

## IBAT Entry Essay (Longform) - Community Service (Education Foundations)

### Overview & Goal of Education Foundation Support

First Bank Texas involvement with education foundations across its footprint is deeply rooted in its commitment to meeting the needs of the community. By supporting education foundations, First Bank Texas is ensuring no child is left behind so they can become successful and productive adults who will continue to improve our communities for years to come.

“The education foundation is the booster club of our classrooms,” said Chairman of the Board Zan Prince. “We are honored and privileged to stand as a partner with each of those education foundations within our footprint.”

First Bank Texas believes a need identified is a need met, and the needs within our school districts are great. From lack of funding for items as small as school supplies to changing laws requiring more security in schools, there are an abundance of gaps where students, teachers, and administrators can get left behind. Public school teachers often put their own money back into the classroom when there’s a need, and First Bank Texas wants to ensure they feel supported. Through education foundations, they have the resources not only to provide the basic needs of their classroom, but also the opportunity to apply for grants to support innovative programs or projects to support higher levels of student learning.

“We want to make sure our kids get the very best they can and that teachers and administrators know there is someone there walking beside them to help with funding for everyday supplies, and innovative programs and projects that are not provided with standard education funding,” said Chairman of the Board Zan Prince.

Aside from critical financial contributions to these education foundations, First Bank Texas encourages their people to volunteer at foundation events, serve on boards, and stand hand in hand to deliver checks and funding for these important programs. The bank’s involvement with the education foundations is about building lasting relationships with our community of all ages and supporting the holistic development of our community.

[Watch a message from Chairman of First Bank Texas Zan Prince, and Innovation Foundation Chief Experience Officer, Shawn Callaway.](#)

## **Key Stories from Education Foundation Efforts**

### *Foundation Innovation - Willow Park, TX*

Foundation Innovation is a full-service consulting firm dedicated to guiding and developing education foundations to help school districts be as successful as possible. While not loyal to one education foundation over another, the Foundation Innovation helps education foundations with HR, marketing and training to ensure they are as successful as they can be.

Due to First Bank Texas' commitment to education foundations at large, the bank fully supports Foundation Innovation. They even office in the corporate First Bank Texas building.

"First Bank Texas is actively sponsoring events. They're investing in the students and programs of those foundations," Foundation Innovation Chief Experience Officer, Shawn Callaway said. "They're bringing their business experience to the boards of these education foundations and truly helping these non-profits grow."

### *Aledo Education Foundation - Aledo, TX*

Teachers often put their own money back into the classroom to ensure their students have adequate school supplies and basic needs met for a proper education. They do this without a directive, a thank you, or a raise in pay. To help teachers of Aledo ISD feel supported in this effort, First Bank Texas led the charge of the 2025 Prize Posse to deliver 21 grants totaling over \$80,000 in funding comprised of not only First Bank Texas contributions, but also community and local business funding to support innovative programs and projects to support higher levels of student learning. This surprise was heartfelt and exciting for the community of Aledo, TX where investing in teachers leads to a stronger education.

"Not only has First Bank Texas helped financially support us, they have several of their employees sit on our board," said Aledo Education Foundation representative Valerie Kerr. "Our relationship with First Bank Texas isn't just a partnership, it's a relationship built on value and a commitment to education."

In addition to providing funding for the Aledo Education Foundation, First Bank Texas has held a Board seat for this foundation for over 5 years. Through Board involvement, First Bank Texas is able to impart professional experience in key areas including marketing, business operations and events that help the organization grow--inclusion on the Board also gives First Bank Texas the visibility to identify a need within the foundation. Beyond board involvement, many of the bank employees attend and support the Aledo Education Foundation's fundraising events throughout the year including Bearcats N' Boots, the annual golf tournament, and the Bearcat Blast Clay Shoot.

[Watch the Aledo Education Foundation story.](#)

### Peaster Education Foundation - Peaster, TX

The Peaster Education Foundation supports the needs of the district through basic school supplies and grant funding for creative and innovative projects to maintain, enrich and expand the educational opportunities within Peaster ISD. Since 2021, the foundation has awarded over \$90,000 in scholarships, \$30,000 in special programs and \$379,000 in classroom grants. First Bank Texas is a proud financial and involvement sponsor for the foundation.

“District funding has many limitations and teachers have high aspirations for their kids,” said Peaster Education Foundation Board Member, Jacob Schulman. “The Peaster Education Foundation helps kids through the teachers to enhance the education experience overall.”

First Bank Texas attends and sponsors the annual Benefit Concert each year to ensure the bank is at the forefront of serving the needs of Peaster ISD.

[Watch the Peaster Education Foundation story.](#)

### Weatherford Education Foundation - Weatherford, TX

The Weatherford Education Foundation focuses on generating and distributing resources for programs that enhance the experience of the students and teachers in the district. They do this through funding for special education projects, school supplies and backpacks for underserved students, scholarships for teachers to continue their education and book drives.

Since 2000, the foundation has awarded over \$1.65 million in grants to Weatherford ISD teachers, provided over 20,000 students with school supplies and backpacks, distributed over 4,900 books to Pre-K students and awarded over \$34,000 in scholarships to teachers seeking to continue their education.

First Bank Texas has been a proud supporter of the Weatherford Education Foundation for over 20 years providing funding and support for their various programs and initiatives.

“If we ever needed to have support for a specific grant or student, I know I could reach out to First Bank Texas and they would fulfill that need for us,” said Weatherford Education Foundation Executive Director of Communications, Charlotte LaGrone.

[Watch the Weatherford Education Foundation story.](#)

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