. Approximately 1 in every 19 Tarrant County resident takes a class at TCC each year.

Many Fort Worth residents also attend the University of Texas at Arlington (UTA) and the University of North Texas in Denton, both state universities. UTA opened a satellite campus, the UTA/Fort Worth Riverbend Campus in Fort Worth, in 1999. The Riverbend campus offers graduate courses in engineering and business at the UTA Automation and Robotics Research Institute in east Fort Worth. In addition, UTA holds classes in the renovated Santa Fe train depot building adjacent to the Intermodal Transportation Center in Downtown Fort Worth.

The University of North Texas Health Science Center in west Fort Worth expects to enroll 1,775 students in fall 2011. It is comprised of the Texas College of Osteopathic Medicine, the Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences, the School of Public Health and the School of Health Professions. The Health Science Center expects to add a new Ph.D. program in Pharmacy by 2013. The Center's Institutes for Discovery conduct leading-edge research on select health issues, including vision, aging, cancer, heart disease, physical medicine, and public health. The latest additions to the Health Science Center campus include the six-story center for BioHealth and the 112,000 square-foot Medical Education and Training Building.

Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, located on a 200-acre campus in south Fort Worth, has more than 3,000 students from across the nation.

## **GOALS AND OBJECTIVES**

The following goals and objectives have been identified by the Fort Worth Independent School District to help improve educational quality, opportunities, and student achievement in Fort Worth:

## **Universities in Fort Worth**



Texas Wesleyan University, located in southeast Fort Worth, has almost 2,000 students at the main campus. An additional 785 students attend the Texas Wesleyan University Law School, which relocated from Irving to Downtown Fort Worth. (Sources: *Texas Wesleyan University, Planning and Development Department, 2009.*)



Texas Christian University, a private university located in southwest Fort Worth, offers quality higher education to almost 9,000 students. (Sources: *Texas Christian University, Planning and Development Department, 2009.*)

All students will learn at high levels of academic expectations, and the achievement gap will be eliminated.

- Recruit, develop, support, and retain effective teachers, principals, and other instructional staff.
- Provide individualized support for student development and academic achievement.
- Ensure consistent use and implementation of district curriculum frameworks.
- Provide opportunities for student voice, leadership, and engagement in the learning process.
- Provide a safe, positive, and secure learning environment for students and staff.

All operations in the District will be efficient and effective.

- Promote a service-oriented culture throughout the district.
- Use data to inform decisions.
- Communicate with all stakeholders in a timely and relevant manner.
- Be responsible stewards of public funds.
- Nurture and build capacity of all employees to best support academic achievement.

Encourage family involvement and community engagement.

- Build community support and engage the community to support district goals.
- Engage parents and expect them to be active participants in student learning.

## **POLICIES AND STRATEGIES**

The following policy and strategies will enable the City and the ISDs to implement the education goals and objectives:

### **Policy**

- The City of Fort Worth and Fort Worth area school districts will maintain a working relationship to cooperatively address issues that affect both, such as land use, transportation, and historic buildings.

### **Strategies**

- When possible, share school and City facilities to provide efficient access to services and to ensure efficient use of public funds.
- Expand opportunities for continuing higher education.
- Ensure that the design of schools reflects their status as important community facilities while providing a creative, safe environment for students. Like their historic precedents, tomorrow's schools should be designed as civic landmarks.
- Educate realtors and the public on the achievements of the Fort Worth Independent School District.
- Improve pedestrian and bicycle access to schools as a means of encouraging physical activity and fighting childhood obesity.

## **Polytechnic High School**



One of the goals of the Fort Worth ISD is to improve and update older school facilities, such as Polytechnic High School in southeast Fort Worth. (Source: City of Fort Worth, 2009.)



## PROGRAMS AND PROJECTS

- Fort Worth After School, a joint collaboration of the FWISD and the City of Fort Worth, began in the fall of 2000 and has grown steadily to serve more than 12,500 students. Goals of the program include promoting educational competence, physical and social development, and reducing juvenile crime. One constant in the delivery of this program is that each campus must provide a daily homework help component.
- Vital Link combines the efforts of Fort Worth schools and the business community to motivate students between the sixth and seventh grades. Internships help demonstrate how skills learned in school are used in a workplace, and how success in school can lead to success beyond the classroom.
- Adopt-A-School provides an opportunity for business leaders and other organizations to give financial and volunteer support to individual schools.
- The Bilingual Initiative is designed to transition students from Spanish to English by the end of three years and reach non-LEP status within five years, as assessed through TAKS.
- Head Start is a national program which provides comprehensive developmental services to low-income, pre-school children, and social services to their families. Specific services for children focus on education, socio-emotional development, physical and mental health, and nutrition. The cornerstone of the program is parent and community involvement.
- Texas Wesleyan University (TWU) has recently started a strategic planning process. The 2020 Strategic Plan will be complete by the end of the 2011-2012 academic year and will look at the type of student housing that is required, where the university will grow property-wise, what additional academic facilities are needed, and where parking will be located or relocated. TWU is an important anchor for the Polytechnic/Wesleyan Urban Village and mixed-use growth center. The City is cooperating with TWU by upgrading surrounding infrastructure that helps support campus improvements.
- The GrandMarc development, on West Berry between University and Waits Avenue opened to house TCU students in the fall of 2006. Adjacent streetscape enhancements encourage pedestrian activity, safety, comfort, and connectivity.
- The University of North Texas Health Science Center has undertaken a master planning process for its campus. In May 2007, the planning team of Carter & Burgess/Polshek Partnership completed a 15-year campus master plan which addresses the future growth of the campus and the needs of the Center's four schools. The latest additions to the Health Science Center campus include the six-story center for BioHealth and the 112,000 square-foot Medical Education and Training Building.

### **Capital Improvement Projects**

Capital improvement projects identified for the next 20 years are listed in Appendices D and E, with estimated costs, completion dates, and potential funding sources.

### **Adopt-A-School Program**



A Code Compliance officer speaks to a group of students during Adopt-A-School. The program enhances education for Fort Worth youth by providing an opportunity for mentoring and other community support activities. (Source: City of Fort Worth, 2009.)

