The Episcopal Diocese of Texas
Commission on Schools

Handbook
&
Directory of Schools

2020-2021
(February 26, 2021)
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*Episcopal Schools*
It has been said that Episcopal schools continue on Mondays what the worship and fellowship of the Episcopal Church offers on Sundays. Whether those schools are preschools or high schools, they accept the challenge of blending real life with a rich academic setting in a welcoming, faith-filled environment. The educators in Episcopal schools structure their schools to encourage learning, celebrate exploration, welcome inquiry, and address the hard questions of their young students. These schools are friendly, serious, happy, exciting, and stimulating learning centers. Children and young people find common ground in the business of learning, presented with a unique balance of faith and reason, debate and discussion, respectful disagreement and enthusiastic discovery.

Episcopal schools are complex institutions that promote academic excellence, recognize each learner’s potential, expect personal accountability, and instill courage for new and lifelong learning. These schools seek parental understanding of both the work ethic and instructional creativity employed by dedicated teaching professionals who bring expertise, varied life experiences, and their own diversity to their positions. The staff appreciates the inclusivity of Episcopal schools and the historical commitment of the Church to excellence in education, and is passionately committed to the highest quality of educational programming available.

The common connections between these Episcopal schools include 4 key areas:

A school ministry that includes age-appropriate chapel services, an unapologetic religion curriculum that is respectful of the many faiths of the students, service-learning experiences, and pastoral care.

An inclusive community that celebrates its cultural pluralism, works intentionally to welcome children from diverse and economically varied family situations, teaches civility and social justice, and rejects marginalization and bullying.

A governance system that includes an Episcopal presence on the school’s board and a partnership with its parish or diocese.

A mission statement that guides decisions and applauds a strong commitment to educational excellence.

Episcopal schools in the Diocese of Texas are a thriving collection of highly respected schools, working with approximately 9,937 students at the beginning of a pandemic year. This is an important, successful ministry that deserves our ongoing support.
School Structure

The vision of a parish or a founding board defines the scope of its Episcopal school, whether a small start-up preschool, a large college-prep high school, or a multi-grade school with extensive academic departments and hundreds of students. Within the Diocese of Texas there are parish schools, diocesan schools, independent schools, and non-traditional schools. Below is a general description of the different programs:

**Early Preschool**: Enrolls infants, 1-year-olds and/or 2-year-olds

**Preschool**: Enrolls 2-year-olds through kindergarten; may include Early Preschool

**Primary, Intermediate, Secondary**: Enrolls elementary, middle school, and/or High School; may include Preschool and Early Preschool

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**Parish school**: Controlled by a sponsoring parish or mission

**Diocesan school**: Controlled by the Diocese or group of parishes

**Independent school**: With Bishop’s permission, organized without control by a parish, mission, or other ecclesiastical authority

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**Non-traditional school**: Located on the property of an Episcopal parish, with a therapeutic or diagnostic educational program

**Boarding school**: Located on property separate from an Episcopal parish with facilities for residential living

School Governance

All Episcopal schools share common characteristics in their bylaws which distinguish them from other private or independent schools. First, they affirm that they practice the faith and worship of the Episcopal Church and will operate with the knowledge and written consent of the Bishop of the Diocese of Texas. Second, they acknowledge that they abide by the Canons of the Episcopal Church and the Diocese, and they will meet the Standards set forth by the Commission on Schools. Third, they operate as a Texas non-profit corporation with a governing board that is comprised of at least 60% Episcopalians.

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**Prayer for Schools**:  
O Eternal God, bless all schools, colleges, and universities that they may be lively centers for sound learning, new discovery, and the pursuit of wisdom; and grant that those who teach and those who learn may find you to be the source of all truth; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen
Episcopal Boards of Trustees meet regularly and focus on policy approval, financial oversight, development of resources and strategic planning for the future, and support of their single employee, the Head of School (or Director). Episcopal boards frequently design their fiscal year to match the school academic year to better monitor budgetary changes. Parish day schools must coordinate decision-making carefully with their church vestry for these two institutions to collaborate successfully.

Independent Episcopal schools are located separate from a parish facility, and they live their Episcopal identity in unique ways. Everything from partnering with local parishes to recruiting supportive board members and seeking counsel from local rectors may strengthen the school’s Church connection. In some cases the Bishop may allow and/or require priests to sit on an independent school’s board.

**Diocese of Texas, Canon on Schools, Audits, & Incorporation**

The Canons of the Episcopal Diocese of Texas are the set of rules by which the Diocese is governed. The Canon on Schools, shown below, requires that a parish must have approval of the Bishop to operate a school. In order to receive that approval, schools must meet the published Standards endorsed by the Bishop-appointed Commission on Schools. The Commission will then certify to the Bishop that a school is in compliance with the required Standards and seek the Bishop’s approval for the continuance of the school. The complete list of Canons can be found on the Diocesan website at: [https://www.epicenter.org/constitution--canons/](https://www.epicenter.org/constitution--canons/).

- **Title 111.11, Canon 11**

**Section 11.1 Relationship to the Diocese**

All schools or other educational facilities providing secular education for young people equivalent to that provided by nursery schools or on the kindergarten, grade school, grammar school, or high school level, and located on any premises used for the benefit of or operated under the control, auspices, or approval of any Parish, Mission, organization, or institution of the Diocese, or any combination or group thereof, shall be an Episcopal School of the Diocese, and no such school shall be established, maintained, or operated without the written approval and consent of the Bishop of the Diocese of Texas. The Principal, Headmaster, or Headmistress of an Episcopal School of the Diocese shall be a confirmed communicant in good standing of a Parish or Mission of the Diocese. The Bishop may make exception of the requirement set forth in the preceding sentence, within such limitations and conditions as the Bishop may prescribe. The Rector (or if the office of Rector is vacant, the Senior Warden) or Priest-in-Charge or Missionary of the sponsoring Parish or Mission (for the purpose of this sentence, the “Rector”) shall be a member ex-officio and Chair of the governing board of the school; provided that, in the absence of or at the pleasure of the Rector, a designee of the Rector may serve from time to time as Chair.
Section 11.2 Standards of Compliance

a. The Bishop shall establish a Diocesan Commission on Schools consisting of no less than 5 nor more than 12 communicants in good standing in the Diocese. It shall be the duty of the Commission to publish (subject to the Bishop’s approval) standards for Episcopal Schools in this diocese, give general supervision to all such schools, and perform such other functions regarding such schools as the Bishop may require. All schools shall comply with such Standards as well as the other provisions of the Canon.

b. Each school shall comply with licensing, health, safety, fire, and sanitation standards required at any time by state, county, and municipal health, safety, fire, and sanitation codes for the locality in which such school is located.

