



Fort Worth ISD Leadership Academy Network Parent and Guardian Guide

What is the Leadership Academy Network?

The Leadership Academy Network is an innovative partnership between Fort Worth ISD and Texas Wesleyan University designed to continue improving learning outcomes at the District's five Leadership Academies. This first-of-its-kind partnership means Texas Wesleyan will operate and manage Leadership Academy schools, building on the success of the learning model piloted by Fort Worth ISD in 2017.

What does this mean for my child?

The Leadership Academy Network is a long-term commitment by Fort Worth ISD and Texas Wesleyan to the success of your student. All the existing benefits of the Leadership Academy model remain in place. Your child's school will still have high-achieving teachers and administrators; an extended school day that provides for additional instruction, tutoring and enrichment activities; and support for social and emotional well-being. There will also be access to additional resources to help sustain the school's focus on daily academic mastery.

What can I expect as a parent?

We understand that parents play an important role in student success, and we want you to stay involved. That means continued home visits by staff, classroom visits by parents, parent-teacher conferences, phone and text outreach and school events. We welcome input and encourage you to reach out to staff at your student's campus or to Priscila Dilley (see below) with any questions or feedback.

What role will Texas Wesleyan play in my student's education?

Texas Wesleyan will have academic oversight for the Leadership Academy at your child's school. The University will have freedom and flexibility in instruction methods, budgeting, schedules and other areas, while operating under performance targets that align with Fort Worth ISD school guidelines and state accountability standards. The Texas Wesleyan School of Education is known for its exceptional faculty, made up of many former superintendents, administrators and teachers—which means all efforts will be guided by veteran educators, including a new team of four staff members hired specifically to manage operations of the Leadership Academy Network.

Who will lead this effort?

Texas Wesleyan has hired Priscila Dilley, formerly of Fort Worth ISD's Office of Innovation and Transformation, to work in the University's School of Education and manage Leadership Academy Network operations.

At Fort Worth ISD, Dilley helped launch the District's Leadership Academy initiative, aimed at transforming five previously underperforming campuses. In the first year of operations, every Leadership Academy came off the Texas Education Agency's "Improvement Required" list and demonstrated levels of student growth that placed them among the top half of campuses across the state. Dilley will now lead Network operations and oversee academic efforts at all schools.

In addition, Texas Wesleyan is forming a steering committee, made up of experienced educators and administrators, who will help guide this work and serve as advisors to the University's Board of Trustees.

What role will Fort Worth ISD play in my student's education?

Your child's campus is still a Fort Worth ISD school, and your student is a Fort Worth ISD student. Teachers and other staff members will still be District employees, and they may remain at their campuses as long as they are in good standing with the District. Fort Worth ISD will still be accountable to the Texas Education Agency for school performance.

What is the enrollment process?

Leadership Academy schools will maintain open enrollment within Fort Worth ISD, with no tuition fees or entrance examinations. Current students do not need to reapply. Those who live in the geographic boundaries of the current attendance zone will have priority in enrollment. Students who reside outside the school's geographic boundaries can seek admission for remaining spaces by applying to transfer. A waitlist will be used to allocate any spots that come open during the school year.

Other questions? Contact:

Priscila Dilley
Senior Officer, Leadership Academy Network
Texas Wesleyan University – School of Education
Phone: 817-531-4216 | Email: dilley@txwes.edu