Texas Transparency Project

Transparency Perpetuates Accountability

Greg Cooper

School Bonds in Johnson County

Early Voting: Oct 20 – 31

Election Day: November

What Are Bonds?

Texas school bonds are a voter-approved debt instrument issued by independent school districts (ISDs) to borrow funds for capital projects;

As of august 31, 2024, Texas ISD bond debt was north of 131 billon dollars.

[redacted]

In May 2025, an additional *11.6* billion was approved by voters.

School boards can levy taxes *sufficient without limit to rate or amount*

The individual debt obligation is *secured by your property.* Property taxes are used to pay the principal [redacted]

4 Questions Regarding Trust

Without Trust, Support for Bonds is Difficult

Has the ISD *EARNED* the Communities' Trust?

Does the ISD *LISTEN* to their Voters?

Has the ISD *RESPONSIBLY MANAGED* tax-payer Provided Revenue?

Has the ISD *EDUCATED* and best *PREPARED* its Graduates?

4 School Bonds In Johnson County

Which ISDs and How Much?

Grandview	Keene	Godley	Cleburne
20 Mil (P)	25 Mil (P)	120 Mil (P)	232 Mil (P)
16 Mil (I)	29 Mil (I)	130 Mil (I)	217 Mil (I)
36 Mil (T)	*54 Mil (T)*	*250 Mil (T)*	*229 Mil (T)*

