



# 2016-2017



Empower  
Engage  
Achieve  
Succeed



The Denton Independent School District acknowledges and welcomes the opportunity to stand the test as our students keep pace with state and national standards. Our mission to empower life-long learners to be engaged citizens who positively impact their local and global community speaks to much more than an assessment.

Our community wishes for our student's success to be measured by more than one score, on one day. Therefore, the perception of our schools and our

district's success should be judged by more than an accountability rating based on the same. In fact, business leaders and parents have raised concern that this emphasis on standardized tests does not ensure whether a Denton ISD graduate is college or career ready.

This report, What We Value 2.0, is a multifaceted document that seeks to give a clearer view of achievement, and it targets our districts strengths and areas than need improvement for our students.



# A NOTE FROM OUR SUPERINTENDENT

As a Texas Education Agency District of Innovation, we work to improve instruction and services to our families and the communities we serve. As our state leaders struggle to maintain the integrity of a comprehensive accountability system, the Denton ISD Board of Trustees maintained its promise to serve our community's youth and stay true to the core purpose of providing a quality education. More specifically, our district continues our journey and the on-going community-wide conversation by asking – “what do you value?”

In 2015, we distributed more than 30,000 invitations for members of our community to help in the process through a third party administrator, K12 Insight. All responses were kept confidential and the data was tabulated by the outside entity to maintain its integrity. The rate of return was greater than 10 percent, demonstrating that our community has a keen sense of awareness and involvement in our student's education.

We identified four core areas in which we wish to track progress: Teaching and Learning, Opportunities for Students, Culture / Climate and Growth/Management. Based on the feedback from our community, we developed a set of goals and parameters for measurement. Using data as a baseline, and in some cases creating a standard with a set of measurements where they did not previously exist, we reaffirm our commitment of staying accountable to the community we serve.

In 2016, we took to self-examination and completed a comprehensive survey of our parents and staff. Research tells us that there is no greater impact on a student's education, than having a quality teacher in every classroom, which our survey results confirmed. It's results like this that are driving a renaissance of staff climate and culture that will drive the foundation of our organization.

Through this self-examination and measurement, we hope to create a swell of powerful momentum of continual improvement. We may come from a multitude of backgrounds and experiences, we can all come together in support of our community's most valuable resource – the education of our children.

Sincerely,

Dr. Jamie Wilson  
Superintendent of Schools



# Our Vision Grows Bigger Each Year

Throughout the years, Denton ISD has offered many new opportunities for students, teachers, staff and community to grow and learn.

**1 We Will Develop and Maintain**  
*a culture where learning remains our first priority*

**2 We Will Remain Committed**  
*to providing equitable and outstanding opportunities for every student on every campus*

**3 We Will Prepare**  
*our students to be successful in a global society while instilling an appreciation for community service*

**4 We Will Cultivate**  
*a network of professional learning communities addressing the educational needs of every child in our district*

**5 We Will Establish Goals**  
*for individual campuses that incorporate both measurable and intangible factors*

**6 We Will Effectively**  
*communicate achievements and recognitions to the Denton ISD community*

**7 We Will Develop**  
*a budget focused on student and professional learning*



WE'RE MAKING AN IMPACT  
FOR **GENERATIONS  
TO COME**

**Mission Statement**

Denton ISD: Empowering lifelong learners to be engaged citizens  
who positively impact their local and global community.



**EDUCATION**

- Retaining high quality teachers
- Maintaining high learning standards for all students
- Investing in school leaders who consistently make decisions that are in the best interest of students
- Preparing students to succeed in a career

**100%** Highly Qualified Teachers

Teacher Retention Rate **89.2%**

**29%** Teachers with a Masters or Doctoral Degree



Teacher/Student Ratio **13.7**

**72.2%** Teachers have six or more years of teaching experience

**FINANCIAL STABILITY**

**\$221,177,917**  
General Operating Fund for 2016-17

**\$76,659,863**  
Total Fund Balance (assigned and unassigned)

**\$10.7 billion**  
Certified Property Value for 2014-2015



# ABOUT US

Our numbers are **GROWING**  
in 2016-2017



March 2016

## 27,579

Enrollment

Served by

23 Elementary (K-5)

7 Middle Schools (6-8)

4 High Schools (9-12)

2 Early Childhood Centers

1 Advanced Technology Complex

1 Accelerated High School

of Choice

## 95%

Student Attendance

## 4,679

Includes Teachers, Auxiliary Staff,  
Professional Staff, Educational  
Aides, Campus Administration,  
Central Administration

## 52

Languages Spoken

## 17

Communities Served

Argyle, Aubrey, Bartonville,  
Cooper Canyon, Corinth,  
Cross Oak Ranch, Cross Roads,  
Denton, Double Oak,  
Lantana, Little Elm, Oak Point,  
Paloma Creek, Providence,  
Robson Ranch, Savannah,  
Shady Shores