Section 11.3 Failure of Compliance

Any such school that fails to comply with the provisions of this Canon shall not be entitled to be located on any property that is used for the benefit of any Parish, Mission, institution, or organization of the Diocese of Texas, and neither shall it be entitled to be operated under the control, auspices, or approval of any such Parish, Mission, institution, or organization of the Diocese of Texas.

Section 11.4 Reports and Inspections

The Bishop shall have the right at any time, and from time to time, to require and obtain such information and reports as may be deemed necessary by the Bishop to ensure compliance with this Canon, and the Bishop shall likewise have the right at any time, and from time to time, to inspect or cause to be inspected, each such school in order to monitor compliance with the provisions of this Canon. The Bishop shall have the right at any time to appoint one or more representatives to assist the Bishop in ensuring compliance with the Canon.

•Title 1.4, Canon 4 Section 4.5 Audits

The accounts of all parishes, missions, and other church institutions and organizations in the Diocese relating to the receipts and expenditures or investments of money shall be audited annually at the end of each calendar year by an independent Certified Public Accountant, independent Licensed Public Accountant, or such audit committee as shall be authorized by the Executive Board [of the Diocese]. The reports of all such audits, including any memoranda issued by the auditing authority regarding internal controls or other accounting matters, shall be filed with the Bishop not later than thirty days following the date of such reports but in any event prior to Sept. 1 of each year covering the financial reports of the previous calendar year.

[Please note: The Executive Board of the Diocese currently allows institutions with annual operating income less than $750,000 to conduct an internal financial review]
using published Diocesan guidelines in lieu of an external audit. This applies to schools unless there is a conflict with accreditation standards. Our accredited schools must comply with the rules of their accrediting association(s) which may require an external audit or review. Schools typically have a fiscal year aligned with the academic cycle and, thus, ending in a summer month. For schools, the audit or review should be performed at the close of the school’s fiscal year and submitted by Dec. 31 to the Diocesan Treasurer’s office.]

▪ Title 111.1.6-1.8, Canon 9 Section 9.6 Incorporation

Any Diocesan entity, as defined herein, may incorporate or exist in any corporate form upon and subject to the terms and conditions of the Constitution and Canons. For the purpose of this Canon, the terms shall have the meanings set forth below: The term “Diocesan entity” shall mean the Protestant Episcopal Church in the Diocese of Texas, any Parish or Mission of the Diocese, any Episcopal school of the Diocese, as defined in the Canons, and any other Constitution and Canons as an instrumentality, or entity of the Diocese...(continues)

**The Commission on Schools**

In 1978 the Canon on Schools was approved by this Diocese. The Rev. A. Dean Calcote was appointed chairman of the Commission on Schools and worked with bishops, priests, and heads of school over the years until 2013, helping define the expectations of exemplary schools in the Episcopal Diocese of Texas. The work of the Commission has encouraged a new focus on the growing ministries of the many schools in this region.

Parishes and schools are encouraged to communicate with the Commission when seeking general resources, clarification of Standards, or information about opening a new school. Additionally, the Commission and Diocese must be informed of any event which causes a substantial challenge to the operations of the school, such as a major financial or legal complication that could impact the school, parish, and/or Diocese, or is a violation of the Safeguarding program guidelines.

**Current EDOT Commission on Schools:** (rev. 2/26/2021)

The Rev. David Dearman, Chair, dcdearman@gmail.com
Scootie Clark, HOS, All Saints’, Beaumont, sclark@allsaints-beaumont.org
Nancy Clausey, HOS, Ascension, Houston, nclausey@aeshouston.org
Catherine Bohot, HOS, Calvary, Bastrop, headofschool@calvarkschool.net
Jan Lopez, HOS, Good Shepherd, Kingwood, gsschooljan@yahoo.com
Michelle Symonds, HOS, Holy Spirit, Houston, msymonds@hses.org
The Annual Report & Episcopal Identity Addendum

The Commission on Schools contacts each school in early fall with an Annual Report form to be completed in a timely manner and returned to the Commission. This information is then collated and returned to the schools as well as reported to the Diocese. The information requested may include enrollment data, personnel distribution, tuition information, and general budgetary information. Schools may be required to affirm their compliance with the published Standards, such as accreditation status. Schools will also be encouraged to provide optional information on special projects, service learning, or successful joint ventures with parishes. Schools not accredited by SAES may also be asked to complete an additional form regarding Episcopal Identity.

The Standards for Schools

All Episcopal schools in the Diocese of Texas must abide by the Canons of the Episcopal Church and the Diocese of Texas and shall meet the following Standards set forth by the Diocesan Commission on Schools. These Standards may be amended or supplemented from time to time by the Commission.

On a schedule established by the Commission on Schools, the certification status of each Episcopal School in the Diocese of Texas will be reviewed at least every five years. This review shall include a check of items on file for the school, including annual reports, organizational documents, and verification of accreditation status. In the case of schools not accredited by SAES this five-year review shall require the completion of the Commission’s Addendum on Episcopal Identity. Non-accredited schools eligible (due to size) for Basic Certification will be visited by a representative of the Commission on Schools. On the basis of accreditation status, documentation submitted by the school, and the report from a representative of the Commission on Schools (if required), the Commission shall certify for the Bishop whether or not the school is in compliance with Diocesan Standards.