Keene ISD

$25 Million + $29 Million = *$54 Million*

8 New Elementary School Classrooms

8 New JH / HS Classrooms

New JH / HS Band Hall

Performing Arts / Gymnatorium

Elementary Cafeteria / Storm Shelter

Keene ISD

$25 Million + $29 Million = $54 Million

1st in Academics in the County

Lowest Total Debt in the County

Lowest Debt per ADA in the County

2nd Lowest Total Tax Rate in the County

Grandview ISD

$20 Million + $16 Million = *$36 Million*

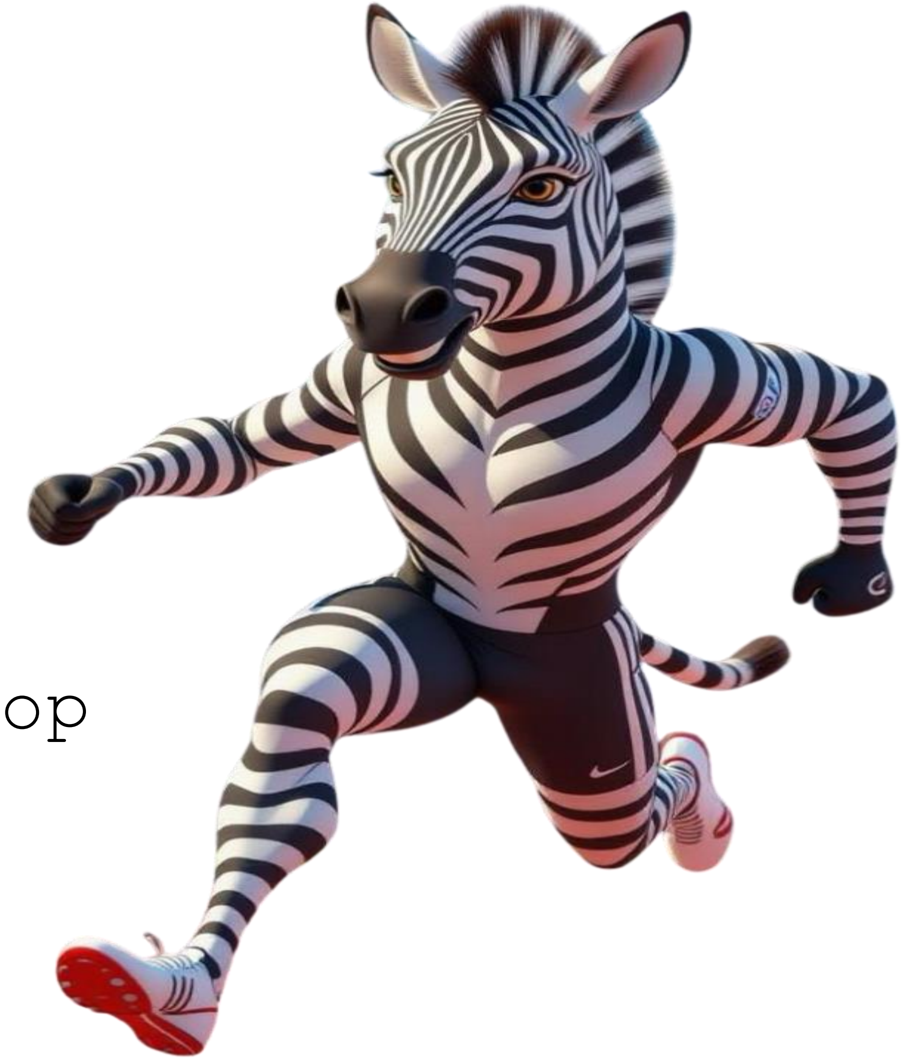
$0.23 I&S Tax Rate Increase

Renovation of EXISTING spaces

Foundation and HVAC repairs*

Expansion of AG and Mechanic Shop

Softball Stadium Complex



Grandview ISD

$20 Million + $16 Million = *$36 Million*

#2 in Academics in the County – 86%

Lowest Total Tax Rate in the County

2nd Lowest Debt in the County

2nd Lowest Debt per ADA

Godley ISD

$120 Million + $130 Million = *$250 Million*

MS Renovations – *Postponed* from 2021 Bond

6th Renovations – *Postponed* from 2021 Bond

Legacy Renovations – *Postponed* from 2021 Bond

R.B. Godley Renovations – *Postponed* from 2021 Bond

New Buses – *Postponed* from 2021 Bond

Technology Upgrades – Postponed from 2021

Godley ISD

$120 Million + $130 Million = *$250 Million*

3rd *WORST* in Academics in the County

--77% vs. 75%

2nd *WORST* Total Debt in the County

--With 10K LESS kids

WORST Debt per ADA in the County

--83K vs. 51K vs. mid 20sK

WORST Total Tax Rate in the County

Cleburne ISD

$232 Million + $217 Million = *$449 Million*

Replace Cooke, Gerard; Upgrade Marti

CTE and Ag Expansions

Playground Upgrades

Early Learning Center

New Stadium / Rock

Technology Upgrades

Cleburne ISD

$232 Million + $217 Million = *$449 Million*

LAST in Academics in the County

4th *Highest* Total Tax Rate in JoCo

4th *Highest* Debt in the County

3rd *Highest* Debt per ADA

Spending *109K* on marketing the bond

Consistent Sources

Zonda Demographic Review

--Demographics / Growth / Enrollment Trends / Building Trends

Hilltop Securities

--Bond Capacity / I&S Tax Rate Scenarios / Historical Bond Data

Texas Bond Review Board – Bond Data

Txschools.gov - Academic Accountability

OpenTexasSchools.com - Follow the Money

TEA / Local ISD Websites / Local County Tax Sites

Zonda

Annual Enrollment Change

YEAR	EE	Pre-K	K	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	5th	6th	7th	8th	9th	10th	11th	12th	Total	Total Growth	% Growth
2020/21	27	256	511	487	480	490	523	518	518	532	510	575	572	437	423	6,85[illegible]	-43	-0.6%
2021/22	43	329	514	539	493	499	487	540	536	538	533	602	528	477	410	7,06[illegible]	209	3.0%
2022/23	37	340	559	546	574	509	511	495	547	544	541	624	530	446	440	7,24[illegible]	175	2.5%
2023/24	46	349	509	557	541	560	487	495	490	526	533	631	500	429	429	7,082	-161	-2.2%
2024/25	31	291	531	527	555	519	556	470	492	473	526	608	513	408	389	6,889	-193	-2.7%

