



# NORTH EAST CONNECTIONS

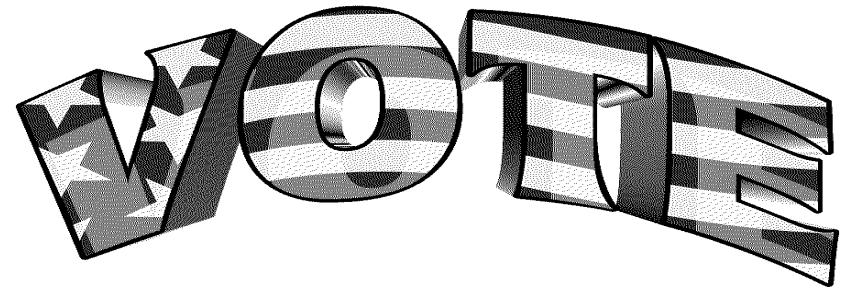


A Publication of the North East Independent School District

## NEISD Board of Trustees calls bond election for November 8

In the fall and spring of 2010-2011, North East ISD parents, taxpayers, employees, civic and neighborhood leaders joined together to study the district's growth and facility needs. They formed a community bond planning committee and developed a proposed list of projects after several months of research and discussion. After reviewing the district's and committee's recommendations, the NEISD Board of Trustees voted on Aug. 31 to call a bond election for Nov. 8, 2011.

The \$399,410,000 bond proposal includes a new middle school, and facility additions and renovations at the elementary, middle and high school levels. These include replacing portable classrooms, and building classroom additions, libraries, computer labs and clinics. A bus replacement program and technology package are also included in the plan. A detailed list of projects can be found on page 3 of this newsletter, as well as at [www.neisd.net/bond](http://www.neisd.net/bond).



**Early Voting: Oct. 24 - Nov. 4**  
**Election Day: Tuesday, Nov. 8**

## RECOGNIZED

## Second largest Recognized district in Texas



North East ISD received the designation of Recognized for the fourth year in a row by the Texas Education Agency, making it the second largest district in the state to receive this rating.

NEISD has 16 campuses rated Exemplary and 24 rated Recognized for the 2010-2011 school year. The district has 25 campuses rated Academically Acceptable, and none of its campuses received a rating of Academically Unacceptable.

Several notable changes were made to this year's rating system. Among them was the elimination of Texas Projection Measure. Therefore, the 2011 accountability ratings indicated students' actual performance and eliminated performance projections. Additionally, the system rated more students than in previous years. For example, all tested special education students are now factored into the formulas, which was not the case in years prior. Standards for the academically acceptable rating increased for math and science by five points each. Commended and English Language Learners performances were also new factors used in determining campus and district ratings.

"I am excited that the district has received Recognized status for the fourth year in a row," said Superintendent of Schools Brian G. Gottardy. "The state continually raises the bar on us, and our students and teachers continue to meet the challenge."

The 2011 ratings will be the last ratings under the current accountability system -- Texas Assessment of Knowledge and Skills (TAKS). A new accountability system -- State of Texas Assessments of Academic Readiness (STAAR) -- will be developed during the 2011-2012 school year and implemented in 2012-2013. The district's current rating of Recognized will remain in effect over the next two years.

### Inside this Issue

- **NEISD pursues 2011 Bond** ■ Back to School at NEISD ■ Student Recognitions ■ Volunteer and Business Spotlights

## NEISD welcomes new leadership Board appoints new Superintendent

Brian G. Gottardy, Ed.D. has officially taken the role of North East ISD's Superintendent of Schools. He was appointed Interim Superintendent in May 2011 and named sole candidate for the position of Superintendent in August 2011. After a 21-day waiting period, the NEISD Board of Trustees made the move official. He has been with the district for many years as a teacher, executive director, and associate superintendent.

"I take on this position with much excitement and look forward to the great things to come at North East," said Gottardy. "We will not be without our share of challenges, but I am confident we will do everything in our power to build on the well-known successes of this district."

Joining Gottardy on the district's leadership team are three skilled and experienced associate superintendents. Janna Hawkins is the Associate Superintendent of Instruction and Technology Services/Chief Instructional Officer (CIO). She has served the district for many years and was most recently the Executive Director of School Improvement. Ron Clary is the Interim Associate Superintendent of Operations. His most recent position was as the district's Executive Director of Facility Maintenance and Support. Mark Scheffler, Ed.D. is in his 14th year as Associate Superintendent of Campus Support and Human Resources. He brings years of experience as a principal and executive director to his position.



