

WICHITA FALLS ISD BOARD OF TRUSTEES
September 14, 2026

Agenda Item:	FY26 Department of War Education Activity (DoWEA) Grant Award			
Administrator Responsible:	Donna Hale, Project Director, Cindy Waddell, Sheppard Elementary Principal, Lauryn Taylor, Assistant Principal			
Attachments:	No Attachment			
<u> </u> Action Needed	<u> </u> Future Action	<u> X </u> Presentation	<u> </u> Report	

Administrative Recommendation:

Wichita Falls ISD has been awarded a **\$14.8 million federal construction grant** through the **Department of War Education Activity (DoWEA)** under the **Military-Connected Schools Construction, Modernization and Facilities Maintenance Program** to support major facility improvements at Sheppard Elementary School. The award is structured as a five-year grant cycle ending May 31, 2031, and will fund an approximately 10,000-square-foot auditorium addition designed to enhance student safety, campus security, accessibility, and educational programming.

The new addition will include an auditorium, public-access restrooms, ADA-compliant access, enhanced security features, and a dedicated fine arts classroom that will also serve as the campus's code-compliant storm shelter, allowing the space to support daily instruction while providing a protected area for students and staff during severe weather emergencies.

In addition to the new construction, renovations to the existing campus will include updated classroom spaces in the Pre-K and Kindergarten area, as well as modifications to the cafeteria to remove the existing stage and restore the space for its intended cafeteria use.

A groundbreaking ceremony is currently being coordinated in collaboration with Sheppard Air Force Base (SAFB) command personnel. The WFISD Board of Trustees, WFISD administration, distinguished local and state officials, community leaders, and other key stakeholders will be invited to participate in this significant project milestone.

The project team, consisting of personnel from Wichita Falls ISD and SAFB, is currently being established and will support the planning, coordination, and successful implementation of the project. Physical construction is expected to commence no later than spring 2028, with the project scheduled for completion and occupancy by August 2030. Final expenditures, required reporting, and all grant closeout activities will be completed by May 31, 2031.