



CONROE INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT

# A YEAR IN REVIEW

JULY 2022

[www.conroeisd.net](http://www.conroeisd.net)



## WHAT'S INSIDE

- District Overview
- Fine Arts and Athletics
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**CONROE**  
INDEPENDENT  
SCHOOL DISTRICT

# RATED BEST SCHOOL DISTRICT

*in Montgomery County*

# MOST DIVERSE SCHOOL DISTRICT

*in Montgomery County*

Niche rankings are based on rigorous analysis of statistics and reviews from students and parents. Conroe ISD has earned an overall grade of A and is the best and most diverse district in Montgomery County according to Niche.



## TOP WORK PLACES 2021

## HOUSTON CHRONICLE

Over 4,600 Conroe ISD employees responded anonymously to a third-party survey in May of

2021 resulting in the district being named a **Top Workplace** by the Houston Chronicle. Of the large employers, **Conroe ISD is the highest-ranking school district on the list and 15th overall** out of the top 175 companies in the Houston area.

# A MESSAGE from DR. CURTIS NULL, Superintendent of Schools

Despite the challenges over the last two years, our District has achieved **unprecedented success** due to the dedication of our students, staff, parents, and community. We are committed to helping all students reach their potential. **Thank you to everyone who makes Conroe ISD a place where all means all.** We value your partnership.



@ConroeISDSupt

# BOARD of TRUSTEES

Trustees are elected to four-year terms and serve as volunteers to represent our community at large.



**Skeeter Hubert**  
President



**Scott Moore**  
1st Vice President



**Theresa Wagaman**  
2nd Vice President



**Ray Sanders**  
Secretary



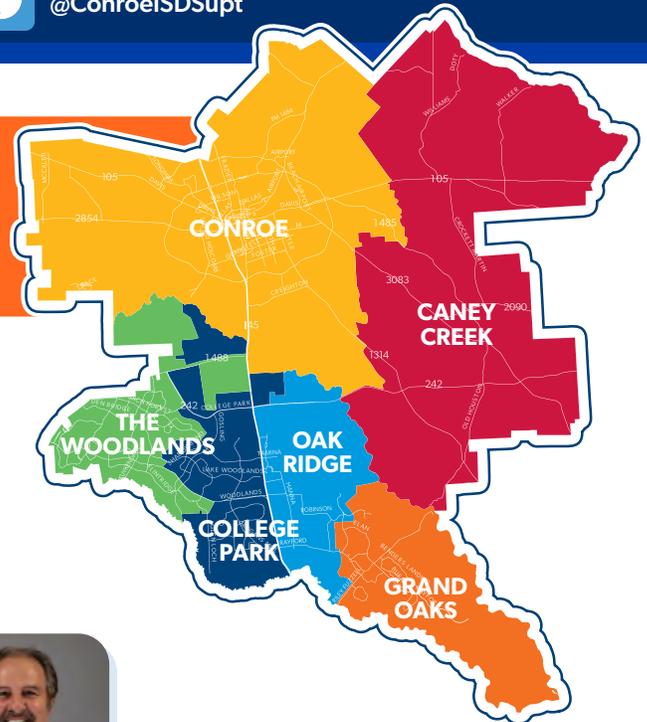
**Stacey Chase**  
Assistant Secretary



**Datre Williams**  
Immediate Past President



**Dale Inman**  
Trustee



**CONROE**  
INDEPENDENT  
SCHOOL DISTRICT

## Fast-Growth District

Conroe ISD is a **348-square-mile school district** that is geographically diverse and includes **The Woodlands, Shenandoah, Oak Ridge North, Conroe, and Grangerland** as well as several other smaller towns, communities, and unincorporated areas. As the **9th largest district in Texas** and the **60th largest in the U.S.**, Conroe ISD serves over **69,000 students across 67 campuses**. Conroe ISD is repeatedly named a **fast-growth school district** due to an average enrollment growth of 1,500 students per year for over a decade.



largest employer in Montgomery County

## Top Workplace

In addition to being the largest school district in Montgomery County, Conroe ISD is also the **largest employer with over 10,000 employees** including substitutes. Over 4,600 Conroe ISD employees responded anonymously to a third-party survey in May of 2021 resulting in the District being named a **Top Workplace by the Houston Chronicle**.



