

NAMING FACILITIES

CW
(EXHIBIT)

EXHIBIT A

SPRING BRANCH INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT
DEDICATION OF PLAQUE OR MEMORIAL REQUEST

Name of organization Spring Branch ISD

Organization representative Jennifer Blaine & Thayer Hutchison

Name of nominee Lucy Dillon

Title of nominee Student - Memorial Drive Elementary

School where nominee provided service Memorial Drive Elementary

Years of service and capacity of service 8 years old

Provide all other information and documentation about the nominee to be considered:

Lucy Dillon was an 8 year old who tragically died in the July 4th floods while a camper at Camp Mystic. See attached.

Site proposed plaque is intended for Science Lab - MOIS Room 133

Language to go on plaque Lucy's Lab

The plaque dimensions shall be _____ feet high by _____ inches wide by _____ inches deep.

The plaque shall be made of Neon Lights

Requested plaque erection date November 2025

Submitted by Jennifer Blaine Date 9/29/25

Signature Jennifer Blaine



OBITUARY

Lucy Dillon

DECEMBER 17, 2016 - JULY 4, 2025



IN THE CARE OF

Earthman Funeral Directors

Our beloved Lucy Dillon was called to her eternal home on Friday, July 4, 2025. Born on December 17, 2016, in Houston, Texas, Lucy brought immeasurable joy and light to the lives of her parents, Brandt and Lisa Dillon.

A rising third grader at Memorial Drive Elementary, Lucy was a bright and enthusiastic student. She was a proud "math mover," known for her academic success and her remarkable ability to make friends everywhere she went.

Lucy had an insatiable curiosity and a love of learning, especially when it came to fun facts and sports statistics. She adored reading (Diary of a Wimpy Kid was her favorite) and collected crystals, gems, bobblehead athletes, fidget toys, and anything featuring corgis.

An extraordinary athlete, Lucy learned to ride a bike at age 3 and began playing basketball at 4. She played with determination, joy, and grit. She recently helped her softball and basketball teams win championships in both leagues, but basketball was her greatest love. A devoted Houston Rockets fan, Lucy dreamed of playing college basketball one day. Some of her happiest moments were spent shooting hoops in the driveway with her family.

With her fierce competitiveness, radiant energy, and astonishing memory, Lucy tackled every challenge, whether academic or athletic, with heart and spirit. She was a force of nature, full of kindness, strength, and spark. She was ready for any challenge.

Lucy is preceded in death by her paternal grandparents, Charles and Mary Dillon. She is survived by her loving parents, Brandt and Lisa Dillon; her cherished sister, Charley Dillon; half-sisters, Maren Dillon and Miranda Dillon Hassler; her maternal grandparents, Suki Posevina and Joe Posevina and her uncle, Michael Posevina.

A Celebration of Lucy's Life will be held on Saturday, July 12, 2025 at 11:00 AM at Memorial Drive Presbyterian Church, followed by a reception in the sanctuary lobby. All who knew and loved Lucy (both adults and children) are warmly invited to attend.

In lieu of flowers, the family invites you to contribute to a special fund established in Lucy's name. This fund will support meaningful philanthropic efforts that reflect her beautiful spirit and ensure that her light continues to shine brightly in the world.

www.zeffy.com/donation-form/lucy-dillon-legacy-fund

DONATIONS

Lucy Dillon Legacy Fund

AN ACT

relating to campground and youth camp safety.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

SECTION 1. This Act may be cited as the Heaven's 27 Camp Safety Act.

SECTION 2. Section 141.002, Health and Safety Code, is amended by amending Subdivision (1) and adding Subdivisions (1-a), (2-a), (2-b), and (2-c) to read as follows:

(1) "Cabin" means a structure used to provide temporary sleeping quarters for campers.

(1-a) "Camper" means a minor who is attending a youth camp on a day care or boarding basis.

(2-a) "Floodplain" has the meaning assigned by Section 762.001.

(2-b) "Floodway" means an area identified on the most recent flood hazard map published by the Federal Emergency Management Agency under the National Flood Insurance Act of 1968 (42 U.S.C. Section 4001 et seq.) as a regulatory floodway.

(2-c) "Governmental entity" means this state or a

1 (1) renew the license annually by submitting a renewal
2 application on a date determined by department rule on a form
3 provided by the department; and

4 (2) submit a renewal application not later than the
5 30th day after the date the person:

6 (A) alters the boundaries of a youth camp
7 operated by the person;

8 (B) completes construction of one or more new
9 cabins located on the premises of the camp; or

10 (C) completes any renovation to one or more
11 existing cabins located on the premises of the camp that:

12 (i) increases or decreases the number of
13 beds in an affected cabin; or

14 (ii) alters the method of ingress or egress
15 to an affected cabin.

16 SECTION 4. Chapter 141, Health and Safety Code, is amended
17 by adding Sections 141.0052, 141.0056, 141.0091, and 141.0092 to
18 read as follows:

19 Sec. 141.0052. PROHIBITED LICENSURE OF YOUTH CAMPS WITHIN
20 FLOODPLAIN; EXCEPTION. (a) The department shall not issue or renew
21 a youth camp license for a youth camp that operates one or more
22 cabins located within a floodplain.

1 of water that:

2 (A) is not connected to a stream, river, or other
3 watercourse; or

4 (B) is dammed; or

5 (2) each cabin is at least 1,000 feet from a floodway.

