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The Socorro Independent School District has a long legacy of excellence with thousands of students and employees achieving remarkable success in the classroom and community for the last 60 years. The district always has embraced a foundation of unity and innovation that has contributed to its expansion from a small rural community to a successful large urban school district. Its lifelong commitment to provide endless opportunities for students and staff has established the district as a leader in education and service for the families of its close-knit community. With a strong support network and a focus on the best instructional practices, all members of Team SISD can seize their opportunity to be successful now and in the future. Together, we work to ensure all students are Tomorrow’s Leaders Learning Today.
I am truly excited and humbled by the opportunity to serve as superintendent of Socorro ISD. Socorro ISD is known as an innovative, high performing school district...one of the top large districts not only in the region, but in the state. This district is a true gem in the El Paso area and in Texas, and I hope to inspire students and staff to continue shining brightly with success.

I thank the SISD Board of Trustees for acknowledging and trusting my longtime experience as an educator and expertis as a school district superintendent. It is an honor to have been chosen for this most important post in this great community and I embrace the history of excellence achieved over the last 60 years. I am eager to work with the Board, staff, students, parents, and community to work toward optimizing SISD students’ academic, artistic, athletic, and interpersonal skills.

I look forward to learning more about what makes SISD special and the unique talents, traits and strengths of our students and employees. I will explore the district and engage with as many stakeholders as possible with an open mind and a pledge to develop positive relationships to move us forward together. I know that there is a wealth of knowledge and aptitude among all students, staff, and faculty in this award-winning and remarkable district.

Understanding that successful academics is of paramount importance, along with fostering relationships with district, business, and community stakeholders, I bring nearly three decades of experience to help build a better and prosperous tomorrow for Socorro ISD. I will maintain a commitment to focus on academic success for all students, growth development for employees, budget management and fiscal responsibility, and collaboration and communication for the good of all in the district.

Providing equal educational opportunities is integral to serve our diverse population and I aim to help all students find their voice and achieve their full potential. I want to build consensus to benefit our students and so that we may improve initiatives for college and career readiness, exceeding accountability standards, and creating innovative approaches to learning.

It is an honor and a privilege for me to join SISD and I am excited for my wife and I to make the Socorro community our new home. Thank you again to the SISD community for this opportunity to serve as your superintendent. I envision a journey ahead with collaboration and communication built on trust and transparency between myself and all stakeholders in SISD. I look forward to leading the Socorro ISD community, its faculty, staff, and students to even greater heights.

Respectfully,

Nate Carman, Ed.D.
Superintendent of Schools
The Socorro Independent School District is a remarkable team of students, educators, and community members. On behalf of the Board of Trustees, I’d like to thank the SISD community for its continuous support and work for the ongoing success and progress across this dynamic school district.

We are grateful for the people from all corners of our district and in the greater El Paso area who assist our students and teachers to be champions in the classroom. Times have been challenging for everyone, but with our great network of supporters we have continued to provide the high-quality education and service that our students and families deserve.

Socorro ISD is a high caliber district that gives students opportunities to grow, develop and succeed in all areas of their education, in extracurricular events, athletics, early childhood education and with the latest technology, world-class facilities and safe learning environments. Our mindset is to provide optimal resources and programs for students and staff, and we are committed to continue working toward the best prospects and service for all.

Even through the difficulties of the pandemic over the last couple of years, we as a board and the SISD community have pulled together to ensure we are caring for students and families. We have invested millions of dollars in Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief (ESSER) funds to support efforts to maintain safe operation of schools, to address achievement gaps, and to compensate employees for their admirable work.

As we move forward, we are thrilled to welcome our new Superintendent of Schools Nate Carman, Ed.D., as the next leader of the Socorro district. We are confident that his experience and tenure as a superintendent has prepared him for this transition to serve in Socorro ISD. He is a leader that has shown high levels of professional excellence as a thoughtful professional, team builder, exceptional communicator, and strategic thinker with a commitment to lead students and staff to success.

We are eager to continue leading the district to further success together as a team with Dr. Carman. We are dedicated to working responsibly, transparently, and collaboratively to ensure our students have equitable access to educational opportunities and resources so that they can succeed. Thank you for being a part of the Socorro family with us and entrusting us to lead our district to even more success.

