

CFISD works to help serve students with disabilities

The Cypress-Fairbanks Independent School District Special Education Department provides educational services to more than 7,760 students throughout the district.

Approximately 1,520 teachers, instructional aides, speech pathologists and related service personnel provide instruction and related services to students who have a disability. Students are eligible for special education services from ages 3 to 21. Students who have hearing and vision disabilities may receive services from birth.

To be eligible for special education services, students must meet eligibility requirements such as a student with an orthopedic impairment,

other health impairment, auditory impairment, visual impairment, diagnosis of deaf/blind, mental retardation, emotional disturbance, learning disability, speech impairment, multiple disabilities, autism, non-categorical early childhood or traumatic brain injury.

CFISD instructional arrangements for elementary school-aged students include in-class support, co-teach, resource classes and speech/language services. Preschool Programs for Children with Disabilities (PPCD), adaptive behavior, and LIFE Skills classes are offered at selected campuses.

Co-teach, in-class support, resource classes, LIFE Skills, adaptive behavior and

speech/language services are available at all secondary level campuses.

As part of the Northwest Harris County Cooperative for the Hearing Impaired, services for students who have auditory impairments are offered at Birkes and Hancock elementary schools, Campbell Middle School and Cypress Ridge High School.

Parents can contact the Special Education Department at 281-897-6400 if they have concerns about their pre-school (3-5 years) or school-aged child regarding the child's physical, speech and/or emotional development.

GROWTH

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Bond Referendum—four of which opened during the 2006-2007 school year.

Along with managing facility and campus projects throughout the district, the Facilities Planning and Construction and the Maintenance and Operations departments are making the final touches to three new schools opening this year to provide enrollment relief due to the leap in enrollment.

Bob and Bobbie Warner Elementary School (Elementary No. 46), Patti Becker McFee Elementary School (Elementary No. 47) and George E. Hopper Middle School (Middle School No. 15) will open their doors to students for the first time this school year.



Warner Elementary School

Warner Elementary School is the district's 46th elementary school, and was built from interest and savings from the 2004 Bond Referendum. Warner Elementary School, whose school colors are navy and silver, was named after long-time CFISD

educators Bob and Bobbie Warner. Michael Maness, former principal at Jowell Elementary School, was named principal of the Warner Wolves.

The school was constructed on a 130-acre multi-school site located at Fry Road and Cypress N. Houston near Blackhorse Ranch. The school was designed by PBK Architects, Inc., and is a new prototype design developed by the district utilizing some features of Danish, Black and Postma elementary schools.

McFee Elementary School

McFee Elementary School is the district's 47th elementary school, and was also funded from the 2004 Bond Referendum. Named after Patti Becker McFee, who worked in the district for 28 years, the McFee Timberwolves will sport the school colors light blue, black and silver. Donna Harden,



former Adam Elementary School principal, was named principal at McFee.

McFee Elementary School was constructed on a 14-acre site located on Greenhouse Road south of West Little York Road. This school was designed by Bay Architects and is a

repeat design with modifications of Lee, Tipps and Farney elementary schools.



Hopper Middle School

Hopper Middle School is CFISD's 15th middle school, and was built from interest and savings from the 2004 Bond Referendum. Hopper Middle School, whose school colors are red and navy, was named after George E. Hopper Jr., who spent 32 of his 42

years in education working in CFISD. Dr. Robert Borneman, former Cook Middle School principal, was named principal of the Hopper Huskies.

The school was constructed on a 35-acre site located at the corner of Fry Road and Rustic Lake Lane just south of Cypress Springs High School. Hopper was designed by Bay Architects and modeled after Goodson and Kahla middle schools.

Hopper Middle School will host a Hopper *Family Tailgate Party* on July 21 from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. for students and parents and a *Sixth-Grade Orientation* on Aug. 25 from 9 a.m. to noon. Seventh- and eighth-grade orientations are on Aug. 15 from 1 to 3 p.m. (for seventh-grade students) and 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. (for eighth-grade students).

Preparations for the 2007-2008 school year, in all CFISD schools and departments, are in the final stages to ensure a smooth start on Aug. 27.

EOC

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included when calculating the student's classroom grades or scores for graduation requirements.

Another impact from the new law is that students will be required—at the state's expense—in grades 8, 10, 11 and/or 12 to complete a college preparatory test, which can include the PSAT, SAT and ACT exams.

Each school year, in the spring, CFISD will be required to administer a nationally norm-referenced preliminary college preparation assessment (PSAT) to every eighth- and 10th-grade student. In the spring of a student's junior or senior year, every student may take one administration of either nationally norm-referenced assessments (ACT or SAT) used by colleges and universities as part of their admission processes.

The Commissioner of Education will allow a student's satisfactory performance on an advanced placement (AP) test, international baccalaureate (IB) exam, SAT subject test or other rigorous assessments to satisfy the appropriate graduation requirement in lieu of the EOC test for that subject.

Other significant changes under the new law provide that:

- ⊙ Students not enrolled in a class will not be required to take the EOC exam for that course;

- ⊙ Districts may not spend more than 10 percent of the instructional year administering district-required benchmark testing;
- ⊙ By Sept. 1, 2008, each district must provide information to TEA regarding its ability to administer EOC tests by computer because assessments must be developed so that testing can be administered on a computer;
- ⊙ Field testing will be limited to every other school year, unless necessary to develop new assessments required under state or federal law—districts must be notified about field testing requirements at the beginning of the year; and
- ⊙ New test security provisions including the establishment of statistical methods for identifying potential test security violations, new records retention requirements and the authority to audit a random sample of districts to determine test security violations.

The new mandate will apply to this year's incoming fifth-grade students, who will be the first group to take the EOCs during the 2011-2012 school year. Students moving to sixth grade this year will be the last group to take all four of the required TAKS tests for high school.