

March 7, 2024

Via U.S. Mail

Robert Montoya
TEXAS SCORECARD
PO Box 248
Leander, Texas 78626

Re: Garner ISD / Public Information Act Request

Dear Mr. Montoya,

As you are aware from our prior communications, I represent Garner ISD (“the District”). On behalf of the District, I enclose the Garner ISD Fall 2023 Newsletter as requested in your e-mail dated February 27, 2024, to Superintendent Rebecca Hallmark.

With Regards,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'T Hall', is written over a light blue horizontal line.

Trevor Hall

w/encl.

cc: Rebecca Hallmark
Superintendent of Schools
GARNER ISD
Via e-Mail

Blake Powell
POWELL LAW GROUP, LLP
Via e-Mail

GARNER ISD NEWS

Showcasing your local community school

#garnergreatness

We value the partnership which exists between school, families, and community and the role this partnership plays in promoting these virtues and preparing students to carry these virtues with them into their futures.

Enrollment

Garner has continued to grow rapidly. We now have 367 students which is up from 323 for the previous school year.



| Grade | Enrollment |
|--------|------------|
| Pre-K | 17 |
| Kinder | 38 |
| 1st | 36 |
| 2nd | 35 |
| 3rd | 30 |
| 4th | 30 |
| 5th | 26 |
| 6th | 35 |
| 7th | 24 |
| 8th | 27 |
| 9th | 24 |
| 10th | 25 |
| 11th | 20 |

Please join us.....

GARNER'S 2024 HIGH SCHOOL HOMECOMING

- Jan. 8th 5:00-7:00 PARADE, PEP RALLY, BONFIRE, & MEAL
- Jan. 9th 5:00 JV, Varsity Girls & Boys Games vs. Perrin Whitt
- Jan. 10th 4:00 7th-11th Grades DIY HOCO Spirit Wear
- Jan. 10th 6:00 HOCO Baked Potato Bar @ Garner Baptist-Impact (7-11 grade)
- Jan. 11th 6:00 Junior High Boys and Girls Games vs. Perrin Whitt
- Jan. 12th 5:00 Basketball GAMES--JV, Varsity Girls & Boys vs. Bryson
- Jan. 12th 7:30 Homecoming Court & King and Queen Presentation
- Jan. 13th 7:00 9th-11th Grades THE HOCO GAMES Event



JANUARY 8th


HOMECOMING

PARADE

MAP &

INFORMATION

INSIDE



GARNER ISD COMMUNITY and

FORMER STUDENTS

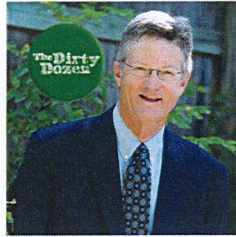
Please join us for all the Homecoming festivities!
We will recognize former Garner graduates at the Pep Rally!

Former Garner Graduates will receive a complimentary meal ticket from the Class of 2026.

Guest Column

Why I Oppose School Vouchers?

Dr. Glenn Rogers



The right of every child to a safe, secure, and quality education has been a core value of Texas since our independence. Following our independence in 1836, Texas has had six different constitutions, with the current Texas Constitution being amended 530 times since 1876. Nevertheless, throughout decades of revision, secession, and reconstruction, our state has never wavered from its promise to provide education to every Texan. Our founders believed that this promise was essential to securing the posterity of our state from generation to generation; however, almost a century and a half later, this value is under attack. Under the guise of promoting choice, proposed “school voucher” programs are a trojan horse attempt to privatize Texas’ education system, and drain our already underfunded public education of necessary resources for millions of children.

You might ask, “What is an educational voucher?” A voucher program is a policy of diverting state and taxpayer resources marked for education to private entities. Proponents of this system try to claim that children are “trapped in the public education system they were raised in.” This is, quite frankly, not true. Texas already has one of the most robust “school choice” systems for parents in the nation. Between open-enrollment public schools, private schools, charter schools, homeschools, and online learning, parents have plenty of available options to place their child wherever they see fit. Vouchers do not increase the number of choices available to a parent; they only serve to finance these institutions with taxpayer money.

A voucher is a flat rate that pays for a portion of tuition. The family is then expected to cover the remaining cost out of pocket — an impossible task for many low to middle-income families. The average cost of a private school in Texas is ~ \$11,407 per student per year, with some costing over \$30,000. Additionally, attending private school may require substantially more financial resources to actively participate in the private school culture. Recently proposed voucher programs have offered parents \$8-10,000 towards tuition. This means that families who want to exercise their vouchers are still expected to pay the difference per each child to enroll them in a private school. The end result is that the majority of Texas families remain in public schools with less funding, whereas more wealthy families who can afford private education outright get a taxpayer-subsidized discount. The same principle is also true with acceptance standards. Even though a parent has an educational voucher, this does not mean a private or charter school must accept their child. Private schools have the discretion to not admit any student based on academic performance, behavioral issues, disability, residence, or income level. Once again, the majority of Texas parents would have their children in a public school system that is continually stripped of resources to subsidize education for those who already have the ability to pay and be accepted.

Considering these schools are private, the State of Texas would be funneling money into organizations with little public accountability. Private schools do not have to comply with the same transparency standards as a traditional public education. Once these private entities start receiving public funds, the line between private and government regulation begins to blur and creates a system of “winners and losers”.

