Agenda of Regular Meeting

The Board of Trustees
Florence Independent School District

A Regular Meeting of the Board of Trustees of Florence Independent School District will be held November 16, 2026, beginning at 7:00 PM in the Florence High School, 401 FM 970, Florence, Texas 76527.

Videoconference Notice: A quorum of the Board of Trustees will be physically present at the Florence High School Library, 401 FM 970, Florence, Texas 76527, and it is the intent to have a quorum of the Board present at that location. Pursuant to Texas Government Code 551.127 if a quorum of the Board is physically present at the designated location, other Trustees may attend and participate in this meeting via videoconference.

In accordance with the Texas Open Meetings Act, the board may enter into closed session at any time during deliberations pursuant to TOMA Governance Code Sections.

551.071	(consultation with attorney):
551.072	(deliberation regarding real property):
551.073	(deliberation regarding prospective gift):
551.074	(personnel matters):
551.076	(deliberation regarding security devices):
551.082	(discipline of student or complaints against employees):
551.083	(consultation with representative of employee group): and
551.084	(excluding witnesses from board investigation):

When appropriate the board may provide a brief clarification of board actions (not exceeding five minutes) immediately prior to closed session and/or prior to adjournment.

The subjects to be discussed or considered or upon which any formal action may be taken are listed below. Items do not have to be taken in the same order as shown on this meeting notice.

I. **Call to Order**
II. **Pledges of Allegiance**
Presenter: Tim Marfell
II.A. United States Pledge
II.B. Texas Pledge
III. **Invocation**
Presenter: Ed Navarette
IV. Recognitions

IV.A. Student Recognitions
Presenter: Rick Kirkpatrick/Dr. Kelly Avritt

IV.B. Teacher of the Month
Presenter: Rick Kirkpatrick/Dr. Kelly Avritt

V. **Public Comment**

VI. **Superintendent Report**

VI.A. Child Nutrition Department Report
Presenter: Lillian Barnett

VI.B. Discussion Regarding Deficit Budget for Current School Year
Presenter: Rick Kirkpatrick

VI.C. Update on the Meat Market Renovation
Presenter: Rick Kirkpatrick

VII. **Consent Agenda: Consideration, Discussion and Appropriate Action**

VII.A. Minutes of October 19, 2026 — Regular Meeting

VII.B. Out of State Trip — Rick Kirkpatrick - Institute for Education Innovation (IEI) National MidWinter Summit — Tampa, FL — January 21-24, 2026

VIII. **Items Brought Down from Other Agenda Sections for Discussion and Appropriate Action**

IX. **Regular Business: Consideration, Discussion and Appropriate Action**

IX.A. Consideration and Possible Action to Adopt an Order Canvassing Returns and Declaring Results of Voter-Approval Tax Rate Election
Presenter: Rick Kirkpatrick

IX.B. Consideration and Possible Action to Adopt an Order Canvassing Returns and Declaring Results of Bond Election
Presenter: Rick Kirkpatrick

IX.C. Consideration and Possible Action to Approve the Tax Rate for the 2026-2027 School Year

IX.D. Consideration and Possible Action Regarding Bid(s) Received for the Sale of District-Owned Real Property Located at (1) 105 Ledger Street, Florence, TX 76527 (Parcel R010642; (2) 103 Ledger Street, Florence, TX 76527 (Parcel R010643); and (3) 101 Ledger Street, Florence, TX 76527 (Parcel R010644), including possible resolution authorizing conveyance(s) and possible authorization for the Superintendent to negotiate, finalize, and execute contracts and other documents necessary to complete the sale of any or all of the properties

IX.E. Consideration and Possible Action to Approve a Statement of Work for a Demographic Study by Population and Survey Analysts (PASA)
Presenter: Rick Kirkpatrick

IX.F. Consideration and Possible Action to Approve the Summary of the 2026 Tax Rolls for WIlliamson County and Bell County for the Fall Tax Levy

IX.G. Consideration and Possible Action to Approve Updated Legislative Priorities for the 90th Legislative Session
Presenter: Rick Kirkpatrick

IX.H. Consideration and Possible Action to Approve Budget Amendment Number Two
Presenter: Eric Banfield

IX.I. Consideration and Possible Action to Approve the Superintendent's Recommendation Regarding the Designation of Ten Non-Business Public Information Act (PIA) Days for Consideration and Response to Public Information Act Requests for the 2027 Calendar Year
Presenter: Rick Kirkpatrick

X. **Executive Session (Tex. Gov't Code §551.076, §551.074, §551.071 and §551.129)**
X.A. Safety and Security Audit — Review the Texas Education Agency District Vulnerability Audit
Presenter: Rick Kirkpatrick/Jimmy Birch

XI. **Action Taken from Closed Session**

XII. **Items for Future Board Meetings**

XIII. **Reports (no board action required)**
XIII.A. Finance Reports
XIII.B. Enrollment/Attendance Report
XIII.C. Campus Reports
XIII.D. Resignations/New Hires

XIV. **Adjournment**

Florence ISD

Food Services Update

Lillian Barnet
Child Nutrition Director

Florence ISD

Our Priorities

- Feeding kids by offering fresh, delicious and relevant options.
- Feeding our staff healthy, affordable and diverse meals.
- Supporting local agriculture and educating the community about the importance of doing so.
- Operate in a fiscally responsible manner.
- Provide ongoing training and advancement opportunities for staff.
- Work collaboratively with student groups and other departments whenever possible.







Financial Considerations…

- **Expected shortfall was not realized. We entered 26-27 with a $44K Fund Balance**
- **Food Cost continues to be an issue. We are operating the Offer vs. Serve Model. (Required at HS), we have eliminated "All you can eat fruit and vegetables", and we continue to promote our "share bucket" so kids can leave unopened items for other students to take. There has also been an uptick in students enhancing their meals from home with a variety of our options.**
- **We elected to not fill two vacancies for the first part of the year. We are working to fill them now to ensure coverage.**

Current Programing…

~National School Breakfast averaged 569 breakfasts per day in October. We have returned to a breakfast in the hallway model at FES.

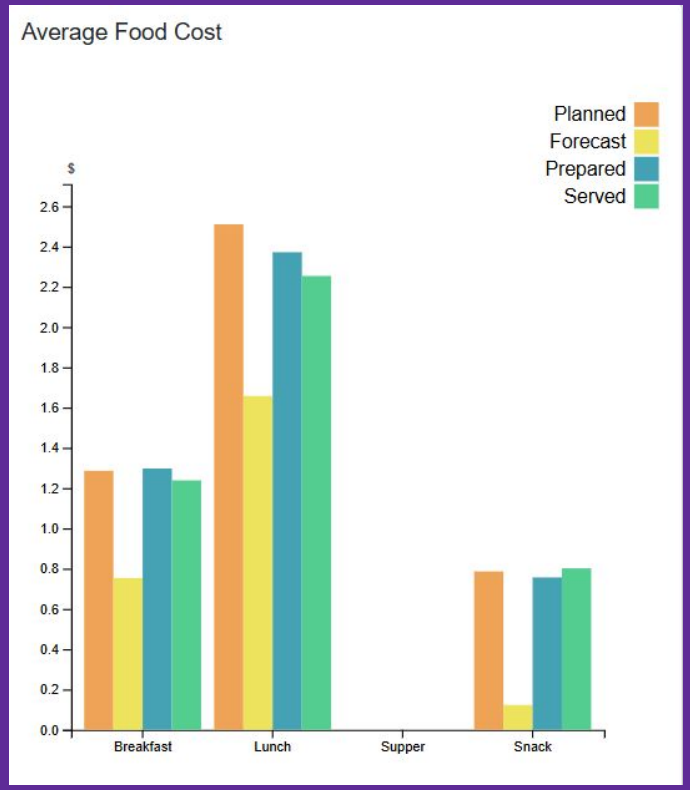
~National School Lunch is feeding around 839 kids per day.

