COMMUNITY

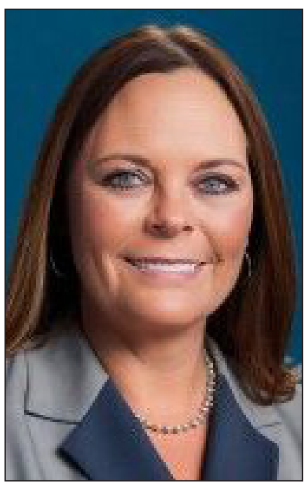
Garner ISD's Hallmark to retire Jan. 31

FROM STAFF REPORTS

Garner Independent School District Superintendent Rebecca Hallmark has announced her plans to retire from public education effective Jan. 31, 2027, concluding more than 12 years of service to Garner ISD.

Hallmark joined Garner ISD in July 2014 and has served the district through a period of significant growth, change and expanded opportunities for students. During her tenure, Garner ISD has continued to strengthen its academic programs, expand college and career opportunities, and build upon its commitment to providing a high-quality education for every student.

"Serving Garner ISD has been one of the greatest blessings and privileges of my life," Hallmark said. "This district has become much more than a place where I work. Garner has been my home, my purpose, and an important part of my life for more than 12 years. I am incredibly proud of what we have accomplished together, but I am even more grateful for the students, staff, families, Board members, and community members who have been part of this journey."



Rebecca Hallmark

Hallmark's leadership has coincided with a transformative period in the history of Garner ISD. During her tenure, the district expanded its educational offerings, added high school grade levels, developed Garner College and Career Preparatory Academy, and established opportunities designed to allow students to earn college credit and industry credentials while still in high school.

She has consistently emphasized keeping students at the center of district decision-making while maintaining the close-knit culture and traditions of the Garner community.

"Any accomplishments associated with my time here belong to the entire Garner ISD team," Hallmark said. "Our success has always come from people who were willing to work hard, believe in our students, and find ways to give them opportunities that might not otherwise have been available to them."

Hallmark described the decision to retire as bittersweet but said she believes the time is right to begin the next chapter of her life.

"There is never an easy time to leave something you love," she said. "I have poured much of my life and heart into this district, and Garner ISD will always be a part of me. At the same time, I know there comes a point when it is time to allow new leadership to carry the district forward."

Hallmark will remain fully engaged in her duties through Jan. 31 and will work with the Garner ISD Board of Trustees to support a smooth leadership transition.

"My commitment to Garner ISD does not change between now and my final day," Hallmark said. "There is still important work ahead, and I intend to finish my service to this district with the same dedication and determination that I brought to Garner when I arrived in 2014."

The Garner ISD Board of Trustees will provide additional information regarding the superintendent transition and search process as plans are finalized.

NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING TO DISCUSS BUDGET AND PROPOSED TAX RATE

Weatherford Independent School District will hold a public meeting at 6:00 p.m., September 14, 2026 at Board Room, DSB, 1100 Longhorn Drive in Weatherford, Texas. **This meeting is to discuss the school district's budget that will determine the tax rate the school district will adopt. The school district invites public participation in the discussion.**

The tax rate the school district ultimately adopts at this meeting or at a separate meeting at a later date may not exceed the proposed rate shown below unless the district publishes a revised notice containing the same information and comparisons set out below and holds another public meeting to discuss the revised notice.

Maintenance Tax $ .7552 /$100 (proposed rate for maintenance and operations)

School Debt Service Tax Approved by Local Voters $ .1790 /$100 (proposed rate to pay bonded indebtedness)

Comparison of Proposed Budget with Last Year's Budget

The applicable percentage increase or decrease (or difference) in the amount budgeted in the preceding discal year and the amount budgeted for the fiscal year that begins during the current tax yea ris indicated for each of the following expenditure categories:

Maintenance and operations		% (increase)	or	(.70)	% (decrease)
Debt service		% (increase)	or	(54.34)	% (decrease)
Total expenditures		% (increase)	or	(8.15)	% (decrease)

Total Appraised Value and Total Taxable Value (as calculated under Tax Code Section 26.04)

	Preceding Tax Year	Current Tax Year
Total appraised value* of all property	$ 11,410,331,216	$ 11,869,714,217
Total appraised value* of new property**	$ 247,037,423	$ 287,506,969
Total taxable value*** of all property	$ 8,114,569,850	$ 8,414,302,912
Total taxable value*** of new property**	$ 276,105,146	$ 217,385,828

* Appraised value is the amount shown on the appraisal roll and defined by Tax Code Section 1.04(8)
** New property is defined by Tax Code Section 26.012(17)
*** Taxable value is defined by Tax Code Section 1.04(10)

Bonded Indebtedness

Total amount of outstanding and unpaid bonded indebtedness* $ 51,982,928
*Outstanding principal.

Comparison of Proposed Rates with Last Year's Rates

	Maintenance and Operations	Interest and Sinking Fund*	Total	Local Revenue Per Student	State Revenue Per Student
Last Year's Rate	$ .7552	$ .2790	$ 1.0342	$ 10,406	$ 4,857
Rate to Maintain Same Level of Maintenance & Operations Revenue & Pay Debt Service	$ .76020	$ .18330*	$ .94350	$ 9,715	$ 4,439
Proposed Rate	$ .7552	$ .1790*	$ .93420	$ 9,625	$ 4,443

* The interest and sinking fund tax revenue is used to pay for bonded indebtedness on construction, equipment or both. The bonds, and the tax rate necessary to pay those bonds, were approved by the voters of this district.

Comparison of Proposed Levy with Last Year's Levy on Average Residence

	Last Year	This Year
Average Market Value of Residences	$ 359,701	$ 356,020
Average Taxable Value of Residences	$ 248,715	$ 220,672
Last Year's Rate Versus Proposed Rate per $100 Value	$ 1.0342	$ .9342
Taxes Due on Average Residence	$ 2,575.21	$ 2,061.52
Increase (Decrease) in Taxes		$ (510.69)

Under state law, the dollar amount of school taxes imposed on the residence homestead of a person age 65 or older or their surviving spouse, if the surviving spouse was age 55 or older when the person died, may not be increased above the amount paid in the first year after the person turned 65, regardless of changes in tax rate or property value.

Notice of Voter-Approval Rate: The highest tax rate the district can adopt before requiring voter approval at an election is .954071. This election will be automatically held if the district adopts a rate in excess of the voter-approval rate of .954071.

Fund Balances

The following estimated balances will remain at the end of the current fiscal year and are not encumbered with or by a corresponding debt obligation, less estimated funds necessary for operating the district before receipt of the first state aid payment:

Maintenance and Operations Fund Balance(s)	$ 20,798,313
Interest and Sinking Fund Balance(s)	$ 6,234,832

A school district may not increase the district's maintenance and operations tax rate to create a surplus in maintenance and operations tax revenue for the purpose of paying the district's debt service.

Visit Texas.gov/PropertyTaxes to find a link to your local property tax database on which you can easily access information regarding your property taxes, including information about proposed tax rates and scheduled public hearings of each entity that taxes your property.
The 86th Texas Legislature modified the manner in which the voter-approval tax rate is calculated to limit the rate of growth of property taxes in the state.