CLASS OF 2026

Industry Interest by High School

Executive Summary

Dallas County Promise · Dallas College

Presented to the Dallas Regional Chamber

March 2026

Data Source: Dallas County Promise Salesforce · As of March 2, 2026

Overall Summary

Dallas County Promise surveyed 27,218 Class of 2026 students across 86 high schools and 12 Dallas County school districts about their first-choice career pathway interest. This data will directly inform Dallas College enrollment strategy and dual credit course expansion planning for the Class of 2026.

By the Numbers

27,218	86	12	7
Total Students	High Schools	Districts	Pathways

24,036	88.3%	3,182
Chose a Pathway	Response Rate	Not Sure Yet

Pathway Interest — All Schools

Career Pathway	Students	Share
Health Sciences	**6,443**	26.8%
Business, Hospitality, and Global Trade	**5,227**	21.7%
Engineering, Technology, Mathematics, and Sciences	**4,584**	19.1%
Creative Arts, Entertainment, and Design	**2,717**	11.3%
Manufacturing and Industrial Technology (Skilled Trades)	**2,388**	9.9%
Law and Public Service	**1,766**	7.3%
Education	**911**	3.8%
Not Sure Yet	**3,182**	—

Key Insights for the Dallas Regional Chamber

- Health Sciences dominates at 26.8% — 1 in 4 students chose this pathway. Healthcare employer partnerships and Dallas College Health Sciences dual credit expansion should be an immediate priority.
- Business & STEM together represent 40.8% of students — a powerful signal for Dallas College dual credit expansion and employer talent pipeline development.
- Skilled Trades interest is 9.9% (2,388 students) — the pathway with the largest employer demand vs. supply gap in the region. An exceptional opportunity for apprenticeships and work-based learning.
- 11.7% of students remain undecided — a high-leverage group for targeted Dallas College advising, career exploration programs, and Promise College Mentor engagement.
- Dallas ISD is the largest partner district with 7,768 students; Garland ISD schools appear consistently in multi-pathway top-5 lists, signaling a concentration of high-interest schools in that district.

Student Interest by District

School District	Students	% of Total
Dallas ISD	**7,768**	28.5%
Garland ISD	**3,669**	13.5%
Mesquite ISD	**2,517**	9.2%
Richardson ISD	**2,010**	7.4%
Irving ISD	**1,784**	6.6%
Grand Prairie ISD	**1,752**	6.4%
Carrollton-Farmers Branch ISD	**1,468**	5.4%
Duncanville ISD	**882**	3.2%
Uplift Education	**768**	2.8%
Lancaster ISD	**528**	1.9%
Cedar Hill ISD	**523**	1.9%
DeSoto ISD	**367**	1.3%

Health Sciences

6,443	26.8%	#1
Students	of All Pathway Choices	of 7 Pathways

What the Data Tells Us

Health Sciences is the #1 pathway county-wide, representing more than 1 in 4 students who chose a pathway. Demand is strong across all districts, with Garland ISD anchoring the top of the list. This pathway represents the single largest dual credit and workforce pipeline opportunity for Dallas College and regional healthcare employers.

Top 5 High Schools — Health Sciences

Rank	School	Students
#1	Duncanville High School	257
#2	North Garland High School	250
#3	Sachse High School	202
#4	South Grand Prairie High School	196
#5	Skyline High School	168

Dallas College Dual Credit Opportunity

Allied Health dual credit courses, Medical Terminology, Anatomy & Physiology, and health career exploration programs. Ideal pathway for Dallas College Health Sciences partnerships with regional healthcare systems.

Dallas Regional Chamber Partnership Opportunity

Connect healthcare employers (hospitals, clinics, long-term care) to work-based learning, internships, and mentorship pipelines for 6,400+ interested students.

Business, Hospitality, and Global Trade

5,227	21.7%	#2
Students	of All Pathway Choices	of 7 Pathways

What the Data Tells Us

Business & Hospitality is the second-largest pathway at 21.7%. Dallas ISD and Garland ISD schools dominate the top 5, with Duncanville and Lake Highlands tied at the top. Business interest is distributed broadly across the county, signaling strong potential for dual credit business programs and employer partnership programs.

Top 5 High Schools — Business & Hospitality

Rank	School	Students
#1	Duncanville High School	179
#2	Lake Highlands High School	179
#3	Skyline High School	171
#4	Sachse High School	160
#5	Horn High School	146

Dallas College Dual Credit Opportunity

Business Administration, Marketing, Accounting, Hospitality Management, and International Business dual credit courses. Opportunity to create a Dallas College business pathway with stackable credentials.

Dallas Regional Chamber Partnership Opportunity

Employer mentorship programs, business internships, and Chamber Business Education partnerships. 5,200+ students represent a significant pipeline for local business talent.

Engineering, Technology, Mathematics, and Sciences

4,584	19.1%	#3
Students	of All Pathway Choices	of 7 Pathways

What the Data Tells Us

Engineering & STEM is the third-largest pathway with nearly 4,600 students. Garland ISD schools appear 3 times in the top 5, suggesting a particularly strong STEM pipeline in that district. With nearly 1 in 5 students choosing this pathway, it represents a critical pipeline for the Dallas technology and engineering workforce.

