



Consolidation of Texas City and La Marque ISDs

The Texas Education Agency (TEA) mandated that Texas City ISD (TCISD) annex its neighboring district, La Marque ISD, in 2016 due to persistent academic and financial deficiencies of the La Marque district.

Texas City and La Marque are located on the Texas Gulf Coast, approximately 30-miles south of Houston. Texas City is home to a deepwater port, petroleum refineries and petrochemical refining companies including Dow Chemical, Marathon Oil, BP Chemical and Valero Texas City Refinery.

In 2016 La Marque ISD served 2,284 students in four schools – two elementary schools, a middle school and a high school. Enrollment had declined by 1,582 students (41%) over the preceding ten years, and all four La Marque schools were in poor condition. At annexation, TCISD assumed La Marque’s assets, liabilities, and tax base. TEA agreed to provide TCISD \$17 million total over five years for capital improvements to the La Marque schools.

In August 2017, one year following the consolidation, Hurricane Harvey damaged the two La Marque elementary schools and middle school beyond repair. The following May, TCISD voters approved a \$136.1 million bond package to reconstruct the three destroyed schools and one Texas City elementary school that had reached the end of its useful life. Three of the four replacement schools, all elementary schools, opened in August 2021. The replacement middle school is scheduled to open in August 2022. Steady growth of property values, coupled with strategic use of the \$17 million capital improvement funds provided by TEA, has allowed TCISD to service the 2018 bonds without increasing its debt service tax rate.

Administration, instructional support and operations departments of the formerly separate school districts have been consolidated and staff levels adjusted to appropriately serve the district’s current enrollment of 7,800 students. Operating surpluses have been realized in each fiscal year since the consolidation. Total fund balance as of August 31, 2021, is \$86.6 million, and the unassigned portion of fund balance is \$26.9 million, which represents approximately 3.5 months of operating expenditures.

Progress towards a unified district vision and identity is evident. Three superintendents have led the district since the consolidation in 2016, and the COVID-19 pandemic complicated the district’s work. Instructional program offerings are expanding and academic performance is beginning to improve under the current superintendent. Planning is underway for a new early college high school program, along with new career-tech programs including robotics, EMT basic, firefighter and LVN dual credit. A ten-year facilities master plan approved by the Board of Trustees in January 2022 includes replacement of La Marque High School and construction of a new athletics stadium for the school – both facilities downsized based on long-range enrollment projections. A new

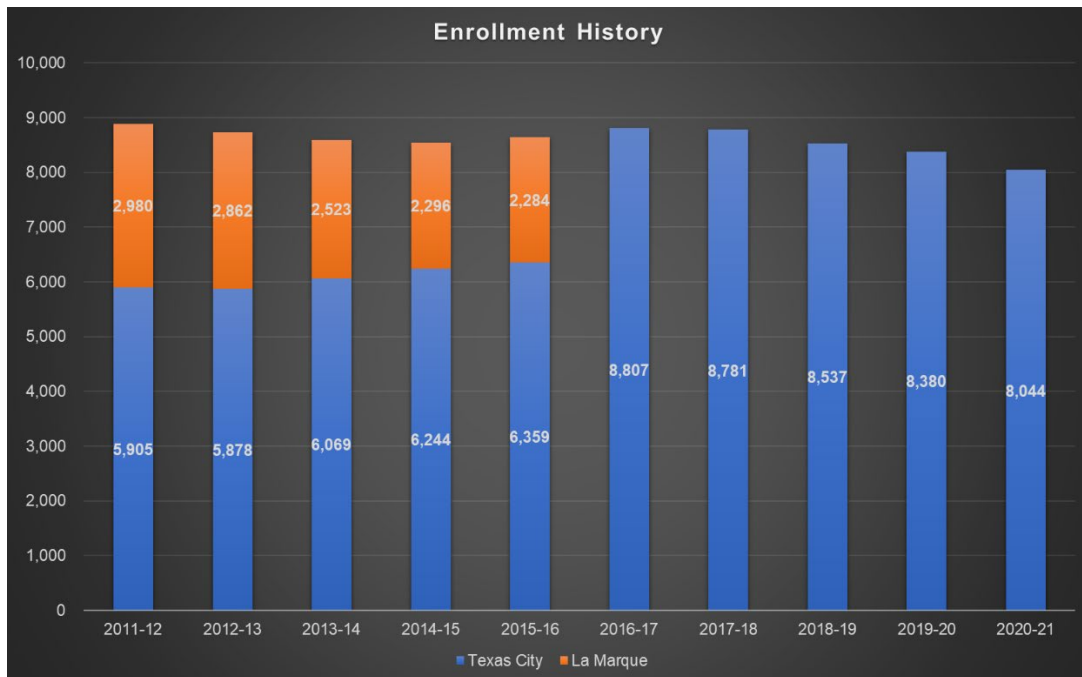
districtwide early childhood center and specialized space for the new districtwide robotics program are also included in the plan. A bond election is tentatively planned in 2023 to fund the master plan.

