

September 24,2024

Salado Public Library District Background:

- The Salado Public Library District was created in a 1998 election, two years before the Village of Salado was established. The library district follows the same boundaries as the Salado Independent School District, which encompasses 134.36 square miles.
- Currently, the library district serves an estimated 10,000 people. The village, according to the latest census, is home to 2,394 people living in 2.8 square miles. That means the library district contains 3.34 times more people than the village, and the district's area is 47 times greater than that of the village. The library district derives revenue from sales in and beyond the village and must serve a vastly greater area and bigger population than the village.
- The library district is one of 15 in the state supported by sales taxes. Since the library district is not funded by ad valorem (property) taxes, there is no property tax burden on Salado area residents to fund the library.
- The library district currently has no debt.
- The district's board includes five elected members. Monthly district board meetings are open to the public, and the board's minutes, budgets, and annual audits are available to the public.
- The Salado Public Library is accredited by the Texas State Library and Archives Commission, which sets library standards along with the Texas Library Association.
- Many volunteers and the Friends of the Salado Public Library give their time to assist with outreach programs to children, teens, and adults, to process and shelve books, and to operate a used book shop, Book Ends.
- As a result of the work done on the library's 2020-2025 Strategic Plan, which included a survey of community needs and wishes, areas have been identified where programming and physical expansion must occur to keep pace with Salado's growth. The Salado ISD grew by 66% from 2012 to 2021 – from 1,350 to 2,242 students. Salado ISD projections predict students will increase to 4,150 in 2031.
- Public libraries reflect the value a community places on literacy, life-long learning, imagination, culture, exploration/research, and a safe place to find oneself or connect with others. Libraries build individuals and communities. They welcome all people, regardless of income, race, age, language, gender, political party or any other division. They help people find common ground.
- In the coming decade, libraries face many challenges -- changing trends in service and product delivery, rapidly changing technology, population growth, and an increasingly diverse customer base. The Salado Public Library faces two particular challenges: growth and technology. Salado's population and commercial base is exploding. To serve growing numbers of patrons, the library will need more materials, programs, staff and eventually space. Technology is another challenge. In a semi-rural area where internet access is spotty, the library often bridges the technology gap, offering desktop computers, laptops and wifi for patron use.