Sincerely,

David O. Morales
Board President
The Socorro Independent School District Board of Trustees consists of seven volunteer elected citizens who work with community leaders, families, and educators to develop sound educational policies that support student achievement and ensure the solvency of the district. The board takes on the charge of upholding high standards of ethical leadership, responsibility, and transparency to provide endless opportunities for all students and staff to achieve success and to ensure the best learning and working environments across the district. Five of the trustees represent single-member districts and two are elected at-large.

The SISD Board of Trustees has earned honors for being an outstanding school board, having been recognized in the HEB Excellence in Education award program and selected twice as the Region 19 Board of the Year. The SISD board also earned the prestigious title of Texas Honor Board, one of the highest achievements a Texas school board can earn.
AWARDS & RECOGNITIONS

A Rated District and TEA Postsecondary Readiness Distinction
District award

H-E-B Excellence in Education
Large District Winner and Finalist
District Award • three years

H-E-B Excellence in Education
Board Award Finalist & Semifinalist
Board of Trustees • three years

Region 19 Board of the Year Board of Trustees
two years

Texas Honor Board
Board of Trustees

2021 TEA Texas Tech
Principal Fellows grant recipient
District award • two years

Region 19 Elementary
Teacher of the Year
four consecutive years

2021 Best Communities for Music Education Award
Fine Arts • five consecutive years

2021 Texas Arts Education Association
District of Distinction
Fine Arts

2021-22 Lone Star Counselor Award
Eight counseling programs

2021 Recognized ASCA Model Program award
Lujan-Chavez Elementary School

2021 National Public Relations Association
Golden Achievement Awards
Public Relations

2022 Texas Public Relations Association
Platinum Award
Public Relations

2020 RYHT Raising Blended Learners
Grant Recipient
District Award

2021 ASBO Certificate of Excellence in Financial Reporting
District award • five consecutive years

Three Transparency Stars Texas Comptroller of Public Accounts
Financial Services

Superior rating in the School Financial Integrity Rating System of Texas
Financial Services

Texas Association of School Business Officials
Award of Merit for Purchasing & Operations
Financial Services • 11 years
SOCORRO BY THE NUMBERS

2021 STAAR PERFORMANCE*

Region 19  Socorro ISD

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Subject</th>
<th>Reading</th>
<th>Math</th>
<th>Writing</th>
<th>Science</th>
<th>Social Studies</th>
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<td>Hispanic</td>
<td>85%</td>
<td>57%</td>
<td>50%</td>
<td>60%</td>
<td>83%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>White</td>
<td>83%</td>
<td>57%</td>
<td>50%</td>
<td>60%</td>
<td>83%</td>
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<tr>
<td>African American</td>
<td>57%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Multicultural</td>
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<td>50%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Asian</td>
<td>40%</td>
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<td>40%</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>American Indian</td>
<td>40%</td>
<td>40%</td>
<td>40%</td>
<td>40%</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pacific Islander</td>
<td>40%</td>
<td>40%</td>
<td>40%</td>
<td>40%</td>
<td>40%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Economically Disadvantaged</td>
<td>40%</td>
<td>40%</td>
<td>40%</td>
<td>40%</td>
<td>40%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>English Learners (EL)</td>
<td>25.6%</td>
<td>25.6%</td>
<td>25.6%</td>
<td>25.6%</td>
<td>25.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Military-connected Students</td>
<td>11.4%</td>
<td>11.4%</td>
<td>11.4%</td>
<td>11.4%</td>
<td>11.4%</td>
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NOTABLE NUMBERS

- Attendance rate (2019-2020): 98.6%
- Graduation rate (Class of 2020): 91.8%
- 2021 total graduates: 3,481
- Scholarship and grants earned by graduates (2021): $69.4 million

SOCORRO ISD ACCOUNTABILITY RATING

Year          | Accountability Rating
---------------|-----------------------
2021          | Not Rated: Declared State of Distaster
2020          | Not Rated: Declared State of Distaster
2019          | A Rating & Post Secondary Distinction

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, students were not mandated to take State of Texas Assessments of Academic Readiness in 2020-2021. Decreases in student performance were seen across the state for the students who opted to test. Of the 54 percent who chose to test in grades three through eight in SISD, they continued to outperform their peers across the El Paso region.