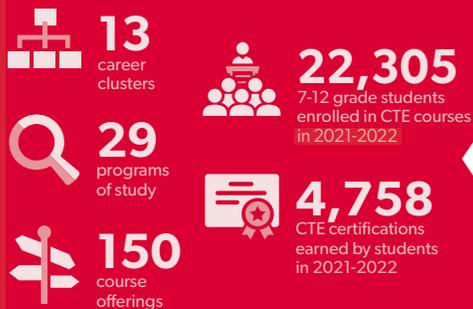
## Academic Excellence

Conroe ISD offers a **comprehensive academic program**, a vast array of **athletics**, cutting-edge **Career and Technical Education curriculum**, and a slate of **fine arts courses** to meet the needs and interests of all students. Conroe ISD's **ACT and SAT scores continue to outpace the State and National averages**. The District's **graduation rate of 97.3% is at the highest level** in decades. In the 2022 school year, Conroe ISD graduated over 4,700 seniors.



## Career and Workforce Readiness

Conroe ISD's **Career and Technical Education (CTE) curriculum** provides students in grades 7 through 12 the opportunity to participate in a variety of course offerings across **13 career clusters and 29 programs of study**. In the 2021-2022 school year, over 22,000 students enrolled in at least one CTE course. Conroe ISD **students earned over 4,700 certifications** last school year providing greater post-secondary opportunities for students whether they go straight into the workforce or continue on to college. In 2022, Conroe ISD celebrated two UIL State championships in CTE-related events along with many other champions in SkillsUSA and organizational events like the Montgomery County Fair.



## Commitment to Safety

Over the past decade, Conroe ISD has spent millions of dollars on a layered approach to **campus safety** including the installation of **secure entrances and vestibules** along with adding **security cameras** throughout our schools. The Conroe ISD Police Department is the **third largest law enforcement agency** in the County with its 81 officers each receiving over 100 hours of training per year. The Conroe ISD Police Department regularly provides **active shooter training** to our officers as well as other local law enforcement agencies to better prepare our law enforcement community for an **integrated response**. This combined with training in Emergency Operations, Mental Health Awareness, and Threat Assessments, to name a few, plays a key role in **providing a safe learning environment at each of our campuses**.



# CONROE ISD FINE ARTS

## DID YOU KNOW?

**Forty-one high school students** spanning Conroe ISD's six comprehensive high schools were **named 2022 Texas Music Educators Association All-State Musicians** in the areas of band, choir and orchestra.



Conroe ISD received a **"Best Communities for Music Education Award"** for the **9th year in 2022.**



Conroe ISD has **over 320 Fine Arts Specialists** who teach music, art, band, choir, orchestra, theatre and dance to **over 50,000 students.**



Conroe ISD students have been **recognized at the regional, State, and National levels for accomplishments in Fine Arts.**



There are **over 350 unique Fine Arts courses** for students in Conroe ISD.



## CONROE ISD ATHLETICS

Conroe ISD's athletic programs continue their tradition of excellence with **strong performances at the local and State levels.** Over the past year, student athletes have been celebrated for their tremendous accomplishments, including those noted below who were **recognized at our 2021-2022 Board Meetings.**



At the start of the 2022-2023 athletics season, **Caney Creek High School will move from the 5A to 6A conference** joining Conroe High School, Grand Oaks High School, Oak Ridge High School, TW College Park High School, and The Woodlands High School.



- 2022 UIL 5A Boys' Wrestling State Champion  
**Joshua Thomas, Caney Creek High School**



- 2022 UIL 6A Boys' Wrestling State Champion  
**Jakob Smith, TW College Park High School**
- 2022 UIL 6A Girls' Wrestling State Champion  
**Olivia DeGeorgio, TW College Park High School**



- 2022 UIL 6A Girls' Wrestling State Champion  
**Maddie Welch, TW College Park High School**
- 2022 UIL Class 6A Boys' Diving State Champion  
**Jacob Jones, The Woodlands High School**
- Special Olympics Powerlifting State Champions -  
**Conroe Stars Team Members**



**CONROE ISD ATHLETICS - WOODFOREST BANK STADIUM**  
**CONROE ISD ATHLETICS - MOORHEAD STADIUM**

All varsity home football games are streamed on Conroe ISD's YouTube channels for **Woodforest Bank Stadium** and **Moorhead Stadium.**





### The Education Resource Group

According to the Education Resource Group, which provides an independent framework for managing continuous improvement among school districts, the Conroe Independent School District continues to perform at high levels. For the third consecutive year, **Conroe ISD ranks second among the largest 200 school districts** in Texas for academic and financial performance and has been among the top 10 districts for the past 10 years in these areas.



