



## Board of Trustees

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

---

To 21st Century Community Learning Center Grant Administrator Addressed,

As a member of the Denton Independent School District Board of Trustees, I have had the opportunity to witness the impact of afterschool programming in our district through the 21st Century Community Learning Centers Grant in coordination with our 501c3 non-profit partner, Communities in Schools. This grant has provided unique learning opportunities for the students of our district, many of whom would otherwise be unable to participate in any expanded learning or extracurricular activities. As with many districts across the state, many of our campuses are classified as Title 1 and many of our students qualify for and receive free or reduced lunch.

Due to their socioeconomic situations, many of our students and families simply cannot afford fee-based or paid programming outside of the school day. Which impact our students negatively as they will not have the same access to learning opportunities that may give them a competitive advantage later in life. For these reasons, it is critical that our students be afforded the opportunity to experience innovative extended learning opportunities that will reinforce their school day learning.

As with many school districts across Texas, Denton ISD carefully maximizes our budget in order to give our students a solid academic foundation. Denton ISD grant administrators continually remain focused on sustainability throughout the duration of the grant funded programs and projects. DISD grant staff view grant dollars as the incubator or start-up funds but look to the community and other sources for long term sustainability such as entrepreneurial business ventures, fund campaigns, gift programs, corporate sponsorships employer based fundraising, and potential government funding opportunities to ensure continuation of federal and grant funded programs after the initial funding.

To the extent possible, DISD Board of Trustees assesses program's merit for sustainability based on district priorities, supportive data, and target audience, detailed assessment of activities and services that achieved desired outcomes upon the termination of the grant funds. In fact, we have already established this precedent on several of our former 21st CCLC sites who no longer receive grant funds. Some of our most successful techniques include fee based Extended Day programs. We have also partnered with local nonprofits and faith-based organizations in the area to sustain the most impactful parts of our program such as mentoring and tutoring at several of our elementary schools.

Denton ISD leadership and the Board of Trustees value the unique opportunities provided through the afterschool programming. While we have a proven record of success through previous grants and appreciate the opportunity to afford our students even greater learning experiences, we are also committed to providing our students with extracurricular learning opportunities that will foster their success in both their academic careers as well as their lives beyond their K-12 education. We are very appreciative of the academic, enrichment and family literacy opportunities provided through 21st CCLC Cycle 9 program.

Thank you,

---

Barbara Burns  
*President*

---

Dr. Jeanetta Smith  
*Vice President*

---

Dorothy Martinez  
*Secretary*

---

Glenna G. Harris, M.D.  
*Member*

---

Mia Price  
*Member*

---

Charles Stafford  
*Member*

---

Dr. Jim Alexander  
*Member*