

Bellville ISD State of the District ---

January 2026

As the center of public education in our community, the mission of Bellville ISD is to partner with students, staff, parents, and community to cultivate relevant learning experiences so that each individual is empowered by their unique gifts and interests.

Quick Recap

Dr. Poenitzsch, the current superintendent of Bellville ISD, joined the District in 2019. While her first year in the District included navigating the COVID-19 pandemic, the District team also focused quite a bit of time and effort to engage parents, students, and community members in the task of defining the District's culture and establishing a vision for the work of the District.

These early efforts resulted in the creation of the "Portrait of a BISD Learner" which outlines six traits that parents want to have children develop during their time in BISD. BISD Learners: 1) Recognize and apply their unique gifts and strengths; 2) Value learning and personal growth; 3) Think critically and creatively; 4) Exhibit Character and kindness; 5) Demonstrate drive and personal responsibility; 6) Lead and communicate effectively.

Bellville ISD established a Local Accountability System to monitor progress toward development of the traits outlined in the Portrait of a Learner and received donations, a large grant, and secured a corporate partner to create the BISD Learner Portfolio to capture students' learning journey beyond grades and test scores.

In 2022, Bellville ISD sold three land assets to generate the funds needed to purchase and renovate the location on the Bellville square to serve as the BISD Learning Center. The BISD Learning Center houses career-based courses such as Culinary Arts, Graphic Design, Entrepreneurship, and Health Science for students in grades 7-12. The BISD Learning Center serves approximately 500 students annually and is home to "Brahmas on the Square" which is a student-run restaurant, student run store, and community museum that is open to the public during lunch on Friday's and on Saturday's in conjunction with Bellville Market Days. Students at the Learning Center also participate in community events such as Small Town Halloween and Small Town Christmas.

In 2023, Bellville ISD passed a bond to build a new junior high and address some of the renovations and upgrades needed at all campuses. In 2024, the Bellville ISD Board of Trustees was named the Region 6 School Board of the Year, and Dr. Poenitzsch was named the Texas Superintendent of the Year.

Academic Accountability

Bellville ISD is currently rated a C by the Texas Education Agency. This rating is based on students' performance on STAAR Tests administered to students in grades 3-10 in areas of reading, math, science, and social studies. In 2023, Bellville ISD was rated as a B district. In 2024 and 2025, state and federal laws were updated to require that all students, even those traditionally served in our

self-contained special education programs, must take the same on-grade level, computer-based assessment. Following this change, Bellville ISD was rated a C in 2024 and 2025.

For the 2024-2025 school year, Bellville ISD campuses were rated as follows: Bellville High School (B), Bellville Junior High (B), O'Bryant Intermediate (C), O'Bryant Primary (C), West End Elementary (B).

In order to promote greater levels of achievement in Academic Performance, Bellville ISD has implemented a new comprehensive curriculum in reading in grades K-5, and math in grades K-9 and has adopted a performance management approach that is student-driven and data informed, with weekly data reflections to monitor students' progress and adapt and respond accordingly.

Current State of the District

Bellville ISD currently has 2330 students enrolled in grades PK-12. This is approximately 30 students more than last year's enrollment and is a record high for the District. Bellville ISD has approximately 350 full-time employees with an average teacher salary of approximately \$66,380. Bellville ISD is 385 square miles. BISD transports approximately 1,200 students each day, travelling 3,000 miles and making approximately 1,197 bus stops with 21 bus drivers in our transportation team. The BISD Child Nutrition Program operates on all five campuses with 20 team members serving approximately 1,635 meals each day between breakfast and lunch. Each BISD campus has a designated nurse on staff and each year our nursing team tends to approximately 7,200 scheduled visits, 5,130 unscheduled visits, 3,000 vision and hearing screenings, and 170 scoliosis screenings (which are required by the state).

Bellville ISD is proud to open the newly constructed junior high campus this spring. The new campus was approximately a \$47M project and stayed under budget and on time. Work to renovate exterior walls at West End Elementary was done in the summer of 2024. A restroom and storage addition at West End was constructed in the fall of 2025. The interior finishes were updated and a new A/C chiller system was installed in O'Bryant Primary in the summer of 2025. Multiple HVAC units were replaced at Bellville High School during the 2024-2025 school year. Work to renovate the current junior high campus to prepare it to become the new O'Bryant Intermediate campus will take place in the spring of 2026. Students in grades 3, 4, and 5 will begin school at their new location in the existing junior high building at the beginning of the 2026-2027 school year. The existing O'Bryant Intermediate campus site will be repurposed to serve as parking and traffic flow for the O'Bryant Primary campus. This transition will take place during the summer of 2026.

On the Horizon

During the 2025 Legislative Session, our legislative representatives and Governor Abbott established an agenda to expand school options to include elevated funding for private schools and fully fund virtual education options provided through public and/or private schools. There has been a 1200% increase in enrollment in virtual education in the past decade and multiple districts across the state of Texas are moving forward with offering fully virtual options to all Texas families.

In order to ensure that Bellville ISD adapts to the new context for educational access, Bellville ISD leaders are preparing to pilot a Hybrid Learning Program for students in grades 7-12. Hybrid Learning is designed to provide online learning opportunities to students while still requiring enrollment in at least one onsite class to ensure learners are incorporated into the culture and accustomed to the expectations of Bellville ISD. The Hybrid Learning Program is being recommended as a small pilot of no more than 20 students for the 2026-2027 school year to allow the District the opportunity to ensure that the program is successful and aligns with “The Bellville Way”.

Bellville ISD is constantly adapting to new challenges, new situations, and new circumstances. As the landscape of education continues to evolve and accountability standards continue to change, BISD aims to ensure our learners’ have meaningful and challenging experiences that help prepare them for their futures. BISD values the partnerships we have with our parents and businesses and the support we’ve received from our community. BISD has become a pillar among districts in Texas with the reputation of being exceptional in areas of arts, ag, athletics, and innovation. Our students and staff are frequently commended for their exceptional character, humility, respect, work ethic, and performance. As we adapt and evolve, BISD maintains the ultimate aim of being a source of pride for our Bellville Community.