~After School Snack currently has about 130 kids per day participating. Maria and Coach Posey have worked to increase athletic participation.

~Seamless Summer went really well this year. We added an additional site at FHS and students and staff were able to participate. In addition we provided off site meals for the week of the 4th of July and to July 19th. The community was very appreciative. We have begun planning for next summer.



Food Cost Tracking



Meals per Labor Hour

349	7819	22
Total Labor Hours	**Factored ADP**	**MPLH**

Site Name	Total Hours	Breakfast	Lunch	Snack	Supper	A la Carte Revenue	Factored ADP	MPLH
Florence Elementary School	137.00	1366	2048	257		$6,542.85	5,228.98	38.17
Florence High School	116.00	623	511	237		$1,050.70	1,356.85	11.70
Florence Middle School	96.00	433	884			$176.00	1,232.78	12.84
Total	**349.00**	**2422**	**3443**	**494**		**$7,769.55**	**7,818.61**	**22.40**

Meal Per Labor Hour KPI

KPI
Industry Standard Guidelines

Florence Averages

839 Lunch=1
539 Breakfast=379 (2=1)
130 ASCP=43 (3=1)
=
1261

Staffing Guidelines for On-Site Production

Number of Meal Equivalents	Meals Per Labor Hour for Low and High Productivity			
	Conventional System MPLH		Convenience System MPLH	
	Low	High	Low	High
Up to 100	8	10	10	12
101 – 150	9	11	11	13
151 – 200	10 – 11	12	12	14
201 – 250	12	14	14	15
251 – 300	13	15	15	16
301 – 400	14	16	16	18
401 – 500	14	17	18	19
501 – 600	15	17	18	19
601 – 700	16	18	19	20
701 – 800	17	19	20	22
801 and up	18	20	21	23

Source: Pannell-Martin, D. & Boettger, J. (2014). *School food & nutrition service management for the 21st century* (6th ed.). Aiken, South Carolina: Author.

- A conventional system is the preparation of some foods from raw ingredients on premises (e.g., using some baked goods, prepared pizza, and washing the dishes).
- A convenience system is using maximum amount of processed foods (e.g., using all baked goods, precooked chicken, ready-to-serve raw fruits and vegetables, portion-packed condiments, and washing only trays and using disposable dinnerware).

Menu Optimization Tool



Slick Costing Tool

Recipe Name	Total Served	Popularity %	Recipe Cost	Entree Food Cost %	Profit Meter	Popularity Meter	Performance
Big Daddy's Primo Four Meat Pizza	44	3.10%	$0.70	18.77%	High	Low	Puzzle
Big Daddy's Primo Pepperoni Pizza, Schwan's 78638	168	11.82%	$0.94	25.20%	High	High	Rockstar
Breaded Chicken Salad Labatt # 9011937	12	0.84%	$3.78	101.34%	Low	Low	Dog
Breaded Chicken Sandwich	62	4.36%	$1.49	39.95%	Low	Low	Dog
Catfish	129	9.08%		0.00%	High	High	Rockstar
Chef Salad (High School/Adult Version)	10	0.70%	$2.01	53.89%	Low	Low	Dog
Chefs Corner Chicken Eggroll Labatt# 3845000	33	2.32%	$1.71	45.84%	Low	Low	Dog
Chicken Caesar Pasta Salad	12	0.84%	$1.75	46.92%	Low	Low	Dog
Chicken Quesadillas	24	1.69%	$0.96	25.74%	High	Low	Puzzle
Chicken and Dumplings	10	0.70%	$0.71	19.03%	High	Low	Puzzle
Chicken, Tenderloin, Artisan, WG Breaded, 4/5lb, 53.3/servings per case (3 Tenders H.S. only)	30	2.11%	$1.82	48.79%	Low	Low	Dog
Commodity Fish Sticks	129	9.08%	$0.83	22.25%	High	High	Rockstar
Corn Dog, WG Chicken Frank, Tyson	164	11.54%	$0.82	21.98%	High	High	Rockstar
Greener Pastures Buffalo Chicken Wings with 2 oz Roll	35	2.46%	$1.23	32.98%	High	Low	Puzzle
Ham and Cheese Hoagie	25	1.76%	$1.27	34.05%	High	Low	Puzzle
Local All Beef Burgers 1/3#	33	2.32%	$2.88	77.21%	Low	Low	Dog
Mozzarella Cheese Sticks	122	8.59%	$1.52	40.75%	Low	High	Workhorse
Nachos with Ground Beef High School Version	216	15.20%	$1.42	38.07%	High	High	Rockstar
Primo Four Cheese	32	2.25%	$0.99	26.54%	High	Low	Puzzle
Rich Chicks Spicy Breaded Chicken Breast Sandwich	125	8.80%	$1.51	40.48%	Low	High	Workhorse
Turkey and Cheese Hoagie 2.5 m/ma	6	0.42%	$1.89	50.67%	Low	Low	Dog
Total	**1421**						
Average Food Cost				**31.02%**			

Current Local Partnerships:

- Common Market and Central Texas Food Bank
- Gilmore Beef and Cattle Company (Troy, TX)
- Greener Pastures Chicken (Manor, TX)
- Fifth Branch Farms (Florence, TX)
- Labatt is sourcing from various Texas producers
- Sorghum Checkoff







2026/2027

- Menus for SY 2027-28
- Ordering Commodities ($65K)
- Recipe Testing/Student Engagement
- The creation of the Buffalo Bodega
- Community engagement collaboration with a variety of FISD programs









CEP Update:

https://www.fns.usda.gov/cn/community-eligibility-provision

USDA Food and Nutrition Service
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

USDA, Food and Nutrition Service: Child Nutrition Programs
Community Eligibility Provision

Overview

The Community Eligibility Provision (CEP) is a National School Lunch Program (NSLP) and School Breakfast Program (SBP) meal service option that allows schools and school districts located in high poverty areas to offer breakfast and lunch at no cost to all enrolled students. CEP was authorized by the Healthy, Hunger Free Kids Act of 2010 (HHFKA, Public Law 111-296; December 13, 2010).

Rather than collecting school meal applications to make individual student eligibility determinations, schools that adopt CEP are reimbursed using a formula based on the percentage of students who automatically qualify for free meals based on their household's participation in specific means-tested programs; or their status as a foster, homeless, migrant, or runaway child; or Head Start enrollee.



Benefits

Students	Increases access to nutritious school meals at no cost to students. Increases student participation. Improves the learning environment. Eliminates social stigma.
Households	Eliminates paperwork. No need to submit applications for students to receive free or reduced-price school meals. No meal charges.
Schools	Eases administrative burden and improves program efficiency. Eliminates unpaid meal balances.

