

Katy ISD remains top district in Houston and Texas according to Niche

CONTRIBUTED REPORT

Katy ISD has once again been named the top-ranked public school district in Houston and Texas, according to Niche ratings released on September 27, the district said in a press release. In the 2025 rankings, the district secured the coveted #1 position in the greater Houston area for the fourth consecutive year.

"Our educators and staff are committed to delivering the highest-quality learning experiences for our students," said Ken Gregorski, Katy ISD superintendent of schools. "For four years running, the Niche rankings have af-

firmed what we've always known — the Katy ISD school community represents the standard of excellence in public education."

In addition, Katy ISD earned an impressive ranking of #7 in the entire state of Texas. Among the six districts ahead of it, Katy ISD is the largest, while the others have student populations of 22,000 or fewer.

Five of the district's high schools were also ranked in the top 50 in the greater Houston area, as follows: Seven Lakes High School, #3; Tompkins High School, #4; Cinco Ranch High School, #10; Taylor High School, #20; and Katy High School, #38.

Katy ISD is recognized as a "destination school district," situated just west of Houston and serving nearly 96,000 students, the district said in the press release. Due to its rapid growth, enrollment is projected to exceed 100,000 students by 2028.

Niche, a national organization that reviews and ranks K-12 schools and districts, evaluates institutions across the country using parent and student reviews and essential statistics and data from the U.S. Department of Education. This includes state test scores, college readiness, graduation rates, and SAT/ACT scores. For more information, visit niche.com.

Katy ISD now accepting naming nominations for elementary schools #47, #48

CONTRIBUTED REPORT

Katy ISD is now accepting naming nominations for Elementary #47 and #48, the district announced in a September 24 press release.

Both schools will open in the 2025-26 school year and are part of the voter-approved 2023 Katy ISD Bond.

Elementary #47, which is located at 7402 Katy Hockley Cut Off Road in Katy, is designed for 1030 students and will provide enrollment relief to Youngblood Elementary. The nomination form for Elementary 47 may be found at publiciapps.katyisd.org/KISDNamingNomination.

Elementary #48, which is located at 900 Sunterra Shores Drive, Katy, is designed for 1030 students and will provide enrollment relief to Faldyn and Robertson elementary students. The nomination form for Elementary #48 is at publiciapps.katyisd.org/KISDNamingNomination.

Those interested in submitting a nomination should review the Katy ISD Board Policy CW (LOCAL) for guidance on naming at pol.tasb.org/PolicyOnline/PolicyDetails?key=594&code=CW#localTabContent.

Nominations will be accepted online, and requested nomination materials include:

- Biographical or historical data
- Description of significant contributions
- Statement on why a campus or facility should be named after the nomination
- Letters of recommendation
- Any supplemental materials such as news clippings, photos and/or other printed resources

The deadline to submit naming nominations for both Elementary #47 and #48 is October 24 by 4 p.m. Visit the School and Facility Naming webpage at katyisd.org/Page/7715 for more information.

Harmony School of Innovation-Katy receives national recognition from College Board

FROM STAFF REPORTS

More than 120 Harmony Public Schools scholars – including five from Harmony School of Innovation- Katy -- were named by College Board to its list of National Recognition Program Scholars for 2024. Students from twenty-two Harmony campuses received the honor.

Harmony School of Innovation-Katy is located at 21650 Bellaire in Richmond and is a 8th-12th public charter school. The school is a part of the state-wide Harmony Public Schools system.

The program recognizes the academic achievements of students from traditionally-underserved groups, including students of color, first-generation students and those from rural areas.

"We are exceptionally proud of these students for their dedication to academic excellence and their commitment to challenging themselves with rigorous coursework is a testament to their hard work and determination," Harmony

CEO Fatih Ay said. "This recognition not only reflects the talent and perseverance of our students, but also the support of our incredible teachers, staff, and families who continue to inspire and guide them. We celebrate their accomplishments and look forward to seeing them achieve even greater success in the future."

Students in 10th or 11th grade can qualify for the National Recognition Program Award if they meet the following:

- Score in the Top 10 percent of test-takers from their state on the fall Fall PSAT/NMSGT or Spring PSAT
- Or earn a 3+ on two of more distinct AP exams in the 9th and/or 10th grade
- And earn a cumulative 3.3 GPA or higher
- And identify among a traditionally underserved group

Harmony School Of Innovation-Katy was also among 17 Harmony campuses recognized by the College Board also campuses with its presti-

gious AP Honor Roll for the schools' outstanding commitment to fostering a college-ready culture and optimizing opportunities for students to earn college credit.

