



# MESSAGE FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT



Aug. 19, 2016

Dear CFISD community,

What a great time to be part of Cypress-Fairbanks ISD!

The TEA announced on Monday that we earned the highest possible rating of *Met Standard* in the annual accountability system for the fourth consecutive year.



All of our campuses met all four index targets, a very impressive feat amid rising standards and a new state testing contractor.

I hope you have enjoyed a great summer. It was so exciting to watch two of our graduates, Chris Brooks of Cypress Creek High School and Cammile Adams of Cypress Woods High School, competing in Olympic gymnastics and swimming, respectively. Their performances and achievements made me proud to be both a CFISD and American citizen.



We have been busy preparing for the first day of school on **Aug. 22**. A total of 38 new construction and renovations projects are underway valued at \$720 million. You may notice some changes at your child's campus when you return to school. Some of the more extensive projects will take some time to complete and we thank you for your patience as we work to create the best possible learning environment for our students.

Speaking of impressive learning environments, our 11<sup>th</sup> comprehensive high school, Cypress Park High School, opens its doors Monday on Westgreen Blvd. near the Grand Parkway. Satterfield & Pontikes Construction did an incredible job building our first-ever three-story high school that will eventually be part of an educational village with a forthcoming middle school and elementary school.



We are also excited to re-open a freshly renovated Pidgeon Stadium for football fans this fall, along with a new on-site natatorium that is expected to open in January. New agricultural and transportation centers and a school-based health clinic will serve students in the southwest portion of our district when they open near Cypress Park this fall.

Our theme for 2016-2017 and going forward is *CFISD For All*, words that remind us that ALL students deserve the best possible education we can give them. I truly love being part of a district that ensures quality facilities and resources in all CFISD neighborhoods.



When you leave those neighborhoods on Monday, remember that roads will be more congested with school buses and back-to-school commuters as we prepare for 115,000 students. Please exercise caution and patience as you travel while we adjust to the new traffic flow.

This is going to be another great year in CFISD. I am excited to get started, and thank you for joining us on the journey ahead.

Sincerely,

Mark Henry, Ed.D.  
Superintendent of Schools



# MESSAGE FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT



Sept. 21, 2016

Dear CFISD Community,

I'm not usually much of a numbers guy, but some of these figures from the annual *State of the District* report are hard to ignore:

- **273,000 new residents** have joined our **186-square-mile community** since the year 2000, representing greater residential growth than **21 entire states** in our nation;
- **90,000 devices** circulate throughout our **88 campuses** and support facilities;
- **13,499 students** took AP classes in 2015-2016—that's more than the enrollment of many entire school districts in Texas;
- our **20-percent optional homestead exemption** knocks 33 cents off our effective tax rate; and
- **eight new construction projects** from bond funds will be ongoing throughout 2016-2017.



*Dr. Henry delivers the 2016-2017 State of the District to the Cy-Fair Houston Chamber of Commerce on Sept. 20.*

I delivered my annual *State of the District* presentation to the Cy-Fair Houston Chamber of Commerce on Sept. 20, feeling a great sense of pride as these statistics and many more filled the screen, all tying back to our ongoing theme of *CFISD For All*.

We are a large and growing community that continues to hold fast to the traditional American value of universal public education. 96.91 percent of school-aged children in our community choose public schools. If you look through the resources on our [State of the District webpage](#), I think you'll see why.



*Cy-Fair Houston Chamber of Commerce luncheon guests view the annual State of the District brochure on Sept. 20.*

Check out our State of the District brochure, presentation and video that will give you a glimpse into the wonderful things happening in CFISD. Look for the *Opportunity is Here* block on our homepage to access this information.

Our great story continues to unfold in 2016-2017. Follow me on Twitter at [@SuptMarkHenry](#) to see some of our updates throughout the year. Not that I'm a numbers guy, but I am closing in on 3,000 followers!

Sincerely,

Mark Henry, Ed.D.  
Superintendent of Schools



# MESSAGE FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT



Nov. 17, 2016

Dear CFISD Community,

It is that time of year when we think often about all we have to be thankful for. A few things that have been on my mind recently give me cause for gratitude:

1. **Peaceful transfer of power.** Our country is coming off a very contentious presidential election, and your preferred candidate may or may not have won. But the beauty of our country is that, throughout 240 years and a variety of outcomes, we can always rely on a peaceful transfer of power. Not every country in this world can say that.
2. **A community that cares** for all children and tries to provide equal opportunities for those across the district.
3. **Strong support from our faith-based community.** The mission of a school district is made so much easier when our faith-based organizations partner with us to help meet the needs of our students and families.
4. **Acceptance.** On a personal note, I want to thank this community for accepting me, my wife and all my family. We consider Cy-Fair our own, and are grateful to you for making us a part of it.
5. **Family.** Cindy and I have a couple grandchildren who are attending CFISD schools, and two more who will eventually. I would be remiss if I did not do what grandparents do and show them off a bit:



There is certainly much to be thankful for! I hope each and every one of you has a safe, happy and restful Thanksgiving holiday. Enjoy your time spent with family and friends, and I look forward to seeing you back safely on Nov. 28.