**Brian G. Gottardy, Ed.D.**  
Superintendent  
of Schools



**Janna Hawkins**  
Associate Superintendent  
of Instruction and  
Technology Services/CIO



**Mark H. Scheffler, Ed.D.**  
Associate Superintendent  
of Campus Support and  
Human Resources



**Ron Clary**  
Interim Associate  
Superintendent of  
Operations

## NEISD rebounds despite drastic state cuts



In June 2011, the Texas Legislature cut education funding by more than \$4 billion across Texas for the 2011-2012 and 2012-2013 school years. North East ISD's portion of the reduction is \$28.4 million for 2011-2012 and \$42.4 million for 2012-2013.

The district was already preparing 2011-2012 as the fourth year of a five-year austerity program designed to implement broad operational changes to increase efficiency and lay the groundwork for long-term financial health. The state's revenue reduction of nearly six percent caused the district to make more drastic changes for 2011-2012 than were initially planned.

NEISD is a "people-business" with 86 percent of its general fund budget dedicated to salaries. The state's funding cuts forced the district to reduce more than 230 full-time equivalent positions. The reductions could have been as much as 400 had the U.S. Legislature not changed a law that prohibited Texas from participating in the stimulus program known as the Education Jobs Fund. The district will receive \$10.6 million in federal funds for 2011-2012 to retain more than 160 employees. The district was able to absorb the remaining staffing reductions via attrition and elimination of vacant positions, therefore no teachers were laid off due to the budget cuts.

"While the state cuts to education are severe, NEISD has put in years of work to prepare ourselves for these reductions," said Daniel Villarreal, NEISD chief financial officer. "We are not out of the woods yet. The next legislative session looks just as bleak, but this district will continue to run as efficiently as possible in an effort to avoid cuts that could impact the classroom."

### NEISD 2011-2012 Adopted Budget

<b>*General Fund</b>	
**Revenue	\$483,161,565
***Expenditures	\$471,370,400

\*The general fund is used for a district's maintenance and operations needs including staff salaries.

\*\* The two largest revenue sources in the general fund are property taxes and state aid.

\*\*\*The total 2011-2012 general fund expenditure budget reflects a decrease of \$24.3 million compared to the final budget for 2010-2011, despite an enrollment increase of nearly 1,000 students.

More than 67,000 students made their way back to school after a long, hot summer break. Good luck to all of you and have a great 2011-2012 school year!

Canyon Ridge Elementary



Academy of Creative Education



Madison High School



Eisenhower Middle School



Redland Oaks Elementary



Lopez Middle School



Clear Spring Elementary



Lee High School



## 2011 NEISD BOND PROPOSAL

### FOR GROWTH

Construct Middle School #14 on an existing district-owned 81-acre site **\$65,000,000**

### FOR FACILITY EQUITY AND ADDITIONS

Camelot Elementary School classroom addition (replaces 9 portable buildings). Includes 18 classrooms, music room, library/media center, computer lab and clinic **\$15,250,000**

Coker Elementary School classroom addition (replaces 10.5 portable buildings). Includes 21 classrooms, library/media center and computer lab **\$15,250,000**

Windcrest Elementary School classroom addition (replaces 10 portable buildings). Includes 20 classrooms, library/media center and computer lab **\$14,750,000**

Add sun shades to existing elementary school playgrounds **\$2,000,000**

Upgrade elementary school gymnasium flooring to sports flooring **\$1,500,000**

Eisenhower Middle School classroom addition (replaces 7 portable buildings). Includes 14 classrooms, new competition gym, athletic offices, locker rooms, weight room, laundry room, lobby and restrooms **\$18,750,000**

Garner Middle School Campus Replacement Project Phase 1 **\$25,000,000**

Nimitz Middle School campus upgrade (replaces 7 portable buildings). Includes 14 classrooms with a new classroom addition, athletic facility replacement, administration and fine arts addition **\$28,500,000**

White Middle School athletic facility addition. Includes new competition gym, athletic offices, locker rooms, weight room, laundry room, lobby, and restrooms; and parking lot security lighting **\$10,400,000**

Churchill High School JROTC facility replacement and construction of two tennis courts **\$6,250,000**

Lee High School building 100 interior renovations and upgrades. New JROTC facility, campus courtyard/entrance, science and classroom addition, athletic support facility addition and tennis court replacement **\$47,985,000**

MacArthur High School science and classroom addition, new JROTC facility and athletic support facility renovations and upgrades **\$24,625,000**

Reagan High School science and classroom addition, athletic support facility addition, renovations and upgrades and sports field expansion (new soccer field and parking lot) **\$32,250,000**

Athletic field outdoor bathrooms and concessions at Johnson, Lee, MacArthur and Reagan high schools **\$3,000,000**

Replace all chalkboards districtwide with dry erase whiteboards (1,900 chalkboards) **\$1,500,000**

### FOR TECHNOLOGY

Provides for the purchase of student/staff devices, peripherals, network infrastructure upgrades, and maintenance of current equipment and systems through scheduled replacement of existing equipment **\$64,000,000**

### FOR TRANSPORTATION

School bus replacement. Purchase of 100 new buses **\$9,200,000**

### FOR CONSTRUCTION MANAGEMENT SERVICES AND OPERATIONS

In-house management of bond planning, design, construction and warranty services **\$14,200,000**

**TOTAL 2011 BOND PROPOSAL**

**\$399,410,000**

### Impact on property taxes with the passage of the 2011 bond

Compared to taxes paid in October 2011, a homeowner with an average home value of \$160,870 would see a tax increase in October 2012 of \$72 (\$6/month), and an increase in October 2013 of another \$25 (\$97 total compared to 2011).