STUDENTS & STAFF

46,932 CURRENT ENROLLMENT

Hispanic 92.3%
White 3.7%
African American 2.2%
Multicultural 0.9%
Asian 0.6%
American Indian 0.2%
Pacific Islander 0.2%
Economically Disadvantaged 69.7%
English Learners (EL) 25.6%
Military-connected Students 11.4%

6,020 FACULTY & STAFF

- Teachers 2,931
- Professional Support 641
- Campus Administration 154
- Central Administration 42
- Educational Aides 558
- Auxiliary Staff 1,694

49 CAMPUSES

- Comprehensive High Schools 6
- Middle Schools 10
- PK-8 Schools 5
- Elementary Schools 24
- Specialty Campuses 4
Safety and security always have been the top priority in the Socorro Independent School District and in the last two years the district has gone above and beyond to take swift, deliberate action to protect its community. While no one could predict the extreme challenges the COVID-19 pandemic would bring, the SISD family remained united and dedicated to safeguard schools, keep students and staff healthy, provide social and emotional support, remain vigilant in awareness and prevention, and deliver nourishment and resources.

A watchful eye is kept over the district’s schools and facilities with a dedicated police force and an emergency management department that are prepared to protect and serve. The district embraces a team approach as it maintains a strong partnership with local law enforcement agencies to ensure collaboration for routine law enforcement as well as in emergencies. The SISD Police Services is comprised of 59 police officers and six dispatchers who provide 24-7 vigilance of all campuses and facilities. All 49 campuses are monitored with a minimum of 15 cameras at each school. The award-winning K-9 officers and teams also ensure schools are drug-free zones.

The emergency operations manager, District Safety Committee and campus emergency operations administrators work collaboratively to ensure systems are in place and personnel are trained to mitigate and manage unexpected situations. The district follows guidelines set forth by the Texas School Safety Center school-based emergency management. More than 888 school emergency drills were conducted in 2021-22 among students, faculty, and staff to ensure everyone is trained to respond to emergencies. Use of the NaviGate 360 application among the district and campuses has streamlined communication for management of drills, emergency preparedness plans, and behavioral threat assessments.

SISD Health Services, Guidance and Counseling andChild Nutrition Services are additional critical departments to ensure the health, nutritional, and social and emotional well-being of students. Fifty-five registered nurses in Team SISD oversee the health and wellbeing of students and staff and have been instrumental during the pandemic with COVID-19 testing, vaccinations and contact tracing. They care for ill or injured students, conduct health screenings, health promotion and disease prevention. SISD’s award-winning counselors provide excellent, comprehensive support to students, parents, and families focusing on academic, emotional and social needs with daily counseling, special programs and sessions. The SISD counseling department trains all employees on suicide awareness and prevention and continues the Mental Health Awareness Taskforce to provide access to behavioral health services on school campuses through a partnership with Project Vida Health Center.
The Child Nutrition Services Department also has been instrumental in ensuring students and families across the district and in the community have been well nourished. At the height of the pandemic, they quickly established safe curbside meal services to keep children fed whether during both remote and in-person instruction. They have followed state and federal guidelines to ensure all children under the age of 18 are provided free meals regardless of income status during the 2021-22 school year. The department has worked tirelessly to adjust when products have been in short supply or delayed by the challenges of the pandemic. They served some 7.1 million meals through curbside service, regular cafeteria lunch service, and free Breakfast in the Classroom for elementary, middle, and high school students in 2021-22. SISD has 26 participating Community Eligibility Provision campuses at which all students receive all meals for free.

SISD partners with community agencies to provide COVID-19 vaccines

Team SISD has partnered since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic with Immunize El Paso, the City of El Paso, the Hospitals of Providence, El Paso Children’s Hospital, and the SISD Employee Clinic to provide vaccinations within campuses and facilities to SISD stakeholders, employees, students and the El Paso community.

“Together our goal has been to mitigate the spread of COVID-19 within our community,” said SISD assistant superintendent Marivel Macias. “Every vaccination administered gets us one step closer to some sense of normalcy.”

Through walk-in services at SISD schools, drive-up services at the employee clinic and drive-through services at the SISD Police Services facility, SISD has provided more than 25,000 vaccines to children and adults across the district and in the community.

Parents have been thankful for the opportunities to get their children vaccinated.