*Yellow Box = larg[illegible]
Green Box = second largest grade per year

YEAR	EE	PK	K	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	5th	6th	7th	8th	9th	10th	11th	12th	Elem	MS	HS	Tot
3 Year Avg.	0.926	0.965	1.014	1.031	1.017	0.989	0.991	0.983	0.999	0.981	0.995	1.159	0.832	0.823	0.930	1.004	0.992	0.936	0.980
2021/22	1.000	1.324	0.992	1.053	1.012	1.038	0.996	1.031	1.037	1.044	1.008	1.182	0.922	0.848	0.931	1.020	1.030	0.971	1.007
2022/23	0.860	1.033	1.088	1.062	1.065	1.032	1.024	1.016	1.013	1.015	1.006	1.171	0.880	0.845	0.922	1.048	1.011	0.955	1.011
2023/24	1.243	1.026	0.911	0.996	0.991	0.976	0.957	0.969	0.990	0.962	0.980	1.166	0.801	0.809	0.962	0.966	0.977	0.935	0.959
2024/25	0.674	0.834	1.043	1.035	0.996	0.959	0.993	0.965	0.994	0.965	1.000	1.141	0.813	0.816	0.907	0.999	0.986	0.919	0.971

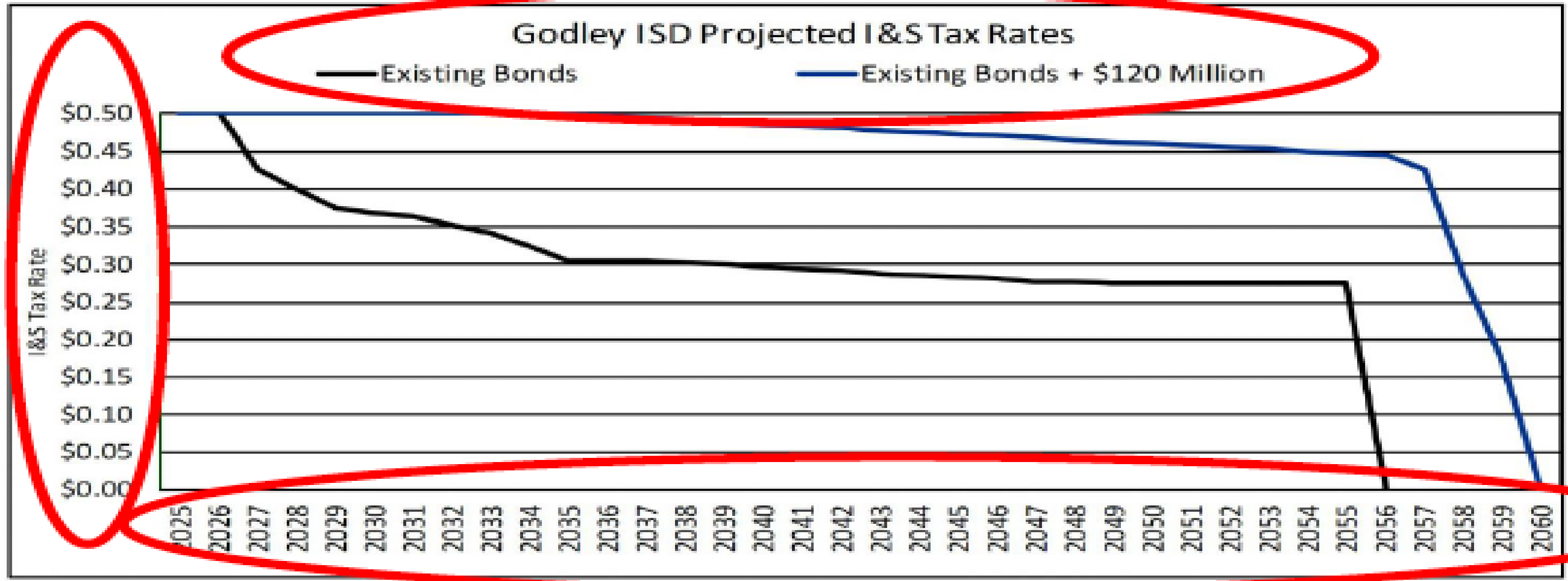
- District enrollment declined by 193 students from the 2023-24 School Year. Pre-Kindergarten Enrollment was down 73 students from last school year levels.
- The Largest Grade Groups this year are in the 4th and 9th Grades.
- The highest year-over-year cohort increases were in the Kindergarten, 1st, and Grades

