

-Focus-

EDUCATION

-Issue-

Greater West Houston must continue to create and maintain high-quality educational infrastructure and programs ("Pipelines") to provide an educated workforce needed to maintain and grow the local economy. The area must also address how to sustain and expand educational quality in our region to ensure that families desire to live in West Houston ("Rooftops"). Most families in Greater West Houston have access to quality primary education, yet four-year college degrees appear increasingly unaffordable and unattainable. Greater West Houston has 15 school districts and multiple higher education providers within its boundaries. Many of these school districts — Katy ISD (72,725 students), CyFair ISD (113,656 students), Spring Branch ISD (35,246 students), Ft. Bend ISD (72,910 students) and Lamar Consolidated ISD (29,631 students) — provide quality education in K-12.

-Goal-

These school districts and others must maintain very high standards to continue to drive residential and job growth in Greater West Houston. Greater West Houston should maintain and extend its educational advantage. Its primary and secondary educational institutions should compete on a national and international stage.

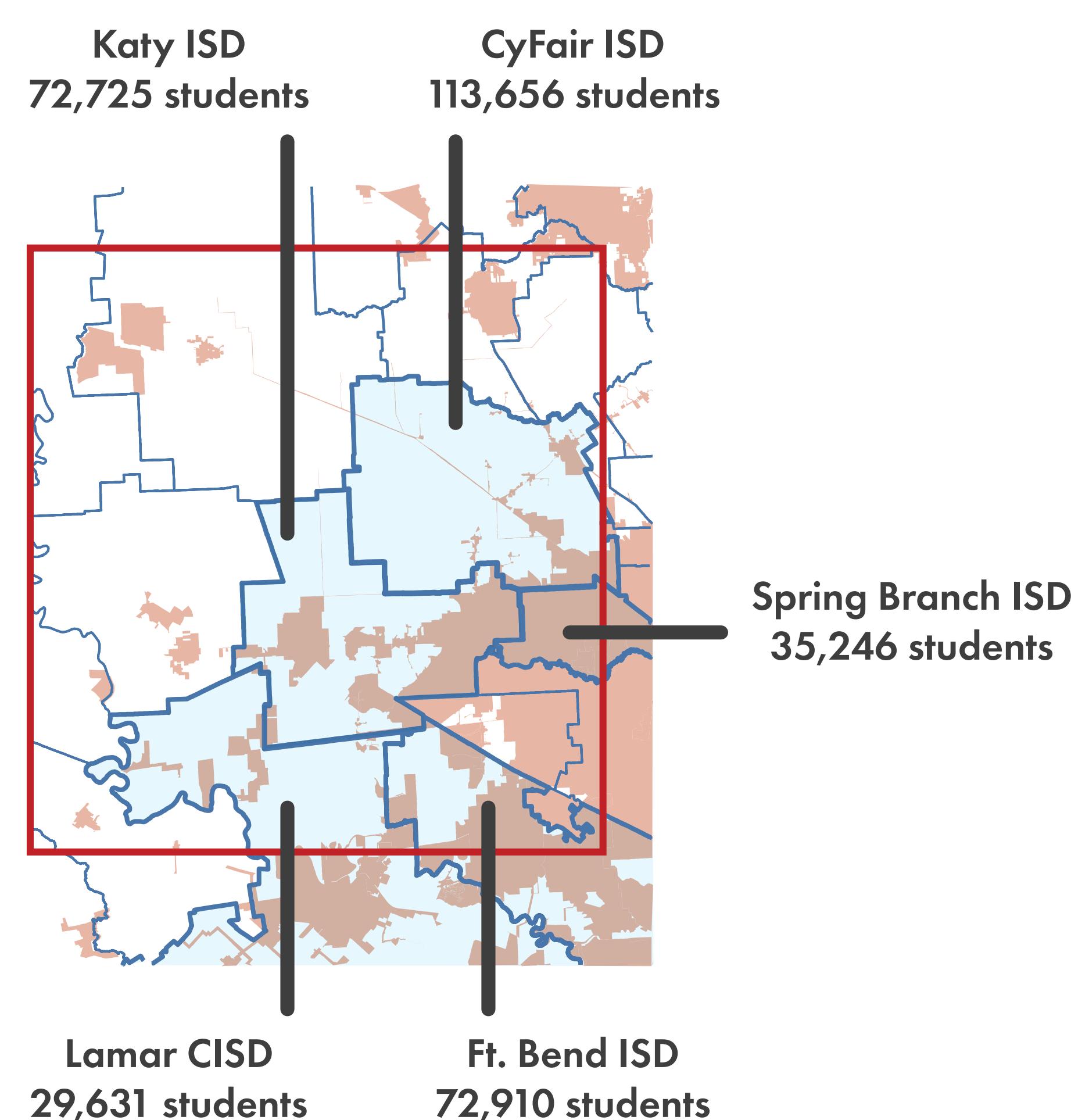
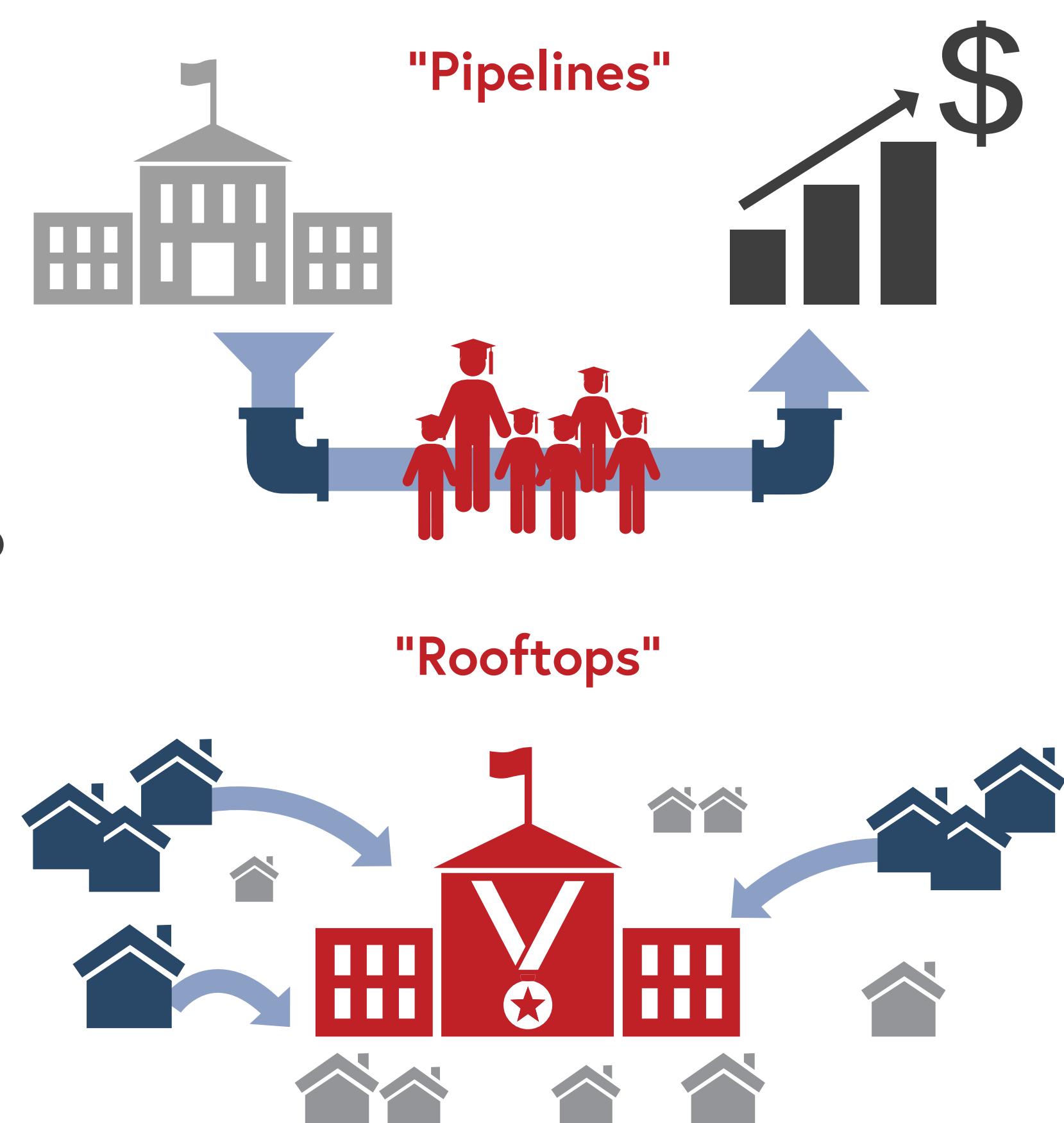
-Education & Workforce Development Committee-

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Challenges & Opportunities

- **Costs & Quality.** Struggling school districts not only limit educational opportunities for families but also limit opportunities to develop high-quality housing and the broader economy.
- **Investment for the Future.** Few public investments provide greater returns for the community as high-quality educational infrastructure.
- **Left Behind.** Districts with inadequate tax bases lack financial resources to build new schools, to maintain existing schools and programs, and to compete for teachers and new technology.
- **Collaboration.**
- **Changing Demands.** The skills that employers and customers are seeking are rapidly changing and education must quickly evolve to meet those needs.
- **Sharing Information & Space.** WHA is helping educators and employers work together to improve educational and career programs to provide students and employees with deep knowledge and the ability to continue learning.
- **Thinking Ahead.** Facilities must also remain adaptable—the space must accommodate future demands while keeping an inviting aesthetic.

**-Initiatives-**

The University of Houston at Katy coming in fall 2019.

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