*Disclaimer: Increase in monthly taxes is calculated using estimates for average home value, property value growth, and bond interest rates. All estimates are subject to change.*

### For More Information

[www.neisd.net/bond](http://www.neisd.net/bond)

NEISD  
Community Relations  
210-407-0040

# 2011 bond proposal addresses four important areas

North East ISD's \$399,410,000 bond proposal addresses four important areas: 1) growth, 2) facility equity and additions, 3) technology and 4) transportation.

## **GROWTH**

**\$65,000,000**

North East ISD is projected to grow by approximately 1,200 students annually, which is equal to about 60 classrooms. At this time, there are three schools north of Loop 1604 that are capped to new enrollment due to student population growth. Two of the capped schools are elementary schools that will be relieved by new schools opening in Fall 2012 which were funded by the last bond issue. Tejada Middle School, which is also capped, has no currently funded new schools to ease overcrowding.

District data shows that the combined enrollment of the three middle schools north of Loop 1604 will surpass their aggregate total classroom capacity and core (library, cafeteria, and gym) capacity by 2013. Without a new school, current growth patterns may require rezoning neighborhoods. Voters will determine on Nov. 8 whether the district should build a new middle school.

## **FACILITY EQUITY AND ADDITIONS**

**\$247,010,000**

The largest portion of the 2011 bond proposal is devoted to facility additions, renovations and equity projects across the district. In fact, investment into older campuses accounts for 62 percent of the overall bond proposal with work planned at 59 district facilities -- many of which are 30 to 50 years old.

Major projects at selected elementary and secondary campuses include: replacement of 127 portable classrooms with permanent classroom facilities; construction of new high school science labs; replacement of selected high school JROTC facilities; upgrades at selected middle school and high school athletic facilities; addition of protective sun shades to playground areas; upgrades of elementary school gym floors to sports floors to enhance student safety; and replacing classroom chalkboards with new dry erase white boards districtwide. The bond proposal also initiates the first phase of a major campus replacement project at Garner Middle School -- the district's oldest middle school campus. Investing in major facility upgrades at older district campuses, while addressing the requirements for growth with new facilities, is a principle objective of the district's capital improvement program.

## **TECHNOLOGY**

**\$64,000,000**

The technology portion of the 2011 bond proposal focuses on three areas intended to sustain existing services within the district, while working towards the equitable distribution of equipment/services to all campuses.

Bond funds would help supply client-side technology. This refers primarily to the equipment and devices that are used on a daily basis by students and staff to facilitate instruction and learning. Because of the increased use of wireless devices and the emphasis on online collaboration and learning, the district would use a large portion of the technology package toward the improvement of network infrastructure on which these devices and connections reside. The bond would also provide campuses with print and digital media solutions to meet volumes prescribed by state and national standards, and create an equitable distribution of resources to each campus.

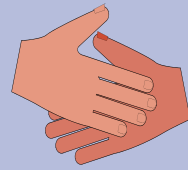
## **TRANSPORTATION**

**\$9,200,000**

Over the next three years, 100 buses would be purchased to better sustain the life expectancy of the average bus (15 years) and provide for present and future growth. Of the 100 purchases, 76 will replace older buses while 24 will be added for growth. With this purchase, it is projected that the fleet's capacity of 450 buses (currently 399) would be reached by 2014. This fleet would support route requirements and extra-curricular activities.



# Partner Spotlight: Area businesses support NEISD



**Garner Middle School Assistant Principal Maureen Rodriguez shows off her \$25 Valero gift card, donated by AXA Equitable.**

During the first week of August, MacArthur High School hosted two days of the district's annual August Leadership workshop -- bringing together leadership staff from across the entire district. During workshop breaks, staff visited the Partners In Education Midway where they met with 18 exhibitors over the two days. These exhibitors included: Alamo Area Council of Governments (AACOG), American Red Cross, Artpace, AXA, Barnes & Noble, BBVA Compass, Children's Museum, City of San Antonio – Graffiti Wipeout, Costco, Greystar, Incredible Pizza Company, Morgan's Wonderland, Randolph Brooks Federal Credit Union (RBFCU), San Antonio Food Bank,

San Antonio Sports, San Antonio Water System, The Horace Mann Companies and The Witte Museum. RBFCU graciously sponsored the food for staff during each break, as well as breakfast each day.

