

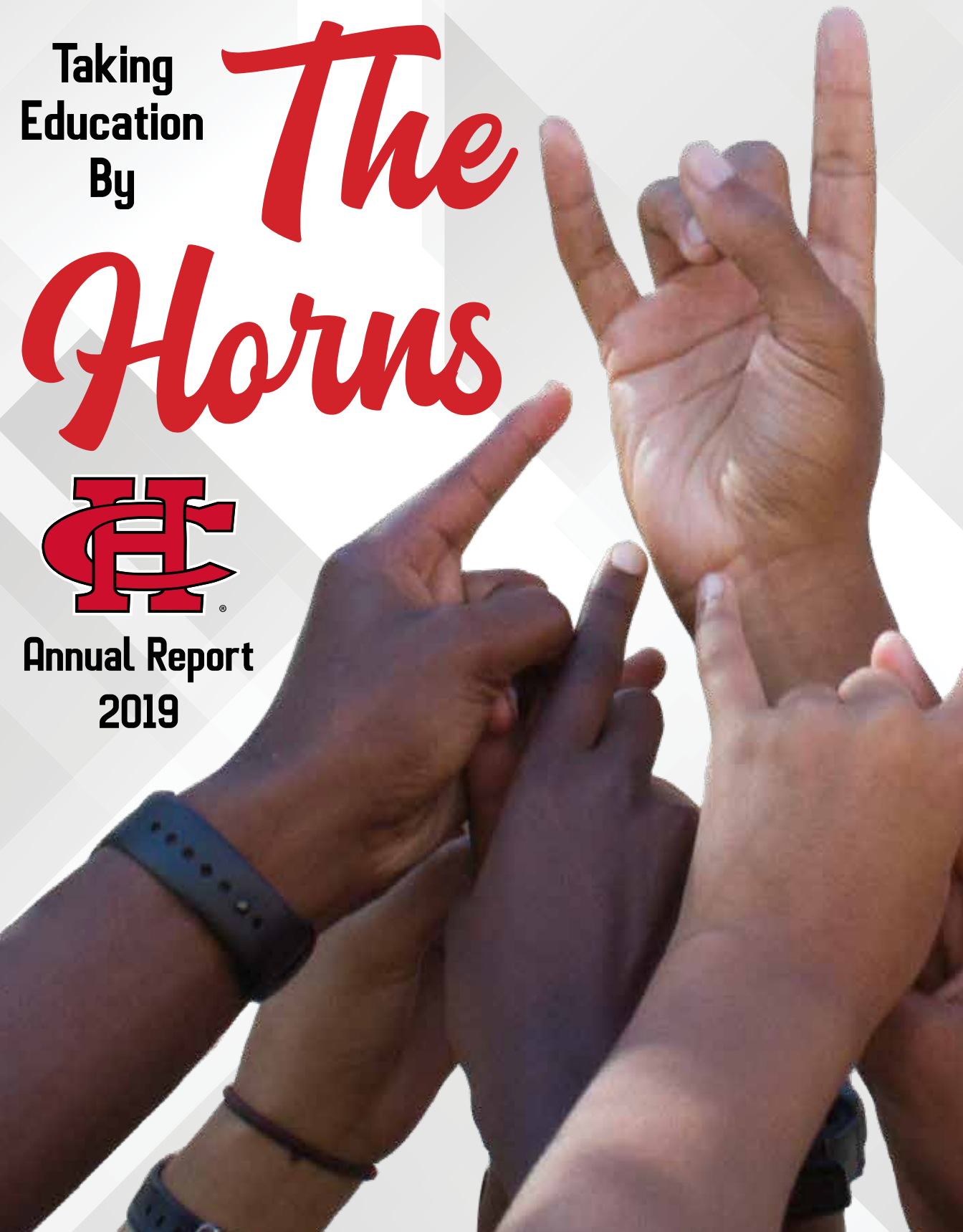
Taking
Education
By

The

Horns



Annual Report
2019





Be part of the exciting things happening here



I began as superintendent in January 2018. One year later, this report reflects some of the amazing things our team has accomplished. New programs have been developed, scholars and staff have earned national recognition, and we continue to be the leading choice for education in Cedar Hill. Additionally, this district serves as an economic engine for Cedar Hill and is the city's largest employer.

