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CFISD preps for projected 98,000+ students

Three campuses open doors to students for the first time



CFISD, the third-largest school district in Texas, has witnessed a rapid growth in student enrollment over the past decade. Enrollment is expected to reach an all-time high just shy of 99,000 students for the 2007-2008 school year. With 186 square miles of land within the boundaries of CFISD, and approximately 40 percent of the district undeveloped, a steady increase in student enrollment is inevitable for the district.

For this reason, a 70-member Bond Steering Committee (BSC), including members of the Cy-Fair community, met regularly throughout the spring and summer to evaluate the need for a bond issue for the district. The committee worked many long hours researching and evaluating the education needs of students in order to develop a bond issue recommendation to present to the Board of Trustees in late June (see Bond Update at www.cfisd.net for the latest bond news).

The committee's primary goals in drafting a recommendation included ensuring both support for a quality education and an adequate and appropriate learning environment for all students.

In order to meet the goals, the committee decided on a plan that would provide a solution for facility needs sparked by growth. Another significant charge the BSC considered as it prepared a bond recommendation was a five-year projection for preventive maintenance and facility renovation needs, including technology replacement and upgrades. Prior to making its final decision on a recommendation, the BSC held a Public Forum on June 18 to give members of the Cy-Fair community an opportunity to provide input by sharing their values and perceptions of needs in CFISD.

After listening to the community, members of the BSC, who represent the geographic and demographic diversity of the district, unanimously recommended a 2007 bond issue to the Board that met the needs of a projected student population of 116,573.

The last bond referendum, passed in 2004, was created to meet the needs of a projected 95,300 students, which the district is projected to exceed by more than 3,500 students in 2007-2008. Due to the growth in student population, 11 new schools were recommended under the 2004

see **GROWTH**, page 5

End-of-Course exams to replace high school TAKS

Beginning with ninth-grade students in 2011, End-of-Course (EOC) exams—statewide finals given at the end of each course to provide an in-depth measure of comprehension and skill attainment—will be phased in to replace the high school Texas Assessment of Knowledge and Skills (TAKS) tests that were implemented in 2003.

The Legislature now has until Sept. 11, 2011, to adopt a new accountability system aligned with the new EOC assessments after Gov. Rick Perry approved and signed Senate Bill 1031 and House Bill 2236 on June 17.

The bills, presented and passed during the 80th Legislative Session, establish 12 EOC exams in the four core areas of English/language arts, math, science and social studies.

Under the new law, CFISD students will be required to earn a cumulative score within each core subject area, equal to earning a grade of 70 on each exam, in order to graduate. Students scoring below a 70 will receive accelerated instruction and will be given an opportunity to retake the test. However, students must attain a minimal EOC score of 60 on an exam for the score to count towards the total required. According to legislators, this

Math	Science	English/LA	Social Studies
Algebra I	Biology	English I	World Geography
Algebra II	Chemistry	English II	World History
Geometry	Physics	English III	U.S. History

provision will help those students who struggle with one particular test.

Scores on these exams will count as 15 percent of a student's overall course grade, allowing students and teachers to spend time on learning subject matter rather than in test preparation.

Additionally, the EOC exams will be implemented to promote college readiness by allowing a student to satisfy requirements based on a cumulative score of core subjects rather than a single pass/fail test like the TAKS test. The new changes will not apply to current students who have yet to pass the exit-level TAKS tests.

The EOC exams will also include optional questions to measure college readiness and to identify those students likely to succeed in advanced high school courses. The optional questions will not be

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For more information, contact the CFISD Communication Department at 281-807-8939.

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