

NEWS RELEASE

FORT WORTH ISD COMMUNICATIONS
7060 Camp Bowie Blvd. Fort Worth, TX 76116
817.814.1930 | www.fwisd.org/communications

Fort Worth
INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

September 24, 2024

Dr. Angélica Ramsey's Statement on Departing Fort Worth ISD

FORT WORTH, TX — I would like to extend my deepest gratitude to the Fort Worth ISD board for allowing me the honor of serving this district over the past two years. It has been a privilege, and I have approached this responsibility with the utmost seriousness and dedication.

I joined Fort Worth ISD to make a meaningful impact on the education of students like myself. My goal was to implement systems that empower all students to reach their fullest potential. I've had the pleasure of working alongside an exceptional team—teachers, administrators, and support staff—who have shown tireless dedication to the children of this community. Their hard work and commitment are second to none.

Together, we have begun to see the positive outcomes of these efforts. Since my arrival, the district has risen from a D to a C rating, with several campuses showing notable improvement. This is a testament to the hard work of our students, teachers, and staff.

The district's estimated overall rating increased by 6 points, from 64 in 2023 to an anticipated C rating of 70 in 2024. This represents a significant 36% decrease in the number of students attending D or F-rated campuses, meaning over 16,000 fewer students are enrolled in low-performing schools. This progress highlights the district's commitment to improving student outcomes and creating more equitable learning environments.

In addition, all Fort Worth ISD high schools either improved or maintained their STAAR letter-grade ratings from 2023 to 2024. We're proud of the dedication and perseverance shown by our students and teachers across the

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district. Thirteen high schools increased their ratings, with four making an impressive leap of two letter-grades. Nine high schools maintained their strong ratings, and seven of our high schools of choice are A-rated campuses.

Moreover, the district added 13 more A and B-rated schools this year, bringing the total to 11 A-rated and 21 B-rated campuses—a true reflection of Fort Worth ISD’s dedication to academic excellence and growth. Additionally, 30% of our campuses (37 schools) improved by one letter grade, while 9% of campuses (11 schools) increased by two letter grades.

This remarkable progress reflects our ongoing commitment to excellence, ensuring that all students are prepared for success in college, career, and community leadership.

I am particularly proud of our work in serving Emergent Bilingual students. When I first arrived, only 0.85% of these students were being reclassified. Last year, that number rose to 7.9%, representing an 830% increase. This progress is a significant achievement and reflects our commitment to providing the support necessary for every student to thrive.

I am also proud to share that more than 90% of our students are graduating. Additionally, the percentage of students graduating college, career, and military ready has increased from 63% when I began to an anticipated 86.6% with the Class of 2024—an increase of 37.5%. This growth reflects the very mission of Fort Worth ISD: preparing students for success in whatever path they choose.

We developed a comprehensive Strategic Plan with significant community input, and I remain hopeful that the board will continue to drive this plan forward because our students simply can’t wait.

We’ve also opened a new campus - Rolling Hills Elementary and have begun the work of developing a facilities master plan, which lays the

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groundwork for necessary upgrades to our schools. Our students deserve safe, high-quality environments that support their learning without disruption.

Fort Worth ISD has also made significant strides in addressing food insecurity. We opened multiple on-campus markets across the district, in partnership with organizations like the Tarrant Area Food Bank and Texas Health Resources.

For the first time in years—since well before the pandemic—we united all staff for a Convocation, kicking off the school year with a renewed focus on our students and celebrating the hard-earned successes of Fort Worth ISD.

One of my first actions as superintendent was launching advisory councils to gather input from students, staff, parents, teachers, principals and business and community leaders, ensuring we worked collaboratively to improve the district.

We also strengthened internal and external communication through the One FWISD newsletter and Monday Message for staff, as well as the Friday Message for the broader community.

I made it a priority to visit every school, spending two to three days each week on campuses. This role cannot be fulfilled from behind a desk; it requires being present and engaged with our schools.

We presented the board with a balanced budget, which required making difficult decisions, including reducing positions. However, we ensured that these cuts did not affect the classroom.

My administration successfully closed out ESSER funds, transitioning the initiatives funded during the pandemic into a balanced budget to maintain momentum in getting students back on track.

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And just recently, the district received a preliminary rating of a perfect 100 on the FIRST Rating, based on information reported to TEA for the fiscal year 2022-23. Effective September 10, 2024, the district's "A" or "Superior" FIRST rating for 2023-24 was made final by TEA.

We restructured the technology department to focus on campus-level services and revamped Learning and Leading to provide targeted support to both students and educators.

Additionally, I am proud of our efforts to start the Zero to Five parent education program. We had 1,974 parents attend these early literacy-focused classes, with 60 children graduating from the program. Of those graduates, 52 enrolled in FWISD pre-K. We also began offering these classes to our refugee parents.

Beyond my role within the district, I have remained an active member of the community, engaging with several civic and educational organizations. I serve on the North Texas Leaders and Executives Advocating Diversity Committee, the North Texas Commission, Council of Great City Schools, TALAS Board, Fort Worth Rotary, and Optimist Club of Fort Worth. I am also a director on boards including the Longhorn Council, Junior Achievement, One Second Collaborative Steering Committee, United Way of Tarrant County, and Girl Scouts of Fort Worth. These opportunities allowed me to support the broader community and work collaboratively to advance the mission of public education.

Lastly, to the students of Fort Worth ISD: thank you. It has been my greatest honor to serve you. Your feedback, resilience, and determination have inspired me. Remember, you are the heart of this district. Whoever follows me in this position is here to serve you, and I believe in your potential to shape a brighter future for this community.

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