Top 5 High Schools — Engineering & STEM

Rank	School	Students
#1	North Garland High School	156
#2	South Grand Prairie High School	134
#3	Duncanville High School	131
#4	Sachse High School	126
#5	Skyline High School	124

Dallas College Dual Credit Opportunity

Computer Science, Engineering Technology, Mathematics, and Natural Sciences dual credit. Pathway for IT certifications, coding bootcamp alignment, and STEM career exploration.

Dallas Regional Chamber Partnership Opportunity

Tech employer partnerships, STEM mentorship, scholarship programs, and co-op opportunities. Critical workforce pipeline for Dallas's growing technology sector.

Creative Arts, Entertainment, and Design

2,717	11.3%	#4
Students	of All Pathway Choices	of 7 Pathways

What the Data Tells Us

Creative Arts is anchored by Booker T Washington High School, which leads with 134 students — nearly 32% more than the second school. However, the remaining top schools show distributed interest county-wide, suggesting the creative arts pipeline extends well beyond the magnet school population. The Dallas creative economy and media sector have a strong talent pipeline.

Top 5 High Schools — Creative Arts & Design

Rank	School	Students
#1	Booker T Washington HS for Performing & Visual Arts	134
#2	Duncanville High School	102
#3	Garland High School	88
#4	Sachse High School	81
#5	Skyline High School	79

Dallas College Dual Credit Opportunity

Digital Media, Graphic Design, Communications, Film Production, and Performing Arts dual credit courses. Opportunity for Dallas College to align with the Dallas creative economy.

Dallas Regional Chamber Partnership Opportunity

Creative industries (advertising, media, design, entertainment) employer partnerships. Unique opportunity to connect a strong arts pipeline to Dallas's growing creative sector.

Manufacturing and Industrial Technology (Skilled Trades)

2,388	9.9%	#5
Students	of All Pathway Choices	of 7 Pathways

What the Data Tells Us

Nearly 2,400 students chose Skilled Trades — a pathway where employer demand dramatically outpaces talent supply. This represents an exceptional opportunity for Dallas College workforce programs and direct employer partnerships. With workforce shortages in welding, HVAC, electrical, and other trades, this student pipeline is highly valuable to regional industry.

Top 5 High Schools — Skilled Trades

Rank	School	Students
#1	Skyline High School	84
#2	Duncanville High School	78
#3	North Garland High School	74
#4	South Garland High School	74
#5	Grand Prairie High School	67

Dallas College Dual Credit Opportunity

Welding, HVAC, Electrical Technology, Automotive, and other skilled trades dual credit and continuing education programs. Dallas College has a major role in credential development for this pathway.

Dallas Regional Chamber Partnership Opportunity

Skilled trades employers face the largest labor shortages in the region. 2,388 students is a significant pipeline. Apprenticeship programs, employer-sponsored tuition, and work-based learning represent immediate opportunities.

Law and Public Service

1,766	7.3%	#6
Students	of All Pathway Choices	of 7 Pathways

What the Data Tells Us

Law & Public Service draws nearly 1,800 students, with Grand Prairie leading and the Sanders Law Magnet reinforcing concentrated interest in Dallas ISD. Distributed interest across multiple schools signals county-wide demand for civic and legal pathways. This pathway feeds important public sector workforce pipelines including law, government, criminal justice, and social services.

Top 5 High Schools — Law & Public Service

Rank	School	Students
#1	Grand Prairie High School	65
#2	Duncanville High School	62
#3	Lake Highlands High School	51
#4	Judge Barefoot Sanders Law Magnet	48
#5	Horn High School	46

Dallas College Dual Credit Opportunity

Criminal Justice, Political Science, Government, and Legal Studies dual credit. Pathway for pre-law and public administration career preparation.

Dallas Regional Chamber Partnership Opportunity

Public sector employer partnerships, civic engagement programs, and law firm/government agency mentorships. Important pipeline for Dallas County public workforce.

Education

911	3.8%	#7
Students	of All Pathway Choices	of 7 Pathways

What the Data Tells Us

Education is the smallest pathway at 3.8%, but represents a critical teacher pipeline for Dallas County. With a persistent teacher shortage across Texas, these 911 students are high-priority for Dallas College education programs. Interest is distributed across multiple districts and schools, suggesting no single magnet anchor — which means scalable expansion opportunities exist across the county.

Top 5 High Schools — Education

Rank	School	Students
#1	Sunset High School	34
#2	Nimitz High School	27
#3	Skyline High School	26
#4	Sachse High School	26
#5	J.J. Pearce High School	26

Dallas College Dual Credit Opportunity

Education dual credit, teacher preparation, child development, and early childhood education courses. Strategic pipeline for Dallas College education programs and the Teacher Academy model.

Dallas Regional Chamber Partnership Opportunity

School district employer partnerships and teacher pipeline programs. Supporting this pathway helps address Dallas County's teacher shortage and aligns with workforce development priorities.