Introduction

According to the official website (http://www.txla.org/TBA), the Texas Bluebonnet Award was created by the Texas Library Association in 1979 to “encourage Texas children to read more books, explore a variety of current books, develop powers of discrimination and identify their favorite books. The award process provides librarians, teachers, parents, and writers with insight into young students’ reading preferences. It further affords an opportunity to honor and encourage imaginative authors who create books with high appeal to children.”

Socorro ISD librarians have promoted the Texas Bluebonnet Award early in its existence. Several elementary school libraries participated in Texas Bluebonnet Clubs that competed against each other. As the district grew, the importance of using the Texas Bluebonnet Award continued as campus library programs with varying involvement. Supporting libraries through the district competition will help foster collaboration and boost student participation.

The Texas Library Association continues to sponsor high quality reading lists for a variety of ages and purposes. Still, the Texas Bluebonnet Award remains unique in that it allows children to select the winner. Other Texas Library Award sponsored reading lists include:

1. 2x2 List – A collection of titles released each January for ages 2 through 2nd grade.
2. Tejas Star – A bilingual (primarily Spanish) list of fifteen titles for ages 5 through 12.
3. Lone Star – A list of twenty titles recommended for 6th through 8th grades.
4. Tayshas – A large list of books, featuring a Top Ten list, recommended for high school students.
5. Maverick – A broad list of recommended graphic novels.

Goal

100% participation by all SISD schools, promote libraries & have fun!
THE HISTORY OF SISD

BATTLE OF THE BLUEBONNETS

1993
Rojas Elementary

6 Schools
School shirts
Cake & Trophies

APRIL 15

MARCH 30
1994
7 Schools
Light Blue shirts
Bracket Style

APRIL 19
1995
7 Schools
Light Blue shirts
with TBA Logo

APRIL 25
1996
7 Schools
Mentioned in
Newspaper
Dark Blue shirts

MARCH 26
1997
9 Schools
Dark Blue shirts
with TBA Logo

MARCH 19
1998
White shirts
with Blue TBA
Logo

APRIL 13
1999
"Read Five
Then Decide"
White shirt
Cake

Data obtained from photo documentation and interviews with participating SISD librarians.
SISD Bluebonnet Committee

Marcy Sparks, Library Services

- Responsible for coordinating all activities
- Maintains question bank
- PR Contact / Social Media
- Battle of the Bluebonnets Manual

Library Services Department

- Competition technology/devices
- Assist with scheduling buses & securing competition space
- Order books for each library
- Register all participating schools for the Texas Bluebonnet Award
- Order trophies, certificates, and awards

Librarian Collaboration

- Program support and suggestions
- Offer suggestions for the Battle of the Bluebonnets Manual
Battle of the Bluebonnets

Preparation for Competition

- Each school can determine how to implement the program either with small reading groups or campus-wide involvement.
- In order to participate in voting, each campus will need to pay $15. This fee will be covered by Library Services for this school year.
- Library competition will be held for Texas Bluebonnet Award book displays in their library. Librarians who submit photos of their displays will be judged and awards will be given at the Battle of the Bluebonnet event.
- Also a #SISD_READS Award will be given to the librarian who best promotes their TBA program through Twitter during the TBA Voting (the entire month of January).

Teams

- Each campus’ librarian will be the coach for their Bluebonnet Team.
- Each school may compete with one team of five students. The five students must include at least one representative from third, fourth and fifth grade. The other two students can be from any of the three eligible grades.
- It is not required that all individual members read all books; however, the combined reading of the team should read all the books on the list.
- Selecting the team is up to each librarian. The committee will provide questions for each book that can be used to determine whether or not students have a good understanding of the books they have read. Scores from these quizzes can be used to determine the make-up of the team.
- Librarians will complete the Registration Form for submitting the names of the team members. This form will be due February 3, 2017.
- Each team will be identified by their school name and mascot. Teams are encouraged to wear matching shirts that can be custom designed, matching colors, or their school uniforms.

