



FORT BEND ISD 2022-23 BOARD OF TRUSTEES

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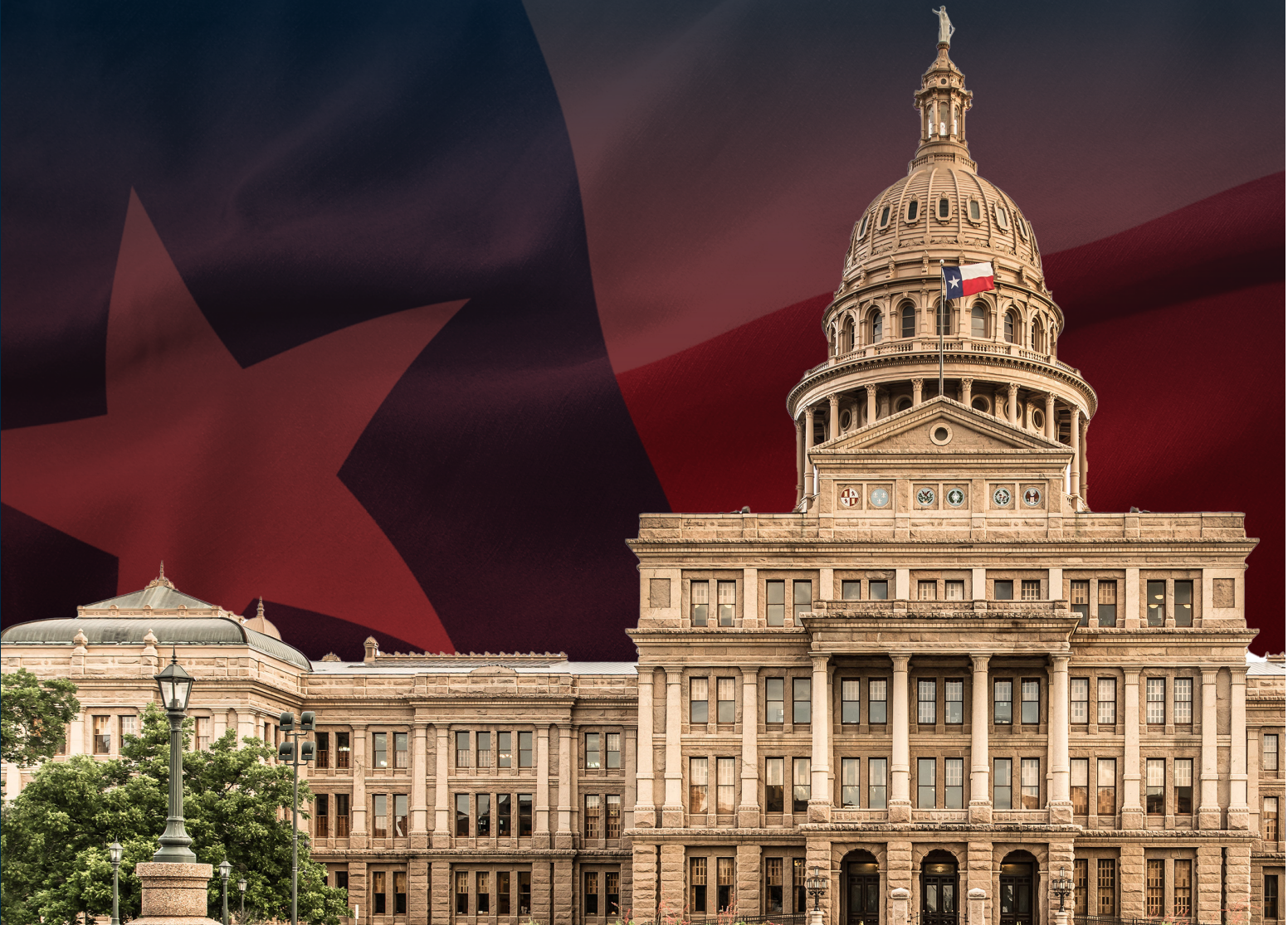
- Christie Whitbeck, Ph.D. Superintendent of Schools

FORT BEND INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT

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FORT BEND ISD
LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES
FOR THE 88TH SESSION OF THE TEXAS LEGISLATURE



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LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES

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The Fort Bend ISD Board of Trustees identified legislative priorities for the 88th Session of the Texas Legislature.

