



*We believe.*

Spring Branch Independent School District  
**District Profile 2014**

[www.springbranchisd.com/profile](http://www.springbranchisd.com/profile)





## An Inspired Community

### **The smartest place live, learn, work and raise a family**

Spring Branch Independent School District (SBISD) encompasses about 44 square miles of wooded suburbs and vibrant business and retail districts located west of downtown Houston along Interstate 10, also known as the Katy Freeway.

About 188,000 district residents live in this region of west Houston and in the incorporated villages of Bunker Hill, Hedwig, Hilshire, Hunters Creek, Piney Point and Spring Valley.

Many families have lived in the Memorial/Spring Branch area all their lives, while others are new to the area or are relocating for career reasons. Others choose to return to this school district because they rank high quality education as a top priority for their children.

In addition, Spring Branch offers taxpayers every tax exemption allowed by Texas law, which results in lower school taxes for its homeowners. For these and many other reasons, we believe that SBISD is the smartest place in Houston to live, learn, work and raise a family.

## Neighborhood Schools Are the Best

Since its creation as a suburban school district in the early 1940s, Spring Branch ISD has been home to nationally recognized elementary and secondary schools. The district's dedication to the small neighborhood school concept has contributed to the success and resilience of our schools and neighborhoods.

SBISD follows a small neighborhood school concept where attendance areas have been established for each individual school. As an established community, attendance zones rarely change in SBISD.

## Record Enrollment

If increasing student enrollment is another indication of a good school system, then SBISD is earning top marks. The district had a record 2013 enrollment of 35,311 students. In the Region IV Education Service Center area that spans Houston and neighboring counties, Spring Branch had the 12th fastest student enrollment growth out of 53 school districts surveyed. In the recent past, the district's enrollment had remained relatively flat, or stable.

SBISD today educates children from all over the world, and its student body reflects the increasing diversity of Texas and the nation. About 58 percent of all SBISD students are Hispanic, 28 percent are white, 6 percent are Asian, 5 percent are African-American, and less than 3 percent are American Indian or identify as Other.



## Blue Ribbons & Academic Success

SBISD represents a district of academic excellence and innovation locally, in Texas, and increasingly across the nation. Our district earns distinctions by traditional measures and through third-party honors and achievements.

Since the U.S. Department of Education began naming “Blue Ribbon” schools years ago, about half of SBISD’s campuses have earned this coveted honor.

Most recently, the district’s public charter middle and high school campus, Westchester Academy for International Studies, was given this national recognition - the most prestigious federal award of its kind.

In all, 19 SBISD campuses have been named Blue Ribbon School winners. They are:

Bunker Hill, Frostwood, Hunters Creek, Memorial Drive, Nottingham, Ridgecrest, Rummel Creek, Spring Shadows and Wilchester elementary schools; Memorial, Northbrook, Spring Branch, Spring Forest and Spring Oaks middle schools; Memorial, Northbrook, Spring Woods and Stratford high schools, and Westchester Academy for International Studies (WAIS).

## Programs of Choice = Student Success

In recent years, SBISD has quickened its pace of program innovation. We believe that choice in education is important for student success and that students should have the skills and opportunity to engage in a wide range of learning.

Today, SBISD offers an expanding list of program choices to families.

### Students Need to Engage in a Range of Learning Opportunities

SBISD today is home to 25 elementary schools, seven traditional middle school campuses, four traditional high schools and several other choice options.

These include two innovative public charter schools: Westchester Academy for International Studies (WAIS), a combined middle and high school campus that offers the challenging International Baccalaureate (IB) academic program, and Cornerstone Academy, a middle school that the Texas Exemplary Agency has rated best in class since it first opened.

Elsewhere, the non-traditional Academy of Choice offers a variety of online courses through its Virtual High School to serve student needs. In August 2013, the Spring Branch ISD School for Highly Gifted Students opened with students in kindergarten through fourth grade. This special program, a first in the Houston region, is designed to serve students identified and tested as highly gifted.

Dual Language Programs from prekindergarten through fifth grade are offered at Cedar Brook Elementary, Pine Shadows and Sherwood elementary schools.

In August 2013, dual language programs opened at several district secondary schools, including Spring Woods and Spring Forest middle schools.