6 Sec. 141.0056. ONLINE YOUTH CAMP REGISTRY. The department
7 shall post, maintain, and update on the department's Internet
8 website a list of each youth camp with an active license issued
9 under this chapter.

10 Sec. 141.0091. ADDITIONAL HEALTH AND SAFETY STANDARDS;
11 EMERGENCY PLAN. (a) As part of the health and safety standards
12 established under Section 141.009, the executive commissioner by
13 rule shall make applicable to a youth camp the requirements of
14 Chapter 762 in the same manner as those requirements apply to a
15 campground under that chapter.

16 (b) The executive commissioner by rule shall require a youth
17 camp operator in the emergency plan the operator develops for a
18 youth camp to:

19 (1) specify muster zones for campers and camp staff to
20 gather in an emergency event that requires evacuation from any
21 location within the premises of the camp;

22 (2) establish procedures for responding to an

1 accident, or death of one or more campers, visitors, camp staff, or
2 camp volunteers that occurs:

3 (i) on camp premises; or

4 (ii) while under the supervision of camp
5 staff;

6 (D) an aquatic emergency if the camp borders a
7 watercourse, lake, pond, or any other body of water;

8 (E) an epidemic;

9 (F) an unauthorized or unknown individual
10 present on the camp's premises;

11 (G) a transportation emergency; and

12 (H) any other natural disaster or emergency event
13 required under department rules;

14 (3) establish procedures to identify and account for
15 each camper affected by the emergency event;

16 (4) establish procedures to notify and communicate
17 with:

18 (A) local emergency management services,
19 including the emergency management director or coordinator
20 designated under Section 418.1015, Government Code, by the
21 political subdivision within which the camp is located;

22 (B) camp administrative and medical services

1 (c) The executive commissioner by rule shall require a youth
2 camp operator to, at each youth camp the operator operates:

3 (1) maintain an operable radio capable of providing
4 real-time weather alerts issued by the National Weather Service or
5 a similar professional weather service at the camp;

6 (2) install and maintain at the camp an emergency
7 warning system that:

8 (A) is capable of alerting all campers and camp
9 occupants of an emergency; and

10 (B) includes a public address system operable
11 without reliance on an Internet connection;

12 (3) monitor safety alerts issued:

13 (A) by the National Weather Service or a similar
14 professional weather service; and

15 (B) by local river authorities, if applicable to
16 the camp, or through other local emergency notification systems;
17 and

18 (4) certify the operator's compliance with this
19 subsection.

20 (d) In developing a youth camp's emergency plan, a youth
21 camp operator must annually submit the initial or updated plan to
22 the department for approval in the form and manner the department

1 receives notice from the department of the plan's deficiencies.

2 (f) A youth camp operator shall include any updated youth
3 camp emergency plan as an attachment to each application to renew
4 the operator's license under Section 141.005.

5 (g) Notwithstanding Section 762.002(c), not later than the
6 10th business day following the date the department approves a
7 youth camp's emergency plan or, if the department determines the
8 plan is deficient under Subsection (e), the camp's revised
9 emergency plan, the operator shall provide a copy of the plan to:

10 (1) for a camp located in a municipality, the
11 emergency management director or coordinator designated under
12 Section 418.1015, Government Code, for the municipality; and

13 (2) the emergency management director or coordinator
14 designated under Section 418.1015, Government Code, for the county.

15 (h) In developing a youth camp's emergency plan, a youth
16 camp operator may consult with an emergency management director or
17 coordinator described by Subsection (g).

18 (i) The department shall store in a digital database each
19 emergency plan submitted to the department under this section or
20 Section 762.002 and provide access to that database to:

21 (1) the Texas Division of Emergency Management; and

22 (2) each member of the Youth Camp Safety

1 (A) a camper who is participating in a camp
2 session; or

3 (B) a prospective camper who is registered to
4 participate in a future camp session;

5 (2) notify the parent or legal guardian of a camper or
6 prospective camper described by Subdivision (1) if any area of the
7 camp is located within a floodplain; and

8 (3) ensure the parent or legal guardian signs and
9 submits to the operator a statement acknowledging receipt of the
10 notice required under Subdivision (2).

11 (k) Not more than 48 hours after each youth camp session
12 begins, the youth camp operator or a youth camp staff member shall
13 conduct a mandatory safety orientation that:

14 (1) notifies each camper of the camp's boundaries and
15 any hazards present on the camp premises;

16 (2) instructs each camper on behavioral expectations
17 in an emergency event; and

18 (3) provides each camper developmentally appropriate
19 instruction on the appropriate actions and procedures to follow in
20 an emergency event, in accordance with the camp's emergency plan
21 required under this section and Section 762.002.

22 (l) At least once a year, a youth camp operator shall:

1 established by department rule;

2 (3) instruct each staff member and volunteer on the
3 proper procedures to follow in an emergency event under the plan;
4 and

5 (4) maintain written records documenting each staff
6 member's and volunteer's successful completion of the training
7 required under this subsection.

8 (m) A youth camp operator shall:

9 (1) conspicuously post in each cabin on the youth camp
10 premises the proper evacuation route described in the youth camp's
11 emergency plan; and

12 (2) ensure each evacuation route on the camp premises
13 is illuminated at night.

14 (n) Notwithstanding Section 141.0025, the department shall
15 not grant a waiver from a requirement prescribed under this section
16 or Chapter 762.