*Major Standards are noted with an asterisk.

General Standards:

*1. The school shall be affiliated with the Episcopal Church as a parish day school, a school administered by the Diocese or a group of parishes, or a school that practices the faith and worship of the Episcopal Church and operates with the knowledge and written consent of the Bishop of the Diocese of Texas. For a school beginning operations for the first time, it must be affiliated with the Episcopal Church in the Diocese of Texas and shall provide a written plan indicating how it will meet the Standards set forth by the Diocesan Schools Commission.

*2. The school shall operate in compliance with the Canons of the Episcopal Church, specifically Title 111, Canon 11 (schools), Title 1.4, Canon 4 (finance, audit: the school must have an annual audit– or financial review for smaller schools- by an
independent CPA), and Title 111.1.6-1.8, Canon 9 (incorporation: the school shall be incorporated as a Texas non-profit corporation with Certificate of Formation and Bylaws approved by the Diocese.) Schools shall submit their audit or modified organizational documents to the Treasurer’s office for approval.

*3. The school shall be in compliance with Safeguarding God’s Children and Safeguarding God’s People program requirements and record-keeping for staff and volunteers as well as obtain required background checks. Individual certification and background checks must be renewed every five years.

4. The school shall submit to the Commission on Schools a written “records discontinuance plan” which outlines the procedures for placement and storage of certain types of records, including student records and faculty service records, if the school closes or ceases to exist. [Note: The Commission has developed guidelines for this policy which have been provided to heads of school and directors.]

Program Standards:

(Note: Early Preschools do not usually include an extensive pre-academic or religious program but are expected to implement the current best educational practices in an appropriately stimulating, safe, and nurturing environment.)

1. The school shall have a developmental or challenging academic program set in a Christian environment that meets the diverse needs of its students academically, socially, and spiritually.

*2. The school shall include regular services of worship, designed as age appropriate, which follow the Book of Common Prayer or are approved by the appropriate ecclesiastical authority of the Episcopal Church, in accordance with the Doctrine, Discipline, and Worship of the Episcopal Church.

*3. The school shall include a religion component in its curriculum, designed with age-appropriate lessons, more academically engaging for older students, which respectfully acknowledges faith differences among students, and encourages service learning or outreach activities.

*4. The school shall publish a non-discrimination admission policy that does not exclude students because of race, color, nationality, ethnic origin, family situation, or economic limitations insofar as possible, and the school shall make every effort to provide financial aid. The school shall file an IRS Form 5578 annually (Annual Certification of Racial Nondiscrimination for a Private School Exempt from Federal Income Tax).

5. The school shall have faculty qualified by college degrees and other training appropriate to their assignment and who hold a personal faith commitment consistent with and supportive of the spiritual mission and program of the school.
*6. The school shall be an accredited school affiliated with a recognized educational accrediting agency. The following are recommended agencies:

Southwestern Association of Episcopal Schools (SAES); [www.swaes.org](http://www.swaes.org)
Independent School Association of the Southwest (ISAS); [www.isasw.org](http://www.isasw.org)
National Assoc. for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC); [www.naeyc.org](http://www.naeyc.org)
American Montessori Society (AMS); [www.amshq.org](http://www.amshq.org)

[Both SAES and ISAS are accrediting agencies recognized by the Commissioner of Education for the State of Texas through TEPSAC and the National Association of Independent Schools. Schools that are not accredited by SAES will be required to complete, when requested, the Commission addendum called, Episcopal Identity.]

[Schools with an enrollment of less than 50 students are exempt from the requirement of accreditation but must be in compliance with all other Standards and complete, when requested, the Commission addendum entitled, Episcopal Identity. If enrollment grows beyond the minimum of 50 students, in the second year of greater enrollment, the school shall begin the accreditation process.]

**Administrative and Governance Standards:**

*1. The school shall have a clearly stated mission and set of objectives adopted by the school’s Board of Trustees and, in the case of a parish day school, approved by the Rector and Vestry, and communicated through school literature, handbooks, and other media.

*2. The Board of Trustees shall consist of no less than 60% Episcopalians. In a parish day school good faith effort should be made to recruit members of the parish to the board.

3. In a parish school, the Rector shall be the chairman of the school’s Board of Trustees.

4. The Head of School shall be a communicant member of the Episcopal Church or shall apply for an exemption from the Bishop of the Diocese. A form for requesting this exemption is available from the Commission.

*5. The school shall meet all national, state, and local health and safety requirements with confirmation of such compliance on file. The school shall meet the requirements of the Texas Department of Health and Human Services concerning child care licensing, if applicable. The school shall also publish policies to address both security and emergency procedures appropriate to the campus.

*6. The school shall adopt an annual budget with anticipated revenue and expenses. The budget should include adequate insurance (general liability, Directors and Officers liability, sexual misconduct coverage, and other insurance as necessary), and in parish day schools, evidence of a Memorandum of Understanding between the church and school addressing shared expenses and shared spaces shall be in place.
7. The school shall provide adequate compensation and benefits for personnel, including professional development funds and funding for benefits prescribed by the Diocese. There shall also be instruments of evaluation for all employees.

8. The school shall provide counseling and pastoral care when needed.

9. In a parish day school the Head of School and Rector shall establish a mutually supportive relationship and uphold each other’s respective ministries in the church and school communities.

10. In an independent Episcopal school, the Board shall designate a permanent Committee on Episcopal Identity, and if the Head of School is not an Episcopal priest, the Head of School shall hire a chaplain for the school.

*11. The school shall complete and submit the Annual Report from the Commission on Schools and, if requested, the Episcopal Identity Addendum to the Chair of the Commission.

Accreditation of Episcopal Schools

One of the major requirements of a Fully Certified Episcopal school is accreditation by a recognized educational agency. Currently, there is only one Episcopal agency accrediting Episcopal schools in the U.S., the Southwestern Association of Episcopal Schools. The other agencies listed in the Standards also provide a thorough accreditation process for many of our schools, but an Episcopal Identity form must be completed if requested by the Commission Chair at the time of the Annual Report for those schools.