Thanks to community partners and our innovative leaders, Best Southwest families have two new options, both unique — the Cedar Hill High School Fire Academy and Montessori at Lake Ridge Elementary. CHISD is the first public school district in the area to offer these programs.

Work done in 2018 to expand and improve performance on Advanced Placement tests led to being named an AP Honor Roll district by the College Board, a national not-for-profit organization. No other Best Southwest district was recognized, and only 11 districts in North Texas made the prestigious list.

The district began a strategic planning process to engage dozens of community leaders, parents, staff and scholars. When implementation begins in 2019 the district will be stronger than ever. This collaborative effort will yield long-lasting results. Whether or not you have children in the district, your participation in community meetings and school activities is valued. Strong school districts make strong communities, and supportive communities make stronger school districts.

Cedar Hill ISD is on a growth trajectory. Be part of the exciting things happening here. Volunteer in a classroom. Join a PTA or booster club. The opportunities for partnership are endless.

Thank you for making CHISD The Leading Choice.

Sincerely,

Dr. Billy Snow
Superintendent



More than 30 percent of CHISD educators have a master's degree



By the numbers

30.3%

Teachers who have a master's degree

8.7

Average years of teacher experience

32.3%

Teachers who have more than 10 years of experience

934

Number of Employees

63.3%

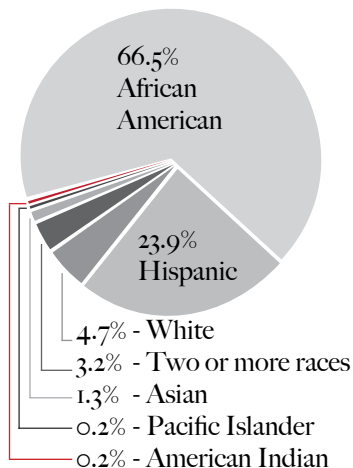
Economically disadvantaged

7,791

Enrollment

2,554

Volunteers



7

Elementary Schools

3

Middle Schools

1

Ninth Grade Center

2

High Schools

AP Honor Roll

For the first time CHISD was listed as an AP Honor Roll district. Only 11 districts in North Texas received the honor, and fewer than 400 in the U.S. and Canada were included. To earn the recognition, a district must increase Advanced Placement test takers and maintain or improve scores.

A partnership with the Cedar Hill Education Foundation helped CHISD scholars make the grade. The nonprofit gave scholars \$300, \$400 or \$500 for earning a 3, 4 or 5 on AP exams. Eighty students earned \$30,000 total.



CHISD is the largest employer in Cedar Hill



Bond Rating

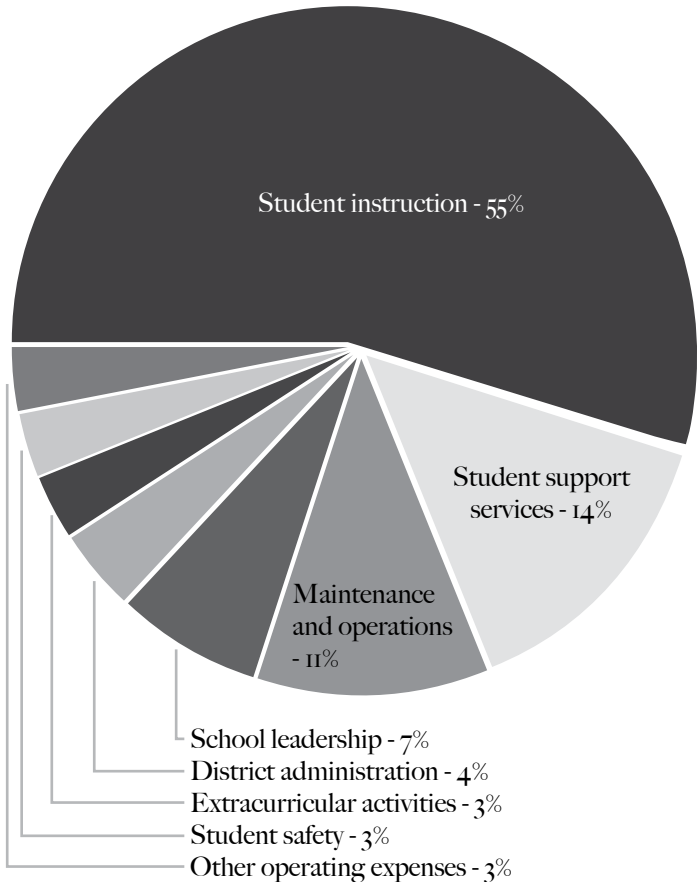
CHISD maintains an underlying bond rating of -AA from Standard & Poor's Rating Services and has received an underlying bond rating of -AA from Fitch Ratings on the district's outstanding debt.