17 (o) An emergency plan submitted to, received by, or accessed
18 by the department, the Texas Division of Emergency Management, an
19 emergency management director or coordinator designated under
20 Section 418.1015, Government Code, or any other governmental entity
21 under this section is confidential and not subject to disclosure
22 under Chapter 552, Government Code.

1 (1) Internet services through a broadband service that
2 connects to the Internet using end-to-end fiber optic facilities;
3 and

4 (2) a secondary Internet connection through a
5 broadband service distinct from the service described under
6 Subdivision (1).

7 SECTION 5. Section 141.008(a), Health and Safety Code, is
8 amended to read as follows:

9 (a) The executive commissioner may adopt rules to implement
10 this chapter. In adopting the rules the executive commissioner
11 shall comply with Subchapter B, Chapter 2001, Government Code,
12 including Sections 2001.032(b) and 2001.033, Government Code. [~~In~~
13 ~~developing the rules to be adopted by the executive commissioner,~~
14 ~~the department shall consult parents, youth camp operators, and~~
15 ~~appropriate public and private officials and organizations.]~~

16 SECTION 6. Subtitle A, Title 9, Health and Safety Code, is
17 amended by adding Chapter 762 to read as follows:

18 CHAPTER 762. CAMPGROUND SAFETY

19 Sec. 762.001. DEFINITIONS. In this chapter:

20 (1) "Cabin" means a structure used to provide
21 temporary sleeping quarters for transient overnight guests.

22 (2) "Campground" means, regardless of profit:

1 operates, controls, or supervises a campground, regardless of
2 profit.

3 (4) "Floodplain" means any area within a 100-year
4 floodplain identified by the Federal Emergency Management Agency
5 under the National Flood Insurance Act of 1968 (42 U.S.C. Section
6 4001 et seq.). This term includes any area removed from the
7 100-year floodplain by a letter of map amendment, a letter of map
8 revision based on fill, or a substantially similar administrative
9 process conducted by the Federal Emergency Management Agency.

10 (5) "Governmental entity" means this state or a state
11 agency or political subdivision of this state.

12 Sec. 762.002. FLOODPLAIN SAFETY REQUIREMENTS. (a) A
13 campground operator shall:

14 (1) install and maintain in each campground cabin
15 located within the floodplain an emergency ladder capable of
16 providing access to the cabin's roof; and

17 (2) develop an emergency evacuation plan for:

18 (A) evacuating on issuance of a flash flood or
19 flood warning campground occupants who are at a campground area
20 within the floodplain;

21 (B) evacuating campground occupants on issuance
22 of an evacuation order by the emergency management director or

issuance of:

(i) a tornado warning; or

(ii) an order to shelter in place issued by the emergency management director or coordinator for the county or, if applicable, the municipality in which the campground is located.

(b) A campground operator shall:

(1) implement the emergency evacuation plan developed under Subsection (a)(2)(A) on issuance by the National Weather Service of a flash flood or flood warning for an area of the campground; and

(2) implement the emergency evacuation plan developed under Subsection (a)(2)(C) on issuance by the National Weather Service of a tornado warning for an area of the campground.

(c) A campground operator shall send a copy of an emergency evacuation plan developed under Subsection (a)(2) to:

(1) for a campground located in a municipality, the emergency management director or coordinator designated under Section 418.1015, Government Code, for the municipality; and

(2) the emergency management director or coordinator designated under Section 418.1015, Government Code, for the county.

(d) An emergency plan submitted to, received by, or accessed by an emergency management director or coordinator under Section

1 entity.

2 (b) A campground must comply with the National Fire
3 Protection Association 1194, Standard for Recreational Vehicle
4 Parks and Campgrounds, 2021 Edition, other than Sections 1.1.1 and
5 5.1.1.1.

6 (c) A governmental entity may adopt a policy, rule,
7 ordinance, or order to regulate environmental health and
8 sanitation, electrical distribution system safety, liquefied
9 petroleum gas storage and dispensing safety, or fire protection
10 only if the policy, rule, ordinance, or order does not impose
11 standards more stringent than the standards described under
12 Subsection (b).

13 SECTION 7. Section 141.0035(b), Health and Safety Code, is
14 repealed.

15 SECTION 8. Not later than January 1, 2026, the executive
16 commissioner of the Health and Human Services Commission shall
17 adopt the rules required by Section 141.0091, Health and Safety
18 Code, as added by this Act.

19 SECTION 9. Notwithstanding Section 141.0091, Health and
20 Safety Code, as added by this Act, a youth camp operator is not
21 required to submit a youth camp emergency plan to the Department of
22 State Health Services until April 1, 2026.

S.B. No. 1

1 the legislative session.

S.B. No. 1

President of the Senate

Speaker of the House

I hereby certify that S.B. No. 1 passed the Senate on August 21, 2025, by the following vote: Yeas 28, Nays 0; and that the Senate concurred in House amendment on September 3, 2025, by the following vote: Yeas 26, Nays 0.

Secretary of the Senate

I hereby certify that S.B. No. 1 passed the House, with amendment, on September 3, 2025, by the following vote: Yeas 120, Nays 4, one present not voting.