The only exemption from accreditation is given to our smallest schools with enrollment of less than 50 students. These may be “start-up” schools, schools with limited facilities that are small by circumstances, or schools in transition as they rebuild. While this exemption is available to the smallest schools, they are encouraged to consider participating in accreditation as a resource for encouraging professional growth and school improvement. The smallest schools must comply with all other Standards of the Commission and will be visited according to a schedule developed by the Commission on Schools.

Certification and Approval

A new Episcopal school must apply for Certification from the Commission on Schools within its first year of operation, leading to Approval from the Bishop. The application will verify the school’s compliance with the above Canons and Standards and will be followed by a visit from a member of the Commission. An application is available from the Chairman of the Commission.
**Full Certification**: A school meets all Standards and is accredited.

**Basic Certification** (applicable only for small schools with enrollment of <50 students): A school meets all Standards and completes the Episcopal Identity Form annually, but is exempt from the accreditation requirement.

**Recognition** (applicable only for Non-Traditional schools): A school meets all Standards, including accreditation by an approved agency; may be exempt from religious requirements.

**Loss of Certification, Loss of Approval**

Under certain circumstances a school may lose its Certification by the Commission on Schools and/or its Approval from the Bishop. The following are situations which could cause this:

1. The school withdraws its affiliation with the Episcopal Church in the Diocese of Texas.
2. The school fails to meet any of the major Standards set forth by the Commission.
3. The school fails to show improvement of any other Standard(s) not yet fully met.
4. A school dishonors or defames its presence in the community, and in the Bishop’s judgment, may not continue to represent the Episcopal community.

Under certain circumstances, Re-certification by the Commission and Renewed Approval by the Bishop may be possible once correction of a problem has been resolved or a Standard met. A request for consideration of Re-Certification may be made to the Commission.

**Policy in the Diocese of Texas Prohibiting Guns on Campus**

Effective January, 2016, the State Legislature passed the Texas Open Carry Law which addresses the public, concealed and non-concealed, carrying of many different sorts of guns – everywhere, including churches. Notice is now required that guns are forbidden on church campuses. This information should be included in Parent and Staff Handbooks as well as visible signage at all school entrances. The Bishop of our Diocese has reiterated that “our longstanding policy in the Diocese of Texas remains the same – guns have no place in our churches, schools, and institutions. Other than those carried by officers of the peace or security officers on duty, we adhere to our policy prohibiting guns on church and school property.” Under Texas law our churches and schools have the right to forbid entry to someone carrying a gun; the State defines “schools” as K-12 so those with preschools must be proactive in addressing this. Full information from the Bishop may be found at https://www.epicenter.org/resources/policies/gun-law-and-policy-clergy-manual-36/.
Reference of Operational Recommendations

The following is a list of suggestions offered by the Commission on Schools, the National Association of Episcopal Schools, and the Southwestern Association of Episcopal Schools. While primarily for parish day schools, many suggestions are applicable to independent schools as well. Recognizing that a parish that strives to reflect a model of Christian community can be a vital force for stability and moral centeredness, careful attention must be paid to ensuring good communication and understanding between and among the various constituencies of the parish family. When congregations and schools work effectively and communicate openly, their ministries will be strengthened.

1. Mutual Ministry

In a parish day school the rector shall ultimately be responsible for the religious life of the school, taking a leadership role in chapel services and collaborating with the head of school in the appointment and oversight of any chaplain and the selection and implementation of religious curricula for the school.

The rector, as canonical chair of the school board, is expected to attend all meetings of the board and shall be invited to attend and participate in significant events in the life of the school. By canon the rector may delegate the role of chair to an appointed or elected president of the board.

The head of school should be considered a member of the church staff, attending church staff meetings as necessary, regularly reporting to the vestry, and invited to attend and participate in special events in the life of the parish.

Regular opportunities should be scheduled for the rector and head of school to meet and establish a mutually supportive relationship.

Regular opportunities should be provided for the vestry and school board to meet together and for the establishment of joint committees to consider mutual concerns. The parish and school should continually seek to share information and enhance communication.

2. Rector Search Process

When the office of rector is vacant, the diocesan guidelines for parishes with schools should be used to involve the school in the search process. Include a knowledgeable school board member who is a church member on the search committee.

The head of school should not be asked to resign when there is a change in the office of rector so as to ensure continuity through the academic year and honor the terms of any employment contract in force.
3. Head of School

Recognizing that the health and stability of the school is dependent on stable leadership, the head of school should have a contract of at least one academic year’s duration, preferable multi-year, reviewed annually.
Create a policy statement that describes the hiring, evaluating, and termination procedures for the head of school including the role of the rector as a member of the search committee and the one who approves the final selection.
Designate the head of school as the person with delegated responsibility for the operation of the school and for hiring, evaluating, and terminating school staff.

4. Bylaws and/or Policy Manuals

Include a policy about employment practices, such as, ‘To avoid the appearance of favoritism and conflicts of interest, the employment of relatives (related by blood or marriage) of the Head of School that results in a direct or indirect supervisory, evaluation, or reporting relationship to the Head of School is strongly discouraged. Also, no current employee of the school, or any relative of a current employee of the school, shall serve on the school board, vestry, or Bishop’s Committee.
Include a statement that delineates the roles and responsibilities of the parents’ association or any other group affiliated with the school and clearly acknowledges the final authority of the school board.
Create a clear fundraising policy that specifies the board member in charge of approving such requests and organizing how the scheduling, planning, and implementation will occur.
Write a statement of the grievance procedure for all personnel.
Include a statement regarding compliance with all Diocesan policies, especially that on sexual misconduct. Detail the required training for Safeguarding God’s Children for both staff and volunteers.
Write a clear definition of the roles and responsibilities of the rector, head of school, vestry, and school board and the reporting relationship of each to the other.