### ASBO Recognizes Conroe ISD with 22<sup>nd</sup> Consecutive Meritorious Budget Award

The Association of School Business Officials (ASBO) International recognized Conroe ISD for **excellence in the preparation and issuance of its 2021-2022 budget**. This is the 22nd consecutive year the District has received the Meritorious Budget Award (MBA).

ASBO International's MBA promotes and recognizes best budget presentation practices in school districts. Participants submit their applications and budget documents to a panel of school financial professionals who review the materials for compliance with the MBA Criteria Checklist and other requirements and provide expert feedback that districts can use to improve their budget documents.

Conroe ISD has participated in the MBA program for 22 years and is one of a small number of school districts out of the over 1,000 in the State of Texas to be recognized.



### Conroe ISD Receives Highest Financial Rating for 18<sup>th</sup> Consecutive Year

Conroe ISD received an **"A" rating, or "Superior," under the Financial Integrity Rating System of Texas (FIRST) for the 18th consecutive year**. The "Superior" rating is the State's highest, demonstrating the quality of Conroe ISD's financial management and reporting system.

The financial accountability system requires the Texas Education Agency (TEA) to review the audited financial reports from all districts. The FIRST ratings are based on 20 financial indicators, such as administrative cost expenditures; the accuracy of a district's financial information submitted to TEA; and any financial vulnerabilities or material weaknesses in internal controls as determined by an external auditor.

"We are very pleased with Conroe ISD's FIRST rating. It is our 18th year to receive the highest possible rating, and we are proud to have earned a perfect score of 100 out of 100," said Darrin Rice, Conroe ISD Chief Financial Officer. "We believe in the responsible management of taxpayers' dollars and transparency. This recognition validates that."

FIRST ensures that Texas public schools are held accountable for the quality of their financial management practices and that they improve those practices. The system is designed to encourage Texas public schools to better manage their financial resources to provide the maximum allocation possible for direct instructional purposes.



### TXSmartSchools Awards Conroe ISD with 5 Stars for 12<sup>th</sup> Consecutive Year

In 2021, TXSmartSchools awarded Conroe ISD with a perfect score of **five stars** for the 12th consecutive year for **high academic achievement while maintaining cost-effective operations**. Of the over 1,000 school districts in Texas, Conroe ISD is one of two to be awarded with five stars since the program began.

TXSmartSchools was originally known as the Financial Allocation Study for Texas, or FAST report, launched by Susan Combs during her tenure as Texas Comptroller. This resource empowers school districts to benchmark themselves against their peers and enables parents to assess the quality of education their children are receiving compared to its cost.

In a State with more than 27 million residents living across a wide range of economic conditions and geographies, TXSmartSchools recognizes that differences in student body and geography clearly affect both student performance and cost. By incorporating adjustments for educational context into the methodology, TXSmartSchools makes it easier to identify which schools are delivering on their promise to Texas students, a quality education through an efficient use of taxpayers' funds.



### TASBO Presents Conroe ISD with Purchasing Award for 3<sup>rd</sup> Consecutive Year

For the third consecutive year, Conroe ISD received the Purchasing Award of Merit from the Texas Association of School Business Officials (TASBO) for its **commitment to following professional standards in the acquisition of goods and services**.

"Responsible use of taxpayers' dollars is a duty not taken lightly," said Rick Reeves, Conroe ISD Director of Purchasing. "We are proud of being recognized for our dedication to conscientious fiscal management."

The Award of Merit was established in 2009 to recognize school districts and other educational entities. Each year, volunteers with the TASBO Purchasing & Supply Management Research Committee evaluate the award criteria to ensure it represents the latest best practices. They then review new and recertification applications. Conroe ISD was one of only 58 districts in the State that met the stringent criteria to qualify for the award.



### Texas Comptroller of Public Accounts Awards Conroe ISD for 10 Years of Transparency

Conroe ISD has received the **highest recognition** for transparency from the Texas Comptroller of Public Accounts **10 years in a row**.

The Texas Comptroller of Public Accounts' Transparency Stars program recognizes local governments and school districts for going above and beyond in their transparency efforts.