Eligibility

School districts, groups of schools or individual schools may participate. To be eligible, they must:

- Ensure that at least 25 percent of enrolled students are identified students (≥ 25 percent) as of April 1 in the prior school year.
- Participate in both the NSLP and SBP.
- Offer lunches and breakfasts to all students at no charge.
- Notify their State agency of their intent to participate in CEP by June 30.

Identified Students = Those certified for free meals without the use of household applications (for example, those directly certified through the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF), or the Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations (FDPIR)).

Once elected, schools operate SBP and NSLP using CEP for a four-year cycle.

Calculating the Identified Student Percentage (ISP) & Claiming Percentages

$$\text{ISP} = \frac{\text{\# Identified Students}}{\text{\# Enrolled Students}} \times 100$$

Claiming Percentages = The ISP is multiplied by a factor of 1.6 to determine the total percentage of meals reimbursed at the Federal FREE rate; the remaining meals (up to 100 percent) are reimbursed at the Federal PAID rate. No reduced-price meals are claimed by CEP schools.

$$\text{\% Free} = \text{ISP} \times 1.6$$

Financial Considerations

Participation in CEP is a local decision and one that requires careful consideration of many factors by local educational agencies (LEAs), including financial viability. Eligible LEAs and schools must consider their ability to provide meals at no cost and cover their operating costs with Federal assistance and any other available funds, including State and/or local funds.



Learn More!

CEP Resources:
https://www.fns.usda.gov/cn/community-eligibility-provision

Contact your State for more information:
https://www.fns.usda.gov/nslp/program-contacts

January 2025

USDA is an equal opportunity provider, employer, and lender.

Buffalo Bodega Update!

We are up and running…Please join us on Tuesdays* from 3:30 to 6:00.



11/3/26 We served 90 families representing 335 individuals with 20 Student/Staff/Community Volunteers

Questions?

Contact information

Lillian Barnett | Child Nutrition Director, Florence ISD
lbarnett@florenceisd.net

Statement of Work
Demographic Study
Florence ISD
2026-27

Population and Survey Analysts ("PASA") welcomes the opportunity to partner with Florence ISD ("District") and conduct a Demographic Study in 2026-27. This Statement of Work (SOW) outlines specific tasks, deliverables, conditions, and associated costs included in the Demographic Study.

PASA WORK PRODUCT:

BACKGROUND DATA COLLECTION

- Develop and maintain a Geographic Information System (GIS) mapping database that includes, but is not limited to, the following data layers: appraisal district parcel ownership, floodplain boundaries, municipal zoning and future land use plans, annexation boundaries and plans, city and regional thoroughfare plans, subdivisions and multifamily developments, oil and gas infrastructure, aerial imagery, and detailed street networks.
- Collect and analyze background data on key economic indicators, including major employers, workforce dynamics, unemployment rates, real estate market trends, and recent patterns in new housing development.

CURRENT AND PAST STUDENT POPULATION

- Geocode current and historical student data to enable spatial analysis of enrollment patterns over time.
- Analyze recent enrollment trends by quantifying student population gains and losses across residential developments.
- Calculate students-per-household ratios for major subdivisions and multifamily communities to inform localized enrollment forecasting.
- Assess the impact of private, charter, and other non-traditional educational institutions on district enrollment by evaluating enrollment shifts and patterns.

FUTURE STUDENT POPULATION

- Conduct interviews with local stakeholders to collect data on current and anticipated land use, enabling PASA to assess the development potential of large, undeveloped tracts within the District.
- Generate housing projections for subdivisions, multifamily developments, and undeveloped parcels based on land use trends, development activity, and stakeholder input.
- Construct a district-specific student projection model to estimate annual enrollment by planning unit over a ten-year horizon.
- Produce a Ten-Year Enrollment Forecast, including baseline, reduced, and accelerated growth scenarios, projecting student enrollment by grade level, districtwide, for each of the next ten years.
- Estimate campus-level enrollment by grade for the following academic year, incorporating considerations such as student transfers, specialized programs, and campus-specific characteristics. These projections are intended to support operational and staffing decisions.

LONG-RANGE PLANNING

- Align ten-year student population projections with existing school capacities to identify potential areas of underutilization, overcrowding, or other structural imbalances across the District.
- Develop a comprehensive Long-Range Facilities Plan that evaluates school utilization and configuration across the District and provides strategic, data-driven recommendations—potentially including the opening of new campuses, consolidation or closure of existing facilities, grade-level configuration options, programmatic alignment, and other district-identified planning considerations—to ensure facilities and instructional structures are aligned with projected enrollment trends and District priorities. *PASA will work collaboratively with the District to address emerging priorities identified during the course of the study.*

REPORTING

- Produce a comprehensive written report detailing the findings, methodologies, and projections of the Demographic Study.
- Present the study findings in two formal settings: one virtual meeting with District administration and one in-person presentation to the Board of Trustees, providing context, key insights, and opportunities for discussion.

Statement of Work
Demographic Study
Florence ISD
2026-27

TIMELINE:

PASA will begin data collection in April 2027 and finalize the study data by June 2027. PASA plans to deliver the final report to District administration and/or the Board of Trustees in June 2027 and present the findings within two months of study completion. Any adjustments to this timeline require mutual written agreement.

DELIVERABLES:

- Ten (10) bound hard copies and one (1) PDF of the full Demographic Study report
- Two (2) hard copies and one (1) PDF of the Development Overview map
- One (1) PDF of the Long-Range Plan
- Slide deck presented to the Administration/Board of Trustees
- Access to the interactive Demographic Study Insights digital storyboard
- Excel versions of any tables in the Demographic Study, as requested

NOTES:

The Projections Model is the proprietary property of PASA and will not be released to the District. All data developed during this project remains the property of Population and Survey Analysts and may be used for other purposes.

- PASA's GIS deliverables are proprietary and constitute intellectual property. The District is granted a limited, non-transferable license to reproduce and use PASA's GIS deliverables solely for internal purposes, provided that proper attribution to PASA is maintained on all distributed materials.
- The costs listed in this Statement of Work are valid so long as a contract is signed by November 30, 2026. After this date, the timeline and costs are subject to change.

ADDITIONAL SERVICES – As Needed

Tasks requested by the School District beyond the scope of this Statement of Work will be billed at the following rates. These additional costs are typically associated with long-range planning, attendance zone planning, bond planning, or additional presentations.

In-person meetings	$2,500/mtg
Remote presentations (via Zoom, Teams, etc.)	$1,000/mtg
Professional tasks	$380/hr
GIS-related tasks	$210/hr

Statement of Work
Demographic Study
Florence ISD
2026-27

DISTRICT REQUIREMENTS:

PASA requests the data below from the District for use in the Demographic Study. As the accuracy and quality of enrollment projections depend on high-quality, timely data, the District is encouraged to ensure that the requested information and data are updated, accurate, and provided to PASA in a timely manner.

District Facilities Capacity Information

- Capacity information for each facility
- Current and/or future attendance zone boundaries in a digital format (KMZ/KML, shapefile, geodatabase), if available. If digital files are not available, please provide PDF maps.
- Locations of all current and planned facilities/sites in digital format (KML, KMZ, shapefile, geodatabase), if available
- Changes since the previous study, if applicable, including revised capacities, new facilities, construction projects, and land purchases

Residential Development and Land Use

- Current information on plats, along with names and contact information for developers, builders, or real estate professionals PASA should contact for the study

District Enrollment

- Enrollment counts as of October 2026 from the most recent PEIMS submission (Disaggregation Report with grade disaggregation showing the number of currently enrolled students for each grade)
- Provide the District's 2026–27 open enrollment policy and identify any changes from the previous school year. If open enrollment was introduced or substantially revised in 2025–26, please describe the changes and implementation timeline. Include any information regarding eligibility requirements, transfer priorities, capacity limits, grade-level or campus restrictions, and any anticipated policy changes that may affect enrollment trends.

