

THE COMMUNITY

The Canyon Independent School District (ISD) community encompasses much of Randall County, including south Amarillo and the city of Canyon. It is a unique blend of rural, small community, and suburban neighborhoods. Canyon, with a population of about 13,350, is the county seat of Randall County. The people possess a friendly, caring attitude based on a tradition of Texas hospitality. Residents can enjoy pleasant surroundings of a smaller community with the advantages of a major metropolitan area only minutes away, or they can choose the suburban neighborhoods in south Amarillo.

The area is noted as the educational and cultural arts center of the Panhandle of Texas. Rapid growth is taking place in the community. Outstanding medical and hospital facilities, many churches serving many faiths, and one of the finest public school systems in the state are in the area. Programs of distinguished theatrical presentations, recitals, and concerts are common. The Panhandle-Plains Historical Museum (the oldest and largest state museum in Texas), scenic Palo Duro Canyon State Park, the musical drama *Texas Legacies*, and a host of other art and cultural activities and performances are readily available.

Canyon is the home of West Texas A&M University, a regional university that provides a combination of liberal arts and career-oriented educational opportunities. The university serves a diverse student population of approximately 7300 and offers 61 undergraduate and 43 graduate programs, and one doctorate program. Amarillo College is a community college located in Amarillo with a wide array of both academic and career-oriented programs.

Thriving and growing businesses exist in the community. Recreational facilities are readily available in many nearby golf courses, tennis

courts, parks, swimming pools, and many other facilities for enjoyment including the Palo Duro Canyon. An international airport is just minutes away.

Surrounding areas are predominately agricultural, growing sorghum grains to serve the vast cattle-feeding industry in the region. The Panhandle of Texas affords a most comfortable and enjoyable climate with an average annual temperature of 44 to 72 degrees. Average rainfall is about 19 inches, and the cool summer evenings provide much enjoyment.

THE DISTRICT

Canyon ISD serves Canyon, a portion of south Amarillo, and all communities in between. The district covers 717 square miles in Randall County, operates 56 bus routes, and has a student population of 7,863. The district is experiencing rapid growth between Canyon and south Amarillo.

The district currently has six elementaries, two intermediate schools, two junior highs, one Class 3A high school and one Class 4A high school. In addition, Canyon ISD maintains a campus at the Youth Center of the High Plains, a regional juvenile detention center.

All facilities of the district are attractive and extremely well maintained. One of the high schools was built in 2004 and one of the intermediate schools was built in 2003. All campuses have been renovated in the last three years. The district prides itself in having a teaching staff of excellent teachers with a strong commitment to student learning. The administrators, both at the district and campus levels, provide outstanding leadership for the district. Average experience of the teaching staff is 12.7 years, and the average turnover rate is 14.6 percent.

State of the art technology is available for instructional purposes. Students use technology in classrooms, computer labs and with mobile laptop stations. All schools have a building network and are connected to a district-wide network providing Internet access.

2004 District Accountability Summary

District – Academically Acceptable
Canyon HS –3A – Recognized
Randall HS –4A – Recognized
Youth Center of the High Plains – Not rated:
Alternative Accountability
Canyon JH – Recognized
Westover Park JH – Academically Acceptable
Gene Howe Elementary – Exemplary
Sundown Lane Elementary – Exemplary
Lakeview Elementary – Recognized
Arden Road Elementary – Exemplary
Crestview Elementary – Recognized
Rex Reeves Elementary – Recognized
Oscar Hinger Elementary – Recognized
Greenways Intermediate –
Academically Acceptable

REASON FOR VACANCY

Dr. James Veitenheimer took a position at Keller ISD effective August 1, 2004.