5. Student Admissions

The school may give priority to Episcopal students in admissions. This prioritization and any other (such as siblings of currently enrolled students) shall be published in admissions documents.

6. Conflicts

When conflicts occur, which are not easily resolved, the church and the school are encouraged to seek a neutral third party to consult with them before problems escalate to a crisis stage. The Commission on Schools and both SAES and NAES can
offer assistance in this regard. Conflict resolution teams that are not affiliated with the church may also be used.

Additional Resources for Episcopal Schools
Southwestern Association of Episcopal Schools (SAES) 1420 4th Avenue, Suite 29 Canyon, TX. 79015 866-655-7237 www.swaes.org
National Association of Episcopal Schools (NAES) 815 Second Ave. Suite 313 New York, NY 10017 800-334-7626 www.episcopalschools.org

Effective Communications
The Episcopal schools of the Diocese of Texas use many resources to engage both their current parents and invite inquiries and interest from prospective parents. In an informal survey of the methods used to communicate with current parents, the following information was provided by those schools (note: please evaluate these resources for compatibility for each school):

Resources with current parents:

Most used electronic resources:
Email – email blasts, links to parent portals on school website, or individual notes to parents
School website programs – ie, Tadpole, Classdojo, Mailchimp, Remind.com, HeadMaster, SignUpGenius, etc.
Facebook - with private pages for each class or teacher
E-newsletters – every other week to once a month; i.e., Constant Contact
Monthly calendars posted on website
Evites – to upcoming school events
Texting – to individual parents

Most used print resources:
Daily or weekly folder that goes back and forth from home, “Monday folders”, Monday (or Friday) messages from the Head of School in take-home folders
Newsletters from Head and/or classroom teacher every other week

Personal contacts:
Parent conferences
Meet the Teachers gatherings prior to reenrollment; teachers present overview of new grade
Coffee talks after morning drop-off; invitations to chapel and coffee
Phone voicemail message blasts
Phone calls – private conversations most effective
Encouraging positive word of mouth exchanges
**Visual resources:**

Bulletin board reminders near classrooms and office  
Event signs near the school and church signs  
TV “loops” visible near the office for those waiting to view past school activities

**Resources with Prospective Parents:**

Word of mouth – encourage positive messages shared by current parents with friends  
Social media, Mom’s Blogs, Facebook, updated website  
Interactive website so initial inquiries and contacts can be made; require a campus visit  
A calendar of school visits; classroom observations  
Encourage referrals from current and former parents; add to admission materials  
Participate in a community Private School Preview, if available  
Prospective parent lunch  
Offer coffee and workshops to highlight areas of programing at the school  
Email follow-up after inquiry and visits

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**Annual School Report Summary, 2020-2021**

Of the 56 schools in the EDOT, 55 were open for instruction (online, in-person, or both) by the end of September or before, and 1 was anticipating a re-opening in January. Earlier in 2020, The Jordan School, Crockett, was permanently closed by its Board of Trustees. The impact of the Covid-19 pandemic helps explain significantly decreased enrollment overall. The number of schools with fewer than 50 students, increased from 8 last year to 19 such schools this year. Median enrollment dropped from 110 to 75 students. Reported enrollment is always from the first day of classes for each school, so the numbers may have improved as the academic year progressed.

The Canonical duty of the Commission on Schools is to publish Standards for Episcopal Schools in this Diocese, give general supervision to those schools, and perform other functions regarding schools as the Bishop may require. The Standards for Schools are published in the Commission Handbook & Directory which is found via a link on the “About Our Schools” page of the Diocesan website. General supervision for schools in the Diocese is accomplished primarily via the Annual Report which heads of school and directors submit to the Commission Chair in October. Due pandemic precautions, the Commission did not have any site visits in 2020.

In a Diocese as large as Texas, one can expect some leadership transitions each year. Among our schools, 6 new heads/directors have been named since last year’s report as follows:

- **Beth Dow** – Calvary Episcopal Preparatory, Richmond  
- **Gigi Khalsa** – All Saints’ Episcopal Day School, Austin  
- **Annette Jones** – Holy Comforter Episcopal School, Angleton  
- **Mellissa McCreary** – (Interim) Trinity School of Texas, Longview  
- **Jennifer Morgan** – Trinity Episcopal School, Austin  
- **Leigh Moss** – St. David’s Episcopal Day School, Austin
Opening enrollment for schools in the EDOT was 9,937 students, 1,386 fewer than last year. Episcopal schools in this Diocese currently employ 2,440 people, full and part-time, down by 47 from the previous year.