TIMELINE:

- 2015:
 - TEA revoked La Marque’s accreditation due to unacceptable academic ratings and poor financial condition.
 - TEA forced Texas City ISD to annex LMISD effective July 1, 2016.
 - All La Marque employees had to reapply for their jobs. More than one-half of LMISD employees lost their jobs effective July 1, 2016.
- 2016:
 - Deferred maintenance needs of the La Marque schools were estimated at \$42 million. TEA agreed to provide TCISD \$17 million over five years to improve LMISD schools.
- 2017
 - A new industrial trades center offering six distinct career pathways opened in January 2017.
 - In August 2017, Hurricane Harvey caused severe flooding to three of La Marque’s four schools – two elementaries and the middle school. Students of the two elementary schools were assigned to pre-fab metal buildings. The middle school students were assigned to La Marque High School, which was approximately 50% utilized by high school students at the time. The middle school students occupied the second floor of the high school.
- 2018:
 - Texas City ISD passed a \$136.1 million bond election in May 2018 to replace four schools, including the three La Marque schools damaged by Hurricane Harvey and one Texas City school that had reached the end of its useful life.
- 2020:
 - TCISD Board of Trustees voted to move all La Marque High School football and soccer games to Texas City’s Stingaree Stadium rather than fund improvements required to continue operating La Marque’s athletics stadium.
- 2021:
 - Three new elementary schools opened in August 2021, including the two La Marque elementary schools damaged by Hurricane Harvey.
- 2022:
 - The new Giles Middle School is scheduled to open in August 2022, five years after Hurricane Harvey damaged the former middle school and displaced students.

Enrollment History

	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21
Texas City	5,905	5,878	6,069	6,244	6,359	8,807	8,781	8,537	8,380	8,044
La Marque	2,980	2,862	2,523	2,296	2,284					
Total	8,885	8,740	8,592	8,540	8,643	8,807	8,781	8,537	8,380	8,044
Annual Chg		-1.6%	-1.7%	-0.6%	1.2%	1.9%	-0.3%	-2.8%	-1.8%	-4.0%



Source: Texas Academic Performance Reports published by the Texas Education Agency.

District Data:

Indicator	2015-16			2020-21	
	La Marque	Texas City	State	Texas City	State
Enrollment	2,284	6,359	5,284,252	7,993	5,359,040
% Economically Disadvantaged	83.0%	67.1%	59.0%	86.6%	60.3%
% Served in Bilingual/ESL Education	5.6%	6.8%	18.3%	9.7%	21.0%
% At-Risk	52.4%	50.8%	50.1%	54.5%	49.2%
% Gifted/Talented	3.1%	3.8%	7.7%	3.7%	8.3%
4-Yr. Graduation Rate	75.0%	88.2%	89.0%	88.4%	90.3%
College and Career Ready Graduates	48.0%	66.0%	74.5%	N/A	N/A
College, Career, or Military Ready (Annual Graduates)	N/A	N/A	N/A	57.6%	63.0%
CTE Coherent Sequence (Annual Graduates)	0.8%	41.0%	46.6%	54.0%	58.5%
Annual Dropout Rate (Gr. 9-12)	2.8%	1.7%	2.1%	1.8%	1.6%
Advanced Course/Dual Credit Course Completion (Gr. 9-12)	42.2%	31.4%	34.6%	36.6%	46.3%
AP/IB Results (Participation) (Grades 11-12)	0.0%	19.0%	24.9%	2.9%	22.0%
AP/IB Results (Examinees >=Criterion) (Grades 11-12)	0.0%	21.4%	49.1%	40.0%	59.0%
Average SAT Score	1179	1315	1394	917	1019
Accountability Rating	Improvement Required	Met Standard		Not Rated - Declared Disaster	Not Rated - Declared Disaster

Source: Texas Academic Performance Reports and Texas Performance Reporting System data published by the Texas Education Agency.