Chief Clerk of the House

Approved:

Date

Governor

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NOTICE OF PUBLIC FORUM
A public forum will be held on Tuesday, October 28, 2025, at 4:00 p.m. in the Memorial Drive Elementary School (MDE) library at 11202 Shrinidale Road, 77024, in consideration of the naming of the MDE science lab in memory of beloved MDE student Lucy Dilco-Lucy passed away in the July 4 food while a camper at Camp Mystic. #HCC202504

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Houston Chronicle file
Assistant Principal Nicole Perez shows leaking roof issues in a classroom during a tour of Durham Elementary School in June 2024 in Houston.

Over 2,200 HVAC complaints filed by HISD in August

By Megan Menchaca
STAFF WRITER

Houston ISD reported more than 2,200 heating, ventilation and air conditioning problems at schools and other district buildings in August, according to district data. HISD employees submitted 2,228 work orders for HVAC problems in August, including 119 emergency requests and 858 urgent requests. The work orders include multiple requests to fix air conditioning leaks, chillers in alarm, and rooms that were either too cold or too hot.

The volume of work orders was more than 15% higher than the previous year. In August 2024, HISD had 1,927 HVAC complaints, including 81 emergency complaints and 194 urgent complaints.

In both years, students began classes on Aug. 12. Waltrip High School in Houston's Oak Forest neighborhood had the highest number of incidents among any campus in the district, with 42 complaints. Nearly all of the work orders were for "routine" issues, which include requests to repair A/C units or leaks in certain rooms, records show.

Waltrip is one of 36 schools that will receive funds for roof and HVAC

improvements through the district's \$120 million maintenance tax note. The state-appointed Board of Managers approved the short-term, low-interest loan in May after the failure of a massive bond at the polls last year. Waltrip is slated to receive about \$4.2 million for roof upgrades and over \$500,000 for HVAC improvements from that new effort to deal with maintenance issues.

The other campuses with the highest number of HVAC complaints in August were Attucks Middle School, West University Elementary School, Fonville Middle School and Welch Middle School. Each school had at least 28 complaints reported.

While the majority of the affected buildings were schools, the list includes other facilities, such as Delmar Fieldhouse, the HISD Educational Learning Center and the Hattie Mae White Educational Support Center, where the Board of Managers meets.

HISD did not respond to a request for comment on the data. According to HISD's draft district improvement plan, administrators are aiming to reduce HVAC complaints about temperature control and air quality by 25% decrease by July 2026.

Houston ISD hikes property tax rates

By Nussaiba Mizan
STAFF WRITER

Houston ISD raised its 2025 tax rate Wednesday by nearly 3 cents per \$100 of taxable value.

The district used what's called "disaster pennies" that under Texas law helps school districts recover from disasters without voter approval. HISD incurred costs to respond to Hurricane Beryl damage last year, according to the appointed Board of Managers' meeting agenda.

HISD did not respond to questions about how much total additional revenue the increase would bring or how that additional revenue would be used.

The tax rate increased from \$0.8489 per \$100 of taxable value to \$0.8763, allocating the same amount of revenue toward bond debt and a greater amount toward maintenance and operations costs.

The maintenance and operations tax rate is now one cent higher than the previous tax year's, from \$0.706 to \$0.716. HISD's Chief of Finance and Business Services Jim Terry said Wednesday that HISD's total new tax rate is lower than other area school districts, including Pasadena, Spring, Pearland, Katy, Fort Bend, Aldine, Cypress-Fairbanks, Alief and Conroe ISDs.

The district is facing a decrease in assessed property value between the 2024 and 2025 tax years, from \$237 billion to \$238 billion, according to the Wednesday presentation.

Terry gave an estimated tax bill with average home value, average homestead exemption, average home-taxable value and the new tax rate, amounting to a total tax bill of \$2,217. This total bill is less than last year's tax bill, the presentation showed.

The district suffered nearly \$9.4 million in costs after Hurricane Beryl in July 2024 and \$6.4 million after a deadly May 2024 storm, for a total of \$15.8 million, according to January board documents.

It may take years for the insurance processes for the May derecho and Beryl to be completed. The claim for Hurricane Harvey in 2017, for example, was finalized in 2024, said HISD's deputy chief of finance and operations Alexis Licata.

In general, Houston ISD is limited in how much it can collect in tax revenue due to state law, and HISD had to commit to granting a 30% exemption of appraised value to property owners for tax year 2025. The Legislature does not allow a school district that adopted a percentage homestead exemption for tax year 2022 to reduce that exemption or repeal the exemption until 2027.

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Kids' Meals sets goal: Double daily meals for hungry children

By Maliya Ellis
STAFF WRITER

Forget glass facades or gleaming marble. Kids' Meals' new building in Spring Branch welcomes visitors with something far simpler: a giant brown paper bag, the everyday symbol of its mission.

"It's all about nutrition in a brown bag, in the hands of a hungry child," CEO Beth Harp told the Houston Chronicle.

With the opening of the 50,000-square-foot facility last month, Kids' Meals plans to scale up that mission. The goal is to pack and distribute 26,000 meals each weekday by 2031 — more than double the nonprofit's current reach of 10,000 a day. Realizing that goal will require more funding to buy ingredients and more volunteers to turn those ingredients into nutritious meals.

With that expected leap forward in capacity, Kids' Meals hopes to make a dent in the Houston area's significant need. Food insecurity in Harris County is triple the national average, according to a Rice University study. The city of Houston also has the highest child poverty rate of the country's largest 10 cities, with 31.7% of Houstonians 18 or younger living below the federal poverty line.

The new ExxonMobil campus — named for the energy giant's \$3 million donation — now houses all operations and doubles volunteer capacity, Harp said.

