

past present future

Today's students face an increasingly competitive world with rapid social, technological, and economic changes. Faced with ever-tougher college admission requirements, our graduates are still admitted to the nation's most prominent universities. Faculty and volunteers, just as dedicated as in the past, face new challenges every day.

To help meet those challenges, SBISD continues to have high expectations for student-achievement.

- More than 85% of students take the SAT and ACT exams and score consistently higher than state and national averages
- More than half of secondary students enroll in pre-AP, AP, IB, or dual credit classes, and more than 60% of students who take AP and IB exams score at a level to earn college credits
- 17 schools have been recognized by the U.S. Department of Education as National Exemplary Blue Ribbon Schools

The district faces significant financial challenges. Despite 55 percent of the district's students being economically disadvantaged under federal guidelines, the state considers SBISD to be "property wealthy." This "Robin Hood" designation requires SBISD to send millions of dollars of local property taxes to the state each year. In addition, the state has frozen revenue for public education, with no allowances for inflation, increased costs, salary increases, or new unfunded state mandates.

Since 1993, Spring Branch Education Foundation has supplemented the district's limited resources by funding educational programs and extra-curricular activities that are essential to the development of the whole child. The Foundation's mission is to enhance the quality of education for every SBISD student. Thus far, it has raised more than \$6 million for SBISD programs.



A family moves into SBISD for the schools

- The Miller family
- James and Cynthia
 - Taylor, Class of 2010
 - Zachary, Class of 2014

"I wanted schools that were close to my office, small, good academics, family atmosphere, diverse population, a sense of community. We've been very happy."

— James Miller

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Building on the past



Grounded in the present



Preparing for the future



past
present
future

Spring Branch Independent School District was founded in 1945 in a quiet West Houston community destined for growth. Though only a few miles from downtown Houston, the 1940s-era Spring Branch was a rural area of forests, farms, dairies, and sawmills. The common refrain of people who moved into the community around that time is, “I thought my family had moved me to the ends of the earth!”

Since that time SBISD has received national recognition for its outstanding scholastic achievements and its commitment to providing a high-quality education to every student. For many years, SBISD graduates have gained admission to the colleges of their choice, simply by completing the district’s challenging curriculum.

These achievements are no accident. Instead they are the result of countless contributions by generations of parents, faculty, staff, volunteers, and local business leaders who chose to make SBISD schools the best they can be, preparing students for wherever life takes them.

For many Spring Branch/Memorial families, an SBISD education is a legacy. Families move to the area for their children to attend school, SBISD graduates return to the district to raise their families, teachers see generations of students come through their classrooms, and many graduates return to the district to teach. It’s a legacy of learning!



Three generations of SBISD students

- The Rossey Family
- Beverly, Class of 1955
 - Ken, Class of 1976
 - Mary Morgan, Class of 2009

“In a big city, it’s a small community. I wouldn’t be any other place.”

— Ken Rossey

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Now, in its second decade, the Foundation takes a significant step to assure that the district’s legacy of learning continues, by creating the Fund for the Future Endowment. This permanent fund will perpetuate our community’s commitment to providing every SBISD student with an outstanding education. As the endowment grows, it will provide a secure source of long-term funding for enrichment programs that will continue to benefit generations of SBISD students.

Funds donated to the endowment will become part of an enduring, ever-expanding resource to provide new opportunities for students and teachers. Income from the endowment cannot be diverted outside our district or be used for any purpose other than to enhance the quality of the educational experience for SBISD students.

There are many ways to donate:

- Pledges of gifts may be paid over a three-year period
- Memorials and honorariums
- Matching gifts — many employers will match or multiply gifts to the Endowment
- Gifts of cash, securities, property
- Gifts through wills or estate plans

Your donation is tax deductible. SBEF is a 501 (c)(3) non-profit organization.

Because of your participation in the Fund for the Future Endowment, all SBISD students, regardless of economic, social, or cultural circumstances, will continue to have an unlimited opportunity for an outstanding education in order to pursue their dreams. Our community, our state, and our country will reap untold untold benefits from your support for decades to come. This is our legacy.



A graduate moves back for SBISD schools

- The Arend family
- Chris, Class of 1992
 - Meka
 - Drew, Class of 2021
 - Mackenzie, Class of 2023

“People in this neighborhood have been given a lot. They know they’re part of something bigger than themselves. This community has that can-do spirit; we should do something so that others can have the same education we had. The endowment fund is brilliant.”

— Chris Arend



Spring Branch Education Foundation

Since its inception, SBEF has supported many programs which enhance the educational experience for our students and help SBISD remain one of the highest-ranked school districts in the country. Current programs include:

- College scholarships for high school seniors
- Professional development grants for district teachers
- Mentoring, including the award-winning SpringBoard program with more than 600 community and corporate volunteers who mentor students on a weekly basis and an after-school program in which high school students mentor/tutor middle school students
- Cultural arts field trips in which all students in grades one through eight attend world-class performances or visit Houston’s premier museums, providing opportunities many district students would rarely have
- Parent U, where parents and community volunteers attend classes to learn about parenting skills, college preparation, nutrition, and more
- The Good Neighbor Program, which encourages and recognizes volunteer involvement in SBISD schools and activities by individual community members, businesses, and community groups
- Campus grants to individual schools for activities as varied as an irrigation system for a school’s organic garden, an aquatic science program, a video production program, after-school parent education programs, specialized books for reading programs, and much, much more
- A school supply program, which provides essential back-to-school materials for students who need them

SBEF also receives tax-deductible contributions earmarked for specific district programs and campuses. Directed gifts have helped fund such varied campus improvements and programs as school marquees, a middle school soccer program, and scholarships funded by district alumni groups.



Teaching two generations

- Mary Stephens, Class of 1966
- Mila Milo, Class of 1979
- Gordon Thal, Class of 2010

“I’ve seen many changes over the years. There’s a lot more attention paid to curriculum and preparation for college. The support system for students has improved tremendously.”

— Mary Stephens