

Temple Independent School District Report Cover Page

Topic:	Temple High School Kittens – Participation in Macy’s 100th Thanksgiving Day Parade, New York City
Presenter:	Catrina Lotspeich, Director of Fine Arts Jason Mayo, Principal, Temple HS Kelci Bjornlie, Head Dance Director, Temple HS
Date:	January 12, 2026
Goal:	Goal #6 Temple ISD will develop, facilitate, and support strategies to increase the attendance and participation of students, parents and staff in school-related activities.
Executive Summary:	<p>The Temple High School Dance Department is seeking approval for the Temple High School Kittens to participate in the 100th Macy’s Thanksgiving Day Parade in New York City from November 22–27, 2026 (departure date may shift to November 23 depending on final travel arrangements). The trip will take place during the Thanksgiving break and students will not miss any school.</p> <p>Spirit of America Productions has partnered with the Macy’s Thanksgiving Day Parade for 40 years and annually invites a limited number of high school and studio dance teams to perform. The Temple High School Kittens have been selected through a competitive audition process as one of the teams invited to participate in the 2026 parade.</p> <p>All current Kittens who are eligible to return for the 2026–2027 school year will be permitted to attend. The group will depart Temple High School by charter bus to either Austin or DFW airport, depending on flight availability and cost.</p> <p>Spirit of America will provide hotel accommodations, chaperones, meal cards, parade attire, and planned excursions including a Broadway show, the Radio City Music Hall Rockettes, and a visit to the Statue of Liberty. Additional supports include 24-hour security, on-site medical staff, and a 25:1 participant-to-chaperone ratio. Summit Travel will coordinate round-trip transportation, meals on travel days, and Thanksgiving dinner.</p>
Cost Estimate:	<p>The estimated cost is approximately \$4,250 per participant (students and chaperones). This includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Round-trip transportation

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hotel accommodations at a centrally located New York Hilton property • Broadway performance • Radio City Music Hall Rockettes show • 9/11 Museum • Harbor cruise and Statue of Liberty • Subway metro pass • All parade-related fees, attire, and activities <p>Students will have ongoing fundraising opportunities throughout the year. It is possible for many students to cover most or all of their trip cost through active participation in fundraising.</p>
Budget Impact:	<p>Some costs associated with room occupancy may be supported through 199 funds, as student pricing is based on quad occupancy. Spirit of America may place non-TISD students into partially filled rooms; district funds will be used to avoid mixed-room assignments and ensure TISD students room together.</p> <p>Additional district funds may be used to support travel costs for the dance directors and a fine arts administrator.</p> <p>The majority of trip expenses will be covered through student payments and fundraising.</p>
Recommendation:	<p>Administration recommends approval for out-of-state travel for the Temple High School Kittens to participate in the 2026 Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade.</p>