

To: Dr. Kristi Lee & the BISD Board of Trustees
From: Jennifer Eberly, Chief Academic Officer
Date: March 2026
Re: Board Report

Elementary Education: Dr. Danielle Riddick

Learning Beyond the Classroom: In February, our team prioritized community outreach and student opportunity. BISD elementary schools submitted a total of 90 elementary projects to the regional science fair, with 84 earning 1st, 2nd or 3rd place — a strong reflection of student dedication and teacher support. We also partnered with our Digital Learning Department to participate in STEM Girl Day at The University of Texas at Austin, expanding access to meaningful, hands-on STEM experiences for our students.

Systematic Instructional Support: In February, our team provided nearly 200 hours of direct campus support through coaching meetings, instructional rounds, and participation in CBPLs. We also supported campuses in responding to RLA practice STAAR results by facilitating a 3rd–5th grade half-day planning and data analysis session and participating in campus-led mock response planning days.

Secondary Education: Dr. Jeremy Small

Our instructional focus has remained focused on academic conversations, writing across the curriculum, and rigorous intentional questioning. Specialists are paying close attention and providing feedback in a way that challenges teachers to ask deeper questions to engage a broader range of student thought.

Lastly, we conducted our first Scholar Saturday on 2/28 with 24 scholars who all got better at the SAT. Scholars reported feeling better about the format of the test and their confidence of knowing what is on the SAT. Scholars also created a 3 week study plan according to the specific feedback each student needed to work on based on the data the pre-test provided. The next SAT day is 3/7 with 34 scholars signed up to attend.

College, Career, and Military Readiness: Raina Ellis

CTE - Students from BHS & CCHS experience a “Day in the Life” at First National Bank

In coordination with First National Bank, CTE staff developed a preliminary plan to engage, recruit, and potentially place students in bank-supported internships. Students learned about community-based banking and the bank’s guiding principles, heard from staff in various roles, participated in introductions and professional headshots, and shadowed retail banking positions. They also joined a roundtable lunch with local business and banking leaders and attended sessions on credit, professional dress, interviewing skills, and communication, led by

First National Bank staff through hands-on activities. Interested students may apply for internships through a formal application and interview process in late Spring 2026.



CCMR - 8th Grade What's Next Visits

- 8th Grade Invasion at CCHS - 8th graders from CCMS “invaded” CCHS to learn about course offerings in CTE, Fine Arts, Athletics, and Advanced Academic programs.
- BMS 8th Grade College & Career Exploration class visits - CTE staff visited 8th grade classes to discuss course offerings for high school.
- Both campuses held an evening Course Fair and 8th Grade Parent meeting.

Career Fair @ CRCA & Genesis - On February 6th, CCMR team in coordination with CRCA College Access Specialist, hosted a Career Fair with potential employers and guest speakers from Workforce Solutions and Frontier Bank. Juniors and seniors from both campuses attended the fair.

Digital Learning & Library Services: Chris Lairscey

STEM Girl Day at UT Austin 2026



STEM Girl Day at UT Austin was a great success for the third year running! We brought over 250 students and staff to the event. Our future leaders got to experience a variety of science, technology, engineering, and mathematics focused activities, connecting with current university students, professors, researchers, industry professionals, and community leaders. We are proud to offer these kinds of opportunities for our students, always focusing on their future. We hope students left the event inspired and excited about the path ahead of them - the possibilities are endless!

Special Programs & Services: Derek Eberly

The Special Education department is currently projecting needs for the upcoming school year. While overall district growth has slowed, the Special Education department continues to expand rapidly. Most notably, our Life Skills programs have seen a staggering 40% growth since 2020. To address this rapid growth and ensure teachers can effectively meet student needs, we have developed a new structural and staffing plan that categorizes Life Skills into three distinct levels:

1. **Foundations Program:** The most restrictive setting, designated for students with intensive medical and self-care needs or those with significant behavioral challenges. (Students with medical needs and those with behavioral needs are served in separate programs.)
2. **Bridge Program:** Focused on students with mid-level needs, this level emphasizes generalizing skills learned in the classroom to other settings, with the goal of eventually transitioning students to the Summit Program.
3. **Summit Program:** Designed for higher-functioning students who spend a moderate amount of time in inclusive settings.