## Spring Branch T-2-4

### Spring Branch ISD Schools

- 5 Schools for Early Learning (PreK)
- 26 Elementary Schools (K-5th Grade)
- 7 Regular Middle Schools (6-8th Grade)
- 1 Charter Middle School (6-8th Grade)
- 1 Charter Middle/High School (6-12th Grade)
- 4 Traditional High Schools (9-12th Grade)
- 1 Alternative/Virtual Middle & High School (6-12th Grade)

### Campus-based Programs of Choice

1 School for Highly Gifted Students (Kindergarten-4th Grade)

- Located at Valley Oaks Elementary School

2 Charter Middle School Programs (5-7th Grades)

- KIPP Courage College Prep at Landrum Middle School
- YES Prep Northbrook at Northbrook Middle School

3 Middle School Dual Language Programs

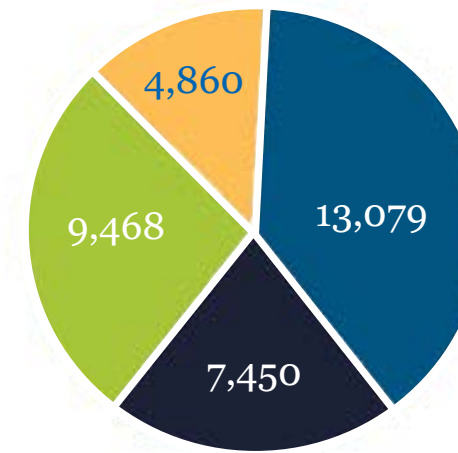
- Spring Woods Middle School
- Spring Forest Middle School
- Westchester Academy for International Studies

3 Elementary Dual Language Programs (Prekindergarten-5th Grade)

- Cedar Brook Elementary
- Pine Shadows Elementary
- Sherwood Elementary







## Staff Demographics (Total Staff = 4,532)

Total District Staff - 4,532  
 Full-time Staff - 4,341  
 Part-time Staff - 191  
 Teachers - 2,315  
 Auxiliary Staff - 892  
 Professional Support - 309  
 Educational Aides - 331  
 Campus/Central Administration - 202

## Student Population

(Total 34,857)

- Early Ed/PreK & Kindergarten - 4,860
- Elementary/Grades 1-5 - 13,079
- Middle/Grades 6-8 - 7,450
- High School/Grades 9-12 - 9,468

### Student Demographics

Male = 51 percent  
 Female = 49 percent  
 Economically Disadvantaged = 58 percent  
 Limited English Proficient = 32 percent  
 At Risk Students = 52 percent  
 Graduates (Class of 2011-12) = 1,805

### Student Ethnicity

58 percent Hispanic  
 28 percent White  
 6 percent Asian/Pacific Islander  
 5 percent African-American  
 3 percent American Indian/Other

### Spring Branch Schools

5 Schools for Early Learning (PreK)  
 26 Elementary Schools (K-5th Grade)  
 7 Regular Middle Schools (6-8th Grade)  
 1 Charter Middle School (6-8th Grade)  
 1 Charter Middle/High School (6-12th Grade)  
 4 Traditional High Schools (9-12th Grade)  
 1 Alternative/Virtual High School (Online)

## Educator Profile

Master's Degree or higher - 627  
 5 or more years experience - 1,723  
 Average years of teaching experience - 11.0  
 Number of students per teacher - 15.9  
 Beginning teacher's salary - \$47,000

## Excellence in Teaching

5 Texas Teachers of the Year  
 4 Regional Teachers of the Year  
 2 Texas Gifted Teachers of the Year  
 7 West Houston Chamber of Commerce Teachers of the Year

## Excellence in Leadership

We are committed to identifying and developing strong leaders with our school district. Our students' success starts with our district leaders.

At the heart of all the work we do is our district goal of T-2-4.

To achieve T-2-4 and sustain excellence for all children in the future, we are investing heavily in our people.

Students success starts with great leadership. We are committed to identifying and developing strong leaders with our school district.





## Student & Campus Accolades

In October 2013, 36 high school seniors were named either National Merit Scholarship Program Semifinalists, or National Hispanic Recognition Program Finalists, or National Achievement Scholars. All 18 National Merit Semifinalists are eligible for either significant business or scholarship opportunities.

Many of SBISD's comprehensive high schools consistently appear in top national high school rankings, ranging from Best High Schools competitions in national magazines to the local non-profit Children at Risk's ranking of Top 10 High Schools, Top High Schools in Science & Mathematics, and Best Urban, Comprehensive High Schools.

