

Curriculum & Instruction Department

To: Barry Edwards & the BISD Board of Trustees
From: Jennifer Eberly, Chief Academic Officer
Date: May 2025
Re: Board Report

Accountability & Compliance: Rachel Roepke

The past month, the C&I team has been developing our summer professional learning offerings. Throughout June and July, we will provide a variety of professional learning opportunities designed to enhance our teachers' skills and expertise. We're excited about our New Teacher Academy set for late July, where new educators can dive deep into valuable resources and strategies. We look forward to supporting our teachers' professional growth!

College, Career, and Military Readiness: Raina Ellis

P-TECH Signing Days - We recently held signing days at BHS and CCHS for our 9th graders who are committing to workforce dual credit classes next year through the P-TECH Health Science Academy and Advanced Manufacturing Academy. Our Health Science Academy rising seniors were presented with their Pharmacy Tech scrubs. Our Advanced Manufacturing rising seniors were recognized for the completion of their Level 1 Certificate.

Senior Awards Night - This week we celebrate the accomplishments of our graduating seniors. Students will be honored for their academic achievements, recognized for scholarships generously provided by our local community, and acknowledged for their commitment to serve in the U.S. Armed Forces. We will also highlight merit-based awards granted by post-secondary institutions.

Digital Learning & Library Services: Chris Lairscey



STEAMFest 2025

STEAMFest 2025 was a great success! Around 200 K-12 students from across the district explored STEAM-related activities, presented exhibition and competition projects, and connected learning to the real world. Some of the featured events included an inflatable planetarium, Colorado River mobile interactive exhibit, drones flight course, an AI-themed "escape room", and much

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more. You can see the excitement from the event on [BISD socials](#). We are so thankful for the many volunteers and supporters that made this event happen for our students.

Verizon Innovative Learning Schools Partnership Value

As an update from a question received last week on the total estimated value of the VILS grant. While a portion of the award consists of in-kind contributions, such as donated equipment, connectivity services, and valuable training opportunities, we've conducted a thorough analysis to arrive at a robust estimate. We currently project the total value of this partnership to be approximately \$1.7 million over its initial term. It's important to note that this figure does not include the potential for significant additional value should we successfully extend the partnership for the optional two-year period.

Fine Arts: Marc Telles

On Monday, April 28, the Jerry Fay Wilhelm Center for the Performing Arts was transformed into a dynamic gallery space for the Bastrop ISD Art Show, presented in partnership with the Salinas Art Contest. The exhibition featured an impressive collection of student artwork from every elementary and secondary campus, celebrating the incredible talent and creativity fostered through our visual arts programs. The event was well attended and served as a testament to the dedication of our fine arts educators and the artistic excellence of our students.

As we move into May, our Fine Arts calendar is full of spring showcases and concerts. We look forward to welcoming families, community members, and district leaders to experience the continued celebration of the arts at the Performing Arts Center and on our campuses.

[\[Click here to view the schedule of upcoming events at the Jerry Fay Wilhelm Center for the Performing Arts.\]](#)

Bilingual Department: Lizbeth Moore

We are excited to welcome Lizbeth Moore to the team! She joined us for a C&I end of the year celebration on May 6th and will officially start with BISD on May 19th. We are ready for her to take the lead with the department and continue to move the great work forward.

Special Programs & Services: Derek Eberly

Our department has been engaged in exploring innovative approaches to services and support for our students. Recognizing a gap between the supply and demand for special education teachers, we've prioritized recruitment and retention initiatives. We're piloting transformative service delivery models for the upcoming year, including dedicated case managers at CCMS and CCHS, two of our highest-need campuses. Our aim is to reduce the

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administrative burden on our Special Education teachers, granting them invaluable time for planning with other teachers in their content area and provide direct student support. We have already seen some excitement as we seek to recruit and retain the best special education teachers possible for our students.

Teaching and Learning: Jennifer Eberly

TEA RBIS Pilot

Bastrop ISD is wrapping up participation in the Research-Based Instructional Strategies (RBIS) Pilot in partnership with the Texas Education Agency (TEA) and TNTP, a national organization focused on advancing education through effective teaching. As a reminder, Bastrop ISD was the first and only district to engage with TEA and TNTP with this work.

This pilot aims to support the implementation of high-impact instructional practices grounded in research. As part of the initiative, educators in BISD have engaged in targeted training, participated in focus groups, and taken part in classroom walk-throughs to observe and reflect on instructional strategies in action. The feedback and data collected from these activities are helping to shape the effectiveness and scalability of the RBIS approach. Insights gained from Bastrop ISD's participation will inform future rollouts of the RBIS framework across the state. This collaborative effort underscores the district's commitment to continuous improvement and instructional excellence.