Staff had the opportunity to learn about field trip opportunities, community service projects, personal financial programs and more. As a result of visiting the exhibitors, staff participated in a drawing for door prizes, ranging from gift cards to shopping totes to a DVD player, all donated by our exhibitors.

"I was pleasantly surprised to have won a gas card. I don't think I've ever really won anything before," said Maureen Rodriguez, Garner Middle School assistant principal. "But really, I'm excited we have so much community support for our schools."

*Save the Date!*

**NEISD Health and Wellness Education Fair**  
**October 15, 2011 • 9 a.m. - 12 p.m.**  
**Blossom Athletic Center, 12002 Jones Maltsberger Road**

This event is free and open to the North East ISD community to provide valuable information on many health-related issues, such as heart health, nutrition, health care, diabetes education, dental care, asthma management, sleep apnea, cancer awareness plus many more. Free health screenings will be offered, including Body Mass Index, vision/glaucoma checks, body fat percentage and glucose. Flu shots will also be available by H-E-B for \$27. Children's activities will also include a rock-climbing wall and moon bounce.

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# North East Recognitions



## Cibolo Green earns green building award

Cibolo Green Elementary School was awarded the City of San Antonio 2011 Green Building Award under the Education Category.

The Green Building Awards recognize the achievements made by local builders in constructing energy- and water-efficient buildings. In its third year, the awards program celebrates builders who work toward improving the performance of their building and construction projects.

## MacArthur named national runner-up champions

The MacArthur High School JROTC "Blue Angels" Unarmed Drill Team finished as the National Runner-Up Champions at the National Drill Teams Championships held in San Antonio on Aug. 29, 2011.

The MacArthur "Blue Guard" Armed Drill Team won National Championship honors in the Male Division of competition. The Open Color Guard competition was won by the "Blue Angels" Color Guard from MacArthur.

The competition drew teams from Louisiana, Oklahoma and throughout Texas to include the outstanding teams from Flour Bluff in Corpus Christi, John Jay, Brandeis, Clark and Marshall high schools in the San Antonio area.



MacArthur JROTC teams beat out dozens of teams to win their national titles.

## Lopez students are Broadcom Masters semi-finalists

Rhea Kamat and Ali Kurji from Lopez Middle School were both selected as one of the 300 middle school semi-finalists from across the United States for the Broadcom MASTERS (Math, Applied Science, Technology, and Engineering for Rising Stars) competition.

The Broadcom MASTERS is a national STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics) competition for sixth, seventh, and eighth graders. It encourages middle school students to continue their studies in STEM courses throughout high school by igniting a personal passion for science, engineering and innovation through a competition that exposes them to independent research, scientific inquiry, hands-on learning and teamwork.



Rhea Kamat and Ali Kurji reach semi-finalist level in national STEM competition.

## Churchill student's work featured on PBS

Churchill High School student and filmmaker Emileigh Potter is featured in September's Public Broadcasting Service (PBS) Point of View for her current documentary "The DREAMER."

She's now learning about what it's like to be a professional filmmaker under the mentorship of Jeremy Levine, best known for his documentary "Good Fortune."

Churchill video tech teacher Robin Greville-Morriss' is excited for Emileigh's accomplishments.

"Emileigh is an amazing film student. Her eye for detail and creativity is helping her become one of the best young filmmakers in the country and PBS is giving her the springboard to launch her career."



Churchill student Emileigh Potter flourishes as a promising young filmmaker.

## Wilshire receives donation from Fort Sam Houston

The 106th Signal Brigade of Fort Sam Houston hosted a school supply drive for the students at Wilshire Elementary School. Wilshire has been adopted by this group, and the supplies were presented to administrators Cindi Jacob and Sandra LeBaron.

"We are so grateful for the ongoing support from these very caring and dedicated community members," said Cindi Jacob, Wilshire principal. "They are making differences in a huge way at Wilshire Elementary."



Fort Sam Houston representatives drop off a special delivery of school supplies.

# Volunteer Spotlight

*Sandy Sadler*



- ❖ Sandy Sadler is a volunteer at Stahl Elementary School.
- ❖ She performs a variety of tasks and is eager to help the staff in any way. This includes making copies, laminating, binding, filing, sorting mail, and signing in parents and visitors at school functions.
- ❖ Sandy also served on Stahl's Campus Improvement Committee for the 2010-2011 school year.
- ❖ She is married to Ray Sadler. They have one son, Rodrick, who is an alumnus of Stahl Elementary, Wood Middle School and Madison High School. He is married and lives in Austin.

**“Every parent should volunteer some time to their child’s school. It’s important, even if it’s only an hour or two a week. Schools need parents to be active so they can work together as a team to give the child the best education.”**

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## NOTICE

The North East Independent School District does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion, gender, national origin, age or disability.



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