



## Laughlin Elementary STEM Magnet School

### Frequently Asked Questions

**1. What is a STEM Magnet school?**

Under Texas Administrative Code (TAC) §74.22, “a school district may operate a magnet program, academy, or other innovative program to serve student populations with specialized interests and aptitudes.” The Laughlin Elementary STEM Magnet School is a public school offering the state-required core curriculum, augmented by a specialized focus in Science, Technology, Engineering and Math; and is authorized under TAC §74.22.

**2. Who can attend the Laughlin Elementary STEM Magnet School?**

Families living in residential housing at LAFB will have this school as their assigned attendance zone. Children of families not living within the LAFB community may apply for a transfer from their school attendance zone to the Laughlin Elementary STEM Magnet School provided there is space availability.

**3. How will the Laughlin Elementary STEM Magnet School be funded?**

Funding for Texas’s public schools comes from three main sources: local school district property taxes, state funds, and federal funds. The Laughlin Elementary STEM Magnet School will be funded in the same manner in which all public schools are funded. The basic allotment amount and the number of students in average daily attendance are used to calculate a district’s Tier I entitlement. A financial study has determined that Laughlin Elementary STEM Magnet School will generate enough state and federal funding to be self-sustaining.

**4. When will construction of the Laughlin Elementary STEM Magnet School begin?**

San Felipe Del Rio CISD is pleased to announce that the Lease Agreement between the District and the United States Air Force has been signed(June 19, 2017), and the construction phase for the Laughlin Elementary STEM Magnet School is set to begin on August 1, 2017.

**5. When will the Laughlin Elementary STEM Magnet School be completed?**

It is anticipated that the substantial completion date of the Laughlin Elementary STEM Magnet School project will be December 31, 2017.

**6. What are the plans for opening the school? When can students begin attending the new Laughlin Elementary STEM Magnet School campus?**

The new Laughlin Elementary STEM Magnet School will begin servicing students in August 2018, however, San Felipe Del Rio CISD and Laughlin AFB will be planning a summer program (June 2018) for students enrolled to attend the campus at the start of the 2018-19 school year.

#### Laughlin Elementary STEM Magnet School Transition Timeline

Date:	Activity:
Jul. 2017- Feb. 2018	Continued Registration/Student Enrollment
August 1, 2017	Construction of new school begins
December 31, 2017	Anticipated completion of new school
February 2018	Hiring of Campus Principal
April 2018	Hiring of Campus Teachers/Personnel
May 2018	Open House/Ribbon Cutting
June 2018	Professional Development for Teachers/Personnel
Mid June 2018	Teacher/Student Meet & Greet
Mid June 2018	Kick Off Summer STEM Institute



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### 7. Why was Aug. 2018 chosen rather than Jan. 2018?

Considering all aspects and logistics of transitioning students into the Laughlin Elementary STEM Magnet School (parent feedback, construction timelines, student safety, hiring and training staff, etc.), the best option for an effective and successful transition is to receive students at the start of the 2018-2019 school year.

### 8. Now that the school is not opening until August 2018, where will my children attend school this next school year?

For the 2017-18 school year, students currently enrolled and new to SFDRICISD, will continue to attend the campus within their assigned attendance zone. Ruben Chavira Elementary is the assigned campus for families who reside within Laughlin Air Force Base; therefore children in grades Kindergarten through 5<sup>th</sup> grade will be assigned to attend this school. Similarly, families who reside in north Del Rio, will attend the assigned campus depending on the attendance zone where they reside. Finally, children who meet Federal/State eligibility for Pre-K, will be assigned to attend school at Cardwell Elementary. For specific details regarding schools and residential attendance zones, please contact the Office of Student Services at (830) 778-4170.

### 9. Will I have a choice of which school my child will attend in the 2017-18 school year?

Students must attend the campus assigned within their residential attendance zone for the 2017-18 school year. All transfer requests will be based upon availability of space at the requested school.

*\*Note: In order to reduce overcrowding of campuses, the District will focus on maintaining 22:1 student to teacher ratios at all elementary campuses, including the Laughlin Elementary STEM Magnet School. Due to limited space, transfer requests for Buena Vista Elementary and Dr. Lonnie Green Elementary are unavailable for the 2017-18 school year.*

### 10. Will I have to re-enroll my child for the Laughlin Elementary STEM Magnet School in August 2018?

Military, State & Federal service families who currently reside at Laughlin AFB will receive a notification letter in the spring indicating that their attendance zone will change with the opening of the new Laughlin Elementary STEM Magnet School at the beginning of the 2018-19 school year. **There is no need to register or re-enroll your child.** However, if parents anticipate a transfer out of LAFB before the start of the 2017-18 school year, parents should notify the Office of Student and Family Services at (830) 778-4170 as soon as possible.

Military, State & Federal service families who **do not reside** at LAFB, and have previously enrolled their child to attend the Laughlin Elementary STEM Magnet School will not have to complete a new transfer form. However, if parents anticipate a change or transfer of service before the start of the 2017-18 school year, parents should notify the Office of Student and Family Services at (830) 778-4170 as soon as possible.