By clustering students by specific needs, we can maintain a 3:1 staffing ratio in the Bridge and Foundations levels while reallocating resources to provide a 2:1 ratio in the Foundations.

Fine Arts: Marc Telles

Our Fine Arts programs are excelling across the district, highlighted by the Cedar Creek HS Ballet Folklorico successfully defending their title as High School Grand Champions for the third consecutive year. Both the Bastrop and Cedar Creek high school dance teams and drumlines have enjoyed a phenomenal season, with BHS Drumline earning two Best in Class honors and CCHS Drumline celebrating a first-place win and classification promotion. Our visual artists recently represented the district at VASE and the Austin Mosaic Workshop, while elementary music programs successfully integrated history into their February showcases. Following strong Solo & Ensemble results for our choir and band students and a successful One Act Play clinic for BHS theatre, we now head into the UIL season and look forward to the UIL debut of the Creekside and Riverside bands this Tuesday, March 3, at the Bastrop ISD PAC.

For more information about our busy March fine arts events, please see the [attached list](#).

Community Relations: Karen Trevino

STARS and CDC

Twelve BISD staff were awarded the Texas Rising STAR CDA scholarship. The scholarship covers the cost of the 120 hours of coursework which will result in staff receiving their Child

Development Associate credential. This certification indicates higher quality of care and qualifies the programs for higher reimbursement rates for families using Child Care Subsidies (CCS).

Community Partnerships

Cynthia Munoz, in partnership with Bastrop County Cares, hosted an event at the Bastrop Public Library to help families sign up for a no cost library card through the Library Access for All grant. Sixteen families were served.

Student Services: Dr. Janel Morris

- SHAC finalized Brain Safe lessons that will be delivered through health instruction during the week of March 24-27, 2026, as a focus for Brain Injury Awareness Month. These grade-specific lessons will help students learn about practical ways to prevent head injuries, including the proper fitting of seat belts and bicycle helmets, and give older students information about early signs of pediatric traumatic brain injury (TBI), such as concussions, to know when medical treatment should be sought. This instructional unit is part of our collaboration with Lost Pines Toyota as select recipients of the Toyota Way Forward Initiative grant to improve community education and awareness surrounding pediatric TBI. Trustees are invited to observe [these lessons](#) at our elementary campuses.
- SHAC will vote on the adoption of new resources satisfying TEC 28.004 Health Education Instruction requirements at the March 31, 2026 meeting. Two recommendations were presented for consideration at the Feb. 24, 2026 SHAC meeting: an MOU partnership with Texas State for their new FESTA fentanyl awareness and prevention program for Grades 6-12, and the Texas School Safety Center (TxSSC) [Human Trafficking Toolkit](#). Both resources are free of charge to the district and would be in addition to existing curriculum and strategies used to address these topics. If approved by the SHAC, the recommendation would be presented to the Board during the annual TEC 28.004 report in the summer of 2026, for implementation in the 2026-27 school year.
- The Family Resource Center (FRC) received its first of six shoe palettes from Soles for Soles, which is being matched with a donation of new socks per set of shoes by the University of Texas. These generous partnerships will enable 1,000 students to receive new, correctly-sized footwear through our Community Closet.
- The annual FRC dental visit on March 10 will provide dozens of BISD students without insurance free teeth cleaning and X-ray services, conducted by dental hygiene associate degree program students at ACC. This field trip doubles as an opportunity for our upper classmen to explore local, affordable higher education opportunities and discuss their post-secondary goals for college, career, and/or military readiness.