Student Address Files

Student address files containing all students enrolled on the following date(s):

- PEIMS Snapshot Oct 2026, PEIMS Snapshot Oct 2025, PEIMS Snapshot Oct 2024

These data files must include as many of the fields listed below as possible. PASA will protect and preserve the confidentiality of all educational records and personally identifiable information in compliance with the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) and District policy. Update the current student data file to reflect all student changes for the current school year, including removing withdrawn students and adding all newly enrolled students, to keep the file accurate and up to date.

- Campus Number
- Student ID Number
- Street Address (Physical Residence)
- City
- Zip Code
- Grade Level (PK3 vs. PK4 Designation when applicable)
- Tuition-Based Prekindergarten Flag (when applicable)
- Date of Birth
- Free/Reduced-Price Meal Eligibility Code
- Race
- Ethnicity
- Bilingual Program Code
- Primary Home Language Code
- Special Program Participation Indicator/Flag (i.e., Dual Language, Academies, Early College, GT, Special Education, etc.)
- Virtual Program Participation (if applicable)
- Transfer from Another School District Indicator (if available)

Please ensure the data has been fully updated for this school year and that all addresses reflect the most current residence information.

- Special program indicators are most important for programs that pull students from their home campuses to attend a different campus.
- Historical student data files should reflect enrollment as of the annual PEIMS Snapshot Date rather than end-of-year enrollment. Student counts, both overall and by grade level, should closely align with the corresponding PEIMS Disaggregation Report for that snapshot.
- Please include documentation or code definitions for any field that uses local coding structures or abbreviations.

Statement of Work
Demographic Study
Florence ISD
2026-27

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS:

This confirms the agreement under which the District engages PASA to conduct a Demographic Study in 2026–27.

Compensation

As compensation for services rendered, the District will pay PASA $54,200.

Invoice Schedule

PASA will invoice the School District as follows:

20% at the end of month 1
20% at the end of month 2
20% at the end of month 3
40% upon completion of the Deliverables

Project Timeline

PASA expects to conduct the Demographic Study between April 2027 and June 2027.

Considerations

PASA's characteristic approach to Demographic Studies is to gather a wide array of data based on each district's unique intricacies. Enrollment projections are professional opinions and conclusions, and PASA makes every effort to make them as accurate as reasonably possible. However, PASA cannot guarantee enrollment projections. Enrollment projections are formulated based on assumptions drawn from information available at the time of the study. These assumptions, clearly outlined and deliberated in the report, encompass a wide range of factors, including economic indicators, housing trends, historical enrollment data, birth rates, and the opening of charter/private schools. Furthermore, educational factors determined by the District are also given due consideration. Finally, information and data quality are essential. The District should take special care to ensure data and information provided to PASA is as complete, up-to-date, and accurate as possible. Given this comprehensive approach, it's essential for District staff to consistently evaluate PASA's enrollment forecasts to address the District's evolving needs effectively.

Liability and Disclaimer

The District acknowledges that enrollment projections provided by PASA are professional opinions and conclusions based on information and assumptions gathered at a specific point in time and are subject to change due to the dynamic nature of various factors. As a result, the District understands that PASA cannot guarantee the enrollment projections. Therefore, to the fullest extent authorized under the Constitution and Laws of the State of Texas, the District agrees to waive and release PASA from all liability and decline to pursue legal action in the event the enrollment projections fail to align with actual enrollment figures.

Stacey Tepera

Stacey Tepera, President
Population and Survey Analysts
Date: 10-29-26

_____

Rick Kirkpatrick, Superintendent
Florence ISD
Date:_____

Florence ISD
2026-2027
FALL LEVY TOTALS

M&O TAX RATE PER $100 VALUE	**$ 0.7011**		**Values**		**Levy Calculation**
FREEZE ADJUSTED TAXABLE VALUE/WILLIAMSON CNTY			**1,087,695,553**		**7,728,934**
FREEZE ADJUSTED TAXABLE VALUE/BELL CNTY			**116,988,126**		**1,048,157**
TOTAL M&O TAX LEVY:		=	**$ 1,204,683,679**	**$**	**8,777,092**
PROJECTED COLLECTION RATE:					**96.5%**
					Collections
TAX @ COLLECTION RATE:		=		**$**	**8,469,894**
PENALTIES & INTEREST:		+		**$**	**80,000**
PROJECTED M & O TAX REVENUE:				**$**	**8,549,894**

I&S TAX RATE PER $100 VALUE	**$ 0.3171**		**Values**		**Levy Calculation**
FREEZE ADJUSTED TAXABLE VALUE/AI	**Williamson County**		**1,087,695,553**		**3,969,784**
HOLD HARMLESS FOR EXEMPTION	**Bell County**		**116,988,126**		**311,414**
INCREASES AND OTHER REDUCTIONS					
TOTAL I&S TAX LEVY/HH:		=	**$ 1,204,683,679**	**$**	**3,969,784**
PROJECTED COLLECTION RATE:		X			**96.5%**
					Collections
COLLECTIONS/HH		=		**$**	**3,830,842**
		+		**$**	**-**
PROJECTED I & S TAX REVENUE:				**$**	**3,830,842**
TOTAL TAX LEVY:				**$**	**12,746,876**
Total Collections				**$**	**12,439,678**
Total Tax Revenue with P&I				**$**	**12,519,678**

FLORENCE
INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT
Rick Kirkpatrick, Superintendent
Inspire • Empower • Achieve

Florence ISD Board of Trustees
Legislative Priorities

Florence ISD is a proud rural district in Williamson County with a student population of approximately 1130 students. For the first time since the modern accountability rating system was implemented, FISD earned a B rating from the Texas Education Agency for the 2024-2025 school year and our projections for the 2025-2026 school year show a 4-point increase maintaining our B rating.

The FISD Board of Trustees has thoughtfully drafted the following legislative priorities and asks for our State Representatives to carefully consider these priorities heading into the 90th Legislative Session. FISD appreciates the support from our Legislators and seeks to continue open communication pathways as the session nears. We applaud the efforts from the 89th session to increase teacher pay and district funding; however, the district continues to have many unmet needs. As we entered our current budget cycle, we once again adopted a deficit budget.

Thank you in advance for considering these highest priorities for Florence ISD. Superintendent Rick Kirkpatrick is always available for a conversation surrounding these issues as are the members of the FISD Board of Trustees. Thank you for your continued service to the children of Texas.

1. Provide increased funding for the Allotment for Basic Costs (ABC) – Florence ISD thanks the 89th Texas Legislature for its significant investment in public schools by creating the new ABC through House Bill 2. We are especially grateful that the Legislature acknowledged the rising operational costs associated with running a school district, such as insurance, utilities, and payroll expenses, and that the allotment is calculated on the basis of student enrollment rather than Average Daily Attendance. As you prepare for the upcoming legislative session, we respectfully ask that you review the current allotment amount of $106 per enrolled student to determine whether an increase is warranted. We suggest a floor being created for small districts at $250 per student. As shown by the graphs below, it is evident that since the 2021-2022 school year, inflation has caused our operational costs to increase significantly. During this time period, FISD has absorbed an increase of $658,097 in our Maintenance and Operations Budget. Based on our district's rising costs, we believe an increase to the ABC is warranted. One of the causes for the sharp increase in our basic costs was actually caused by House Bill 2. While the increase to teacher salaries was a blessing for our teaching

staff, it did raise our employer contributions to the Teacher Retirement System and our payroll taxes, both of which fall within the categories the Allotment for Basic Costs is intended to address.