*Note: For Pre-Kindergarten eligibility, State/Federal guidelines require parents to complete an application form annually.*

### 11. What option do parents have who might have already dis-enrolled their child(ren) from attending school in another district (Brackettville/Comstock) with the anticipation of the school opening sooner than Aug 2018?

Families who live in the Del Rio/Laughlin AFB area have the option of attending a tuition-free public school within their assigned attendance zone, charter school or any private school in the area. It is our hope that parents opt to have their child(ren) begin building relationships with their peers who will be transitioning from our public school system to the Laughlin Elementary STEM Magnet School.



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### **12. What is the possibility of the school not opening in August 2018?**

San Felipe Del Rio CISD and Laughlin Air Force Base are pleased to announce that the Lease Agreement between the District and the United States Air Force has been finalized and authorization to proceed with development and construction is in place. Construction of the new school is set to begin in August 2017 with completion of the project by January 2018.

### **13. Will my child be eligible for transportation to the Laughlin Elementary STEM Magnet School?**

Except in circumstances where students with physical handicapping conditions served under Special Education may be eligible for bus transportation to and from school; however, since students who live in LAFB housing reside within an area less than two miles from the campus, students are not eligible to receive school bus transportation. Therefore, parents must provide transportation.

**FDB(LOCAL)** policy indicates that a parent who requests a transfer outside of their assigned attendance zone to another campus, in this case to the Laughlin Elementary STEM Magnet School, “shall provide transportation for their child”. Therefore, parents who do not live in LAFB housing, and have enrolled to attend the Laughlin Elementary STEM Magnet School must also provide transportation for their child.

*Note: LAFB officials have shared that family housing is available on base and parents should call the Laughlin AFB Housing at (830) 298-5732 for further information and details. Click [here](#) to visit the LAFB Housing webpage.*

### **14. Is there still time to register/enroll my child(ren)?**

Yes, parents who have not enrolled their child to attend the Laughlin Elementary STEM Magnet School may still do so by contacting the SFDRISD Office of Student Services at (830)778-4170 from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. beginning July 24, 2017 through Feb. 2, 2018. This office will continue to receive applications until grade level slots are full. Residents of LAFB will have first priority in all grade level assignments. Families of enlisted Military and other State/Federal agencies working on base will have second priority. Other requests for transfers will be placed on a waiting list.

### **15. What if my address has changed?**

Parents must update any changes at the Offices of Student Services located at 900 Cantu Rd. A current utility bill/rent or mortgage statement must be presented as documentation of proof of residency.

### **16. When will I be able to visit the new school?**

Special “Open House and Meet and Greet” opportunities will be scheduled for parents, children and the Laughlin AFB community in May 2018. Notices with detailed information will be sent to parents and will be posted on our school district/LAFB website in the spring.

### **17. I don't know what school my child will be attending next year. How do I know what the school supply list is?**

Elementary principals under the direction of the Chief Instructional Officer meet annually to compile a “Back-To-School Supplies List” for all elementary grade levels and campuses district-wide. This list has just been released on our District’s website and on Facebook. For your convenience, we have provided a link for you [here](#).

### **18. How would the education program at the Laughlin Elementary STEM Magnet School be different from standard elementary schools?**

The Laughlin Elementary STEM Magnet School is a public school offering the state-required core curriculum, as is required by standard elementary schools augmented by a specialized focus in Science, Technology, Engineering and Math; and is authorized under TAC §74.22. Campus teachers will be integrating Project Lead the Way (PLTW) Launch K-5 Curriculum. PLTW Launch is aligned to Next Generation Science Standards, Common Core State Standards for Math and English Language Arts, and



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Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills (TEKS) standards. For more details about the PLTW Launch curriculum, click [here](#).

## **19. What are the school's hours of operation?**

The regular school hours of operation are from 7:15 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Monday through Friday. Children in kindergarten through 5<sup>th</sup> grade attend classes from 8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m., and children attending Pre-kindergarten classes attend school from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. All elementary campuses, including the Laughlin Elementary STEM Magnet School, follow the District's school calendar for attending classes. Click the link [here](#) to access the 2017-18 SFDR CISD School Calendar.

## **20. Will meals be provided? At what cost?**

Beginning with the 2017-18 school year, San Felipe Del Rio CISD will be eligible to offer breakfast and lunch to all elementary and middle school students at no cost to the parent regardless of income status. Students who transition to the Laughlin Elementary STEM Magnet School will be provided meals through the SFDR CISD Child Nutrition Department, and will receive the same meal options as in other elementary campuses.

## **21. Will new staff have access to housing opportunities at Laughlin AFB?**

LAFB officials have shared that housing will be available on base for new staff. For more information please call Laughlin AFB Housing at (830) 298-5732 for further information and details. Click [here](#) to visit the LAFB Housing webpage.