

What SAISD Doesn't Want Us to Know!

By Kat Rowoldt

Every now and then in doing research, you uncover something that takes your breath away. Such was the experience a group of concerned taxpayers had

when we discovered news about SAISD that has not been shared with taxpayers. We feel this information is critical for the public to know, and it validates that the School Board has their focus on the wrong thing. There is a possibility that the Board hasn't even been provided with this information.



What we discovered is where our school district stands in the state when compared with ALL the other districts. While most of us would immediately spout off that we are one of the better school districts, the reality is that we have been slipping drastically down over the last ten years. Today, SAISD ranks 37.50%. That means that 62.5% of other school districts in the state out rank SAISD. Out of the possibility of having up to 5 stars, San Angelo Independent School District ranks only 2 stars.

Currently, SAISD has only two campuses with a 5-star rating. Those two campuses are Fort Concho, with a 91.00% ranking (389 out of 4308 elementary campuses in the state), and Glenmore, with a 90.20% ranking (423 out of 4308 elementary campuses in the state). There is only one 4-star ranking elementary campus, Santa Rita, 77.50% ranking (971 out of 4308 campuses). It once was a 5-star campus, but it began falling in 2012.

Please take note of a few things:

- Only 3 campuses out 17 elementary campuses ranked in the top two classifications, which is only 3 out of 22 district-wide.
- Note that not one middle school or high school was mentioned.
- Also note that these are three of the oldest facilities. Clearly age of building is NOT a hindering factor.

The following chart shows all of the schools in the SAISD 2017 ratings according to the Texas Education Agency.

San Angelo ISD School Rankings 2017

Elementary Schools	Statewide Rank	Total # Ranked Elem. Schools	TX State %	Star Ratings	
Alta Loma	3013	4308	30.10%	2	
Austin	3200	4308	25.70%	1	
Belaire	2488	4308	42.20%	2	
Bonham	1348	4308	68.70%	3	
Bowie	2430	4308	43.60%	2	
Bradford	4006	4308	7.00%	0	
Crockett	2237	4308	48.10%	2	
Fannin	3402	4308	21.00%	1	
Fort Concho	389	4308	91.00%	5	
Glenmore	423	4308	90.20%	5	
Goliad	3486	4308	19.10%	1	
Holiman	1563	4308	63.70%	3	
Lamar	3802	4308	11.70%	1	
McGill	1630	4308	62.20%	3	
Reagan	3613	4308	16.10%	1	
San Jacinto	3693	4308	14.30%	1	
Santa Rita	971	4308	77.50%	4	
Middle Schools		Total # Ranked Middle Schools			
Glenn	1146	1998	42.60%	2	
Lee	1105	1998	44.70%	2	
Lincoln	1730	1998	13.40%	1	
High Schools					
Central	824	1743	52.70%	3	
Lakeview	1385	1743	20.50%	1	
Central Freshman	unranked due to insufficient test score data				
Ind. School Districts					
San Angelo ISD	583	933	37.50%	2	
Color Coding State Ranking Percentile					
0 STARS	1 STARS	2 STARS	3 STARS	4 STARS	5 STARS

The real heartbreaker is seeing that one elementary campus didn't even rate one star. The parents and students in Bradford need to know this truth. We have more campuses with only a rating of 1-star (8 campuses) than we have of anything else. We have seven campuses with 2-stars, giving us 15 campuses out of 22 that are poor or failing. How can the students at Lakeview be prepared for college when their school's academic ranking is only a 1-star?

What direction have each of the campuses gone over the last ten years, since the last bond election, which was touted as being necessary to improve students ability to learn? The following chart shows rankings in 2007 compared to 2017.

	Then - Before 2008 Bond	Now- After 2008 Bond
Elementary Schools	2007 TX State % Rankings	2017 TX State % Rankings
Alta Loma	46.00%	30.10%
Austin	78.50%	25.70%
Belaire	43.80%	42.20%
Bonham	81.90%	68.70%
Bowie	75.40%	43.60%
Bradford	19.50%	7.00%
Crockett	42.30%	48.10%
Fannin	44.70%	21.00%
Fort Concho	19.00%	91.00%
Glenmore	60.80%	90.20%
Goliad	45.20%	19.10%
Holiman	88.00%	63.70%
Lamar	80.20%	11.70%
McGill	85.00%	62.20%
Reagan	28.00%	16.10%
San Jacinto	17.90%	14.30%
Santa Rita	96.80%	77.50%
Middle Schools		
Glenn	57.60%	42.60%
Lee	27.90%	44.70%
Lincoln	15.30%	13.40%
High Schools		
Central	39.70%	52.70%
Lakeview	35.30%	20.50%
Central Freshman		
Ind. School District	2010 is earliest district performance data found	
San Angelo ISD	53.90%	37.50%
IMPROVED		
SCORES DROPPED		

Only five campuses have improved, the rest have deteriorated. One of the greatest falls is the Lamar campus, from 80% to 11%, which is the newest school they built. Evidently, new school buildings do NOT improve teaching abilities or grades.

Once we discovered this, all the other arguments seemed to pale in comparison. Our students need to receive better quality education than they are currently getting.

New buildings and sports fields won't solve this issue. Throwing more money at the problem won't either. We need to look at what our local school system is teaching our children. We need to be at the school board meetings. We need to demand schools that are attaining low results be actively addressed, and teachers and principals who are producing outstanding results receive a bonus. We need to cut back on fluff and hunker down on what is really important in education. Let's demand the results we expect from our School Board and hold them and the Superintendent accountable. That means we have to change what we are doing and refocus our attention.

I think that is exactly what the School Board must do as well. This bond must fail, and the attention of board members needs to turn from buildings and new field tracks, to math, science, proper grammar, and other basic life skills. They need to search statewide to hire the best teachers we can afford. We can't use bond money for that. And as parents, grandparents, and friends of the school, we need to do our part.

Stop the insanity of this bond. It will only leave our children and grandchildren further in debt. Let's all work to make San Angelo's schools one of the best again in the state.

Until next time...

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