In order to be considered for the awards, schools must meet the following criteria:

- College Culture: 40% or more of the graduating cohort took at least 1 AP Exam during high school
- College Credit: 25% or more of the graduating cohort scored a 3 or higher on at least 1 AP Exam during high school
- College Optimization: 2% or more of the graduating cohort took 5 or more AP Exams during high school. At least 1 of those exams was taken in 9th or 10th grade, so that students are spreading their AP experience across grades rather than feeling disproportionate pressure in any single year

Harmony Public Schools is a Texas-born, Texas-wide public charter school system with unique emphasis on STEM learning and college readiness.

Water District Notice of Public Hearing on Tax Rate

The West Memorial Municipal Utility District will hold a public hearing on a proposed tax rate for the tax year 2024 on Monday, October 28, 2024 at 7:00 p.m. at the West Memorial Municipal District Sewage Treatment Plant located at 22025 Kingsland Blvd., Katy, Texas. Your individual taxes may increase at a greater or lesser rate, or even decrease, depending on the tax rate that is adopted and on the change in the taxable value of your property in relation to the change in taxable value of all other property. The change in the taxable value of your property in relation to the change in the taxable value of all other property determines the distribution of the tax burden among all property owners.

Visit Texas.gov/PropertyTaxes to find a link to your local property tax database on which you can easily access information regarding your property taxes, including information about proposed tax rates and scheduled public hearings of each entity that taxes your property.

FOR the proposal:	K. L. Cryar, P. Leo, E. Vanderloo, A. Khan, & J. Wells
AGAINST the proposal:	(none)
PRESENT and not voting:	(none)
ABSENT:	(none)

The following table compares taxes on an average residence homestead in this taxing unit last year to taxes proposed on the average residence homestead this year.

	Last Year	This Year
Total tax rate (per \$100 of value)	\$ 0.33750 /\$100 Adopted	\$ 0.32000 /\$100 Proposed
Difference in rates per \$100 of value		-\$0.018 /\$100
Percentage increase/decrease in rates (+/-)		-5.1852%
Average appraised residence homestead value	\$225,967	\$246,356
General homestead exemptions available (excluding 65 years of age or older or disabled person's exemptions)	-\$45,193	-\$49,271
Average residence homestead taxable value	\$180,774	\$197,085
Tax on average residence homestead	\$610.11	\$630.67
Annual increase/decrease in taxes if proposed tax rate is adopted (+/-) and percentage of increase (+/-)		\$20.56 3.3699%

NOTICE OF VOTE ON TAX RATE

If the district adopts a combined debt service, operation and maintenance and contract tax rate that would result in the taxes on the average residence homestead increasing by more than 3.5 percent, an election must be held to determine whether to approve the operation and maintenance tax rate under Section 49.23602, Water Code.

The 86th Texas Legislature modified the manner in which the voter-approval tax rate is calculated to limit the rate of growth of property taxes in the state.

Questions regarding this notice can be directed to the tax office at (281) 499-1223.

Katy ISD junior highs recognized for strong learning communities among educators

CONTRIBUTED REPORT

Katy ISD's Cardiff, McDonald and Morton Ranch junior high schools have been named "Promising Practices Schools" by Solution Tree, for implementation of successful campus professional learning communities (PLC), the district announced in an October 3 press release. These are the first Katy ISD schools to earn this designation, the district said.

A PLC is a learning model where teachers work collaboratively to achieve better results for students through job-embedded learning, the district said. Educators seek to answer four questions: what do we expect students to learn; how will we know they've learned it;

how will we respond if they haven't learned it; and how will we respond if they already know it.

"These campuses serve as models for our district on how Professional Learning Communities can work to support educators and increase student achievement," said Sanèe Bell, assistant superintendent for teaching & learning in Katy ISD. "Through best practices, these schools are dedicated to creating systems and processes to meet the needs of all students."

The PLC process is increasingly recognized as the most powerful strategy for sustained, substantive school improvement. Visit www.solutiontree.com to learn more.

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