It also features an onsite cafe with food that staff and volunteers can purchase, operated by partner nonprofit Belong Kitchen and staffed by 11 adults with intellectual disabilities.

Its warehouse space also nearly triples its previous inventory capacity, with space for 22 semi trucks worth of food compared with the previously building's eight trucks' worth. Limited space at the former location meant Kids' Meals occasionally declined donations, including \$45,000 worth of cheese, said COO John Day. Now, the nonprofit's cavernous warehouse means it can accept most donations — including more fresh produce — and unlock cost savings by buying in bulk.

"Now we say yes to everything — everything that's healthy," Day said. The building's layout is designed for efficiency. First, volunteers assemble the brown bags in a large, light-filled room; then the lunches are packed into black coolers and stacked in a refrigerated space next door; from there, 23 full-time van drivers or "hope providers," in Kids' Meals parlance) load the coolers up and set out on their regular delivery routes.

"We have it down to a science," Harp said.

The Kirksey Architects-



Michelle Watson/Courtesy of Kids' Meals

Kids' Meals' new building opened Sept. 24 in Spring Branch.

ture-designed building also has sprinkles of whimsy, from spherical bollards in the parking lot that look like red delicious apples, to a refurbished 1969 Volkswagen bus in the lobby, to a gallery-style display of hand-painted brown paper bags mounted on the wall. A 10,000-square-foot lawn outside serves both as an event space and as a potential site to expand the warehouse.

The lighthearted touches are meant to defray the stigma that families in need can feel when asking for help, Harp said. Families are eligible for Kids' Meals if they live in one of 56 ZIP codes in Harris and Montgomery counties, have at least one child 5 or under, and fall below certain monthly income thresholds (\$4,957 a month for a family of four). Kids' Meals focuses on preschool-aged children because they are too young to access free school meals, but the nonprofit serves every child in the household when school isn't in session.

Each meal contains a protein item, snack, fruit, water, juice and milk, served in a brown bag adorned with a volunteer-drawn illustration. On a recent weekday, corporate volunteers placed slices of ham and cheese on tortillas, paired with trail mix and oranges.

The nonprofit, founded in 2006, has ambitions beyond emergency assistance. Kids' Meals services can save parents up to \$9 a day per child, money that parents can allocate toward longer-term goals like saving for educational needs, Harp said. And starting this month, Kids' Meals plans to host monthly workshops on topics like financial literacy and technology assistance through partnerships with other community groups, with the aim of equipping residents with tools for self-sufficiency.

But in Harp's view, even the act of delivering a free meal to a struggling family's door can be a small step toward disrupting the cycle of generational poverty.

"That's how you help people get out," she said. "You offer them hope that there is a way out."

KATY

From page A2

public that focuses on student gains."

Under scrutiny

The pattern of prolonged disputes has played out most visibly during debates over social and cultural policies that have drawn national scrutiny. The board has faced repeated controversy over book removals and policies affecting transgender students.

In 2024, trustees voted 5-2 to expand book ban criteria to include works referencing gender fluidity, a move that split the board and drew national coverage.

Earlier, a 4-3 vote required staff to notify par-

ents if a student requests a different name or pronoun at school — prompting emotional testimony from students and families who said the policy endangered them.

These ideological fights, paired with marathon meetings and tense exchanges, have fueled frustration and perceptions of dysfunction. The governance workshop was intended to help the seven-member board move beyond those divisions and recenter its work on academics.

The board's composition shifted after the May election, when former president Victor Perez lost his seat to James Cross, who campaigned on reducing political fights and focusing on student performance.

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Families hoping to use vouchers for schools like the Westview School in Houston can begin applying in February.**Voucher program to start in February**

Contract details how, when state will dole out money for private school, homeschool costs

**By Isaac Yu
and Elizabeth Sander**
STAFF WRITERS

Texas families interested in school vouchers will be able to apply beginning in February, according to newly obtained documents outlining the rollout of the landmark \$1 billion program.

The window for families to sign their children up is set to run from Feb. 4 to March 20. Decisions about awarded vouchers will be finalized by May 1, with the money accessible in digital wallets beginning July 1.

The timeline, detailed in contracting documents obtained by Hearst Newspapers via a public records request, is the most specific plan seen so far for the new Texas Education Freedom Accounts program, which will provide state dollars to pay a wide variety of educational expenses, including private school tuition and homeschool costs. Families had previously been told to expect applications to open in "early 2026."

The program is meant to prioritize low-income families and projected to serve around 100,000 students. Families will be eligible to receive up to \$10,500 for children in private school, up to \$30,000 for children with special needs, or \$2,000 for homeschoolers for the 2026-27 school year.

The proposed timeline conflicts with the typical application deadlines for many private schools, with some accepting applications only until the end of 2025 or early 2026. That means many families may need to decide to apply to private school before knowing whether the school will be approved for use with a voucher, or whether they will receive a voucher at all.

For example, at Awty International School, a highly rated private school in Houston with tuition at \$36,600 for this year, prospective students must apply before Jan. 15 and will receive admissions notifications by March 5, according to the website. Students must reply to the offer of admission and enroll by March 25, almost two months before families are scheduled to receive a final notification of a voucher award on May 1.

Awty has not yet made a public statement about whether the school will apply to be part of the program. Many area schools, like The Westview School, a private school for students with autism, are awaiting the release of the final rules for the program by the comptroller before making a decision, which are expected by the end of the month.