Conroe ISD has received a star in each of the three areas for which it is eligible: **traditional finances, contracts and procurement, and debt obligations**. The District has been recognized for providing clear and meaningful financial information not only by posting financial documents, but also through summaries, visualizations, downloadable data, and other relevant information.

# NUMBER of YEARS

## FINANCIAL AWARDS

3 YEARS **2<sup>nd</sup>** in the State

22 YEARS **Budget Award**

18 YEARS **A+ 100** out of 100

12 YEARS **5 Stars**

3 YEARS **Award of Merit**

10 YEARS **3 Stars**

Learn more on Conroe ISD's Texas Transparency webpage [conroeisd.net/financial-services/texas-transparency/](http://conroeisd.net/financial-services/texas-transparency/)

# NOVEMBER 2019 BOND UPDATE

**Thank you to the voters** for approving \$653.57 million Prop A on the November 5, 2019, ballot. As anticipated, this approval resulted in **no tax rate increase**. Conroe ISD's **tax rate has decreased by over 10¢** since 2019. The projects included in Prop A were needed to **address growth** along with a variety of other areas. As Conroe ISD continues to **grow at a rapid rate**, additional schools will be needed in the **near future**. In the 2021-2022 school year, **Conroe ISD grew by over 3,000 students - double** the District's 1,500-students-a-year average for the past decade.

## NEW CAMPUSES and ADDITIONS \$315,816,000

**Elementary #45**  
Caney Creek Feeder



Hope Elementary  
Opened Aug. 2021

**Elementary #46**  
Conroe Feeder



Gordon-Reed Elementary  
Opens Aug. 2022

**Elementary #47**  
Grand Oaks Feeder



Hines Elementary  
Opens Aug. 2023

**Elementary #48**  
Caney Creek Feeder



Bartlett Elementary  
Opens Aug. 2024

**New Junior High**  
Caney Creek Feeder



New Moorhead JH  
Opens Aug. 2023

**Classroom Addition**



TW College Park HS  
Completed Aug. 2021

**Classroom Addition**



The Woodlands HS  
Completed Aug. 2021

**Capacity & Program Upgrades**



Caney Creek HS  
Projected Aug. 2023

**South County CTE Center**



Oak Ridge HS  
Projected Aug. 2023

**Capacity Addition**



York Junior High  
Completed Aug. 2021

**Classroom Addition**



Conroe HS 9<sup>th</sup> Grade Campus  
Completed June 2022

### PE Classroom Additions



Runyan Elementary  
Completed Jan. 2021



Wilkerson Intermediate  
Completed Jan. 2022



Collins Intermediate  
Projected Jan. 2023

## DISTRICT SUPPORT SERVICES NEEDS

\$25,000,000

- Facility expansions and upgrades for the North Transportation Center (Winter 2023)
- Technology infrastructure updates (Winter 2024)
- New Buses (46 purchased to date)

Learn more at [conroeisd.net/bond](http://conroeisd.net/bond)

## CAMPUS RENOVATIONS

\$239,247,000

Master Plan - Phase 2



Caney Creek HS  
Projected Aug. 2025

Master Plan - Phase 1



Oak Ridge HS  
Projected Aug. 2023

- ✓ **Armstrong Elementary** New kitchen
- **Collins Intermediate** Replace interior HVAC components (Summer 2023)
- ✓ **Creighton Elementary** Replace roof; replace interior and exterior components of HVAC & update energy management controls
- **David Elementary** Replace interior and exterior components of HVAC & update energy management controls (Summer 2024)
- **Galatas Elementary** Replace interior and exterior components of HVAC & update energy management controls (Summer 2022)
- **Giesinger Elementary** Replace interior and exterior components of HVAC (Summer 2023)
- ✓ **Glen Loch Elementary** Replace interior HVAC components
- **Houser Elementary** Replace interior and exterior components of HVAC (Summer 2024)
- ✓ **Knox \ Wilkerson \ TW Transportation** Reconstruct bus driveway off of Sawdust Rd.
- **Lamar Elementary** New kitchen (Summer 2024)
- **Moorhead JH** Repair roof and rebrand for Veterans Memorial Int. (Summer 2023)
- **Oak Ridge Elementary** Replace roof (Summer 2024)
- **Rice Elementary** Replace interior and exterior components of HVAC (Summer 2024)
- ✓ **Ride Elementary** Replace interior and exterior components of HVAC
- ✓ **Washington JH** Partial roof replacement
- ✓ **The Woodlands HS** New HVAC equipment in auditorium

## SAFETY & SECURITY

\$44,472,000

### \$6 M Annual Safety & Security Updates

- ✓ 2020
- ✓ 2021
- ✓ 2022
- 2023 (Summer 2023)
- 2024 (Summer 2024)

**Additional projects** at campuses across the District including **security camera updates**, installation of **first responder signal amplifiers**, addition of **exterior door sensors** and **access control systems**, and updates to **fire alarm systems**.