# Class of 2016

# 1,529


# Total Graduates




## 88.1%

 attend a technical school, two- or four-year college or university

.....> **95%** .....> **34.1%** .....> **887**

 **Graduation Rate**

 **Secondary students completing an advanced or dual enrollment course**

**Graduates with professional or industry-standard licenses or certification in a technical field**

#Whatwevalue2.0



## \$18.9

million in total scholarship money awarded to graduates

## \$1.95

million in total local money awarded to graduates



### SAT/ACT Scores

**2015 SAT**  
National..... 1497  
State ..... 1417  
District.... 1479

**2015 ACT**  
National..... 21  
State ..... 20.6  
District.... 21.1



## 4,852

Students participating in Athletics (7-12th grades)

## 10

 Consecutive years Denton ISD named to Best Communities for Music Education in America

## 11.2%

 of Secondary students in Fine Arts have a GPA of 3.5 or higher

Participation Rate of All Students in one or more Fine Arts Classes **95.5%**



**\$627**

**million**

in New Construction or  
Renovations for 2014

**24 years**

Average age of  
District Facilities

**5.6 million**

Square footage  
under roof

**940,454**

Acreage owned  
and maintained

**\$298.5**

Million in construction  
for new schools or additions

**17**

Campus renovation  
projects in progress  
or completed by 2017

# BUILDING for the FUTURE



## THE "PEOPLE MOVERS" .....➔ TRANSPORTATION

Regular  
Routes **59**

Routes for special  
needs students **45**

Harzardous  
Routes **22**

Routes that are  
locally funded **39%**



**370,918**

Gallons of Propane

**53,751**

Gallons of BioDiesel

**228**

Drivers and Mechanics

**3,000**

Field Trips

## CREATING HEALTHY CHOICES CHILD NUTRITION<..

**3.3** Million Meals Served

**793,413**

Breakfasts served

**42,000**

Summer meals

**2,312,494**

Lunches served

**123,539**

Snacks served



**42.2%**

Students receiving  
Free and/or  
Reduced Lunch



# District of Innovation

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A District of Innovation is a concept passed during the 84th Legislative Session in House Bill 1842 that gives traditional independent school districts most of the flexibilities available to Texas' open enrollment charter schools. To access these flexibilities, a school district must adopt an innovation plan.

On February 9, 2016 the Denton ISD Board of School Trustees passed a resolution to begin the necessary steps to become a District of Innovation.

A District of Innovation can be exempt from certain requirements imposed by state law. These include uniform start date; minimum minutes of instruction; the 90 percent rule; teacher contracts, benefits, and appraisals; campus decision-making restrictions; certain budgeting requirements; and some student discipline laws. The Texas Education Agency has not yet proposed rules for implementing this new legislative scheme, but expects to do so soon.

Under TEA Code, Chapter 12A, districts seeking to implement innovative pedagogy are required to first publicly declare such interest and then to hold a public hearing for discussion to consider whether the school district should develop an innovation plan.

In June 2016, the district convened the first formal meeting of the District of Innovation Committee. The team is comprised of 40 teachers, seven parents, eight business leaders and 11 educators. Moving forward, they will craft a plan for implementation.



# What They are Saying About **Denton ISD**...

Our child has struggled with reading this year and the teachers and administrators have been proactive about getting him help.

This is a really nice school atmosphere. The people really make it a great place for kids.



I do love this school but as a parent who wants to be involved in my child's education, I don't know how to get involved or volunteer within the school. I am encouraged to be a volunteer but what can I volunteer to do?

The overall climate is positive and the staff is bonded and in agreement on providing the best learning environment for all students.

I feel like overall there needs to be more personal accountability for student behavior and work ethic. The kids are learning valuable habits and skills that will be needed to grow into independent, successful adults.

The parent/teacher communication has been outstanding. My daughter clearly understands the expectations and guidelines which has allowed her to take responsibility for her learning. We can't say enough about the teachers and support staff – thank you for all you do.

We have an excellent school with caring hard working teachers, admin, and counselor. They really care about what is best for kids!

I love our school! My child has attended for three years and each teacher has been wonderful!

Your team does good work. There is always room for improvement, but it is the small stuff. Overall, my students' experiences have been very good and we owe a debt of gratitude to our school and Denton ISD. You have been very good to our family. Thanks.

Trust, openness and honesty with all staff.

This year we have seen positive outcomes and great management as well as organized for drop off or pick up.

More two way communication. Encourage effective management skills to be used.



## Continue Activating **CLIMATE and CULTURE**

Through our "What We Value" Survey, we track four core areas: Teaching & Learning, Opportunities for Students, Culture & Climate and Growth & Management.

Here's what we've learned...



All (90% of staff, 83% of parents and 91% of community volunteers) rate the overall quality of their or their child's campus as Excellent or Good.



All three participant groups identified issues related to family involvement as strengths of their or their child's campus, including informing families about school-sponsored activities and encouraging them to attend.



Staff identified areas as most in need of improvement related to their relationship with their principal or direct supervisor. More specifically they want effective communication, consistency between administrators' words and actions and having more input when decisions affect them.



Staff, parents and community all identified the need for more information concerning school safety and learning school security procedures.



Ensuring students treat one another with respect was identified as areas for potential improvement by all three participant groups.

#Whatwevalue2.0



 **DENTON**  
INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT

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