Eligible cost category	Earlier school year	Most recent school year
	2021-2022	**2024-2025**
1. Transportation	**$ 537,084**	**$645,281**
2. Hiring retired teachers	**$ 74,128**	**$ 65,858**
3. Health insurance, employee benefits, and payroll taxes	**$ 1,123,867**	**$ 1,354,493**
4. Teacher Retirement System (TRS) contributions and related costs	**$ 345,998**	**$ 462,291**
5. Utilities	**$ 578,675**	**$ 614,394**
6. Property and casualty insurance	**$ 130,960**	**$ 306,492**
Total actual costs of ABC categories	**$2,790,712**	**$ 3,448,809**

Total ABC funding our district received in the **2025-2026** school year	**$119,250**
Difference between ABC funding received and actual district costs	**($3,329,559)**
Inflationary Increases since 2021-2022	**$658,097**

2. Provide an increase to the Basic Allotment. The Basic Allotment has only increased $55 since 2019, far from covering the increased costs that school districts face in the current economic environment. (More details to be added)

3. Change the funding formula from Attendance Based to Enrollment Based. Whether a student is in school or absent, districts still have to pay for the teacher, fixed costs, and classroom supplies. Moving to an Enrollment Based funding formula provides districts with a stable, predictable revenue stream that is not impacted by temporary student absences.

4. Provide an increase in school safety funding – Again, Florence ISD thanks the 89th Legislative Session for their increase to the School Safety Allotment, a much-needed boost in funding as we work to ensure that our students and staff are safe at all times on our campuses. We are also thankful that the School

Safety Allotment is now a part of the Foundation School Program rather than requiring a grant application to access the funding. FISD has three campuses and the increase from $15,000 to $33,540 increased our total funding for campus security from $45,000 to $100,620. Due to the student funding change from $10 per ADA to $20 per ADA, FISD received an additional $10,470 for a total of $20,940. Combining the two safety allotments, FISD received about $121,560 in safety funding. However, the cost for our district to meet the armed security officer requirement from HB 2 in the 88th Legislative Session alone is $205,822.76. In addition, we have School Guardians which cost the district another $40,000 per year. Because we contract with the City of Florence for School Resource Officers and due to the size and location of Florence as a rural community, they are often called away from campus for city emergencies. In order for the district to remain compliant, we added and must maintain the Guardian Program. FISD is in compliance with all measures of HB 3, but averages an additional $174,000 per school year to keep our campuses compliant. Florence ISD respectfully asks that the 90th Legislative Session review the costs to districts for compliance with HB 3 and consider adding creating a guaranteed floor of $200,000 for school safety funding and restructure the per-campus component to reflect the real cost of providing the mandated officers on campus.

5. The increase in the small school allotment last session helped Florence ISD increase teacher pay to help us be competitive with our surrounding school districts. However, this year we are again facing a deficit budget and no pay raises were provided to our staff, putting us further behind our neighboring districts (all of which are much larger than FISD) and making recruitment and retention of staff difficult. Our starting teachers earn $54,000 per year while the lowest starting salary in the districts closest to us start at $56,238 with two starting at more than $58,000. FISD requests that the legislature once again examine the Small District Allotment and increase the multiplier from .00046 to .0005.

6. Reduce the discretion for the Texas Education Agency to require school districts to apply for grants to access funding approved by the Texas Legislature – As a small, rural district, FISD has a very limited central office staff. While TEA simplified the grant application process this year, the sheer number of reporting requirements and mounting tasks required puts a tremendous burden on smaller districts. In addition, the funds received from grants do not all go to and stay in the local district. Instead, the district is forced to contract with a TEA approved third party vendor to support the grant implementation.

   Two specific examples in Florence ISD bear this out. FISD received the LIFT grant which begins in 2026. The grant award was for a total of $486,000.

However, the grant requires that 70% of the received funds be used to contract with a single LIFT Approved Provider to support all grant activities. For FISD, this means that we retain discretionary control over $145,800 while the LIFT Approved Provider receives $340,200. The approved provider has required meetings with TEA as well as required reporting on the efforts within the district. FISD believes that the intent of the funds was to directly impact school districts, and not provide money to third party vendors.

The second example related to the burden on staff came with FISD receiving the LASO III Instructional Leadership Grant in the amount of $121,500. While the requirement to have a third party approved vendor cost the district $109,150 of the grant funds, we were also required to complete a TIP (Targeted Improvement Plan) in order to comply with the grant requirements. At the time, our elementary had a B rating (87) and our middle school had a C rating (74), neither of which would require a TIP under normal circumstances. TIP's require an extensive amount of time to create requiring both campus and central office staff to devote their energies to the TIP instead of being in classrooms. FISD could have used the funds to hire a Director of Instruction for four years if the funds were not diverted to third party vendors. This Director could have spent every day working to improve our campus instructional practices. Instead, we have a vendor that spends less than one day per week working with our staff while completing the expected reporting requirements to TEA. Essentially, TEA is using funds allocated by the legislature for school improvement to collect additional data on schools, which I do not believe was the intent of the legislature.

7. Teacher Retirement System Reforms – FISD appreciates the prior work of the legislature to ensure that TRS remains actuarily sound. However, the change to the retirement age needs to be revisited as does the penalty districts pay when they hire retired educators. Beginning in 2014, TRS members are eligible to retire at age 65 (with five years of service) or at age 62 if they meet the Rule of 80 (age plus experience equals 80). For a four-year college graduate who begins working at age 22, they are required to work 40 years in order to be eligible for retirement. This is a huge disincentive to college bound students who desire to enter the teaching field. It is very unusual to see a classroom teacher work for 40 years, especially when district pay scales are typically capped at either year 20 or year 25, depending on the district.

   The other harm that this requirement imposes is believed to hurt the actuarial soundness of TRS. A teacher with forty years of experience will receive 92% of the average of their best five years of salaries. Under the previous Rule of 80 in Tier I or Tier II, assuming the same 22-year-old entrance into the profession, they would be eligible for retirement at the age of 52 and would receive 69% of the average of their best five years of salaries. Tier I and Tier

II incentivized educators to remain in the classroom an additional five years by offering a partial lump sum payment upon retirement, assuming their age and years of service equals 90. FISD asks that the retirement age be eliminated from consideration and the Rule of 80 (age + years of service=80) be reinstituted for all district employees.

Finally, clearly identified as a problem by the Texas Legislature, Texas has a shortage of educators. The TRS penalty for hiring a retired educator reduces further already tight budgets in rural district further. However, in order to ensure certified teachers in core classrooms, this is often the only solution that rural districts have to meet the requirement. FISD asks that a hardship-based exception to the surcharge and/or 12-month break-in-service rule for documented hard-to-fill positions.