### Student Honors & Recognitions (January 2014)

- 18 National Merit Semifinalists
- 17 National Hispanic Recognition Program Finalists
- 1 National Achievement Scholar
- 48 National Merit Commended Students
- 590 Advanced Placement (AP) Scholars
- 12 Jesse H. Jones and Mary Gibbs Jones Scholars
- 13 International Baccalaureate (IB) Diploma Awards
- 1 IB Bilingual Diploma Award
- 1 Gates Millennium Scholarship Recipient
- 78 Spring Branch Education Foundation (SBEF) Scholarships
- 41 SBEF Employee Scholarships
- 16 Houston Livestock Show & Rodeo Scholarships
- 8 Houston Westchase Rotary Scholarships
- 4 Spring Branch Education Support Association Scholarships
- 3 Council of PTAs Scholarship Award Recipients
- 70 5A or 4A UIL State-level Qualifying Athletes

### College-Readiness

SBISD's college-readiness indicators have consistently exceeded regional, state and national averages. More than 80 percent of SBISD students take either the SAT or ACT college-readiness performance measures.

SBISD has one of the higher student participation rates in the Houston region on these assessments.

In 2013, SBISD students averaged 1516 on the combined SAT, while the Texas student average was 1437 and the national average was 1498.

On the ACT the same year, students averaged 23.4 compared to 20.9 in both Texas and the nation.

In addition, the percentage of SBISD students performing at or above college-ready levels continues to exceed state rates by 14 to 24 percentage points.

About 70 percent of the graduating class took the SAT, and student participation on the SAT and ACT has increased by, respectively, by 10 percent and 9 percent.





## *District Charter Schools and Choice Programs*

### *Cornerstone Academy*

This district charter middle school has earned state academic recognition for its high performance since it opened more than a decade ago. Students are admitted by lottery. They must meet grade-point average and other attendance requirements.

### *Westchester Academy for International Studies*

In 2011, the U.S. Department of Education honored this combined middle and high school by naming it the 19th campus in SBISD to win the coveted Blue Ribbon School designation. This district charter high school offers the prestigious International Baccalaureate (IB) Diploma program. IB degrees are recognized worldwide by colleges and universities. Some students here follow a dual language option. Students are admitted by lottery and must meet certain other qualifications.

### *KIPP Courage College Prep at Landrum Middle School / YES Prep Northbrook at Northbrook Middle School*

Under the SKY Partnership between SBISD, KIPP Houston and YES Prep Public Schools, public charter programs opened last summer at two district middle schools.

KIPP Courage College Prep now serves 105 fifth-graders at Landrum Middle. It will grow to about 400 students in grades five through eight. About 140 sixth-graders now attend YES Prep Northbrook at Northbrook Middle. It will eventually enroll more than 300 students in grades six through eight. Both programs use lottery methods to choose new students. Over time, graduates will matriculate to a high school YES Prep program that is planned at Northbrook High School.

In December 2012, the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation awarded a grant of \$2.1 million to the SKY Partnership to support and promote student choice programs such as these nationally.

### *The Harold D. Guthrie Center for Excellence*

SBISD's Guthrie Center, located on Hammerly near Beltway 8, provides cutting-edge education in career and technical areas and certification in career fields ranging from 3-D animation to culinary arts, film production and cosmetology. Students are transported to day classes from their home high school.

### *The Academy of Choice (AOC) Virtual High School*

AOC's Virtual High School, based on Westview in the Spring Branch Education Center, provides personal learning for students who need to finish or supplement their high school education in a nontraditional setting. Popular online courses use state-approved standards, and the highly qualified staff includes Web-certified online instructors.





### *Special Education / Campus Services*

The Bendwood School serves the needs of young children identified as special education students. SBISD offers increasingly inclusive programs for students with disabilities. Children as young as 2½-years-old are eligible if they meet certain state criteria.

### *Gifted and Talented*

SBISD's Gifted and Talented (GT) program provides specialized instruction to all identified elementary and secondary GT students. This program is called SPIRAL in SBISD. The initials stand for Spring Branch Program for Improving Reasoning and Accelerating Learning. GT students are taught by teachers with at least 30 hours of professional development in Gifted Education.

At the elementary level, identified students in kindergarten through second grade attend a pull-out program at their home campus each week. In third through fifth grade, students attend a full day, pull-out program weekly held at The Bendwood School campus.

At the secondary level, students who are identified as gifted in language arts/social studies and/or mathematics/science may be grouped in GT-only classes, Pre Advanced Placement (AP) or AP classes, or the International Baccalaureate program. Groupings vary by campus.

### *Advanced Placement (AP)*

The College Board's Advanced Placement (AP) program provides students with the opportunity to take rigorous college-level courses while they are still in high school. They may also earn college credits, advanced class placement, or both, for successful performance on national AP Exams. During the past two years, more than 1,000 separate AP Scholar Awards have been issued to Spring Branch students, most of whom are seniors and juniors. These include the National AP Scholar Award, issued to those who earn a score of 4 or higher on eight or more AP Exams.