Parents who choose private or homeschool education for their children expect a certain level of independence in their education. While proponents of vouchers often like to say “Let the money follow the child,” the follow-up is the “government follows the money.”

School boards members are elected and held accountable by the ISD residents, the salaries of superintendents are made a public record by the Texas Education Agency, and all instructional materials are reviewed by an elected State Board of Education. Voucher programs would destroy that independence and create a less transparent education system.


When problems arise within our public schools, the taxpayers and the state have the ability to act. In the 86th Legislative Session, the Texas House passed HB3, which provided sweeping reforms to our education system. The 87th legislature approved Senate Bill 3, banning the teaching of Critical Race Theory in K-12 classrooms and House Bill 25 to prevent biological males competing in women’s sports. The 88th legislature passed HB 900, “The Reader Act” which prohibits the purchase of sexually explicit library material and sets out standards for library material selection and removal. These conservative victories would not have been possible without an education system that is accountable and transparent at all levels of government. These changes are examples of direct responses to a transparent accountability system allowing for open exposure and correction. Public schools are far from perfect, but subject to transparency and continuous improvement. Private schools receiving vouchers desire no public accountability.

As Texans, it is better that we handle problems out in the open and not masked behind private authority. As a parent of a recent public high school graduate, I know, firsthand, the desire to make sure she has the best education afforded to her. I believe there is a need for public, private, home, and charter schools to allow parents the choice to select the type of education that works best for their children. Yet, in order to maintain this balance, we cannot embrace changes that will make our education system less accountable and less than what our founders had intended.

The over \$32 billion surplus available for the 88th Legislature would allow for both enhanced public school funding and a limited voucher program. However, in 2011 Texas legislators were faced with a major budget shortfall and were required to take \$5 billion away from public schools, an amount that has never been fully recovered. It would not be conservative to implement a massive voucher entitlement program expecting continued large budget surpluses.

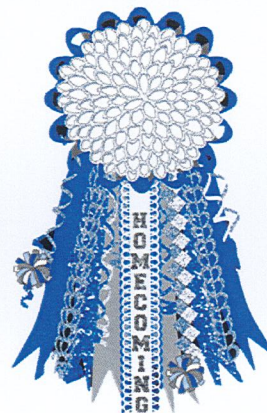
Ultimately, vouchers can only be maintained by raising property taxes and/or defunding our public schools. Neither of these should be acceptable to Texans.



Dr. Glenn

ROGERS
 REPRESENTATIVE
 TEXAS HOUSE DISTRICT 60
Representing Rural Texas!



All participating students will need to be on their floats at **4:30**. **PARADE** will begin @ **5:15** (please park or carry your lawn chair over to the parade route after dropping off your child(ren)). The parade will follow the route and children will be dropped off to the **PEP RALLY Spectator area** when their float reaches that area. Once the parade concludes please walk over to the Pep Rally area to join us for the Pep Rally followed by the lighting of the **BONFIRE!** The class of 2026 will have a hotdog meal deal for sale after the pep rally to start raising funds for PROM! Parents watch for announcements for spirit mums/garters, dress-up spirit days, **float decorating**, & ways to set traditions for the future of Garner ISD!



Watch Facebook and Dojo for Pre-Order Info.

Volleyball

Lady Longhorns had a tremendous season! In case you didn't see or hear about it, they earned

Bi-District Champs. We came within one point of knocking off the number 3 ranked team in the state in 5 tough sets in the Area Round.



BI-DISTRICT CHAMPIONS

District Awards

OFFENSIVE MVP: AVA NORMAN

LIBERO OF THE YEAR: TARRYN WAKEFIELD

NEWCOMER OF THE YEAR: KARLIE ASHLEY

1ST TEAM ALL DISTRICT:

JENNA HALLMARK
MAKAYLA GONZALEZ

2ND TEAM ALL DISTRICT:

LANEY HORTON
FAITH SMITH

HONORABLE MENTION:

AALEYAH CREWS
SELENA CREWS

ACADEMIC ALL DISTRICT:

KARLIE ASHLEY, ABIGAYLE CANADA, MAKAYLA GONZALEZ,
JENNA HALLMARK, LANEY HORTON, AVA NORMAN,
FAITH SMITH, TARRYN WAKEFIELD



Cross Country

Boys had a Great Season qualifying for the Regional Cross Country Meet. At regionals the team finished 8 out of 32 teams with a young team including 3 Freshmen, a Sophomore, and 1 Junior.

www.garnerisd.net



RECLASSIFICATION & REALIGNMENT

2024-2025 & 2025-2026

| CONFERENCE | ENROLLMENT | # SCHOOLS |
|------------|---------------|-----------|
| 6A | 2,275 & Above | 247 |
| 5A | 1,315 - 2,274 | 253 |
| 4A | 545 - 1,314 | 218 |
| 3A | 254 - 544 | 231 |
| 2A | 105 - 253 | 226 |
| 1A | 104.9 & Below | 216 |

VISIT UILTEXAS.ORG FOR ENROLLMENT NUMBERS

GARNER
HIGH SCHOOL
SNAP-SHOT
ENROLLMENT

97

