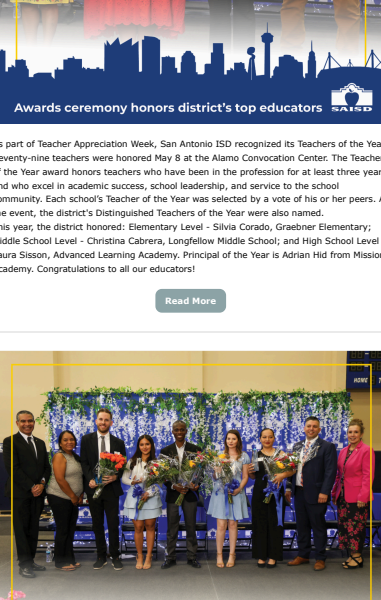


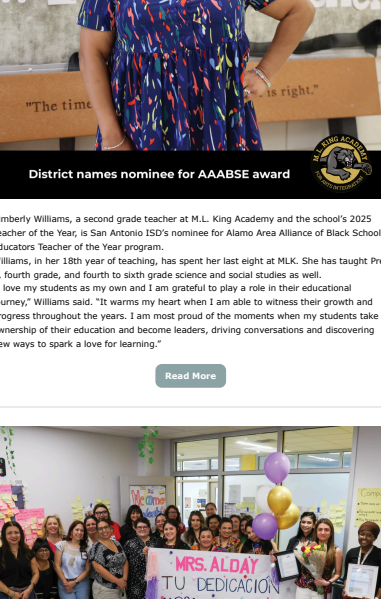
NEWS

AROUND THE DISTRICT



As part of Teacher Appreciation Week, San Antonio ISD recognized its Teachers of the Year. Seventy-nine teachers were honored May 8 at the Alamo Convocation Center. The Teacher of the Year award honors teachers who have been in the profession for at least three years and who excel in academic success, school leadership, and service to the school community. Each school's Teacher of the Year was selected by a vote of his or her peers. At the event, the district's Distinguished Teachers of the Year were also named. This year, the district honored: Elementary Level - Silvia Corado, Graebner Elementary; Middle School Level - Christina Cabrera, Longfellow Middle School; and High School Level - Laura Sisson, Advanced Learning Academy. Principal of the Year is Adrian Hid from Mission Academy. Congratulations to all our educators!

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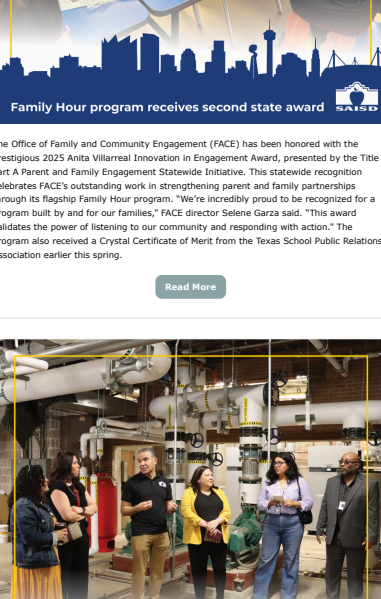
Earlier this week, San Antonio ISD also recognized its outstanding first-year Rising Star teachers. Forty-six teachers were honored May 6 at the Alamo Convocation Center. The Rising Star award honors teachers who are still completing their first year of teaching. Principals nominate their finest first-year teachers who already demonstrate excellent practices. This year, the district honored: Early Childhood Level - Celeste Perez, Smith Elementary; Elementary Level - Stella Tijerina, Herff Elementary; Middle School Level - Jessica Martinez Magana, Harris Middle School; and High School Level - Dr. Ebenezer Adu-Gyamfi, Burbank High School. Rising Star Principal is Justin Watwood from Poe Middle School. Congratulations to all our Rising Stars!

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Kimberly Williams, a second grade teacher at M.L. King Academy and the school's 2025 Teacher of the Year, is San Antonio ISD's nominee for Alamo Area Alliance of Black Schools Educators Teacher of the Year program. Williams, in her 18th year of teaching, has spent her last eight at MLK. She has taught Pre-K, fourth grade, and fourth to sixth grade science and social studies as well. "I love my students as my own and I am grateful to play a role in their educational journey," Williams said. "It warms my heart when I am able to witness their growth and progress throughout the year. I am most proud of the moments when my students take ownership of their education and become leaders, driving conversations and discovering new ways to spark a love for learning."

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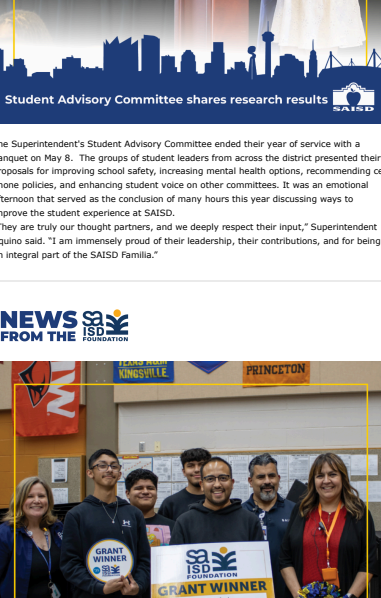
Last week, Shantell Colebrooke, a teacher at Lanier High School and Esmeralda Alday, Executive Director of Dual Language, ESL & Migrant were surprised with the good news that they were receiving awards at the San Antonio Area Association for Bilingual Education (SAAABE) Conference next week. Colebrooke will receive the SAAABE ESL Teacher of the Year Award. This award recognizes exemplar bilingual educators who are deeply committed to servicing the linguistic and academic needs of students. Alday is receiving the SAAABE Bilingual Administrator of the Year Award. This award is given to an outstanding leader who is motivated by excellence, is a proven master of implementation and support, and continually advocates for student needs and the success of Bilingual/Dual Language or ESL programs. The two will receive their awards during a ceremony at the SAAABE Conference on Friday, May 16.