Competition Rules

- Teams will sit together so they can collaborate on the answers.
- Each team will be provided one device to submit their responses.
- Teams will be identified by the name of their school.
- Each question will be worth one point. The team with the most points wins!
- In the event of a tie, a “tie-breaker” question will be asked and the team to first answer the question correctly will win.
- The winning school will be awarded a “traveling trophy” to display in their school library until the next competition and each student will receive a trophy.
• All participants will be awarded participation certificates.
• Medals will be awarded to members of the second and third place teams.
• Any disputes on scores and/or accusations of cheating must be brought to the attention of the committee prior to the award ceremony.

**Competition Day Schedule**

• **Arrival and Registration** (Turn in photo release forms, pick up goody bags)
• **Introduction of the competition, teams, and host**
• **Competition begins!** The scores will be tallied by the software used for the quiz. 30-40 questions (approximately 2 per book)
• **Any tie breakers**
• **Illustrator Sketch Off** Introduction of high school students and MC
  o Students will compete in 3 rounds of sketches based on the MC’s instructions.
  o Judges will complete rubrics and include audience applause as a factor.
  o One winner will be chosen.
• **Awards**
  o The top three teams will be announced starting with 3rd place, 2nd place and 1st place teams.
  o The winner of the Illustrator Sketch Off will be announced.
  o The winner of the Librarian Bluebonnet Display competition will be announced.
• **Closing Remarks and Thank You**

**Responsibilities of the Master of Ceremonies for the Battle of the Bluebonnets**

• Local newscaster will be invited to fill this role.
• Brief welcome for students that includes the importance of reading.
• Read aloud all questions and answer choices.
• Questions will be provided in large text to easily read while moving around the room.

**Master of Ceremonies**

• Superintendent welcome and kickoff
• The award ceremony can be presented by all administrators in attendance.

**Sketch-Off Judges**

• Judges will be the Assistant Superintendents for Elementary and Secondary.
• Judges will engage audience and illustrators while the event takes place.
High School Sketch-Off

- High schools will submit ONE exceptional illustrator/sketch artist. It is up to the schools to determine the process for choosing the student. A campus sketch-off is one suggestion.
- During the Battle of the Bluebonnets the students will compete against other high school illustrators in this impromptu activity.
- Participants will be asked to model illustrator styles from illustrators represented in the current Texas Bluebonnet Award Master List.
- Judges will use a rubric to score and a winner will be determined.
- Winner will receive a plaque. The winning artist’s work will be displayed.
- Topics can include things like “Draw your school mascot reading a book.”
- Filming illustrators to broadcast on the large screens may be done through Periscope app or Facebook Live streaming.
Team Registration Form 2016-2017

**School Name:** (Type here)

**Librarian:** (Type here)

### Team Members

Print or Type the names of each student. Spelling is important for certificates and possible media appearances. There must be at least one member from each grade and no more than five members.

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Name</th>
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Bring a copy of a signed Photo Release form to the competition for each student.

Complete this form and email to mpayne@sisd.net by Feb. 3, 2017 to ensure your team members receive their official certificate.

### Reminders for competition:

1. Have team members eat prior to the scheduled bus pick up.
2. Due to limited space, parents will not be able to attend.
3. Bring a school/team inspired centerpiece for your table; do not exceed 18” in height.
High School Entry Form 2016-2017

School Name:  (Type here)

Librarian:  (Type here)

Librarian:  (Type here)

Illustrator

Print or Type the name of the student. Spelling is important for certificates. Include pronunciation if necessary.

Name:  (Type here)  ID:  (Type here)

Provide a brief biography of the student to be used during their introduction and in the competition program. (100-150 words)

Bring a copy of a signed Photo Release form to the competition.

Complete this form and email to mpayne@sisd.net by Feb 3, 2017. Each campus can only submit one illustrator.