Hilltop

Se

$120,000,000 Bond Election Scenario – Projected I&S Tax Rates

Projected Bond Authorization	Series 2026	Series 2027	Series 2028	Series 2029
	30 Yr @ 4.50%	30 Yr @ 4.50%	30 Yr @ 4.50%	30 Yr @ 4.50%
$ 120,000,000	$ 30,000,000	$ 30,000,000	$ 30,000,000	$ 30,000,000



TX Bond Review

What Godley ISD Residents CURRENTLY OWE

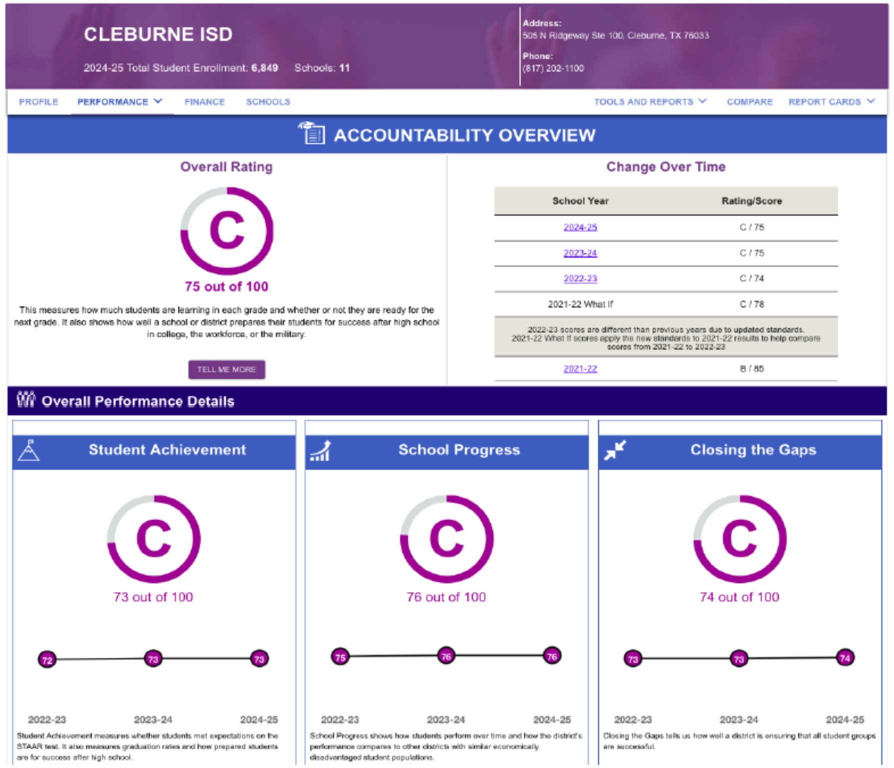
BRB Local Government Debt Database Search Results

Texas Independent School District FY: 2024

Issuer	Issue Name	Pledge	Mty Date	Principal	Interest	Total Payment	Fiscal Year
Godley ISD	Unl Tax Ref Bonds Ser 2015	GO	08/15/2033	$18,085,000	$4,459,875	$22,544,875	2024
Godley ISD	Unl Tax Ref Bonds Ser 2015A	GO	08/15/2030	$1,245,000	$165,025	$1,410,025	2024
Godley ISD	Unl Tax School Bldg Bonds Ser 2016	GO	08/15/2043	$32,180,000	$18,454,738	$50,634,738	2024
Godley ISD	Unl Tax School Bldg Bonds Ser 2019	GO	08/15/2047	$13,225,000	$11,134,900	$24,359,900	2024
Godley ISD	Unl Tax School Bldg Bonds Ser 2021	GO	08/15/2051	$93,680,000	$56,848,500	$150,528,500	2024
Godley ISD	Unl Tax School Bldg Bonds Ser 2022	GO	08/15/2054	$48,590,000	$55,185,525	$103,775,525	2024
Godley ISD	Unl Tax School Bldg Bonds Ser 2023	GO	08/15/2055	$18,485,000	$26,652,375	$45,137,375	2024
	Subtotal:			$225,490,000	$172,900,938	$398,390,938	