“I’m just grateful for this and that they moved quickly on it to try and do it at multiple locations and on multiple days so that way it was convenient for everyone,” said parent Saul Villanueva. “I hope more people will take advantage of this and come get their vaccines.”
ENDLESS OPPORTUNITIES
FOR FUTURE SUCCESS

The Socorro Independent School District consistently operates with its overarching vision in mind, to ensure Tomorrow’s Leaders are Learning Today. The district delivers endless opportunities in academics, athletics, and extracurricular activities to give students a solid foundation, extensive knowledge, and valuable experiences for a successful future.

The focus on high-quality education with an extraordinary support network of educators, administrators and community partners empowers students to pursue their educational and career goals. No matter their interests or strengths, Team SISD allows students to seize their opportunity for greatness with advanced academics, free college classes, career and technical education, early childhood education for Pre-K and 3-year-olds, the latest technology, award-winning fine arts and athletics, and world-class facilities.

While the last two years have presented immense challenges due to the COVID-19 pandemic, Team SISD has reinforced its commitment to meeting students’ academic, social, and emotional needs. Millions of dollars in federal Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief (ESSER) funds have been allocated to support comprehensive efforts to accelerate instruction for students who have been impacted by the pandemic, sustain a safe return and operation of schools and to hire additional teachers, classroom aides, counselors, and other support staff.

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SISD continues its steadfast focus on college and career readiness with its Operation College Bound efforts, which include a districtwide awareness and proactive activities to promote post-secondary education and providing free dual credit courses and advanced academics at all high schools. Team SISD is the only district in the region to have an early college high school program at every comprehensive high school in the district. In partnership with El Paso Community College, SISD has been a longtime supporter of enabling students to earn their associate degree at the same time as their high school diploma. Mission Early College High School was the first ECHS program to open in the region in 2006 and has celebrated 15 graduating classes.


More than 1,500 SISD students have earned associate degrees through the district’s early college high school programs since 2010.

SISD students have shown notable success in being prepared for their future. SISD graduates continue to achieve the college and career readiness indicator, with an increase of 6.1 percent of students who have earned dual course credits. The number of students who have earned associate degrees while in high school has increased to 6.7 percent and students who have earned industry-based certifications also has increased to 16.3 percent. SISD students collectively earned 39,721 dual credit hours earned during the 2020-21 school year saving millions of dollars in future college costs.

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SISD’s efforts to prepare students for future success goes beyond classroom learning. Every comprehensive high school in SISD offers an Advanced Academics Academy to give real-world learning and specialized training. Students gain a wealth of knowledge and hands-on experience with unique opportunities, competitions, associations and organizations, and support from expert instructors and partners in education.

Students can study at the Business Academy at Pebble Hills High School; School of Advanced Technology Applications (SATA) at Eastlake High School; SYNERGI4 at Montwood High School; International Baccalaureate Diploma Program and the Aztec Architectural Academy at El Dorado High School; Health Professions Academy at Socorro High School; or Libertas – Law Academy at Americas High School.

A team of students from the El Dorado High School Aztec Architecture Academy won first place in the Texas Society of Architects’ 2021 Student Design Challenge, a rigorous contest designed to showcase middle and high school students and their outstanding work as future leaders and designers.

The winning teams were announced at the 62nd Annual Conference and Design Expo in San Antonio. The Aztec Architecture Academy team JADA Shelter won first place.

“It’s amazing to see how much ambition these kids have,” said Luisa Valenzuela, Aztec Architecture Academy instructor. “Their late nights, early mornings and hard work overall definitely paid off for them, and I am so proud.”

The Aztec Architecture Academy had eight teams participate in the contest. Out of 98 statewide entries five teams were selected as finalists. Three El Dorado teams were among the five finalists — JADA Shelter, Second-Chance Shelter, and Project Green-Smiles.

“I honestly didn’t expect this to happen, so we were even more excited when we got the news,” said Tye-Spreitzer, a junior at El Dorado High School. “We would sometimes stay until 8 p.m. working on our project, weekends, early mornings and I am so proud we got it done and got recognized for it.”

The contest challenged students to create a project, demonstrating overall goals, schematic designs, architectural styles, and design processes on the topic of homeless shelters. They were required to present their projects to a panel of judges.
SISD has exceptional technology services, instructional technology and Career and Technical Education departments which give SISD students the latest tools and training for current and future success.