8. Reform the current accountability system to provide rural and small districts a chance to meet requirements – There are two areas of concern for Florence ISD. The new tiered system for CCMR adversely impacts the program that receives the most community support and accolades. Florence High School has a fully functioning, award winning meat market where students learn in the classroom setting the different cuts of meat from a variety of animals. Once they have demonstrated proficiency, students move into the lab setting where they break down beef carcasses in-house and package them to be sold in the student run retail store which is open to the public. Our students learn the meat cutting and packing side and then the retail side, better preparing them for life after high school. The District has partnered with HEB, with several of our former meat market students cementing career paths with the large grocery retailer out of high school. Unfortunately, this is now a Tier III program and we are capped at only 5% of these students earning CCMR credit for the campus, despite earning an Industry Based Certificate and being eligible to begin work directly out of high school.

   FISD is currently renovating our 27-year-old meat lab, taking recommendations from HEB to ensure alignment with their program further increasing our students' chances of gaining employment after high school. We ask that the Texas Legislature reform the accountability system to allow successful programs such as the FISD Meat Market to earn Tier I CCMR credit, despite them not qualifying under TEA's definition of high wage/high demand.

   The second area that we request the Texas Legislature to examine is the seemingly incongruence between College Readiness Standards between public education and higher education. Under the proposed changes to the CCMR accountability formula, our students who enroll in and complete both dual credit English and dual credit Math at the college level, despite not

earning a college ready score on the TSIA2, SAT or ACT, are only awarded the Foundational Postsecondary Readiness designation as they are not deemed college ready. However, our higher education partner, under a co-requisite model, recognizes the same students as college ready once they complete the same two foundational courses at the college level. If the college labels a student as college ready upon completion of these two dual credit courses, it would make sense for these students to be awarded the Demonstrated Postsecondary Readiness designation.

In addition, small districts lack the staff and equipment to compete with larger districts as staffing and funding are barriers to increasing programming. With the TEA revisions to the IBC list, a campus similar to ours does not have the staffing to be able to retool and offer programs that a district with a dedicated CTE director and much larger staff are able to do. FISD asks that the legislature consider funding ESC-based CTE/CCMR technical assistance, reviving SB 2931 from the 89th legislative session. We also ask that the Texas Workforce Commission resources be directed toward equipment, instructor certification, and testing costs for small-district CTE/IBC programs. And finally, we ask the legislature to implement hold-harmless protection whenever TEA revises the approved IBC list.

Florence ISD requests that the Texas Legislature, and specifically our local representatives, review our requests and address these areas of concern in the upcoming session. The FISD Board of Trustees, as elected officials, are willing to partner with our State Representatives (Chairman Brad Buckley and Chairman Terry Wilson) and our State Senator (Chairman Charles Schwertner) to work towards solutions to these issues. Our FISD Superintendent, Rick Kirkpatrick, is always available for a discussion on any of the above items or any other public education related questions. Thank you for listening to our story and our concerns and for your continued support for public education.

Board Agenda Item - Budget Amendment No. Two: Tax Collections and State Revenue VATRE Adjustment

Budget Amendment (2026-27):

Item	Account Code	Description / Account Code	Current Budget	Fund Source	Appropriation	Line Item Total
	Amend Revenue for State Aide / Revenue & Property Tax Collections-Most Recent Tax Levies and State HH Amounts					$ -
1	199-00-5711-00-000-7-00	Tax Collections Wilco	$ 8,188,515.00	$ (811,000.00)		$ 7,377,515.00
	199-00-5711-02-000-7-00	Copper Penny Recapture	$ 305,000.00	$ (147,000.00)		$ 158,000.00
	199-00-5711-05-000-7-00	Tax Collections Belco	$ 867,186.00	$ (65,000.00)		$ 802,186.00
	199-00-5712-00-000-7-00	Delinquent Tax Collections	$ 60,000.00	$ 20,000.00		$ 80,000.00
	199-00-5712-05-000-7-00	Delinquent Tax Collections	$ 20,000.00	$ 30,000.00		$ 50,000.00
	199-00-5811-00-000-7-00	Available School Fund	$ 649,847.00	$ 66,175.00		$ 716,022.00
	199-00-5812-00-000-7-00	Foundation Fund	$ 5,846,585.00	$ 372,049.00		$ 6,218,634.00
	199-00-5812-02-000-7-00	Foundation Fund VATRE	$ 305,000.00	$ (147,000.00)		$ 158,000.00
	199-11-6119-00-101-7-11-000	Salaries	$ (1,644,206.00)		$ 227,747.00	$ (1,416,459.00)
	199-23-6119-00-001-7-99-000	Salaries	$ (100,161.00)		$ 30,000.00	$ (70,161.00)
	199-51-6129-00-999-7-99-000	Salaries	$ (310,104.00)		$ 43,000.00	$ (267,104.00)
	199-91-6224-00-999-7-99-000	Copper Penny Recapture	$ (305,000.00)		$ 147,000.00	$ (158,000.00)
	199-00-3700-00-000-7-00	Budgeted Fund Balance			$ 234,029.00	$ 234,029.00
	Amend Revenue for State Aide / Revenue & Property Tax Collections-Most Recent Tax Levies and State HH Amounts					
	599-00-5711-00-000-7-00	Tax Collections Wilco	$ 3,332,164.00	$ 117,086.00		$ 3,449,250.00
	599-00-5711-05-000-7-00	Tax Collections Belco	$ 345,264.00	$ 15,579.00		$ 360,843.00
	599-00-5712-00-000-7-00	Delinquent Tax Collections	$ 10,000.00	$ -		$ 10,000.00
	599-00-5712-05-000-7-00	Delinquent Tax Collections	$ 2,000.00	$ -		$ 2,000.00
	599-00-5829-03-000-7-00	Hold Harmless	$ 444,079.00	$ (132,665.00)		$ 311,414.00
						$ -
						$ -
				$ (681,776.00)	$ 681,776.00	



Florence News

10/31/2026 From: Principal Paredes

A Reminder About Morning Arrival

We have noticed an increase in tardies, with a total of 25 students arriving late on Friday. We need our students here and ready to learn promptly at **7:35 a.m.**
Arriving on time allows students to settle in, transition into the classroom, and begin their day in a calm, positive environment. We want every child to start the morning feeling prepared and ready to learn rather than feeling rushed or trying to catch up because they arrived late.

Please make it a priority to drop off your child on time each morning. Your support makes a difference in helping us provide a smooth and successful start to every school day.

Annual Vision, Hearing and Scoliosis Screening

Please take a moment to read the letter below from our nurse, Brandi Cornelius, regarding annual screenings. Be sure to click on **"Annual Screenings"** to review the information.

Annual Screenings

Picture Retakes

Your Retake Picture Day!

Florence Elementary School

Picture Day Date(s): **November 12, 2026**

Picture Day ID: **EVTFT99G2**

Spelling Test Week 12- Please practice with students!

Week 12

Practice Listening and Writing the 1000 Words at Home

To support your child's reading, spelling, and writing fluency, I am adding an audio resource for the 1,000 words that students have in their purple folders. Just click on the link below and this audio will allow students to practice listening and writing the words at home. Please help us by encouraging your child to listen to the words and write them down. This practice will not only improve their fluency but also contribute to becoming a more confident and skilled reader. Thank you for your continued support in reinforcing these skills at home.

- 100 Words
- 200 Words
- 300 Words
- 400 Words
- 500 Words
- 600 Words
- 700 Words
- 800 Words
- 900 Words
- 1000 Words

Mark your Calendar!