SCHOOL FINANCE

FBISD calls upon the Texas Legislature to update the school finance system and basic allotment using student enrollment without penalizing funding due to attendance; eliminate recapture payments and replace recapture with increased state funding for districts with lower local revenues; increase funding for teacher compensation and fund evidence-based mental health services. Any “revenue in excess of entitlement” must be returned to the basic allotment and not put into the general fund or any other fund not benefitting traditional public education.

TEACHER RECRUITMENT AND RETENTION

Fort Bend ISD calls upon the Texas Legislature to support public school districts and help elevate the teaching profession by supplying additional state funding in the form of more substantial financial aid and programs to incentivize students to enter the field; by increasing educator and staff compensation; improving staff health and retirement benefits including mental health; decreasing educators’ workloads by redesigning and streamlining the structure of the TEKS; by removing barriers to retirees re-entering the public

education workforce; and by extending the timeline for certified out-of-state teachers to meet Texas compliance standards for their assigned positions.

CHARTER SCHOOLS

Fort Bend ISD calls upon the Texas Legislature to level the field and ensure fair practices between charter and public schools. The Legislature should increase the transparency and accountability of charter schools and other educational institutions receiving public funds, especially with regard to student enrollment processes/ recruitment, student expulsion practices, business operations, and expenditures.

STATE ACCOUNTABILITY

Fort Bend ISD calls upon the Texas Legislature to expand opportunities for adjusting the state accountability framework; to reduce the time students spend taking state tests; to delay by at least two years, due to the pandemic, the readjustment of state accountability; and to prohibit standardized tests from serving as the primary indicator of school and student performance.

INNOVATIVE PROGRAMMING

Fort Bend ISD’s innovative programs address each student’s unique needs at all school levels.

High school students can earn college credit and industry-recognized certifications and licenses through a number of programs. Students can earn up to two years (60 hours) of tuition-free college credit or an associate degree through an Early College High School or Pathways in Technology Program while finishing their high school diploma. Six academies provide specialized learning communities with concentrated and robust