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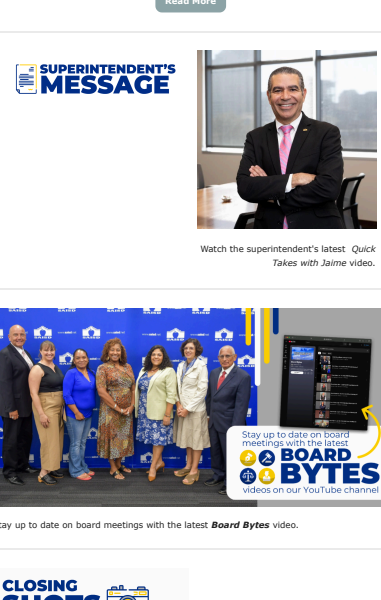
As they get ready to transition to college, nine district seniors have received the timely news that they are 2025 Dell Scholars. The students — one from CAST Tech High School, one from Fox Tech High School and seven from Travis Early College High School (pictured) — are part of a group of 500 Dell Scholars nationwide who will receive a \$20,000 scholarship, a Dell laptop, textbook credits, emergency funds, and personalized, multi-faceted support, including academic advisors, professional connections and access to free teletherapy.

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The Office of Family and Community Engagement (FACE) has been honored with the prestigious 2025 Anita Villarreal Innovation in Engagement Award, presented by the Title I, Part A Parent and Family Engagement Statewide Initiative. This statewide recognition celebrates FACE's outstanding work in strengthening parent and family partnerships through its flagship Family Hour program. "We're incredibly proud to be recognized for a program built by and for our families," FACE director Selene Garza said. "This award validates the power of listening to our community and responding with action." The program also received a Crystal Certificate of Merit from the Texas School Public Relations Association earlier this spring.

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San Antonio ISD is making major progress in modernizing HVAC systems across campuses through the 2020 Bond program—improving comfort, efficiency, and climate control for students and staff. As one of Texas's increasing districts, SAISD retrofitted 75 campuses with AC during the 1980s "Cool Schools" bond. Today, the district is advancing that legacy by converting buildings to four-pipe HVAC systems, allowing simultaneous heating and cooling for better flexibility and reliability. Completed projects include full major bond HVAC improvement at Thomas Edison High School (pictured), Highlands High School and Bowden Academy. Ongoing work at Brackenridge and Lanier High Schools, as well as Kate Schenck Elementary, represents our continued investment.

Additionally, targeted upgrades at 30 campuses have improved critical components like chillers, boilers and rooftop units. "We are happy to see our bond dollars at work," Chief Operating Officer Jenny Arredondo said. "The mechanical system improvements completed under Bond 2020 reflect our commitment to improving our students' learning environments in order to promote positive academic outcomes. Student success is our bottom line, and our work supports this mission through safe and comfortable schools, sustainable facilities, and reliable systems. Most importantly, we remain dedicated to serving our students' needs for decades to come."

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This week, the Education Technology Department celebrated the winners of the 2025 SAISD Film Festival. This year, there were 132 submissions. All students that submitted a film received certificates and pins, category winners received a trophy at the festival, and the grand prize winners each received a check from the SAISD Foundation for their campuses to use to continue their filmmaking efforts. At the culminating event at Brackenridge High School, the category winning films were shown in full in the auditorium. A screening area had four SMART boards showcasing all approved submissions, so students could showcase their work to family and friends on demand.



The Superintendent's Student Advisory Committee ended their year of service with a banquet on May 8. The groups of student leaders from across the district presented their proposals for improving school safety, increasing mental health options, recommending cell phone policies, and enhancing student voice on other committees. It was an emotional afternoon that served as the conclusion of many hours this year discussing ways to improve the student experience at SAISD.

"They are truly our thought partners, and we deeply respect their input," Superintendent Aquino said. "I am immensely proud of their leadership, their contributions, and for being an integral part of the SAISD Familia."

To celebrate Teacher Appreciation Week, the SAISD Foundation surprised six SAISD educators with Bright Idea Grants, and there is more to come. In total, 25 awards will be presented across 22 campuses—investing \$115,000 in classroom projects that uplift SAISD schools and educators. Throughout the spring semester, educators and district staff submitted grant proposals for projects up to \$5,000 that support bold ideas and enhance student learning.

One of this week's grant recipients is Burbank High School's Band Director, Mr. Federico Cardenas, who was awarded two new subwoofers. "With your help, we can finish our upgrade and ensure our students have the full-quality sound experience they've worked so hard for," Cardenas said in his application. "They are dedicated, talented, and truly some of the best young people you'll ever meet—and they deserve the best." When the "surprise patrol" showed up in his classroom with the subwoofers, Mr. Cardenas was visibly shocked.

More Bright Idea grants will be awarded throughout May. Be on the lookout for the SAISD Foundation "surprise patrol" - they may be stopping by a classroom near you!

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Watch the superintendent's latest *Quick Takes* with Jaime video.

Stay up to date on board meetings with the latest *Board Bytes* video.

Can you believe Fiesta is over? What a wonderful, celebratory 11 days. All around the district, our schools engaged in the festivities, both on campus and in city-wide events. Pictured are Sam Houston High School at Fiesta Fiesta; Highlands High School at the Battle of Flowers Parade; Bonham Academy and Harris Middle School at the King William Parade; a campus Book Parade at Cameron Elementary and the Fiesta shoebox float parade at Baskin Elementary.