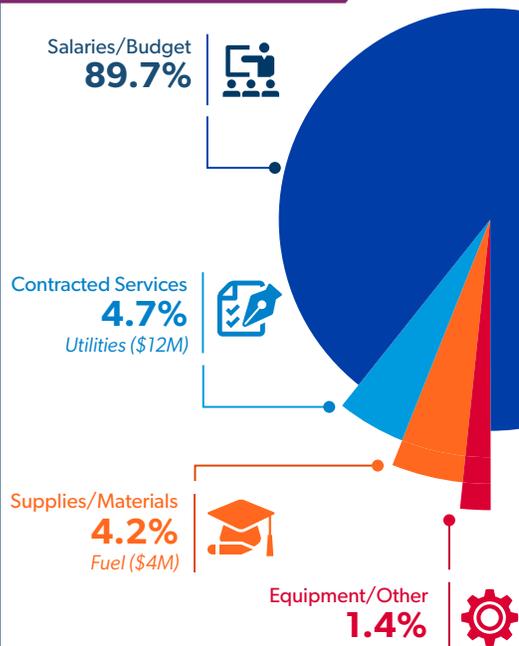
\$29,035,000

- ✓ Funds used to purchase **four school sites** and address **additional project needs**

## LAND / CONTINGENCY

# 2021-2022 BUDGET

**\$596,120,000**



## A Look at Conroe ISD's Operating Budget

The approved 2021-2022 Conroe ISD budget included a competitive compensation plan and continued support for maintaining a safe environment for students and staff.

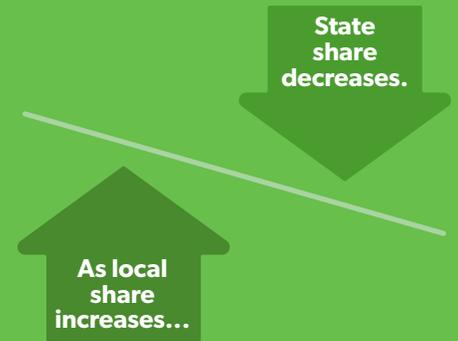
The bulk of Conroe ISD's operating budget is salaries, given that the District is the largest employer in Montgomery County.

The next biggest expenditures are fuel for our buses to transport nearly 40,000 students daily and utilities for our soon-to-be 67 campuses.

The Board of Trustees will hold public hearings in August prior to adopting the 2022-2023 budget.

## DID YOU KNOW?

# STATE SHARE VS. LOCAL SHARE



Although local appraised values (AV) may increase, Conroe ISD does not receive an increase in funding to the maintenance & operations side of the budget because the State reduces the funding it provides to the District, dollar for dollar.

## TAX RATE HISTORY

a decrease of over 10¢ in 3 years.

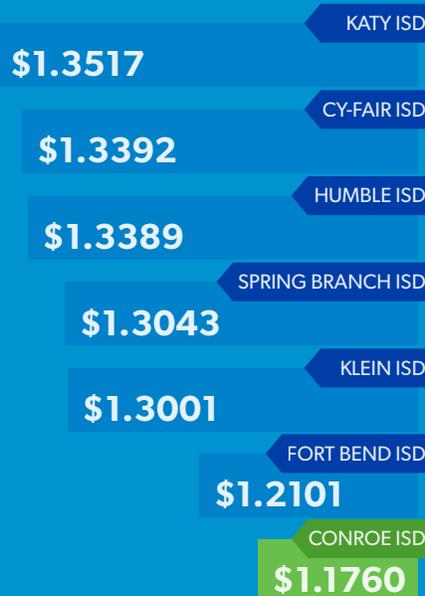


anticipated -6.14¢ from 2021 - 2022

Conroe ISD's 2021-2022 tax rate of \$1.1760 is **\$0.0365 lower** than the 2020-2021 tax rate of \$1.2125 and represents a **decrease of over 10¢** in the last three years. With the 2021-2022 rate, Conroe ISD continues to have **the lowest tax rate** when compared to surrounding districts that are similar in size, performance, and demographics.