The nationally recognized SISD CTE program provides 16 career clusters and 45 specialized programs of study. This includes the new diesel technology and barbering program at Socorro High School and the esthetics program at Eastlake High School, all of which give students a wealth of job opportunities after they graduate. Team SISD’s CTE students earned more than 3,400 industry-recognized certifications last year in nationally recognized programs showing proof they are ready with the skills and knowledge to succeed in the workforce. The district continues to showcase educational and career opportunities available to students while in high school and after graduation through its Career Awareness Showcase; Job Con; and College, Career, and Job Expo. In addition, SISD students participate and consistently win in Career and Technical Student Organization competitions, including Business Professionals of America, Distributive Clubs of America (DECA), Texas Association for Future Educators (TAFE), SkillsUSA, FFA, First Robotics, Best Robotics, and Technology Student Association (TSA).

Close collaboration through the various technology departments ensures that all educational and administrative technology systems and infrastructure are successfully managed, secured and reliable. During the last two years of the pandemic, the technology services department has been critical in keeping district operations and instruction running effectively and efficiently. SISD has invested millions of dollars in laptops/tablets for ALL 47,000-plus students to have access to a personal mobile tech device. Students, faculty, and staff are supported with the highest level of service and access to state-of-the-art technologies. The instructional technology team supports students daily with innovative digital and blended learning opportunities and events such as ROBOCOM, Academic Technology Showcase, and Hour of Code/Computer Science Education Week activities.

Career and Technical Education and Technology Services

The Socorro Independent School District has a long legacy of preparing students for success in higher education, careers, and jobs, often providing opportunities for them to jump into the workforce while still in high school or immediately after graduation. With recent hires in the SISD Technology Services department, the district is living up to that tradition with its exceptional computer maintenance and networking program supported by the Career and Technical Education department.

Several new technology employees are recent high school graduates who gained real-world, hands-on experience in Team SISD through their computer maintenance and networking classes and are now full-time support technicians working at campuses in the district.

Larissa Hernandez, who graduated from Americas High School in June 2021, is now a full-time campus support technician as she works toward her bachelor’s degree at the University of Texas at El Paso.

“This feels incredible because it is such an amazing opportunity,” she said. “The program gives students a huge advantage in what they are pursuing. For example, I am pursuing computer science. I have plenty of certifications. I am certified in all the Microsoft apps, Word, PowerPoint, Access and Excel, and I also have my A+ certification, which allows me to practice as a computer technician.”

For Jared Rodriguez, a computer technician at Eastlake High School, being a student-worker in the computer maintenance program gave him an excellent experience, fixing laptops, troubleshooting technology challenges, maintaining drivers and printers, and assisting the school community.

“I have been able to incorporate everything I learned,” Rodriguez said. “I even had the opportunity to work on my customer service, which is dealing with teachers, too, and even the students.”

The CTE computer maintenance and networking program is offered at each of the district’s comprehensive high schools and students learn from a classroom teacher and an instructional support person.
Outstanding SISD fine arts programs add to students’ comprehensive educational experiences to enhance their creativity, coordination, and discipline. The programs provide opportunities in music, theater, color guard, dance, and visual arts, in which SISD students consistently excel at the highest level of competition. In 2021-22, SISD led the region with 15 students earning recognition as 2022 TMEA all-state musicians. For the first time, six SISD dancers represented the district at the 2022 TDEA convention performing among the best of the best in the state. Five SISD mariachi ensembles advanced to the highly competitive 2022 UIL state mariachi competition. In addition, the SISD Fine Arts department is consistently recognized, having earned the Best Communities for Music Education Award for five consecutive years and for the first time winning the 2021 TAEA District of Distinction for engaging students with visual arts.

Highly competitive and award-winning athletic programs are prevalent at SISD schools. Student-athletes excel on the playing field and in the classroom, resulting in dozens of students earning championships in team and individual sports and charting a course to future success in collegiate athletics. In 2020-21, SISD athletic teams won 12 district, bi-district and area championships in various sports and 15 individual athletes qualified and competed at state. To date for 2021-22, 11 teams have won district, bi-district and area championships and 26 individual student athletes qualified and competed at state. SISD also offers a unique, engaging and highly popular Volunteer Sports Program that allows parents to volunteer as coaches for intramural soccer, basketball, track and field and cheerleading for students from 3 years old to sixth grade.