Sincerely,

Mark Henry, Ed.D.  
Superintendent of Schools



# MESSAGE FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT



Dec. 15, 2016

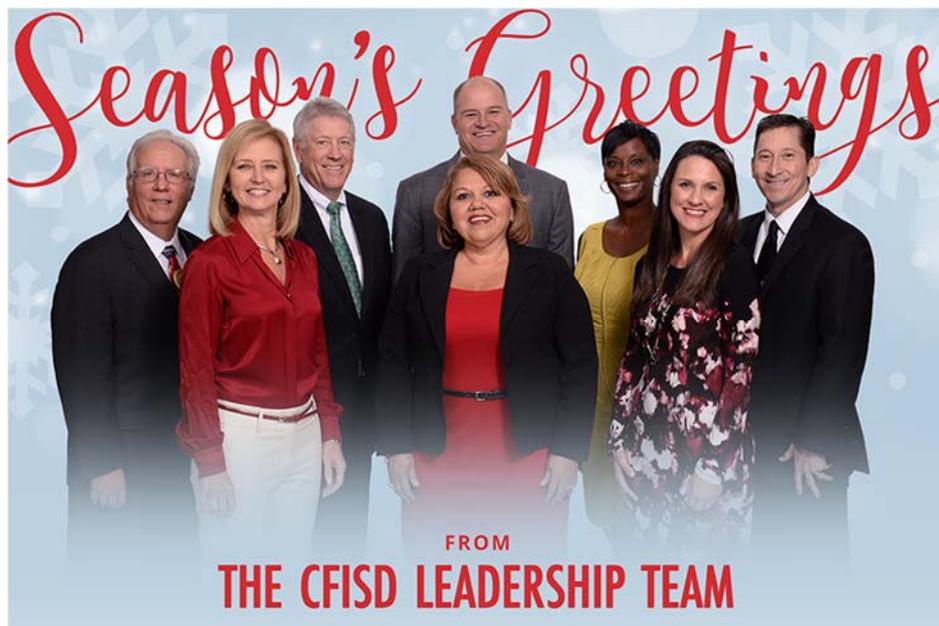
Dear CFISD community,

The adage is true—the older you get, the faster time goes by. It seems like 2016 just began, and yet here we are on the brink of 2017. I hope it has been a great year for you, one to build on starting Jan. 1.

For me, as well as many others, this holiday season will feel a little different. When we look around the table at our friends and family, someone might be missing who was there in 2015. I think it is so important to treasure this time that we have with our loved ones. Nothing is promised; we should enjoy our blessings while we have them.

I am always encouraged this time of year by the uplifting stories of our schools giving to fellow schools or those in the community who need a helping hand. Let us all remember those less fortunate than us, and help bring a little holiday cheer to the lives of those who have not been as blessed as we have.

On behalf of my administrative team, I wish you a happy holiday season.



Sincerely,

Mark Henry, Ed.D.  
Superintendent of Schools



# MESSAGE FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT



Jan. 5, 2017

Dear CFISD community,

Under the current Texas Education Agency (TEA) school accountability system, all 88 CFISD campuses, along with the district, achieved the highest possible rating. We were the largest school district in the state to achieve this feat.

During the 84<sup>th</sup> Texas Legislative Session, lawmakers passed HB 2804, redesigning the accountability system to one in which each campus and district will receive one of five ratings from A through F. **This change will take effect in the spring of 2018.**

However, this Friday, Jan. 6, the TEA is releasing a model of the A-F ratings taken from 2015-2016 data, which indicates the grade each campus and district would have received for five different domains—Student Performance, Student Progress, Closing Performance Gaps, Postsecondary Readiness and Community and Student Engagement.

Criteria for this model is currently a work in progress and will almost certainly change next year, but I wanted to make you aware that the ratings are simply a model. All of our schools have *Met Standard*.

Please note that one of our [Community Leadership Committee](#)'s 85<sup>th</sup> Texas Legislative Session Priorities is to "Use the school accountability ratings: *Exemplary, Recognized, Acceptable* and *Unacceptable*, and [eliminate A-F ratings](#)."

Although we do not agree with the new system and feel that it oversimplifies all the incredible achievements and programs at individual campuses, we will remain focused on our goal of providing the best possible education opportunities for *all* CFISD students.

Sincerely,

Mark Henry, Ed.D.  
Superintendent of Schools



# MESSAGE FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT



Feb. 3, 2017

Dear CFISD community,

My dad always said that it takes a lifetime to build a good reputation and only a moment to destroy it. I'm sure everyone's parents had a similar phrase that they shared with their children.

As a school superintendent with 115,000 students, nearly every day at least one student will make a poor decision. As an organization dedicated to the development of young men and women, how should we react?

I've always believed there are two steps necessary to address a poor decision:

1. **Consequence:** When students break the rules, there should be a fair and appropriate consequence for the students' actions.
2. **Education:** As educators, we have a duty and responsibility to use poor decisions as teachable moments for our students. In cooperation with our parents, it is our job to help students learn and grow from their mistakes.

There are no "throwaway" young people! As parents and educators, we have been given the responsibility to nurture our children and help them become productive adults. We have 115,000 young people and each individual student is important to the CFISD community. This community believes that there should be consequences for a student's actions, but learning from that action is even more important.

Sincerely,

Mark Henry, Ed.D.  
Superintendent of Schools



# MESSAGE FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT



Feb. 17, 2017

*"I have a dream ... that one day right there in Alabama little black boys and black girls will be able to join hands with little white boys and white girls as sisters and brothers." – Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., Aug. 28, 1963*

Dear CFISD community,

America is the grand experiment in which we accept all religions and races in one place. The greatest country in the world has been built by welcoming the talents of people from all different backgrounds.

One thing we have strived for in CFISD is to make all our students, staff and visitors feel welcome on our campuses. Our goal is to serve people, no matter where they come from or what abilities they might have.



This is what makes the American public education system unique. Throughout the history of the world, no one has ever attempted to educate its entire citizenry. No matter what your zip code is, your income or your abilities, public education attempts to help you maximize the talents you were given.

I am proud to see those talents on display every day in CFISD as your superintendent.

Sincerely,

Mark Henry, Ed.D.  
Superintendent of schools