



Dr. Holly Ferguson Announces Retirement After 28 Years of Service to Public Education

March 9, 2026

On March 9, 2026, Prosper ISD Superintendent Dr. Holly Ferguson announced her retirement, effective at the end of 2026, bringing to a close a remarkable 28-year career in public education — 23 of those years in dedicated service to the students, families, and staff of Prosper ISD.

Dr. Ferguson's journey in Prosper began in 1998 when she walked through the doors of Prosper Elementary School as a third-grade teacher. Over the decades that followed, she rose through every level of district leadership — teacher, principal, assistant superintendent, associate superintendent, and ultimately superintendent — building a legacy defined by an unwavering commitment to students, deep investment in the people around her, and the relentless pursuit of excellence.

It has been my privilege to serve the students, staff, parents, and community of Prosper ISD. When I entered Prosper Elementary School in 1998 as a third-grade teacher, I never dreamed what this place would become. Every year since, I have been inspired by the students who walk through our doors — each one a reminder of why we do this work. We build better tomorrows, one student at a time, and I am so proud of what this community has built together.

I would also like to thank the Prosper ISD Board of Trustees, both current and past, for their unwavering support and belief in Prosper ISD.

There are no words to express my gratitude to the incredible students, staff, and parents in Prosper ISD. You all are the true shining example of excellence that makes Prosper ISD a destination district.

— Dr. Holly Ferguson, Superintendent, Prosper ISD

A Legacy of Excellence

Under Dr. Ferguson's leadership, Prosper ISD grew into one of the most recognized and celebrated school districts in Texas.

Holly Ferguson embodies what servant leadership looks like in a school district. On behalf of the Board of Trustees, I want to express our deep gratitude for her vision, her integrity, and the standard of excellence she has set for this community. Prosper ISD is better in every measurable way because of her.

— Bill Beavers, Board of Trustees President, Prosper ISD

Among the many milestones she helped shape:

Vision & District Leadership

- Established the unifying vision of Excellence Every Day in Every Way and stewarded the development of the 2025–2030 Strategic Priorities — a living framework built on the voices of students, families, and staff through listening circles, advisory councils, and community engagement.



- Named the 2022 Superintendent of the Year by Texas Education Technology Leaders for her innovative approach to leadership and learning.
- Championed the district's selection as the HEB Excellence in Education Large School District honoree in 2025, a testament to the community's shared commitment to students.
- Prosper ISD has been consistently recognized as an A-rated district by the Texas Education Agency, while earning local, state, and national distinction in fine arts, academics, and athletics.
- Championed a "small-school feel" within one of the fastest-growing districts in Texas, ensuring every student and staff member remains seen, valued, and empowered — even as enrollment grew from fewer than 6,000 students to nearly 34,000.

Growth & Fiscal Stewardship

- Guided the district through the successful passage of the 2023 bond — \$2.7 billion in 2023 — enabling the construction of new campuses to serve one of the fastest-growing communities in the state.
- In 2025, balanced a \$29 million maintenance and operations deficit, demonstrating disciplined fiscal stewardship during a period of extraordinary growth while ensuring that staff continued to receive annual compensation increases.
- Earned multiple "A" ratings for financial accountability through the Texas Education Agency's Financial Integrity Rating System of Texas (FIRST), reflecting a commitment to high-quality financial management and transparency.

People & Culture

- Achieved a staff retention rate that ranks among the top 5 in the DFW Metroplex by investing in a people-first culture grounded in trust, belonging, and professional growth.
- Recognized as a Top Places to Work in DFW multiple years by the Dallas Morning News, affirming Prosper ISD's standing as an employer of choice in the region.
- Built a robust infrastructure for growing leaders from within, including the Teacher Leadership Institute and mentorship programs that develop educators into district leaders.
- Championed the mission of the Prosper Education Foundation, advancing teacher recognition, innovation grants, and community investment to ensure staff feel celebrated and supported in their work.
- Implemented a district-wide professional development program, fostering a collaborative culture built on reliability, integrity, and authentic relationships.
- Spent nearly two decades greeting students by opening car doors at campuses nearly every morning — a simple, steadfast gesture that embodied her belief that every child deserves to be seen and welcomed each day.
- Personally wrote individual notes of encouragement on every teacher's whiteboard in the district each year — tens of thousands of handwritten messages over six years — reflecting a leadership style rooted in genuine care for the people who make Prosper ISD great.
- Personally delivered Prosper ISD onesies to hundreds of expectant staff members and their spouses, welcoming the next generation of Prosper families and demonstrating that her care for employees extended far beyond the workplace.
- Every employee and every student received a birthday card from her each year.



- Personally presented "OG" signs to alumni who returned to Prosper ISD as staff members — honoring those who chose to give back to the community that shaped them and celebrating the full-circle story of a district that inspires its own.
- Attended dozens of students' big moments celebrations on her own time — not as the superintendent, but as the forever teacher and mentor she has always been — a quiet testament to the depth of her investment in the lives of Prosper students long after they left her care.

Student Support & Well-Being

- Brought Hope Squad to Prosper ISD — a peer-to-peer suicide prevention program that trains nominated students to recognize warning signs of distress in their peers — and serves on the National Hope Squad Board, championing mental health awareness and student well-being at both the local and national level.
- Expanded Gifted and Talented services, project-based learning, and personalized learning models that honor the unique strengths and challenges of every student — from pull-out GT programs at the elementary level to specialized courses at the secondary level.
- Built community mentorship pathways that invite local leaders into schools to guide students, and formalized volunteer recognition programs — including honoring Campus Volunteers of the Year — to deepen family and community investment in student success.

Academic Programs & Student Opportunity

- Expanded Advanced Placement offerings to include 32 courses district-wide, creating access to college-level learning for students across all four high school campuses.
- Built a robust dual credit program offering more than 100 credit hours, providing students meaningful pathways to earn college credit — and in some cases, associate degrees — before receiving their high school diploma.
- Grew Career and Technical Education into one of the district's most expansive student offerings, with the vast majority of high school students engaged in CTE coursework and thousands of industry-based certifications earned annually.
- Launched three new CTE academies — Cybersecurity, Cosmetology, and Electrical Engineering — at Richland High School, creating structured career pathways that connect classroom learning to professional certifications and real-world opportunities.
- Provided a forever home for the Mahard Family Resource Center to serve special education students and families.

Fine Arts, Athletics & Student Life

- Cultivated a fine arts program of national distinction, earning consecutive recognition as a NAAM Best Community for Music Education and TAEA District of Distinction for Visual Arts.
- In October 2025, named a TMEA Distinguished Administrator for outstanding commitment to preserving quality music education experiences for all students.
- Built a competitive athletics program recognized at the state level year after year, while maintaining an intentional focus on the student-athlete — producing Academic All-District and Academic All-State honorees who excel in the classroom and in competition.
- Developed UIL academic programming that consistently produces state-level medalists and champions, affirming that Prosper ISD's pursuit of excellence extends well beyond the classroom walls.



What Comes Next

The Board of Trustees will share information regarding the superintendent transition process. Dr. Ferguson will continue to lead through May 18, 2026, and then transition to Superintendent Emeritus and officially end her career in public education on January 31, 2027. Dr. Ferguson remains fully committed to leading Prosper ISD with the same energy and dedication our community has come to count on.

Prosper ISD is shaped by the people who pour their lives into it. Dr. Holly Ferguson is one of those people, and for that, our community is forever grateful.

Together, We Champion. Together, We Cultivate. Together, We Empower. Together, We Prosper.