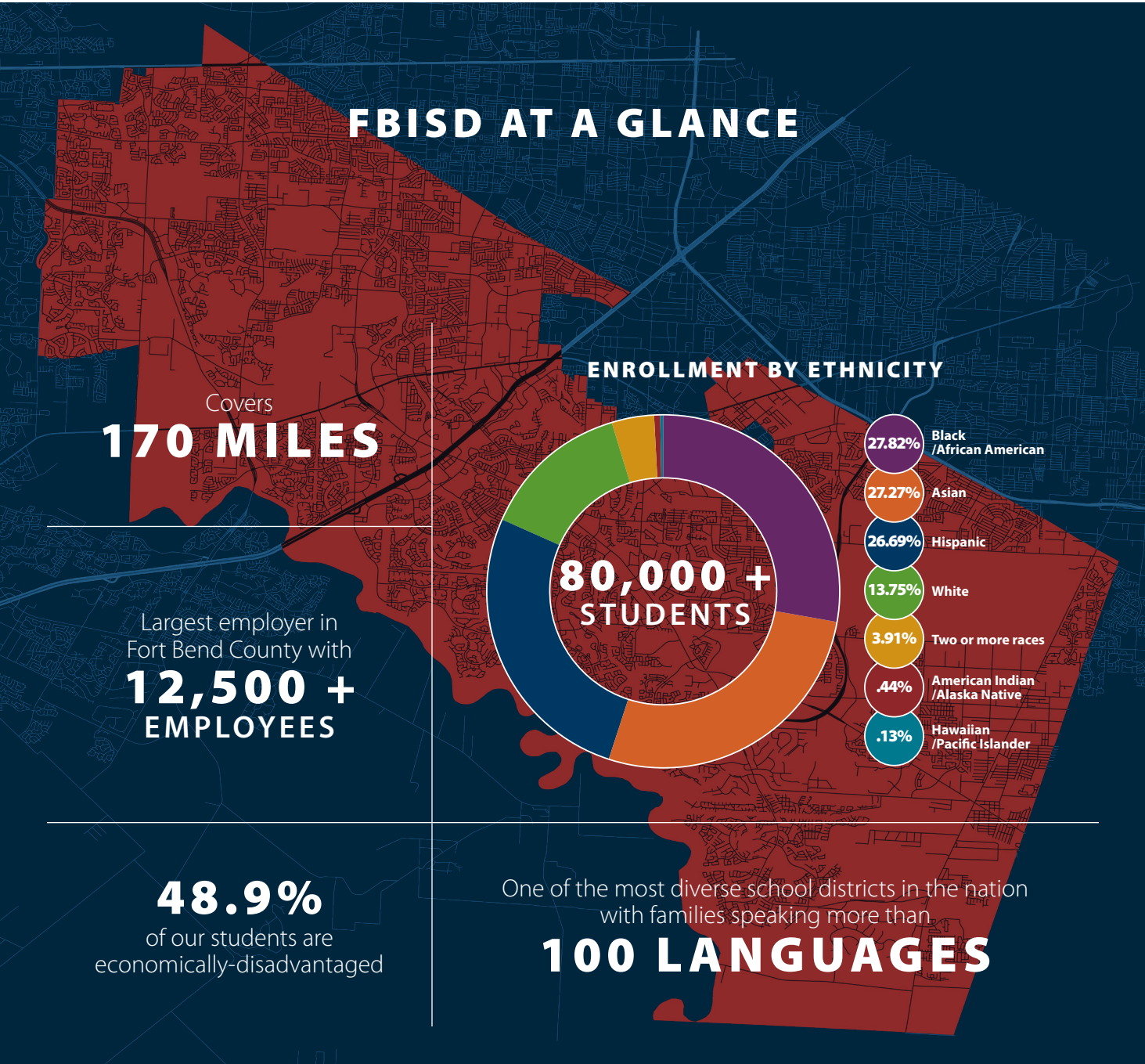
STUDENT SPOTLIGHTS

- *More National Merit scholars than any other public school system in the region*
- *For 13 consecutive years, the District’s fine arts program has received the Best Communities for Music Education distinction from The National Association of Music Merchants Foundation*
- *Dulles High School’s Decathlon Team is going to the state meet ranked as the number one team in Texas; this is the team’s sixth consecutive regional title, and the team’s ninth state competition appearance*
- *Quail Valley and Sartartia Middle schools Destination Imagination teams advanced to the global competition*
- *More than 100 student athletes signed letters of intent to continue their academic and athletic career in college*
- *Twice in the last two years FBISD has had a student selected to attend the elite Naval Flight Academy program that accepts only 26 students across the nation each year*

course pathways comprised of academic and career-focused classes.

Beginning in middle school, students have the opportunity to explore a variety of careers through the district’s 14 Career and Technical Education (CTE) programs, which provide real-world experiences. The district’s state-of-the-art Career and Technical Center is open to juniors and seniors from throughout the district and has a number of student-run enterprise businesses that are open to the public. **Fort Bend ISD also has a gifted and talented academy to serve middle school students.**

Fort Bend ISD is committed to student achievement through innovative programs and initiatives that support and address each student’s unique needs. Support for the district’s legislative priorities will allow the district to continue these programs that work to ensure the success of our students.



A full-day prekindergarten program is available on 25 elementary campuses, and the district currently operates two early literacy centers that are designed to equip students with grade-level reading skills by the end of first grade.

Additional programs including gifted and talented, special education and multilingual ensure all students have equitable access to all educational opportunities.

WHOLE CHILD HEALTH

Fort Bend ISD’s Whole Child Health Initiative is the district’s commitment to supporting and

developing not only academics, but the mental, behavioral, social, emotional and physical health of students. Research shows, students are best equipped and inspired when these needs are met.

SAFETY AND SECURITY

The district has its own police department that is accredited through the Texas Police Chiefs Association Best Practices Recognition Program. The department provides safe learning environments and builds positive relationships with students, staff and families.

LOOKING AHEAD

This month, Fort Bend ISD’s Board of Trustees will consider calling a May 6 bond election to address capital needs related to needed repairs to aging and outdated infrastructure, technology, security systems and school rebuilds.