
Single-Member District Community Input

Summary of four nights of public comment

Mansfield ISD Board of Trustees

Input Gathered

The question

The board is exploring electing trustees by single-member districts or keeping the at-large election system.

The input

Spoken public comments over four nights, and written comments that record each commenter's feeder pattern and stakeholder role.

This summary

Reports what was said. It does not argue for either option.

Comments: Every Entry Counted

49

For single-member districts
34%

53

Against single-member districts
36%

34

Neutral or questions only
23%

145 entries: 81 spoken across four nights and 64 written. 9 spoken entries have no recorded stance and are not shown in the three counts.

Source: public comment sheets from four nights and written comment forms

Comments: Repeat Speakers Counted Once

46

**For single-member districts
36%**

40

**Against single-member districts
31%**

34

**Neutral or questions only
27%**

127 entries: 63 spoken (13 repeat speakers counted once) and 64 written. 7 spoken entries have no recorded stance and are not shown in the three counts.

Matched by name, email or phone. Unnamed entries and anonymous written forms could not be checked.

Comments by Night and Format

Source	For	Against	Neutral / Questions	No stance recorded	Total
Monday board meeting - 9.28.26	3	11	0	0	14
Night 1 - 9.29.26	7	14	4	0	25
Night 2 - 9.30.26	3	10	5	0	18
Night 3 - 10.1.26	7	8	0	9	24
Written forms	29	10	25	0	64
All comments	49	53	34	9	145

Every entry counted. Written-form stances assigned from comment text; questions with no stated position are Neutral/Questions.

Themes in Support

Representation

Every city and community in the district would have a trustee tied to its area.

Accountability

Families would know which trustee represents them and could reach them directly.

Campus visibility

Speakers cited D- and F-rated campuses they felt received less trustee attention.

Access to run

Smaller areas could lower campaign costs for parents, teachers and residents.

Hybrid option

Several speakers suggested mixing single-member and at-large seats, such as 5-2 or 6-1.

Language and culture

Multilingual and immigrant families asked for a trustee who knows their needs.

Themes in Opposition

Evidence on outcomes

Speakers asked what data shows improved student outcomes in other districts.

Survey scope

Speakers questioned the survey's size, timing and distribution.

Cost and budget

Concerns about spending, possible litigation costs and the budget deficit.

Districtwide service

Some said every trustee should serve the whole district, not one area.

Elections

Concerns about turnout, uncontested races and outside money in smaller districts.

Process and alternatives

Requests for other solutions, a public vote, or more time before deciding.

Questions Raised

- **What problem would single-member districts solve, and what alternatives were considered?**
 - More than half of MISD students live outside Mansfield city limits, including approximately 30% who live in Arlington. Historically, questions of equity for schools outside of Mansfield have been raised due to lower student outcomes for those schools. More specifically, there are currently 3 D-rated campuses located in the city of Arlington.
- **Can the full survey results and method be shared?**
 - Survey results have not historically been released to the public. Instead, aggregated data is presented as has been done at town halls and published on the website.
- **When will maps be shared, and when will the board decide?**
 - Any future maps will be shared with the public. Any decision that impacts the current election cycle will be made before January 1, 2027.

Questions Raised

- **What happens if no one runs in a district, and do current trustees keep their seats?**
 - Education Code § 11.060. Vacancies
 - It would be the same as if no one ran in an at-large seat. (a) If a vacancy occurs on the board of trustees of an ISD, the remaining trustees may fill the vacancy by appointment until the next trustee election. (c) Instead of filling a vacancy by appointment under subsection (a) or (b), the board may order a special election to fill the vacancy.
 - Efforts will be made not to draw current trustees out of their seats and to allow them to complete their current terms.
- **Would the number of seats change, and could voters decide whether to switch to single member districts?**
 - The number of seats would not change.
 - The education code currently does not require a public vote. The board may vote on its own motion.
- **Why did other districts adopt single-member districts?**
 - Several other districts adopted single-member districts after voting rights violation lawsuits.

Questions Raised

- **How would switching to single-member districts impact student outcomes?**
 - There is limited available research to demonstrate a causal link between election system and student outcomes. Student outcomes are driven by a long list of decisions and conditions, but election structure has not been directly linked in the research literature.
- **What are the costs, including potential litigation?**
 - Walsh Gallegos has currently billed approximately \$11k, approximate total costs to change is ~\$20-30k
 - There has been litigation against multiple districts for civil rights violations due to an at-large election structure. A recent example is Lewisville ISD, who settled a lawsuit against their at-large school board election structure. Cost ~\$500k

Next Steps

Topic raised by speakers	Board update
Draft district maps	Before December 1, 2027
Decision on whether to proceed	Before January 1, 2027
Approximate cost to date	~\$11k
Approximate cost of a change	~\$20-30k

Bracketed items are placeholders for the board to complete.