

## **Board Recognition** **February 24, 2026**

### **TMEA All State Musicians**

Earning All-State honors through the Texas Music Educators Association (TMEA) is the highest distinction available to high school musicians in Texas. Each year, tens of thousands of students begin the audition process at the regional level, performing challenging repertoire before expert judging panels. Only the top musicians advance to Area auditions, where the most outstanding performers in the state are ultimately selected to perform in one of 18 elite All-State ensembles representing band, orchestra, and choir.

Being named a TMEA All-State musician reflects not only exceptional musical ability, but also months of preparation, discipline, and commitment to excellence. Denton ISD is proud to recognize the following students and their directors for this remarkable accomplishment:

### **Braswell High School**

*Nick Schiller*, Jazz Band, Bass Trombone, All-State Jazz Ensemble 2

- Directors: Aaron Snipes, Matt Sawyer, Taylor Sitzman

Ian Wingert, Orchestra, String Bass, All-State Sinfonietta Orchestra

- Director: Dr. Nicole Laborte

### **Denton High School**

*Travis McLemore*, Choir, Tenor 2, All-State Tenor Bass Choir

- Director: Kaitlyn Candler

*Luna Brooks*, Band, Flute, All-State 5A Band

- Directors: Lance Walker and Dan Rubiano

### **Guyer High School**

*Kennedy Dixon*, Band, Trumpet, All-State 6A Band

- Directors: Rob Myers and Jeremy Earnhart

*Sarah Bird*, Choir, Alto 2, All-State Mixed Choir

- Directors: Katherine Engle and Tyler Fox

*Sophia Gallamore*, Choir, Alto 1, All-State Treble Choir

- Directors: Katherine Engle and Tyler Fox

*Zaria Lawson*, Choir, Alto 2, All-State Treble Choir

- Directors: Katherine Engle and Tyler Fox

*Mark Eads*, Orchestra, String Bass, All-State Symphony Orchestra

- Directors: Michelle Hanlon and Deohanz Buenafe

## **Ryan High School**

Nicolas Mills, Choir, Tenor 1, All-State Tenor Bass Choir

- Directors: David Rives and Sam Kats

## **Teacher Residents**

Denton ISD's Teacher Residency Program provides a paid, hands-on pathway for aspiring educators to earn their teaching certification while gaining real-world experience in Denton ISD classrooms. Through partnerships with the University of North Texas and Texas Woman's University, residents complete certification coursework while working alongside experienced mentor teachers and campus leaders.

Residents spend dedicated time each week on a Denton ISD campus, actively engaging with students and collaborating with instructional teams. This immersive model allows future educators to immediately apply their learning, build meaningful relationships, and develop the confidence and skills necessary for long-term success in the classroom.

Unlike traditional certification pathways, the program includes \$20,000 in compensation plus benefits, helping remove financial barriers and allowing residents to fully focus on their professional growth.

Upon successful completion, residents are prepared to transition into full-time teaching roles within Denton ISD. Each year, the district celebrates this achievement through a Signing Day event, officially welcoming residents into the Denton ISD family and reinforcing the district's commitment to growing and sustaining a strong, future-ready educator workforce.

Denton ISD is proud to recognize the following Teacher Residents and their mentor teachers:

1. Emali Campbell – Mentor, Kim Alexander
2. Isabella Cardozo-Coyne – Mentor, Leiza Castro
3. Breanna Castillo – Mentor, Elia Najera
4. Ava Corcoran – Mentor, Willa Kemper

5. Josephine Gonzalez – Mentor, Ita Acosta
6. Julia Gonzalez – Mentor, Flor Cooper
7. Abigail Hall – Mentor, Megan Foster
8. Anna Hamilton – Mentor, Sunny Emery
9. Ryleigh Hanks – Mentor, Katie Chapman
10. Naomi Lane – Mentor, Brandi Rodriguez
11. Jennifer Lopez – Mentor, Meagan Whitaker
12. Natalia Lopez – Mentor, Jennifer Jones
13. Yoana Martinez – Mentor, Ana Medina
14. Jillian Roberts – Mentor, Monica May
15. America Tovar – Mentor, Laura Colon Ortiz
16. Ella Wiley – Mentor, Sarah Montes

Their dedication, along with the guidance of their mentor teachers, reflects Denton ISD's ongoing investment in developing exceptional educators who are prepared to serve and inspire students across the district.