Supporting the whole child to ensure they are successful in all areas of their education is of utmost importance in Team SISD. Endless opportunities are provided in athletics, fine arts, and special programs to meet students’ needs, provide enrichment, and give a solid foundation in early education.

SISD ensures young students receive the support and instruction they need to be successful in Pre-K and beyond with free full-day Pre-K for all 4-year-olds and a free half-day early childhood education program for 3-year-olds who qualify. SISD’s early childhood programs provide engaging, hands-on learning to build a solid foundation for students to succeed in their academic journey.

The SISD Dual Language Academy/ Academia de Dos Idiomas uses a 50/50 model of Spanish/English instruction that teaches students to be bilingual and biliterate through rigorous instruction and multicultural experiences. It is offered at Myrtle Cooper and Dr. Sue A. Shock elementary schools and will be expanding to Bill Rybiet School and Hueco Elementary for 2022-23.

With the district’s unique WIN Academy, students who struggle in a traditional education setting are provided more instructional time with a digital device and digital curriculum, and a teacher who loops with them for multiple years. Students learn in a fast track, flexible educational setting with personalized learning.

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SISD ensures young students receive the support and instruction they need to be successful in Pre-K and beyond with free full-day Pre-K for all 4-year-olds and a free half-day early childhood education program for 3-year-olds who qualify. SISD’s early childhood programs provide engaging, hands-on learning to build a solid foundation for students to succeed in their academic journey.

The SISD Dual Language Academy/ Academia de Dos Idiomas uses a 50/50 model of Spanish/English instruction that teaches students to be bilingual and biliterate through rigorous instruction and multicultural experiences. It is offered at Myrtle Cooper and Dr. Sue A. Shock elementary schools and will be expanding to Bill Rybiet School and Hueco Elementary for 2022-23.

With the district’s unique WIN Academy, students who struggle in a traditional education setting are provided more instructional time with a digital device and digital curriculum, and a teacher who loops with them for multiple years. Students learn in a fast track, flexible educational setting with personalized learning.
The Socorro ISD family embraces its strong unity and teamwork with a robust network of employees, parents and community members working together for the good of the children in SISD schools. Starting with an immensely dedicated and highly effective workforce, the educators and employees in SISD consistently provide the best instruction to students and customer service to parents and families.

More than 3,400 teachers and educational aides work in SISD schools educating students from grades Pre-K to 12th. Fifty percent of SISD teachers have more than 11 years of experience and 32 percent of SISD teachers have a master’s or doctoral degree. Their expertise translates to superior student performance and successful programs across the district. SISD teachers also are truly committed to staying in our community to serve our students. The district has an 8.8 percent turnover rate, well below the state’s average rate of 14.3 percent.

The strength of SISD faculty and staff is supported with numerous professional development and career growth opportunities. New teachers participate in the district’s nationally recognized Building Friends for the Future program where they are paired up with mentors that provide guidance and support on a regular, one-to-one basis. New principals are provided with highly qualified mentors during their first year as SISD leaders. The AP Academy develops assistant principals with resources and skills so they can be prepared to take on the leadership role of a principal.
The Socorro Independent School District and the University of Texas at El Paso, in collaboration with US Prep Learning Tour, welcomed educators from across the nation to showcase the Miner Teacher Residency Program during a tour Nov. 9 at several SISD schools. More than 150 visitors from states including Arkansas and New York visited SISD campuses to learn about the successful teacher preparation program, which includes a yearlong student teaching experience and a stipend for the participants.

Higher education and K-12 educators toured Purple Heart Elementary School, Horizon Heights Elementary School, Ernesto Serna School and El Dorado High School to hear from UTEP and SISD leaders about how they work together to meet the needs of the student teachers participating in the Miner Teacher Residency Program.

SISD and UTEP leaders agree that the partnership provides a dynamic collaboration that gives student teachers a head start and meaningful training to ensure they are fully prepared to meet the demands of being full-time educators when they enter the workforce.

Purple Heart Elementary principal Deana White said the goal of the residency always has been to give teachers a first-hand experience of being in the classroom so that they can be successful at the start of their careers and demonstrate high levels of proficiency.

In addition, SISD has cultivated multiple partnerships and programs to enable educators to earn advanced degrees and certifications. The Grow Your Own Grant allows instructional aides to earn their bachelor’s degree and certification to transition to full-time teachers. SISD also was the first in the region to offer opportunities for teachers to attain master’s degrees and a certification to teach dual credit courses.