The documents also show that Odyssey, the New York-based technology firm selected to run the program last week, received a contract worth

\$26 million that runs over the next two years, with an option for the state to renew it for two more years.

Before the year's end, eligible private schools and vendors can apply to be recipients of the allotted funding, according to the contract. Odyssey expects to open those applications on Dec. 2.

Odyssey, which was founded in 2021 and also runs school choice programs in Louisiana, Georgia, Utah and Iowa, was selected as the vendor from among companies that submitted bids for the lucrative contract, which is expected to grow alongside the program in coming years.

Legislators had budgeted up to 5% of the program's costs for a technology vendor, or up to \$50 million over the first two years.

The contract outlines some penalties that would be imposed if Odyssey does not meet certain performance standards, such as keeping its online platforms running and processing transactions quickly.

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Odyssey was the top-scoring company in previous performance and its proposal, according to a scoring rubric of the finalist proposals. Both Classroom and Student First Technologies' bids also came in at a much higher estimated cost, priced at around \$40 or \$50 million, respectively, over the two years.

The comptroller's office has also initiated a plan to market the program to families statewide, slated to begin Oct. 31. Odyssey will partner with three companies, according to the subcontracting plan it submitted: Steel Digital Studios Inc., an Austin-based digital advertiser; Ivanovo, a political and strategic communications firm; and Outschool.org, a nonprofit that has participated in outreach for voucher programs in Virginia, Arkansas and South Carolina. The three subcontractors will receive around \$1.2 million of Odyssey's total contract.

Steel Digital Studios and Outschool.org were selected based on their "specialized expertise and proven success in reaching Texas families, schools and vendors, particularly in underserved and rural communities," Odyssey stated in the documents.

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Texas families interested in school vouchers will be able to apply beginning in February, according to newly obtained documents outlining the rollout of the landmark \$1 billion program.

The window for families to sign their children up is set to run from Feb. 4 to March 20. Decisions about awarded vouchers will be finalized by May 1, with the money accessible in digital wallets beginning July 1.

The timeline, detailed in contracting documents obtained by Hearst Newspapers via a public records request, is the most specific plan seen so far for the new Texas Education Freedom Accounts program, which will provide state dollars to pay a wide variety of educational expenses, including private school tuition and homeschool costs. Families had previously been told to expect applications to open in "early 2026."

The program is meant to prioritize low-income families and projected to serve around 100,000 students. Families will be eligible to receive up to \$10,500 for children in private school, up to \$30,000 for children with special needs, or \$2,000 for homeschoolers for the 2026-27 school year.

The proposed timeline conflicts with the typical application deadlines for many private schools, with some accepting applications only until the end of 2025 or early 2026. That means many families may need to decide to apply to private school before knowing whether the school will be approved for use with a voucher, or whether they will receive a voucher at all.

For example, at Awty International School, a highly rated private school in Houston with tuition at \$36,600 for this year, prospective students must apply before Jan. 15 and will receive admissions notifications by March 5, according to the website. Students must reply to the offer of admission and enroll by March 25, almost two months before families are scheduled to receive final notification of a voucher award on May 1.

Awty has not yet made a public statement about whether the school will apply to be part of the program. Many area schools, like The Westview School, a private school for students with autism, are awaiting the release of the final rules for the program by the comptroller before making a decision, which are expected by the end of the month.

The documents also show that Odyssey, the New York-based technology firm selected to run the program last week, received a contract worth

\$26 million that runs over the next two years, with an option for the state to renew it for two more years.

Before the year's end, eligible private schools and vendors can apply to be recipients of the allotted funding, according to the contract. Odyssey expects to open those applications on Dec. 2.

Odyssey, which was founded in 2021 and also runs school choice programs in Louisiana, Georgia, Utah and Iowa, was selected as the vendor from among companies that submitted bids for the lucrative contract, which is expected to grow alongside the program in coming years.

Legislators had budgeted up to 5% of the program's costs for a technology vendor, or up to \$50 million over the first two years.

The contract outlines some penalties that would be imposed if Odyssey does not meet certain performance standards, such as keeping its online platforms running and processing transactions quickly.

The program is meant to prioritize low-income families and projected to serve around 100,000 students. Families will be eligible to receive up to \$10,500 for children in private school, up to \$30,000 for children with special needs, or \$2,000 for homeschoolers for the 2026-27 school year.

Odyssey was the top-scoring company in previous performance and its proposal, according to a scoring rubric of the finalist proposals. Both Classroom and Student First Technologies' bids also came in at a much higher estimated cost, priced at around \$40 or \$50 million, respectively, over the two years.

The comptroller's office has also initiated a plan to market the program to families statewide, slated to begin Oct. 31. Odyssey will partner with three companies, according to the subcontracting plan it submitted: Steel Digital Studios Inc., an Austin-based digital advertiser; Ivanovo, a political and strategic communications firm; and Outschool.org, a nonprofit that has participated in outreach for voucher programs in Virginia, Arkansas and South Carolina. The three subcontractors will receive around \$1.2 million of Odyssey's total contract.

Steel Digital Studios and Outschool.org were selected based on their "specialized expertise and proven success in reaching Texas families, schools and vendors, particularly in underserved and rural communities," Odyssey stated in the documents.