https://debtsearch.brb.texas.gov/local_debt_search.aspx

TXSchools.gov

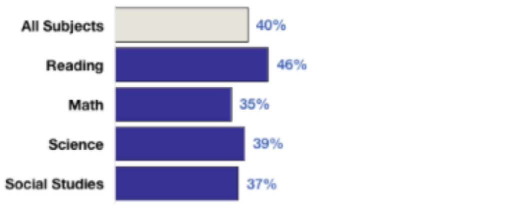


https://txschools.gov/?view=district&id=126903&tab=performance|achievement&lng=en

MOST RECENT RELEASED
Accoutability:
2nd to LAST in Johnson County

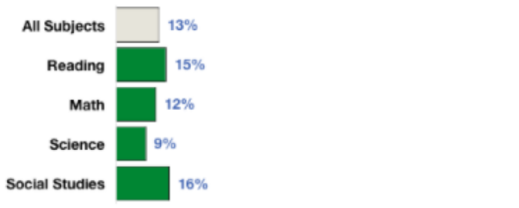
Cleburne ISD:	**75% - C**
Keene ISD	87% - B
Joshua ISD:	86% - B
Grandview ISD:	86% - B
Burleson ISD:	83% - B
Godley ISD:	77% - C
Rio Vista ISD:	76% - C
Alvarado ISD:	76% - C
Cleburne ISD:	**75% - C**
Venus ISD:	69% - D

Percentage of Students Meeting Grade Level or Above



Subject	This District		State
All Subjects	40%	-10	50%
Reading	46%	- 8	54%
Math	35%	-10	45%
Science	39%	- 8	47%
Social Studies	37%	-13	50%

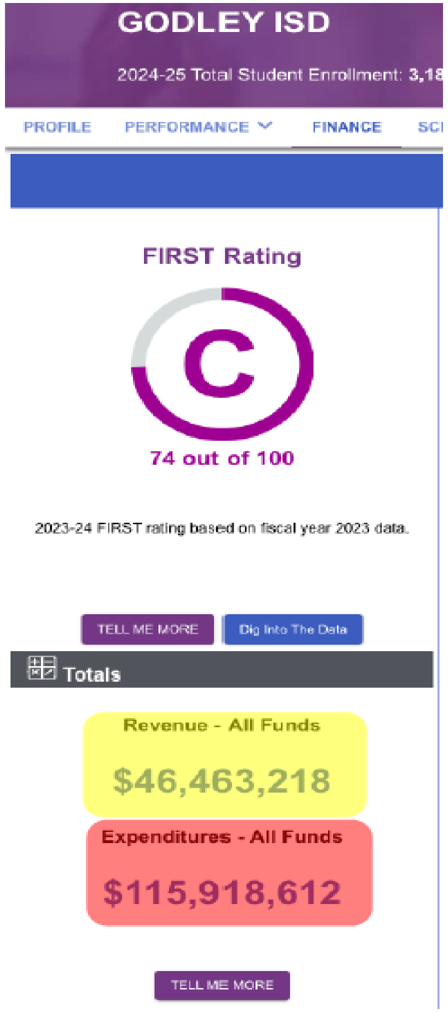
Percentage of Students Mastering Grade Level