### *International Baccalaureate (IB)*

Westchester Academy for International Studies offers the International Baccalaureate (IB) Diploma Programme. The IB Diploma Programme is an academically challenging and balanced course of education with final exams that prepare older teenagers (11th and 12th grades) for success at university or college, and in later life. Twenty-one students in 2012 earned the IB Diploma, the high school's biggest group ever. Several students also earned the Spanish Bilingual Diploma.

### *Dual Credit/Early College Programs*

The district offers both Dual Credit and Early College programs at many of its high schools. Students may earn up to 24 hours or more of college-level credits through partnerships with the Houston Community College (HCC) Northwest College in Spring Branch and University of Houston-Downtown (UHD). At Stratford High, UHD professors now teach classes on campus. Scholarships are available to qualifying high school students to defray course enrollment fees.



## The SKY Partnership

The SKY Partnership is a two-year old, three-way collaboration between Spring Branch ISD, a public school district, and a pair of highly regarded charter management organizations, KIPP Houston (KIPP) and Yes Prep Public Schools.

Beginning in 2012, SBISD joined with KIPP and YES Prep to form charter campus programs at two district secondary schools, Landrum and Northbrook middle schools. Both of these programs add new classes yearly.

In the near future, a YES Prep high school program at Northbrook High School will open as a continuing option for graduates of the charter middle school programs beginning in the fall of 2015.

Students in these programs benefit from the proven academic curriculums of KIPP and YES Prep, as well as both schools distinct cultures and approaches to learning. Students participate in SBISD electives, such as band and athletics, while SBISD shares in the academic and leadership insights and strengths of these charters.

Already, the innovative SKY Partnership has earned national recognition, resulting in a \$2.1 million grant award from the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation to improve collaboration and student innovation.

The SKY Partnership is a national model for cooperation within a traditional school system.



## Full-Day Prekindergarten for All

SBISD provides full-day prekindergarten for all in-district students. Five Schools for Early Learning are designed especially for 4-year-olds and prekindergarten classes are also offered at several elementary schools.

Students who meet state eligibility requirements attend prekindergarten at no cost, while others attend at a low comparable monthly cost based on rates charged elsewhere.

Prekindergarten was made available for all in the school district a decade ago, making SBISD one of the first public school districts in Texas and the nation to offer full day, early learning instruction and activities taught by certified professional educators for every student. Research indicates that students who attend high quality PreK programs do better academically through their elementary and middle school years.

## Bond Update: Ahead of Time & Under Budget

In November 2007, Spring Branch voters approved a \$597.1 million Bond, the biggest in district history, to rebuild 12 of the district's oldest elementary schools, upgrade technology on every campus, and improve athletic facilities, safety and security systems across the district. Due to cost savings, a 13th elementary school was added to the bond program.

So far, 11 of 13 elementary schools have been rebuilt either at or near their current campus locations. The most recent campus opening was Frostwood Elementary School, with two remaining elementary school projects - Valley Oaks and Rummel Creek - now under way.

It is expected at this time that all 13 new elementary schools will be open by 2015, which will make the district's bond program distinctive for coming in both ahead of time and under budget. Community reports suggest that the new schools have increased student enrollments and reinforced strong neighborhood

property values throughout Spring Branch. The district has also renovated W.W. Emmons Natatorium, Don Coleman Coliseum and historic Darrell Tully Stadium with seating for up to 15,000 fans. The bond program has also paid for new staff and student technology and added 85 new buses to the district's transportation fleet.

In January 2014, the district will upgrade and replace more than 2,800 new teacher laptops, keeping the district's educators in step with changing instructional technology trends.

Elsewhere, the privately run and financed Altharetta Yeargin Art Museum houses a donated collection of 600-plus art and artifacts from around the world valued at more than \$2 million. This museum facility is located on the WAIS campus.

For more information about SBISD, please visit [www.springbranchisd.com](http://www.springbranchisd.com).

## The New Frostwood Elementary *A Bond 2007 Program Project*

### Grand Opening Celebration

February 2014





## Spring Branch T-2-4

### What do we want to achieve with the Spring Branch Plan?

To meet our community's high expectations for excellence in our schools, the SBISD Board of Trustees and leadership have adopted a single district goal - to double the number of students completing a technical certificate, military training, two-year degree or four-year degree.

SBISD leaders, principals and teachers are deeply committed to meeting the goal of T-2-4 and supporting a core set of beliefs.

### We believe that a great school system:

- Builds on the strengths and gifts of each child,
- Provides students from poverty the same opportunities for success after high school as students from non-poverty homes,
- Instills in every student the belief that they can achieve more than they think possible, and
- Assures that every adult in the system is committed to the successful completion of some form of higher education for every child.



*Inspiring minds.  
Shaping lives.*

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