EDOT Schools Total Number of Students: **9,937**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Schools by Highest Grade Level</th>
<th>Schools by Total Enrollment Groupings</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Preschool/Kinder (may include Infant-Kinder)</td>
<td>33 with ≤ 50 students</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Elementary (may include up to 5th Grade)</td>
<td>4 with &gt; than 50 students and &lt; 300 students</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Middle School (may include up to 8th Grade)</td>
<td>9 with &gt; 300 students</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>High School (may include up to 12th Grade)</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Schools in the EDOT</strong></td>
<td><strong>56</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Schools in the EDOT</strong></td>
<td><strong>56</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Other Stats**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Total Minority Enrollment: <strong>2,292</strong> (approx... 23%)</th>
<th>Total Number of Employees: <strong>2,440</strong></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Students Receiving Financial Aid: <strong>1,513</strong> (approx.... 15%)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Location of Schools by City**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Austin (cont’d)</th>
<th>St. Matthew’s</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>St. Michael’s</td>
<td>St. Stephen’s</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Trinity</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bastrop</td>
<td>Calvary</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Beaumont</td>
<td>All Saints’</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bellaire</td>
<td>Episcopal High</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bellville</td>
<td>St. Mary’s</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>College Station</td>
<td>St. Thomas’</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Conroe</td>
<td>St. James’</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Angleton | Holy Comforter
Austin | All Saints’
          | Good Shepherd
          | St. Andrew’s
          | St. David’s
          | St. George’s
          | St. Mark’s
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Friendswood</th>
<th>Good Shepherd</th>
<th>Killeen</th>
<th>St. Christopher’s</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Galveston</td>
<td>Trinity</td>
<td>Kingwood</td>
<td>Good Shepherd</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Georgetown</td>
<td>Grace</td>
<td>LaGrange</td>
<td>St. James’</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Houston</td>
<td>Archway Academy</td>
<td>Lindale</td>
<td>St. Luke’s</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Ascension</td>
<td>Longview</td>
<td>Trinity</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Cathedral House</td>
<td>Lufkin</td>
<td>St. Cyprian’s</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>First Steps Montessori</td>
<td>Marshall</td>
<td>Trinity</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Grace</td>
<td>Missouri City</td>
<td>St. Catherine of Sienna</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Holy Spirit</td>
<td>Nacogdoches</td>
<td>Christ</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Holy Trinity</td>
<td>Pearland</td>
<td>St. Andrew’s Academy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>St. Andrew’s</td>
<td>Richmond</td>
<td>Calvary</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>St. Christopher’s</td>
<td>St. Mark’s</td>
<td>St. Mark’s</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>St. Cuthbert’s</td>
<td>Round Rock</td>
<td>St. Richard’s</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>St. Francis’</td>
<td>Sugar Land</td>
<td>Holy Cross</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>St. Mark’s</td>
<td>Temple</td>
<td>St. Francis’</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>St. Martin’s</td>
<td>The Woodlands</td>
<td>Trinity</td>
</tr>
<tr>
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<td>St. Stephen’s</td>
<td>Tyler</td>
<td>All Saints’</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>St. Thomas’</td>
<td>Waco</td>
<td>St. Paul’s</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Preschool</td>
<td>Woodville</td>
<td>St. Paul’s</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Directory of Schools**

Note: Directory data comes from the Annual Report to the Commission on Schools which was due in mid-October and based on “opening day” conditions. Caution over the Covid-19 pandemic contributed to decreased enrollment in many of our schools, especially at the beginning of the year. Student numbers reported here may be substantially different compared to later in the school year.
Directory Key

Enrollment is designated by age or grade at the start of the school year:

**Inf** - infants, less than 1 year old

**1's, 2's, 3's, 4's** - 1-year, 2-year, 3-year and 4-year-olds, respectively

**K or K(t)** - Kindergarten or Transition/Bridge

**Grades by Number** - 1st, 2nd, etc., through 12th

The Accrediting Organization(s) are listed below each school. Please note: schools without a listed accreditation or exemption may be in process or otherwise working toward compliance with this standard.

**School Name** (Levels and/or Grades, Opening Enrollment)

Street Address
City, State Zip
Phone Number (XXX) XXX-XXXX
School Website URL
Head or Director Name, Title
Head or Director Email
Accreditation: **Agency**

**All Saints' Episcopal Day School** (2’s-K, 48)
209 W 27th St
Austin, TX 78705
(512) 472-8866
www.allsaintseds.org
Gigi Khalsa, Head of School
gigi@allsaintseds.org

**All Saints Episcopal School** (3’s-8th, 323)
4108 Delaware St
Beaumont, TX 77706
(409) 892-1755
www.allsaints-beaumont.org
Catherine "Scootie" Clark, Head of School
sclark@allsaints-beaumont.org

**All Saints Episcopal School** (3’s-12th, 659)
2695 S SW Loop 323
Tyler, TX 75701
(903) 579-6000
www.all-saints.org
Mike Cobb, Head of Schoo
mcobb@all-saints.org
Accreditation: **ISAS, SAES**

**Archway Academy** (9th-12th, 45)
6221 Main St
Houston, TX 77030
(813) 328-0780
www.archwayacademy.org
Sasha McLean, Executive Director
Sasha.mclean@archwayacademy.org
Accreditation: **TEA, ARS**
Ascension Episcopal School (Inf-4’s, 54)
2525 Seagler Rd
Houston, TX 77042
(713) 783-0260
www.aeshouston.org
Nancy Clausey, Head of School
nclausey@aeshouston.org
Accreditation: SAES

Calvary Episcopal Prep (3’s-12th, 180)
1201 Austin St
Richmond, TX 77469
(281) 342-3161
www.ces-richmond.org
Beth Dow, Head of School
bdow@ces-richmond.org
Accreditation: SAES

Calvary Episcopal School (3’s-6th, 105)
PO Box 626
Bastrop, TX 78602
(512) 321-1610
www.calvaryschool.net
Catherine Bohot, Head of School
headofschool@calvaryschool.net
Accreditation: SAES

Cathedral House Episcopal (Inf-K, 76)
1112 Prairie St
Houston, TX 77002
(713) 222-2482
www.discoverches.org
Teri Jackson, Administrator
teri.jackson@mmschools.org
Accreditation: NAEYC

Christ Episcopal School (3’s-5th, 74)
1428 N. Mound St
Nacogdoches, TX 75961
(936) 564-0621
www.ces-nac.org
Catherine Oliver, Head of School
coliver@ces-nac.org
Accreditation: SAES

Episcopal High School (9th-12th, 790)
4650 Bissonnet
Bellaire, TX 77401
(713) 512-3400
www.ehshouston.org
Ned Smith, Head of School
nsmith@ehshouston.org
Accreditation: ISAS

First Steps Montessori (2’s-K, 89)
2450 River Oaks Blvd
Houston, TX, 77019
(713) 354-2267
www.sjd.org/first-steps-montessori-school/
Suzanne Gusemano, Head of School
sgusemano@sjd.org
Accreditation:

Good Shepherd Episcopal (2’s-Kt, 160)
PO Box 5250
Austin, TX 78763
(512) 476-4393
www.gsesaustin.org
Sheila Abio, Head of School
sheila@gsesaustin.org
Accreditation: SAES
Good Shepherd Episcopal (3’s-4’s, 25)
1207 W. Winding Way Dr
Friendswood, TX  77546
(281) 992-1357
www.gshepherd.net (see school link)
Linda Lanier Ansell, Director
schooldirector@gshepherd.net
Accreditation: <50 Exemption

Grace Episcopal School (2’s-K, 44)
1314 East University Ave
Georgetown, TX  78626
(512) 863-6214
www.graceschool1992.org
Virginia "Ginny" Herbert, Head of School
headofschool@graceschool1992.org
Accreditation: SAES

Holy Comforter Episcopal School (3’s-K, 40)
234 South Arcola (P.O. Box 786)
Angleton, TX 77515
(979) 849-4602
www.hces.school
Annette Jones, Head of School
ajones@hces.school
Accreditation: NAEYC

Holy Spirit Episcopal School (Inf-8th, 283)
12535 Perthshire Road
Houston, TX 77024
(713) 468-5138
www.hses.org
Michelle Symonds, Head of School
msymonds@hses.org
Accreditation: SAES

Good Shepherd Episcopal (1’s-Kt, 205)
2929 Woodland Hills
Kingwood, Texas  77339
(281) 359-1895
www.goodshepherdsschool.org
Jan Lopez, Head of School
gsschooljan@yahoo.com
Accreditation: SAES

Grace Episcopal School (Inf-4’s, 64)
4040 West Bellfort
Houston, TX 77025
(832) 831-9086
www.graceinhoustonschool.org
Edolia James, Head of School
edolia@graceinhouston.org
Accreditation:

Holy Cross Kids Preschool (1’s-4’s, 29)
5653 W River Park Dr
Sugar Land, TX 77479
(281) 633-2000
www.holycrosskids.org
Jessica Nelson, Director
hckids@holycrosschurch.com
Accreditation: <50 Exemption

Holy Trinity Episcopal School (3’s-5th, 32)
11810 Lockwood Road
Houston, TX 77044
(281) 459-4323
www.hteshouston.org
Troy P. Roddy, Ph.D., Head of School
troddy@hteshouston.org
Accreditation: SAES
St Andrew's Academy (3’s-4’s, 20)
2535 E. Broadway St
Pearland, TX 77581
(281) 485-3428
www.standrewssacademypearland.com
Anne Harland, Head of School
anne.standrewsacademy@gmail.com
Accreditation: <50 Exemption

St Andrew's Episcopal School (K-12th, 959)
1112 W 31st St
Austin, TX 78705
(512) 299-9800
www.sasustin.org
John (Sean) Murphy, Head of School
smurphy@sasustin.org
Accreditation: SAES, ISAS

St Andrew's Episcopal School (1’s-Kt, 0)
1819 Heights Blvd
Houston, TX 77008
(713) 861-2954
www.saesheights.org
Nancy Simpson, Head of School
nsimpson@saesheights.org
Accreditation: SAES

St Andrew's Episcopal School (K-12th, 959)
1112 W 31st St
Austin, TX 78705
(512) 299-9800
www.sasustin.org
John (Sean) Murphy, Head of School
smurphy@sasustin.org
Accreditation: SAES, ISAS

St Cuthbert School (2’s-K, 23)
17020 West Rd
Houston, TX 77095
(281) 463-1912
www.stcuthbert.org
Lynda Houghton, Director
school@stcuthbert.org
Accreditation: NAEYC

St Cyprian's Episcopal School (3’s-9th, 167)
1115 S John Redditt Dr
Lufkin, TX 75904
(936) 632-1720
www.saintcyprians.org
Dr. Sherry Durham, Head of School
sdurham@saintcyprians.org
Accreditation: SAES, Cognia

St Catherine of Sienna Ep Schl (2’s-4’s, 48)
4747 Sienna Parkway
Missouri City, TX 77459
(281) 778-2046
www.siennachurch.org
San Juanita (Janie) Hernandez, Schl Director
janie@siennachurch.org
Accreditation: NAEYC

St Christopher's Ep Day Schl (Inf-4’s, 45)
1656 Blalock Rd
Houston, TX 77080
(713) 465-6035
www.stchrishouston.org
Monica Cadavid, Director
director@stchrishouston.org
Accreditation: <50 Exemption

St Christopher's Episcopal Preschl (1’s-K, 56)
2800 Trimmier Rd
Killeen, TX 76542
(254) 526-8380
www.stchrisps.com
Becca Davis, Head of School
stchristopherps@gmail.com
Accreditation: SAES

St Cyprian's Episcopal School (3’s-9th, 167)
1115 S John Redditt Dr
Lufkin, TX 75904
(936) 632-1720
www.saintcyprians.org
Dr. Sherry Durham, Head of School
sdurham@saintcyprians.org
Accreditation: SAES, Cognia
St David's Episcopal Day School (1’s-K, 26)
301 E 8th St
Austin, TX 78701
(512) 610-3500
www.stdavidsdayschool.org
Leigh Moss, Director
leigh.m@stdave.org
Accreditation: NAEYC

St Francis' Episcopal School (2’s-11th, 885)
335 Piney Point Rd
Houston, TX 77024
(713) 458-6100
www.stfrancishouston.org
Stephen M. Lovejoy, Head of School
slovejoy@stfrancishouston.org
Accreditation: SAES, ISAS

St Francis' Preschool (2’s-Kt, 87)
5001 Hickory Road
Temple, TX 76502
(254) 773-3009
www.stfrancispreschool.org
Cheryl Jones, Head of School
director@stfrancispreschool.org
Accreditation: SAES

St George's Episcopal School (Inf-4’s, 80)
4301 N IH 35
Austin, TX 78722
(512) 452-6063
www.stgeorges-austin.com
Jerri Thompson, Head of School
jerri@stgeorges-austin.com
Accreditation: NAEYC

St James' Episcopal Preschool (2’s-4’s, 11)
156 N Monroe St
La Grange, TX 78945
(979) 639-1346
www.stjameslagrange.org
Laurie Krupala, Director
Laurie@stjameslagrange.org
Accreditation: <50 Exemption