Two residency programs give aspiring educators and administrators opportunities to get intensive training and real-world experience in SISD schools. SISD was awarded a TEA grant twice to fund the Texas Tech Principal Fellows program which provides teachers an opportunity to earn a master’s degree and principal certification. The nationally recognized, job-embedded graduate program gives educators first-hand, real-world experience to become campus leaders.

Team SISD also has teamed up with UTEP to offer the Miner Teacher Residency Program which gives student-teachers meaningful training to ensure they are fully prepared to meet the demands of being full-time educators when they enter the workforce. The immense success of the program resulted in a visit from more than 150 educators from across the country to SISD campuses in November 2021 to learn about the innovative teacher preparation program.

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A community of excellence

SISD thrives through remarkable teamwork among parents, volunteers, and community partners. The district’s success for 60 years is a testament to the great support from a caring, close-knit community.

SISD has 4,930 registered volunteers and more than 250 Partners in Education, who continually support students and teachers with hours of service and monetary donations. SISD volunteers are an essential component in educating and nurturing students. Volunteers work year-round alongside staff to enhance and enrich the educational opportunities provided to students.

Partners in Education also are vital members of Team SISD making valuable investments in our school communities through their donations, time, and talent. Regular meetings with partners and school liaisons throughout the school year keep the partnerships vibrant and strong to assist students, teachers, and schools. Both volunteers and Partners in Education have remained active and supportive throughout the challenges of the pandemic.

Supporting all learners and investing in personalized support in the SISD community is of utmost importance and the district united to provide opportunities for students of all situations and ages.

SISD proudly serves more than 6,000 military-connected students. The district has the most TEA Purple Star Awards in the state with 45 campuses earning the honor. The award recognizes schools that show their commitment to meeting the unique needs of military-connected students. The district has designated military liaisons/counselors, a military active spouses program and coordinates various workshops and activities to engage and assist military-connected students and their families.

The SISD Community Education department supports adult students to earn their GED, take ESL, citizenship, and vocational classes. For their innovative collaboration, SISD Community Education and the Career and Technical Education department have been nationally recognized by the U.S. Department of Education and the National Skills Coalition for providing adult students with free skills courses to earn certifications in business and industry.

In addition, to ensure no child is left behind, the district’s annual Walk for Success unites administrators, counselors, and staff members who visit SISD neighborhoods to personally reconnect with students who have not returned to school to complete their high school education. SISD has recovered more than 350 students and helped dozens graduate since the start of the Walk for Success in 2014.

Longtime SISD volunteer Stephen Hambric earned the prestigious 2021 Heroes for Children Award from the State Board of Education District 1 for his outstanding service and support to schools, community, staff, and most notably, students.

Hambric, who was one of only 15 awarded in the state, has volunteered for SISD for nearly 40 years. His time and dedication have made him a distinguished member of the community.

“I am humbled to receive this award,” he said. “Although I feel like I didn’t do anything special, it feels nice to be recognized along with the district for all that it does.”

Hambric moved to the Socorro district in 1982 when there were six schools and about 6,100 students enrolled. He served for various committees including the Blue Ribbon committee, which involved community stakeholders who were instrumental in planning for the expansion and growth of the district that resulted in the construction of new schools.
In November 2017, SISD voters overwhelmingly approved Bond 2017. The $448.5 million bond is addressing continuing growth and improvements to existing facilities in Team SISD.

The new Cactus Trails Elementary School was the first completed project of Bond 2017 and opened for the 2019-20 school year. Other Bond 2017 improvements were completed in 2021, such as auxiliary gyms at elementary schools, a new technology services facility, improvements at Montwood High School, sports lighting and improvements at Pebble Hills and Eastlake high schools, and portions of the reconstruction of Socorro High School.

Other projects are under way, including improvements at Americas and El Dorado high schools, a new Student Activities Complex, the new Ben Narbuth Elementary and Eastlake Middle combination school in the Eastlake area, and a support service addition. All Bond 2017 projects are moving forward on time for completion as scheduled.

