



Helping Prepare Texas Students for Life

OVERVIEW

MIDDLE SCHOOL |
 HIGH SCHOOL |
 DISTRICT |
 HIGHER ED

About Grand Prairie ISD

- Large Urban District in Dallas / Fort Worth Area
- Enrollment: **29,000** students
- Schools: **41**
- **25** Schools Title I Eligible
- **65%** Latino or Hispanic Students

About Gonzales ISD

- Small Rural District in Southeast Texas
- Enrollment: **2,800** students
- Schools: **6**
- **6** Schools Title I Eligible
- **67.4%** Latino or Hispanic Students

Learn Today. Earn Tomorrow.

Texas CTE Programs Prepare Students for Their Unique Futures

How many 9th graders that you know are already enrolled in a nursing program or are running a restaurant with paying customers? At Grand Prairie Independent School District (GPISD) a large district in the Dallas/Fort Worth area, nursing and hospitality are just two of the 29 pathways that students can pursue, starting as early as middle school, with the goal of getting the knowledge and skills they'll need to succeed in the future.

Halfway across the state in the more rural Gonzales ISD (GISD), students are examining career clusters, building resumes based on their areas of interest, and identifying a career endorsement starting in 9th grade to develop in-depth knowledge of a subject area.

Addressing the Achievement Gap and HB22 Head-On

Districts across Texas, like GPISD and GISD, are addressing the student achievement gap and HB22 (Texas A-F Accountability) head-on by developing programs that engage students in exploring and planning their own futures and by making a wide array of paths available to every student. *"Our programs are designed to help students see possibilities and potential. We support our families by continuously researching and providing more for their students and we are committed to giving them the tools they need to be successful,"* says Lydia Bartlett, Ed.D., Director for Curriculum and Instruction at GISD.



Watch Grand Prairie ISD on Good Morning Texas!
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fE54COP9e5A>

Engaged Students = Successful Students

In fact, CTE programs like those at GPISD and GISD build on student engagement research from Gallup that shows a 33% increase in engagement among students who believe their school builds on their strengths and there is at least one teacher who makes them excited about school.

CTE programs are designed to help students answer key questions about themselves, such as: **what are my strengths, what do I want to do, how will I get there, and will I be successful**--to intricately link a student's interests with school and his or her future. And experiential learning, like courses offered in CTE programs, is proven to improve workplace engagement according to recent Gallup research.

Perkins Grants Help Fund Parental Engagement and ACT/SAT Prep Initiatives

GISD applied for and received a Perkins Grant to fund their first year of Naviance implementation which will further support their parental engagement efforts so that all parents could "have an active role in their son or daughter's future" and remove the mystery around the FAFSA and college application processes. The Perkins Grant will also be applied to help prepare students for the AP, ACT and SAT tests, conducted with Naviance Test Prep.

Milestones in Planning for the Future

"We administer a Game Plan survey each year to all 10th grade students using Naviance. This survey helps us target our programs and even our college visits--based on the career path students identify," says Cornelia McCowan, College Access & AVID District Coordinator at GPISD. *"It's critical to collect and mine robust data about students' career interests and education goals to give them meaningful experiences and connect them with the best resources."*

Similarly, GISD guides students in grades 6-12 through key milestones in the college and career exploration process, starting in 6th grade career assessments, continuing all the way through Senior Exit Surveys, designed to capture students' plans for the future. Along the way, counselors work with students to develop a monthly action plan and to facilitate conversations with students and families about student's strengths and how those might align with particular colleges or career endorsements. GISD will track key metrics such as: college enrollment and Texas Academic Performance Reports (TAPR) for the SAT/ACT/AP exams.

Pathways for All

GPISD is well-known for their CTE programs and their immediate contribution to the Dallas/Fort Worth community, including their automotive program where students teach district faculty and staff how to fix their own cars and their Registered Nursing program where students select this pathway in middle school and graduate high school with 2-years of college credits.

Of course, not every student is certain of their plans when they're 15 years old. To help engage those students, GPISD uses the wealth of data from surveys conducted via Naviance and personality inventories to connect them with activities and community service opportunities that match their interests.

Building a Culture of Success

"We give students lessons in collaboration and independence and strive to present options with equity. Certifications and college visits are all part of the patchwork so students don't pigeonhole themselves," says McCowan.

Bartlett, from GISD, echoes the notion of presenting students with an array of choices. *"We work to empower our students to identify a college and/or career path. Our job is to help students set goals and teach them to commit to achieving their goals. It's The APACHE Way!"*

GPISD has used Naviance to develop a culture of success rather than launch arbitrary programs and deadlines. *"We're creating excitement and buy-in with the students so they want to share their plans for the future and they know how to use Naviance long before they reach junior or senior year,"* say McCowan.

Preparing Students for Their Unique Futures

"Starting in 6th grade and the breadth of college and career capabilities in Naviance were key criteria," Bartlett explained. *"We are passionate about using Naviance to its fullest to help our students. Every day we think about our Seniors and how prepared they'll be when they leave us--that is why we are 'all-in' with Naviance,"* says Bartlett.

Districts Large and Small

Districts of all sizes across Texas are using Naviance to guide students through the most formative milestones of planning for their future-- identifying their strengths, building a game plan for success, and gaining the skills and education they need to get there. To learn more about how Naviance can help your students succeed, visit www.naviance.com/solutions/districts or call **866-337-0080** today.

Sources:

<http://news.gallup.com/opinion/gallup/173612/students-need-engaged.aspx>
<http://www.gallup.com/services/194264/measuring-college-university-outcomes.aspx>

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Lydia Bartlett, Ed.D.
Gonzales ISD



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