THE DISTRICT OFFERS REWARDING ACTIVITIES:

- Education Foundation of Canyon ISD - volunteer board
- Active parent and community involvement in school improvement planning, advisory committees, volunteer programs, and Adopt-a-School program
- Early childhood classes for 3 to 5 year-olds
- Prekindergarten
- Gifted and talented programs, kindergarten through grade 12

- Advanced Placement (AP) courses, grades 10 through 12 with strong pre-AP support in all core areas
- Concurrent enrollment for high school and college credit
- Advanced technology with computer labs, local area networks, a wide area network, and computerized library services, kindergarten through grade 12
- Comprehensive student services including substance abuse prevention and intervention, peer mediation, DARE, at-risk programs, and campus liaison officers
- Award winning extracurricular programs with state and national recognition
- Guidance counselors, kindergarten through grade 12
- State-of the art vocational programs, with technical preparation options in many vocational areas
- Special education to meet all special needs

MISSION STATEMENT

The mission statement of Canyon ISD, in partnership with the home and community, is to expect and provide the highest standards of performance through diverse and nurturing educational experiences.

DISTRICT GOALS

Student Performance: All students in Canyon ISD will receive a quality education through the implementation of a well-balanced curriculum and effective teaching strategies which will challenge them to realize their full learning potential and prepare them for productive lives.
Human Resources Development: Canyon ISD will recruit, develop and retain the most qualified personnel and provide them the opportunity to realize their fullest potential.
Organizational Management: Organizational components, support systems, and the infrastructure of the educational system will be

productive, efficient, and accountable in support of Canyon ISD's mission.

Community: Canyon ISD will involve parents and other members of the community as full and active partners in fulfilling the mission of the District.

DISTRICT FACTS AND FIGURES

Current year budget \$40,965,092
 Revenue sources
 Local \$27,719,582
 State \$13,215,010
 Federal \$30,500

Taxable value \$1,799,166,326
 Tax rate - total \$1.73919 per 100
 M&O \$1.46246 per 100
 I&S..... \$0.27673 per 100

Student enrollment total7863
 Elementary school.....2973
 Intermediate school1237
 Middle school1288
 Senior high school2320
 Other45

Student ethnicity
 African American.....1.8 percent
 Hispanic 12.6 percent
 White 84.1 percent
 Other1.4 percent

Staff
 Administrative..... 33
 Professional support 80
 Teachers and aides579
 Support services218

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Lila Vars President
 Tim ReidVice-President
 Kelly ForehandSecretary
 Bill Pulliam Associate Secretary
 Jim Murphy Member
 Roger Short..... Member
 Linda West Member

2004-05 IMPORTANT DATES

Application deadline December 17
 Board reviews applications..... January 11
 Initial interviews January 13–15
 Board prepares for January 17
 follow-up interviews
 Follow-up interviews..... January 20–22
 Board visits candidate's..... January 25–26
 home district
 Board votes to name finalist..... January 27
 Board votes to hire
 superintendent..... February 17
 Superintendent report to April 1
 district on or before

QUALIFICATIONS AND CHARACTERISTICS

The superintendent, as chief executive officer, is accountable to the Board of Trustees, which expects the superintendent to be the education leader of Canyon ISD. The superintendent works closely with the Board of Trustees to develop and implement policies and programs designed to carry out the district's mission.

In concert with the staff, students, and the community, the Board of Trustees has identified certain characteristics and qualifications as highly desirable in a superintendent:

Education: Master's Degree in Educational Administration, Educational Leadership, or related field.
 Texas Superintendent Certification

Experience: Minimum of 5 years as a superintendent or assistant superintendent

Salary: Based on experience

Attributes:

Honest
 Fortright
 Sense of Humor
 Sincere
 Stability in personal and professional life
 Not threatened by open communication
 Puts students needs first
 Good listener
 Good communicator
 Delegates to other administrators
 Understands geographic challenges of the district
 Visible throughout the school district and in the community
 Strong leadership skills
 Professional Demeanor

APPLICATION INFORMATION

The name of only one candidate will be made public. Applicants are to apply or express an interest through the online application process.

Enter www.tasb.org/ess in the Internet browser for easy access.

Please address all communication and inquiries to executive.search@tasb.org

Executive Search Services
 Texas Association of School Boards
 7703 N. Lamar Blvd.
 Austin, Texas 78752-1027

Equal Opportunity Policy: Canyon ISD does not discriminate on the basis of race, religion, sex, age, national origin, marital or veteran status, or handicap in admission or access to, or treatment or employment in, its programs and activities in compliance with applicable federal and state laws.



**Announcement of Opening:
 Superintendent of Schools**