To ensure the accountability surrounding all aspects of Bond 2017, an independent citizen Bond Accountability Committee is updated regularly and reviews progress of bond projects. The committee asks questions, provides feedback, shares concerns and is tasked with keeping the district accountable to fulfilling its commitment to the community.
Bond 2017 Projects

- **Reconstruction of Socorro High School**
  - Full renovation of school, including newly constructed spaces
  - Scheduled completion: August 2023

- **New Construction**
  - Cactus Trails Elementary, Ben Narbuth Elementary/Eastlake Middle combination school and Student Activities Complex II
  - Completed: Cactus Trails - July 2019
  - Scheduled completion: Ben Narbuth - July 2022
  - Eastlake Middle - December 2022
  - Student Activity Complex II - March 2024

- **Support Services**
  - Technology Services Center, maintenance facility, transportation canopy
  - Completed: Technology Services Center - January 2022
  - Scheduled completion: Maintenance facility - December 2023
  - Transportation canopy - July 2022

- **High School Improvements**
  - Montwood, Americas and El Dorado high schools
  - Completed: Montwood - July 2021, Americas - February 2022
  - Scheduled completion: El Dorado - August 2023

- **Elementary Auxiliary Gyms**
  - 16 schools in district
  - Completed: January 2023

- **Athletic Improvements**
  - Cactus Trails and Pebble Hills High School sports lighting, softball/basketball field improvements
  - Completed: December 2021
The Socorro Independent School District has earned various recognitions for its financial services commitment to maintaining financial integrity, full disclosure and responsibly managing taxpayer funds.

Team SISD received a Certificate of Excellence in Financial Reporting (COE) for its 2021 Comprehensive Annual Financial Report by the Association of School Business Officials International (ASBO). The award signifies high achievement in the district’s commitment to transparent and high-quality financial reporting.

The district earned three Transparency Stars from the Texas Comptroller of Public Accounts program, which recognizes local governments for going above and beyond in their financial transparency efforts. The stars earned are for traditional finances, debt obligations and contracts and procurement.

For 11 consecutive years, Socorro ISD has earned an A in the School Financial Integrity Rating System of Texas, the highest possible rating in the system. The rating cited the district as accountable in financial management practices and providing the maximum allocation for instructional purposes.

In addition, the Fitch Rating Agency reaffirmed strong bond ratings for SISD maintaining its underlying financial rating of AA. Factors that support the AA rating include the district’s above average revenue growth, revenue raising capacity, strong gap-closing capacity, and low fixed costs. Moody’s Investors Service assigned SISD an Aa2 underlying bond rating based on a stable financial outlook and an Aaa enhanced rating based on a guarantee from the Texas Permanent School Fund. Moody’s cited the district’s robust financial position, large and growing tax base, and manageable pension burden. The district also has a S&P rating of AA-.

Overall #1 Student Performance
Overall, SISD students outperform the state and region in STAAR/EOC exams.

Advanced Career & Technical Training
Team SISD’s Career and Technical Education program provides unmatched opportunities for students to graduate from high school prepared for the workforce with industry recognized certifications and licenses.

Award-Winning Fine Arts Programs
SISD offers award-winning, diverse and competitive fine arts programs to enhance student creativity, coordination, and discipline for a complete educational experience.

One-of-a-Kind WIN Academy
The unique WIN Academy provides students who struggle in a traditional education setting more instructional time with a digital device, digital curriculum, and a teacher who loops with them for multiple years.

World-Class Facilities
SISD facilities are of the highest-quality, and well-maintained to ensure students have the best learning environments. Continued improvements and new schools provide modern classrooms, specialized, and collaborative learning spaces.

Free College Classes
SISD gives students the opportunity to earn an associate’s degree or 60 college credit hours, concurrent with a high school diploma, in one of seven early college high school programs and through various degree plans at every high school.

Innovative Advanced Academic Academies
Every comprehensive high school in SISD offers a unique advanced academics academy to give real-world experiences and specialized classes and training.

Championship Athletes & Teams
The SISD athletic program develops student athletes who excel on the playing field, win numerous championships, and thrive in the classroom.

Free Pre-K, 3-year-old Program
SISD ensures young students receive the support and instruction they need to be successful in pre-k and beyond with FREE FULL-DAY Pre-K and FREE HALF-DAY 3-year-old programs for students who qualify.

State-of-the-Art Technologies
Through Operation Future Ready, Team SISD is committed to invest in the latest instructional technology tools and resources for students and teachers to ensure digital learning is taking place in classrooms across the district.