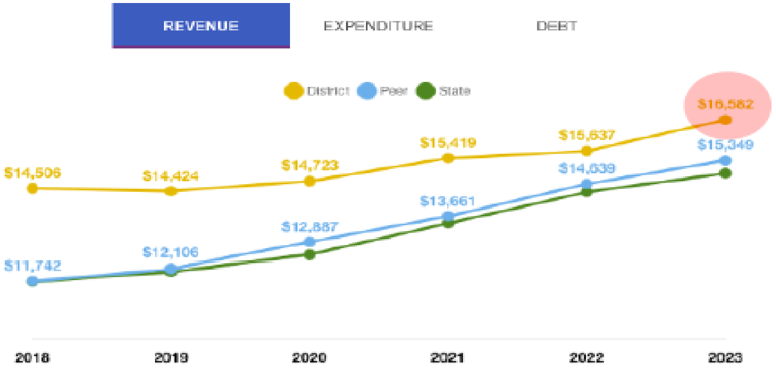
Subject	This District		State
All Subjects	13%	- 8	21%
Reading	15%	- 8	23%
Math	12%	- 8	20%
Science	9%	- 9	17%
Social Studies	16%	-11	27%

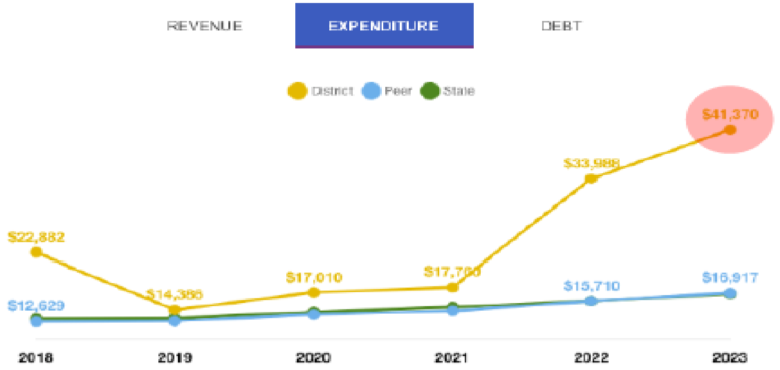
https://txschools.gov/?view=district&id=126903&tab=performance|achievement&lng=en

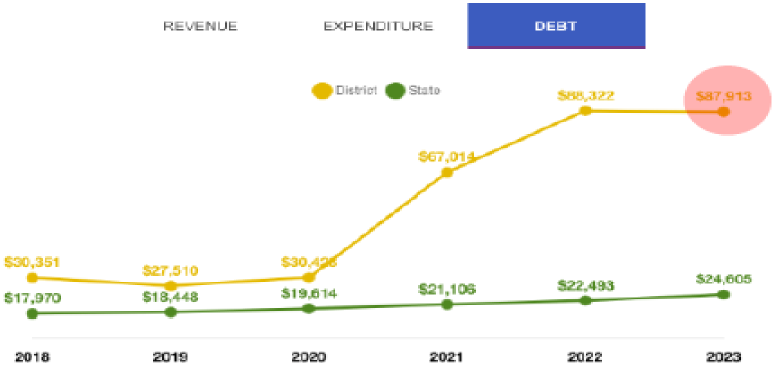
TXSchools.gov



Godley ISD *RECEIVES*, More, *SPENDS* more, and is in *DEBT* more than almost EVERYONE!







RECEIVES $1,622 ***MORE*** than State Average

SPENDS $24,578 ***MORE*** than State Average

$63,308 ***MORE DEBT*** per student than State Average

https://txschools.gov/?view=district&id=126911&tab=finance&lng=en

OpenTexasSchools.co
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Godley ISD

TEA's District Grade: C 77

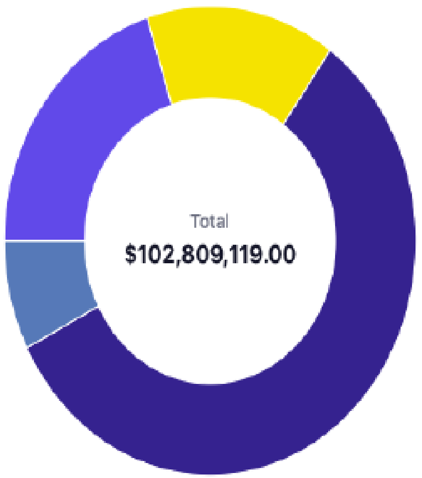
Enrollment	Per-Pupil Spending	Total District Spending	District Debt	Per-Pupil Debt	Average Teacher Salary
3,195	$34,246.88	$102,809,119.00	$398,390,938.00	$126,634.00	$63,908.00