HOUSTON CHRONICLE
AFFIDAVIT OF PUBLICATION
STATE OF TEXAS:

Before me, the undersigned authority, a Notary Public in and for the State of Texas, on this day personally appeared, a Newspaper Representative for the Hearst Newspapers, LLC – dba HOUSTON CHRONICLE, a newspaper published in Harris County, Texas, and generally circulated in the Counties of HARRIS, TRINITY, WALKER, GRIMES, POLK, SAN JACINTO, WASHINGTON, MONTGOMERY, LIBERTY, AUSTIN, WALLER, CHAMBERS, COLORADO, BRAZORIA, FORT BEND, GALVESTON, WHARTON, JACKSON, and MATAGORDIA and that the publication, of which the annexed herein, or attached to, is a true and correct copy, was published to wit.

SPRING BRANCH ISD SIZE BEING : 1.51" x 1.00"

10/22/2025 Examiner (West University,
River Oaks, Bellaire), Memorial Examiner,
Sugar Land Sun, The Katy Rancher

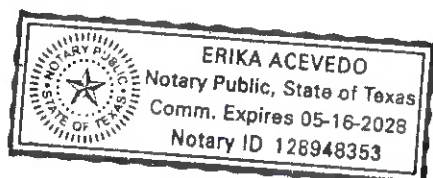


NEWSPAPER REPRESENTATIVE (signature)



NEWSPAPER REPRESENTATIVE (printed)

Sworn and subscribed to before me, the 22 Day of October A.D. 2025



Notary Public in and for the State of Texas

NOTICE OF PUBLIC FORUM
A public forum will be held on Tuesday,
October 28, 2025, at 4:00 p.m. in the
Memorial Drive Elementary School
(MDE) library at 11202 Smithdale Road,
77024, in consideration of the naming
of the MDE science lab in memory of
beloved MDE student Lucy Dillon. Lucy
passed away in the July 4 flood while a
camper at Camp Mystic.
IPLHCN0106142

Memorial Drive Elementary CIT
Agenda
October 22, 2025

- Proposal to dedicate room 133 in honor of Lucy Dillon.
- [SBISD Board Policy](#) for dedicating a facility requires CIT approval followed by a public forum.
- If the CIT Team and public forum strongly support the proposal, evidence of that support shall be forwarded to the Board's facilities liaison for next steps.
- [MDE 2024 Data Presentation](#)
- 2025-26 Campus Improvement Plan Review
 - Goal 1- Student Achievement
 - RTI Meetings 10/21. Several new students are in process to receive intervention and/or receive a full individual evaluations
 - Parent Conferences scheduled Thursday and Friday
 - For the first time, fifth grade did not have any unidentified students to refer for intervention. The RTI system is working!
 - Goal 2- Student Support
 - Proud Pony Nominations Open to encourage T-2-4 Characteristics: Empathetic and Self-Aware
 - Goal 3- Safe Schools
 - The Campus Safety Committee Meeting for October was a success.
 - All drills have been completed.
 - Goal 4- Fiscal Responsibility
 - Total in supplies \$16,616
 - Total remaining as of 10/22- \$14,506

Future Meetings: 1/21, 2/18, 3/25, 5/20

MPE CIT Sign-in

10/22/25

				Attendance
Thayer Hutcheson	Chair		thayer.hutcheson@springbranchisd.com	Thayer Hutcheson
Molly Welch	1 of 2	Teacher	molly.welch@springbranchisd.com	
Shelby Rushing	1 of 2	Teacher	shelby.rushing@springbranchisd.com	Shelby Rushing
Sarah Telle	1 of 2	Teacher	sarah.telle@springbranchisd.com	Sarah Telle
Isabella Leggio	1 of 2	Teacher	isabella.leggio@springbranchisd.com	Isabella Leggio
Molly Stroube	1 of 2	Teacher	Molly.Stroube@springbranchisd.com	Molly Stroube
Lauren Tschoepe	1 of 2	Parent	lauren.tschoepe@gmail.com	Lauren Tschoepe
Whitney Bolling	1 of 2	Parent	Whitneyherring@gmail.com	Whitney Bolling
Carrie Compton	2 of 2	Parent	Carriefcompton@gmail.com	Carrie Compton
Whitney Janke	2 of 2	Parent	WhitneyJanke@gmail.com	Whitney Janke
Melanie Baldridge	1 of 2	Business Representative	melanie.baldridge@gmail.com	Melanie Baldridge

Memorial Drive Elementary CIT

Minutes

October 22, 2025

Nine CIT Members in Attendance

- Proposal to dedicate room 133 in honor of Lucy Dillon.
 - Discussion of proposed dedication of the current STEAM lab in honor of beloved MDE student Lucy Dillon. The principal explained the process in accordance with SBISD Board Policy CW (Local).
 - A vote was held and all nine members voted in favor of dedicating the classroom in honor of Lucy Dillon.
- [SBISD Board Policy](#) for dedicating a facility requires CIT approval followed by a public forum.
 - Public Forum will be held at MDE Tuesday, October 28 at 4:00 p.m. in the MDE media center.
- [MDE 2024 Data Presentation](#)
 - A brief overview of the data that has been covered in previous CIT meetings. Reinforcement of the huge success in ranking number one in Closing the Gaps among our cohort.
- 2025-26 Campus Improvement Plan Review
 - Goal 1- Student Achievement
 - RTI Meetings 10/21. Several new students are in process to receive intervention and/or receive a full individual evaluations
 - Teachers explained the Response to Intervention process and what happens during those meetings.
 - We covered the work that teachers do to prepare for the meeting, including data collection.
 - Explanation of how a student moves from classroom intervention to intervention with the reading or math specialist.
 - Parent Conferences scheduled Thursday and Friday