October 30th-November 5th- Book Fair
November 10th- Student Early Out
November 11th- Staff and Student Holiday for Veteran's Day
November 20th- Early Release for Staff and Students

November 23rd-27th- Thanksgiving Break



Ercilia Paredes

Ercilia is using Smore to create beautiful newsletters

FMS Board Brief

November 5, 2026



Upcoming Campus Events

November 5th

- FB HOME vs Schulenburg - Last game of the season!

November 6th

- MS Band Night at FHS Game

November 9th

- Girls BB AWAY vs Ingram

November 10th

- FISD Veterans Day Ceremony at FHS

November 11th

- School Holiday

November 12th

- Boys BB HOME vs Ingram

November 14th

- Girls Basketball A Team Tournament at FMS

November 23rd-27th

- Thanksgiving Break

November 30th

- Boys BB HOME vs Llano
- Girls BB AWAY vs Llano

December 4th

- Winter Dance

Attendance Rates

YTD: 8/12-10/30 Campus Attendance Rates: 95.93%

6th Grade - 96.63%

7th Grade - 95.01%

8th Grade - 96.06%

HERD Highlights

Students of the Month - October

Each month, our FMS teachers vote for a grade level student of the month. Students who are Safe, Respectful, and Responsible and emulate our Motto: BuffsBeTheBestTheyCanBe!

Congratulations to our October Students of the Month!



Gerardo Chavez
6th Grade



Savannah Allen
7th Grade



Geneva Williams
8th Grade

Teacher of the Month - October

Congratulations to Taygen Fromme, our October Teacher of the Month!

Mrs. Fromme has become an invaluable part of the FMS family! She consistently goes above and beyond for her students, creating a supportive and encouraging classroom environment where students feel valued, confident, and comfortable taking risks in their learning. She works intentionally to build meaningful relationships with her students, encourages involvement in extracurricular activities, and promotes positive behaviors both inside and outside the classroom. Her dedication to her students and commitment to helping them grow and succeed make her an important part of our campus. We are so grateful for the positive impact she continues to make at FMS!



Choir

Our choir students went Halloween caroling through the FMS front office and district office! They did an outstanding job and brought plenty of smiles and Halloween cheer to everyone who heard them. We are so proud of our talented Buffs for sharing their voices and spreading a little joy!



Volleyball

We want to take a moment to celebrate our FMS volleyball teams as they wrap up their season! We are incredibly proud of the hard work, dedication, and growth these young ladies have shown throughout the season. From the first serve to the final point, they continued to compete, improve, and represent FMS with pride. A big thank you to our coaches, families, and fans for supporting our girls all season long!



Football

As we wrap up another football season on 11/5, we want to take a moment to celebrate the hard work, dedication, and determination of our FMS Buffs! Throughout the season, our athletes showed grit, teamwork, and perseverance, representing our school with pride both on and off the field. We are incredibly proud of the growth they have shown and the effort they put in each week.





Cross Country

What a great season for our Buff Cross Country athletes! We are incredibly proud of the hard work, determination, and dedication these students have shown throughout the season. A special congratulations to our **7th Grade Girls team, who finished as District Runner-Ups 🥈, and our 8th Grade Boys team, who brought home the title of District Champions! 🥇🏆**

Extra congratulations go to Genesis Juarez Noriega on bringing home her own first place medal 🥇 as the 7th grade girls District Champion and Antonio Ortiz for bringing home a second place medal 🥈for 7th grade boys!

From early practices to race day, our athletes have continued to push themselves, compete with heart, and represent FMS with pride. Their commitment to improving and giving their best effort is something worth celebrating!



8th Grade Boys Cross Country District Champions!



7th Grade Girls Cross Country District Runner Ups!



Genesis Juarez-Noriega 7th Grade Girls District Champion!



Red Ribbon Week Fun

FMS Pledges to keep our hands off drugs!







LOTERÍA DAY AT FMS!

Friday 10/30 was full of fun, excitement, and a little friendly competition at FMS!

Students received a Lotería card as they walked through the doors this morning, and our staff joined in on the fun by wearing shirts with images that matched the cards! Throughout the day,

students also had the chance to play our BIG Lotería game, searching for hidden cards and winning some awesome prizes!

There were lots of smiles, laughter, and excitement throughout the building!

A HUGE shoutout to Dame Crush for generously donating free ice cream cards for our winners! We appreciate your support in making today extra sweet!

Just another fun day to be a BUFF!





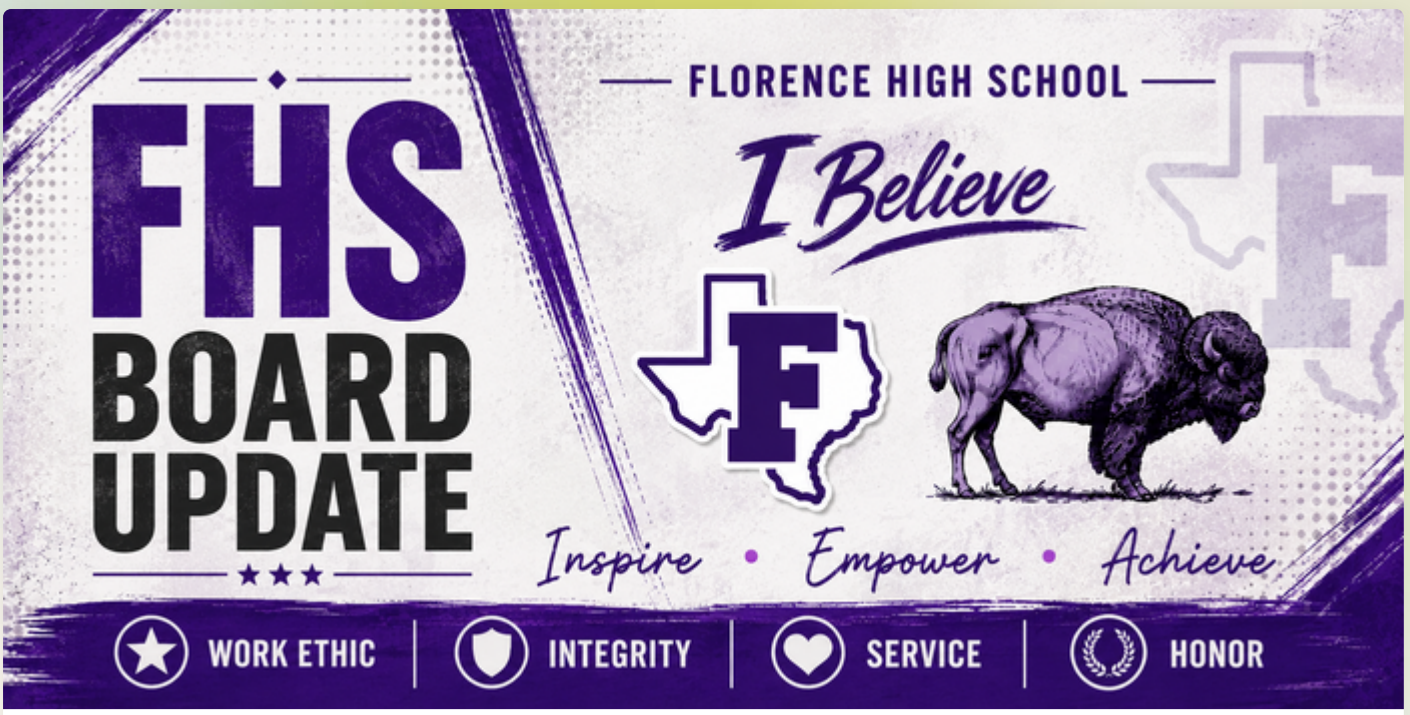


Florence Middle School

718 S. Patterson Avenue
Florence, TX 76527
Phone: 254-793-2504

Website

Lauren Neil



November 2026

Student Enrollment

FHS has 337 students and 89 EB students.