Average Principal Salary	Superintendent Salary	Not On Grade Level Reading	Not On Grade Level Math
$97,417.00	$253,448.00	46%	61%

Not On Grade Level Social Studies	Not On Grade Level Science
60%	54%

District spending breakdown

Godley ISD



- Teacher compensation: 20.1% • $20,626,573.00
- Non-teacher compensation: 14.8% • $15,248,162.00
- Capital outlay & debt service: 57.6% • $59,170,393.00
- Other operating expenses: 7.6% • $7,763,991.00
- Recapture: 0.0% • $0.00

Godley ISD =
LOWEST Teacher Pay
@ 20.1%

Grandview ISD:	46.7%
Joshua ISD:	45.9%
Keene ISD:	45.3%
Cleburne ISD:	42.4%
Venus ISD:	41.3%
Burleson ISD:	39.7%
Alvarado ISD:	26.3%
Rio Vista ISD:	25.2%

https://opentexasschools.com/district/126911

TEA

Is Cleburne ISD **Growing** or **Shrinking**?

TEA *Attendance Projections*
Through 2027

YEAR	DISTRICT ID	DISTRICT NAME	ADA
2024	126903	CLEBURNE ISD	6,265.536
2025	126903	CLEBURNE ISD	6,086.833
2026	126903	CLEBURNE ISD	5,862.824
2027	126903	CLEBURNE ISD	5,631.179

https://tea.texas.gov/finance-and-grants/state-funding/additional-finance-resources/attendance-projections

County Website

Johnson County ISD Historical Total Tax Rates

HIGHEST TOTAL TAX RATE in Johnson County

School Districts	Codes	2024	2023	2022	2021	2020	2019	2018
Alvarado ISD	ALS	1.166900	1.169200	1.354600	1.372000	1.466400	1.470000	1.461000
Burleson ISD	BUS	1.255200	1.257500	1.442900	1.494600	1.538300	1.568350	1.670000
Cleburne ISD	CLS	1.211900	1.211900	1.397300	1.448600	1.514700	1.528300	1.630000
Crowley ISD	CRS	1.255200	1.257500	1.442900	1.484100	1.539800	1.568400	1.670000
Godley ISD	GOS	1.286900	1.289200	1.474600	1.492000	1.466400	1.470000	1.540000
Granbury ISD	GBY	0.931900	0.934200	0.999600	1.088800	1.111400	1.125000	1.195000
Grandview ISD	GVS	0.996600	0.998900	1.105900	1.178100	1.133100	1.196100	1.266100
Joshua ISD	JOS	1.257500	1.087200	1.272600	1.290000	1.396000	1.440000	1.520000
Keene ISD	KES	1.046400	1.048900	1.165470	1.231270	1.285800	1.299400	1.401100
Mansfield ISD	MAS	1.146900	1.149200	1.334600	1.418300	1.446400	1.460000	1.540000
Rio Vista ISD	RIS	1.180990	1.183300	1.322990	1.322990	1.397390	1.498350	1.600000
Venus ISD	VES	1.178400	1.180700	1.366100	1.383500	1.421300	1.491500	1.589500