- For the first time, fifth grade did not have any unidentified students to refer for intervention. The RTI system is working!
 - The principal discussed the significance of having no new students in fifth grade identified for RTI. The fifth grade teacher said that there were approximately 8 students identified for Intervention at this time last year. This is a huge improvement!
- Goal 2- Student Support
 - Proud Pony Nominations Open to encourage T-2-4 Characteristics: Empathetic and Self-Aware
 - Discussion of the positive impact of celebrating positive behaviors during discipline assemblies.
 - Positive parent feedback about the Crust Pizza certificates given to the Proud Pony recipients.
- Goal 3- Safe Schools
 - The Campus Safety Committee Meeting for October was a success.
 - Discussion about the important role Officer Carlton Fishback plays in keeping our community safe and building trusting relationships.
 - Teachers reported that their students have been so excited about receiving their “Tickets” from Officer Carl when they are “caught reading.”
 - All drills have been completed.
- Goal 4- Fiscal Responsibility
 - Total in supplies \$16,616
 - Total remaining as of 10/22- \$14,506
 - Staff shared that having a color printer upstairs is a huge help.
 - Very positive feedback about our new technologist and all of the support he has provided to the staff.
 - General discussion about kindergarten roundup and what steps we can take to estimate how many kindergarten students we can expect next year and


how we can rebuild a robust Kindergarten Roundup. Three CIT members have students in Pre-K, so they are excited about this opportunity.


Future Meetings: 1/21, 2/18, 3/25, 5/20


				Attendance
Thayer Hutcheson	Chair		thayer.hutcheson@springbranchisd.com	X
Molly Welch	1 of 2	Teacher	molly.welch@springbranchisd.com	
Shelby Rushing	1 of 2	Teacher	shelby.rushing@springbranchisd.com	X
Sarah Telle	1 of 2	Teacher	sarah.telle@springbranchisd.com	X
Isabella Leggio	1 of 2	Teacher	isabella.leggio@springbranchisd.com	X
Molly Stroube	1 of 2	Teacher	Molly.Stroube@springbranchisd.com	X
Lauren Tschoepe	1 of 2	Parent	lauren.tschoepe@gmail.com	X
Whitney Bolling	1 of 2	Parent	Whitneyherring@gmail.com	X
Carrie Compton	2 of 2	Prarent	Carriefcompton@gmail.com	
Whitney Janke	2 of 2	Parent	WhitneyJanke@gmail.com	X
Melanie Baldridge	1 of 2	Business Representative	melanie.baldridge@gmail.com	X





ENROLL NOW FOR THE 2025-26 SCHOOL YEAR


**Anonymous Reporting**


**Back to School**


**Bond 2017**


**Bus Schedule**


**Canvas**


**Extracurricular**


**Meals**

**Flyers**

**Principal's Message**

**PTA**

**SBISD in Session**

**Student State Testing Results**

CONTACT
Office Hours: 7:30 AM - 4:00 PM
School Hours: 7:50 AM - 3:05 PM
Principal: Thayer Hutcheson
Asst. Principal: Bethany Goodrich
713.251.6300
713.251.9659 fax
f x @

Calendar

Tue OCT 28
Parent U Four Year Planning and Advanced Academics (8th grade families)
6:00 pm - 7:00 pm
Zoom - Link provided after registration for event

Tue NOV 11
Parent U Building Bridges to Middle School (5th grade families)
6:00 pm - 7:00 pm
Zoom - Link provided after registration for event

Mon NOV 24
Holiday - Student/Staff
all day

Tue NOV 25
Holiday - Student/Staff
all day

[View full calendar](#)

School news

**Notice of public forum to be held Oct. 28, 2025**
October 23, 2025

**The Pony Express - October 17, 2025**
October 17, 2025

**Reminder**
Students will be dismissed at
Early Dismissal - Thurs., Oct. 23 AND Fri., Oct. 24 at 11:30
October 16, 2025

**Dyslexia Hub**
October 2, 2025

[More news](#)

District Facilities

Facility Rentals

Facility Use Community
Calendar

DISTRICT FACILITIES

For attendance zones, view the [SBISD district map](#) and [SchoolSearch map of zoned schools](#).

News

[Notice of public forum to be held Oct. 28, 2025](#)

Interactive Maps:

- ▶ [Agricultural Science Center](#)
- ▶ [Darrell Tully Stadium](#)
- ▶ [Don Coleman Coliseum](#)
- ▶ [East Transition Campus](#)
- ▶ [W.W. Emmons Natatorium](#)
- ▶ [Reggie Grob Stadium](#)
- ▶ [Robert A Vines Science Center](#)
- ▶ [SBISD Administration Building \(Wayne F. Schaper, Sr. Leadership Center\)](#)
- ▶ [Art Museum \(AYAM\)](#)
- ▶ [SBISD Central Warehouse](#)
- ▶ [SBISD Police Command Station](#)
- ▶ [South Transition Campus](#)
- ▶ [Tax Office](#)
- ▶ [Technology Training Center](#)
- ▶ [West Support Center](#)

Spring Branch Independent School District

955 Campbell Rd.
Houston, TX 77024
713.464.1511



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