St James Episcopal School (Inf-4’s, 49)
P.O. Box 559
Conroe, TX 77301
(936) 756-4984
www.sjaec.com/school
Rachel Rhodes, Head of School/Director
rrhodes@stjames-conroe.org
Accreditation: <50 Exemption

St Luke's Episcopal School (1’s-4’s, 88)
16929 FM 849
Lindale, TX 75771
(903) 881-8733
www.stlukesschool.org
April Butler, Head of School
april.butler@stlukesschool.org
Accreditation:

St Mark's Episcopal Day School (2’s-4’s, 60)
2128 Barton Hills Dr
Austin, TX 78704
(512) 444-9401
www.stmarksdayschoolaustin.org
Karon Miller Hammond, Head of School
headofschool@stmarksdayschoolaustin.org
Accreditation: SAES
St Mark's Episcopal School (1’s-4’s, 12)
7615 FM 762 Rd
Richmond, TX, 77469
(281) 545-1296
www.smes.rocks
Jerri Carington, Director
schooloffice@stmarksfortbend.org
Accreditation: <50 Exemption

St Mark's Episcopal School (2’s-8th, 450)
3816 Bellaire Blvd
Houston, TX. 77025
(713) 667-7030
www.stmes.org
Garrett Wagers, Headmaster
gwagers@stmes.org
Accreditation: SAES, ISAS

St Martins Episcopal Preschool (1’s-4’s, 234)
717 Sage Rd
Houston, TX 77056
(713) 621-2944
www.smepreschool.org
Ellen Bass, Head of School
ebass@smepreschool.org
Accreditation:

St Mary's Episcopal Day School (1’s-K, 72)
24 N Masonic
Bellville, TX 78933
(979) 865-5551
www.stmarysdayschool.com
Lori Collins, Head of School
lcollins@stmarysdayschool.com
Accreditation: SAES

St Matthew's Episcopal Day Schl (1’s-K, 147)
8134 Mesa Drive
Austin, TX 78759
(512) 345-3040
www.stmatthewsschoolaustin.com
Page Race, Head of School
prace@stmatthewsschoolaustin.com
Accreditation: SAES

St Michael's Episcopal Day Schl (2’s-K, 29)
1500 N Capital of Texas Highway
Austin, TX 78746
(512) 327-0591
www.stmichaelsdayschool.org
Rebecca Hope, Director
director@stmichaelsdayschool.org
Accreditation: <50 Exemption

St Paul's Episcopal School (1’s-6th, 167)
517 Columbus Avenue
Waco, TX 76701
(254) 753-0246
www.speswaco.org
M'Lissa Howen, Head of School
mhowen@speswaco.org
Accreditation: SAES

St Paul's Episcopal School (3’s-5th, 28)
1707 W Bluff
Woodville, TX 75979
(409) 283-7555
www.stpaulswoodville.org (church)
Sharon Brown, Principal
sharon.stpauls@yahoo.com
Accreditation: <50 Exemption
St Richard's Episcopal Preschl & K (2’s-K, 21)
1420 E Palm Valley Blvd
Round Rock, TX 78664
(512) 248-1789
www.strichardspreschool.org
Shauna Kennerly, Director
shauna@saintrichards.org
Accreditation: <50 Exemption

St Stephen's Episcopal School (2’s-8th, 146)
1800 Sul Ross
Houston, TX 77098
(678) 517-7017
www.sses.org
Jerri King, Head of School
jerriking@sses.org
Accreditation: SAES, AMS

St Stephen's Episcopal School (6th-12th, 684)
6500 St Stephen's Dr
Austin, TX 78746
(512) 327-1213
www.sstx.org
Christopher (Chris) Gunnin, Head of School
cgunnin@sstx.org
Accreditation: SAES, ISAS

St Thomas' Episcopal School (K-12th, 533)
4900 Jackwood
Houston, TX 77096
(713) 666-3111
www.stes.org
Michael Cusack, Headmaster
cusack.michael@stes.org
Accreditation: SAES

St Thomas' Episcopal Preschool (2’s-4’s, 58)
4900 Jackwood
Houston, TX 77096
(713) 666-3111
www.stepreschool.org
Amy Savage, Preschool Director
savage.amy@stes.org
Accreditation: SAES

St Thomas the Apostle Ep Schl (3’s-5th, 63)
18300 Upper Bay Rd
Houston, TX 77058
(281) 333-1340
www.stesnb.org
Colin O'Neal, Head of School
coneal@stesnb.org
Accreditation: SAES

Trinity Episcopal Day School (1’s-Kt, 52)
3901 S Panther Creek Dr
The Woodlands, TX 77381
(281) 367-5148
www.tedstw.org
Betsy Delaney, Head of School
bdelaney@tedstw.org
Accreditation: SAES
Trinity Episcopal School (3’s-8th, 131)
2905 Rosborough Springs Rd
Marshall, TX 75672
(903) 938-3513
www.trinitymarshall.net
Carrie Hammack, Head of School
carrieh@trinitymarshall.net
Accreditation: SAES, Cognia

Trinity Episcopal School (K-8th, 550)
3901 Bee Cave Rd
Austin, TX 79746
(512) 472-9525
www.austintrinity.org
Jennifer Morgan, Head of School
jmorgan@austintrinity.org
Accreditation: SAES, ISAS

Trinity Episcopal School (2’s-8th, 255)
720 Tremont St
Galveston, TX 77550
(409) 765-9391
www.tesgalv.org
Mark Ravelli, Head of School
mravelli@tesgalv.org
Accreditation: SAES, ISAS

Trinity School of Texas (2’s-12th, 256)
215 N Teague St
Longview, TX 75601
(903) 753-0612
www.trinityschooloftexas.com
Mellissa McCreary, Head of School
mmccreary@trinityschooloftexas.com
Accreditation: SAES, Cognia