Key drivers for the district's rating:

- Stable financial operations
- Strong economy of the DFW metro area
- Local and regional home price indicators

Financial Transparency

2018-19 total budgeted expenditures \$65,320,581





Only 11 North Texas districts named to AP Honor Roll



Near Perfect Performance

The Texas Education Agency annually ranks the top performing North Texas schools. Cedar Hill Collegiate High School earned an A+ in 2018.

Fifteen other schools complete the list. Collegiate shared the No. 2 spot with Irma Lerma Rangel Young Women's Leadership School and the Dr. Wright L. Lassiter Jr. Early College High School at El Centro College. All three campuses earned a 98.

TEA grades schools on student achievement, school progress and performance among student groups, STAAR scores, graduation rates, and AP and ACT results.

Academic Achievements

- In the last five years, the Texas Education Agency has awarded CHISD 180 distinctions.
- All campuses Met Standard for the 2017-18 school year.
- In 2018 CHISD was named to the AP Honor Roll.
- Collegiate tied for the No. 2 performing high schools as ranked by North Texas by the Texas Education Agency.
- Eighty-two scholars graduated with an associate degree in 2018.
- Thanks to Dallas County Promise, the entire Class of 2019 may receive free tuition to any Dallas County Community College District school.

CHHS Fire Academy will produce grads prepared for workforce



Unique Program Adds Choices

Quality firefighter recruits are hard to find in the Best Southwest. A partnership between CHISD, the City of Cedar Hill and El Centro College will spark more qualified candidates.

Opening in August, the Cedar Hill High School Fire Academy will produce graduates who are workforce-ready. No other school district in the area has a fire academy.

Cedar Hill Deputy Fire Chief Rodney Smith calls the program an innovative solution to a growing problem. "There's a lot of shortage at this time. Departments are being very creative about how they recruit."

The three-year program puts scholars like freshman Mojja Fuentes Burrell on the fast track to a career through tuition-free dual-credit college classes and Emergency Medical Services and Emergency Medical Technician certifications.

Mojja, who sees herself as a police detective or fire marshal, says her relationship with residents will help her make a difference. "This community is where I grew up," she says. "I'll have a connection with them."

New program fosters confidence, curiosity, and creativity



Parents Enthusiastic About New Montessori Program

Best Southwest children in Montessori programs are driven — usually to Dallas or Arlington.

Cedar Hill mom Megan Micheli goes the distance. “My daughter is in a Montessori program, but we have to go to Oak Cliff because there’s nothing in this area.”

In August, Lake Ridge Elementary will start two Pre-K4 and kindergarten classes, and a first through third class. CHISD is the only public school district in the Best Southwest to offer a Montessori program.

Administrators say Montessori is the most popular new program for 2019. “The response has exceeded all the others,” CHISD Superintendent Dr. Billy Snow says. “A couple of weeks after registration opened, we had enough applicants to fill a class.”

Micheli isn’t surprised. “I think everybody is really listening to what the parents want.”

Montessori classrooms are unique. Multi-age peers work independently at their own pace. After demonstrating mastery, older students teach younger students.

Children choose guided work activities and learn in uninterrupted blocks of time. The classroom is designed to accommodate choice. Learners work at tables or on the floor instead of at a desk.

The program has proven to foster confidence, curiosity, independence and collaborative skills. Additionally, students are empowered to seek answers to their own questions and assess their own work.



Board of Trustees

Clockwise from top left: trustee Doug Heyerdahl, president Michael Quildon, vice president Robert Riggs, trustee Gayle Sims, trustee Dawn Miller, secretary Angela Roberts and trustee Cheryl Wesley

Get on the Bus

Take a front-row seat to 21st-century teaching and learning. Sign up for the district's last public bus tour of the 2018-19 school year. The bus leaves the Cedar Hill Government Center at 10:30 a.m. Wednesday, Feb. 13, and returns before noon. Register at chisd.net/BusTours. Private tours for special interest groups are scheduled by appointment.

Email webmaster@chisd.net to arrange a tour for a group of 12 or more.



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