https://johnsoncad.com/tax-rates/

Godley ISD has taxed YOU at the ***HIGHEST*** rate since ***2016!***

Truth In Taxation Summary

Johnson County Tax Office

Texas Property Tax Code Section 26.16

Taxing Entity	Adopted Tax Rate	Maintenance & Operations Rate	Debt Rate	No-New-Revenue Tax Rate	No-New-Revenue Maintenance and Operations Rate	Voter-Approval Tax Rate
GODLEY ISD						
Tax Year 2023	1.289200	0.789200	0.500000	1.374780	0.736530	1.289200
Tax Year 2022	1.474600	0.974600	0.500000	1.281110	N/A	1.474600
Tax Year 2021	1.492000	0.992000	0.500000	1.383960	N/A	1.372000
Tax Year 2020	1.466400	0.966400	0.500000	1.550400	N/A	1.466400
Tax Year 2019	1.470000	0.970000	0.500000	1.448440	N/A	1.470000
Tax Year 2018	1.540000	1.040000	0.500000	1.397050	N/A	1.540000
Tax Year 2017	1.540000	1.040000	0.500000	1.564620	N/A	1.540000
Tax Year 2016	1.540000	1.040000	0.500000	1.562180	N/A	1.540000

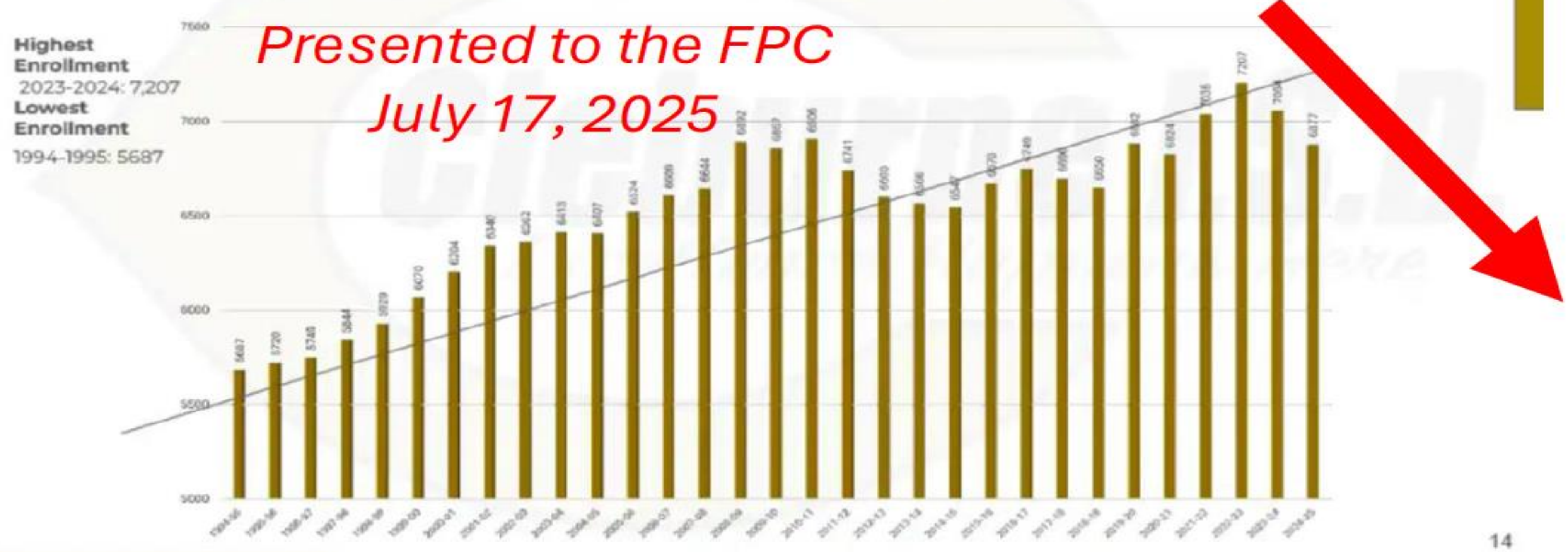
https://www.johnsoncountytaxoffice.org/truth-in-taxation-summary

Local District

Is Cleburne ISD Growing or Shrinking?

TAX IMPACT ANALYSIS

Bond Capacity Scenario - Projected I&S Tax Rates



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https://www.c-isd.com/bond/facility-advisory-committee

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