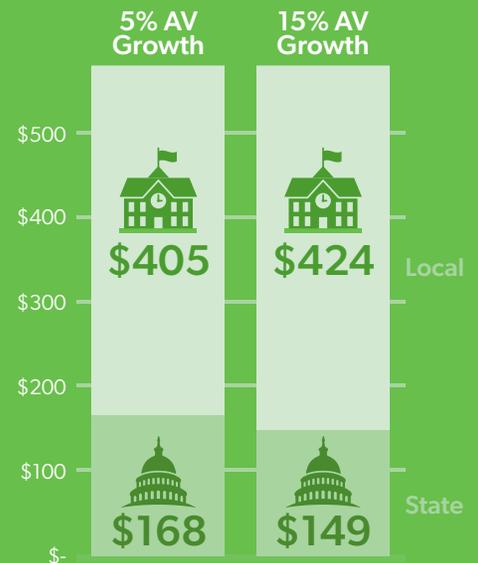
The 2022-2023 tax rate is anticipated to be as much as **6¢ lower than the 2021-2022 rate**. The Board of Trustees will adopt a new rate at their August Board Meeting.

## TAX RATE COMPARISON



Districts similar to Conroe ISD in size, performance, and demographics

Total Entitlement \$573 M (based on State funding formula)



## the TWO SIDES of SCHOOL DISTRICT TAX RATES

**\$1.176**

**Maintenance and Operations**  
(Salaries, supplies, and other operating costs)

91.6¢

**Debt Service**  
(Mortgage on facilities)

26¢

School district tax rates are comprised of **two sides: the maintenance and operations and the debt service.**

# CONROE ISD FAQs

## Is Critical Race Theory part of the Conroe ISD curriculum?

» Critical Race Theory *is not* and *has never been* part of the Conroe ISD curriculum. Conroe ISD's curriculum is based on the TEKS and in alignment with Conroe ISD Board Policy (EMB) Local and Texas Administrative Code Chapter 149.

## Did the last bond cause our tax rate to go up?

» **No.** Conroe ISD's tax rate did not go up as a result of the November 2019 Bond Referendum. Instead, **Conroe ISD's tax rate has decreased by over 10 cents in the past three years.** The tax rate is also projected to decrease by an additional six cents for the 2022-2023 school year.

## When my house appraisal goes up, does Conroe ISD receive more money?

» Although local appraised values may increase, Conroe ISD does not receive those additional funds to the Maintenance & Operations side of the budget because *the State reduces the funding it provides to the District*, dollar for dollar.



◀ [Learn more](#)

# VIRTUAL SCHOOL

Conroe ISD is opening the Conroe ISD Virtual School for the 2022-2023 school year. This virtual campus will be open to Conroe ISD students in grades five through eight that meet the enrollment guidelines of SB 15 and Conroe ISD.

During its inaugural year, the virtual school will have a limited number of students taught by full-time virtual teachers.

Students will receive high-quality instruction that aligns with Conroe ISD best-practices.

Conroe ISD's Virtual School is by application only and offered to students who reside within Conroe ISD. Anyone interested in learning more or completing an application for their student should visit [virtual.conroeisd.net](http://virtual.conroeisd.net)

# SENIOR PRIORITY PASS

We appreciate our Conroe ISD community members who are age 60 and over! To show our appreciation, we have a **Senior Priority Pass program**. This program provides **free admission** to any Conroe ISD athletic event at any District facility, excluding playoffs. Qualifying residents receive **free admission to student fine arts performances** at any District facility, excluding fundraisers.

**To apply** for a Senior Priority Pass, please visit the Communications Department at 3205 West Davis, call 936.709.7708 for hours or if you have any questions. **Applicants must present a photo ID as proof of Conroe ISD residency.**

## Senior Priority Pass

Conroe Independent School District

This entitles

to free admission to any Conroe ISD athletic event at any district facility, excluding playoffs, and free admission to student fine arts performances at any District facility, excluding fundraisers.



*Shari Blacklock*  
Conroe ISD Director of Communications