Celebrations and Program Updates

HOSA

HOSA online testing is coming up December 8, 9, and 10, Results should be posted on that Friday and we will know if we have people advancing out of online testing to Area. We have a number of students taking the HOSA officer exam to possibly be an area officer.

FFA

Congratulations to all of our LDE competitors in Salado!!

Senior Skills - 2nd Place and Advancing to Area!!
Lacy Allen
Kyndall Harvey
Tatum Lincoln

Greenhand Creed - 7th Place
Trinity Swenson

Greenhand Quiz - 5th Place
Preston Hamm
Landon Marfell
Faith Scissom

Greenhand Skills - 4th Place
Dixie Bradford
Sloan Pearson
Trinity Swenson

Public Relations - 4th Place
Sydney Bertelson
Aiden Champlin
Beto Sanchez

Radio - 4th Place
Mackenzie Atkinson
Tommy Weeks
Paisley Wright

Senior Creed - 4th Place
Taytum Hogue

Senior Quiz - 5th Place
Sterling Arldt
Samantha Nichols
Aaley Ramirez

FHS Happenings

Florence High School continues to build on a strong start to the school year. We are excited about several upcoming events and opportunities that will help our students prepare for their futures while strengthening our connections with families and the community.

SAT/PSAT Results & College Readiness

Our students completed the SAT and PSAT/NMSQT assessments in October and are now receiving their results. We are encouraging students to review their performance and develop individualized study plans using **Khan Academy's free Official SAT Prep resources**. Our focus is on helping students identify areas for improvement and prepare intentionally for the SAT in March. We believe this increased emphasis on preparation will help more students demonstrate college readiness and
expand their opportunities for college admission and merit-based scholarships.

Veterans Day Program & Student Leadership

We look forward to hosting our annual **Veterans Day Program on November 10th**. This is always a special opportunity for our students and staff to recognize and honor the men and women who have served our country. We are excited to welcome veterans and community members to FHS for this meaningful event.

Our class officers make up the **Buffalo Leadership Team (BLT)**, a group we are intentionally working to develop as student leaders. Several of these students do not have other formal leadership opportunities on campus, and we want to provide them with meaningful experiences to develop their confidence and leadership skills.

As part of this effort, BLT members will help welcome and greet our guests at the Veterans Day Program. Students have received coaching and practiced important interpersonal skills, including greeting visitors, asking thoughtful questions, engaging in conversations, and making an effort to remember names. This is one of several ways we are helping students grow as leaders through practical opportunities to serve others.

Path to Profession Career Fair

On **November 20th**, Florence High School will host our **Path to Profession Career Fair**, organized by our Agricultural Leadership students. These students have taken ownership of planning the event and have already confirmed **19 colleges, businesses, and military recruiters** to participate.

In addition to visiting with representatives from various career fields and postsecondary institutions, students will hear from a panel of individuals who have taken different successful paths following high school. Our Agricultural Leadership students will moderate the discussion, highlighting opportunities such as entering the workforce directly, pursuing technical training, and attending college.

Our counselor and I will also provide students with **grade-level checklists outlining important steps they should take throughout high school to prepare for life after graduation**. We will present information on college and career readiness, helping students consider their individual skills, abilities, and interests as they explore future opportunities. We will also discuss practical considerations such as paying for college, financial aid, and the relationship between SAT scores and merit-based scholarship opportunities.

Our goal is for every student to leave the event with a better understanding of the opportunities available to them and the steps they can begin taking now to prepare for their future.

Title I Parent Engagement

For the first time, Florence High School is operating as a **Title I campus**. As part of this transition, we will host two parent meetings in our library on **November 10th at 7:00 AM and November 12th at 5:00 PM**, providing families with both morning and evening opportunities to attend.

During these meetings, we will share information about Title I, review our campus goals and academic progress, and seek feedback from parents about how we can better support our students. We will also highlight the tremendous academic growth FHS has experienced over the past several years and our continued commitment to improvement.

These meetings represent another opportunity to strengthen our partnership with families and reinforce our belief that every student can achieve at high levels.

We are looking forward to a busy and productive November. Whether through academic preparation, student leadership, community involvement, or honoring our veterans, our students continue to demonstrate the values and spirit of Florence High School. We have made tremendous progress, and we are excited about the opportunities ahead.

Athletics Update

Fall sports are over. Volleyball missed the playoffs with a loss to Llano in a play-in game. Football was unable to make the playoffs this season. Tennis is concluding their first year of fall tennis this year. Our Cross Country team has done a great job and we are still awaiting results from the girls team at the state meet. Overall, we have seen some improvement in our fall sports. The football team has higher numbers than previous years, volleyball won more games this year than they have in the last ten years, and cross country has made it to state. I am happy that we have shown some signs of improvement. However, I am not content with our current results and status of the program. I have made changes since arriving in April, there will be more changes coming to the athletic program as we continue. There is no doubt that we can be better, our kids deserve better. Winter sports will be in full swing by December. Basketball has already started and soccer will start after Thanksgiving break.

Important Dates

11/2 - IPR 2.2 Starts
11/2 - NHS Induction Ceremony - 6:00 pm (Cafeteria)
11/6 - Pep Rally
11/10 - Student Early Out/FISD Veteran's Day Program
11/11 - Student/Staff Holiday
11/16 - Picture Retake All Grades
11/20 - Path to Profession Career Fair/Early Out
11/23 - 11/27 - Student/Staff Holiday

CCMR

Our current CCMR percentage is **32%**. I want to clarify that we had previously reported 52% over the past couple of months. We discovered that our software was not accurately calculating CCMR, and that issue has now been corrected. The 32% reflects our current standing, rather than a decline in student achievement.

It is also important to recognize that this year's graduating class is the first to be significantly impacted by changes to how Industry-Based Certifications (IBCs) count toward CCMR. Under the new requirements, only five students in the graduating class can earn CCMR credit through Tier III certifications, which include certifications in areas such as Floral Design and Meat Selection. Last year, we began implementing more rigorous Tier II certifications to prepare for these changes. While these certifications are significantly more challenging for students to earn, we believe the changes we have made will help us maintain strong CCMR outcomes. **We remain optimistic that our graduating class will finish with a very high CCMR percentage.**

We are also continuing to expand opportunities for students to earn college credentials while in high school. Last year, we added a **Level I Certificate Program in Construction**, and we are currently exploring several additional Level I certificate programs in partnership with Central Texas College (CTC).

Looking ahead, when the current freshman class graduates, Texas will implement additional changes to the CCMR accountability system. Under the new framework, earning a Level I certificate will qualify students for **Advanced Postsecondary Readiness**, the highest level of college and career readiness recognition. Our continued expansion of these programs is an important part of preparing students for success after high school while positioning FHS for future accountability changes.



Russell Porterfield

Russell is using Smore to create beautiful newsletters