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DALLAS COWBOYS AND TEXAS LOTTERY TEAM UP TO SUPPORT FRISCO ISD'S GO BABY GO STUDENT MOBILITY PROGRAM

Engineering Students Granted Funds to Adapt Ride-On Cars for Early Childhood Students

FRISCO, TEXAS – The Dallas Cowboys have partnered with the Texas Lottery to provide Frisco ISD with a \$30,000 grant that will support STEM education and adaptive programming through the district's GO BABY GO initiative. The grant will be managed by the Frisco Education Foundation and split across a two-year agreement that will fund approximately 40 GO BABY GO ride-on cars for students with limited mobility.

Dallas Cowboys Legend Chad Hennings will join Texas Lottery Executive Director Gary Grief and representatives from Frisco ISD for a check presentation on Wednesday, February 23 at 1:00 PM at the district's Career and Technical Center.

"The Dallas Cowboys are excited to team up with the Texas Lottery to support Frisco ISD and their GO BABY GO program," said Charlotte Jones, Executive Vice President and Chief Brand Officer. "All students, regardless of their challenges, deserve a degree of independence and confidence that this initiative provides. At the same time, it is an awesome way for high school students to put their engineering and STEM skills to work and make an impact on the quality of life of younger students."

GO BABY GO (GBG) is an international grassroots open-source movement focused on real-time, real-world solutions for mobility. The GBG movement began at the University of Delaware with a mission to focus on mobility as a human right and thriving on innovation, academic research, and community outreach by using modified ride-on cars to provide social mobility experiences and offering students with mobility issues independence and self-expression.

"The Texas Lottery is proud to partner with the Dallas Cowboys to support public education initiatives in Texas," said Gary Grief, executive director of the Texas Lottery. "We look forward to witnessing the impact that the GO BABY GO STEM project will have on both these young learners and these creative high school students."

Frisco ISD's GBG program began in 2016 when district Physical Therapist Jennifer Cox and Active Learning Classroom teacher Lindsay Brittain learned of the University of Delaware effort and attended a workshop. Using funds gifted to them by the Frisco Education Foundation, the two obtained a car for a student at the FISD Early Childhood School, modified the electric vehicle and witnessed the tremendous impact it had on the student's growth and development.

Now, under the direction of instructor Kelly Tungett, high school engineering students at the Frisco ISD Career and Technical Center help modify GBG cars utilizing 3D printing and other industrial products. Since its inception, the program has gifted more than 30 cars to deserving students across the district.

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"This project gives students the ability to move independently, many for the first time in in their lives," Brittain said. "But more than that, it gives them a sense of purpose, freedom and joy."

GBG provides an intersection between STEM curriculum and special education needs. According to the International Technology and Engineering Educators Association (ITEEA), assistive technologies like GBG can make a significant impact on the quality of life for millions of children with physical limitations.

In 2019, a toddler unable to move independently may face up to a two-year wait for a power wheelchair that could cost their families between \$10,000-\$40,000. Using light-adaptations to electric ride-on cars, GBG provides an economic and creative mobility solution at a fraction of the cost of a power chair. The recommended spending framework for a GBG vehicle is \$500-1,000 per car – allowing for sufficient funds for the car itself, modifications and maintenance.

Teachers and staff loan the GBG cars out to new drivers for use at home and school until they outgrow the vehicle. The new influx of cars will allow the program to expand and allow students to check the cars out for home use during the summer months, as well as allowing access to cars for other students whose mobility challenges may also cause need for independence.

"We are grateful for the support of the Dallas Cowboys and Texas Lottery and can't wait to see the impact this grant will have on both our youngest learners and the future engineers of Frisco," Cox said. "The possibilities are endless."

The Dallas Cowboys and Texas Lottery partner on community outreach efforts tied to education throughout the year. For more than six years, the two have collaborated on the Funds for Fitness grant program which awards \$60,000 annually to Texas public school educators looking to create and implement youth health and wellness initiatives in their classrooms. In 2021 the Dallas Cowboys and Texas Lottery created the 'Everybody Plays Field Day' at The Star in Frisco - an adaptive Cowboys youth football camp – which allowed special education students to experience the fun of football alongside their mainstream classmates. The GBG effort brings STEM education and inclusion to the partnership with impacts being felt across grade levels.

For more information about the Dallas Cowboys and Gene and Jerry Jones Family Foundation, visit www.dallascowboys.com/community.

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About the Texas Lottery

Beginning with the first ticket sold in 1992, the Texas Lottery has generated \$34.3 billion in revenue for the state and distributed \$73 billion in prizes to lottery players. Since 1997, the Texas Lottery has contributed \$28.3 billion to the Foundation School Fund, which supports public education in Texas. As

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authorized by the Texas Legislature, certain Texas Lottery revenues benefit state programs including the Fund for Veterans' Assistance. Since the first veterans' themed scratch ticket game was launched in 2009, the Texas Lottery has contributed more than \$174 million for programs supporting Texas veterans.

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