

Belton Independent School District

Workshop Meeting Minutes

Board Workshop Meeting, May 18, 2026 - 5:00 p.m.

Dragon Room, 400 N. Wall Street, Belton TX, 76513

Board Members Present:

Manuel Alcozer

Jeff Norwood

Rucker Preston

Chris Flor

Brandon Bozon

Riley Beck

Erin Bass

Board Members Absent:

1. Call to Order:

Manuel Alcozer, Board President, called the workshop meeting of the Belton Independent School District Board of Trustees to order at 5:00 p.m., that the meeting had been duly called and that notice of the meeting had been posted in accordance with the Texas Open Meetings Act, Texas Government Code Chapter 551.

2. Public Comments:

None.

3. Assessment & Accountability Workshop

Ms. Gabi Nino, Assistant Superintendent of Teaching & Learning, led the conversation around changes to assessment and accountability as a result of the 89th Texas Legislative Session. Starting in the 2027-2028 school year, the state assessment system will transition from the single-day STAAR test to the Student Success Test (SST). Unlike the current static model, the SST will utilize a through-year progress model with testing windows in the fall, winter, and spring. The fall and winter assessments will be adaptive, adjusting in difficulty based on individual student responses to accurately measure baseline knowledge and growth

In contrast, the spring assessment will remain static, meaning all students will take the exact same test, and this spring test alone will determine the district's A-F accountability ratings. Additionally, writing will no longer be embedded in the English Language Arts assessment; it will be a standalone test administered exclusively during the static spring window. The state is also requiring a rapid turnaround for scores, which must be provided within two days after a testing window officially closes. A notable concern for the district is the current lack of state-approved adaptive test vendors for science and social studies, though the district hopes its current vendor, Star Renaissance, will be approved for other subjects to prevent widespread disruptions.

The district must also navigate significant changes to College, Career, and Military Readiness (CCMR) accountability, which will take effect for the Class of 2030 (incoming freshmen in the 2026-2027 school year) and impact the district's 2031 A-F ratings. The

state is replacing the current system, which awards an equal weight of one point for any CCMR indicator, with a tiered weighting system to incentivize higher-value career and academic outcomes. Because Belton ISD currently has a high volume of students earning these Foundational certifications, the district's future CCMR scores will decrease unless students are actively pushed toward higher-tier programs.

To prepare for these sweeping adjustments, the district is heavily investing in instructional alignment and strategic planning. The administration is leveraging High-Quality Instructional Materials (HQIM), such as SAVVAS and Blue Bonnet, to support multi-tier instruction and better track evidence of student growth throughout the year. The district is also prioritizing strategic advising to remove structural barriers to advanced pathways, which includes identifying dual credit courses that help students meet Texas Success Initiative (TSI) compliance to secure higher CCMR points. To assist with the transition, the Texas Education Agency (TEA) will provide "what-if" reports over the next four years, allowing the district to model its predicted CCMR standings under the new tiered rules.

Adjourn: There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 5:55 p.m.

Manuel Alcozer, Board President

Erin Bass, Board Secretary