

ADDISON

New School in North Texas Could Be Key to Solving Staffing Issues in Aviation Industry

Rising Aviation HS in Addison is sparking interest in the youth to pursue careers in aviation as a pilot, mechanic or engineer

By **Alanna Quillen** • Published June 15, 2022 • Updated on June 15, 2022 at 11:34 am



With summer travel demand surging past pre-pandemic levels, passengers are dealing with cancellations and delays.

It's made worse by the [ongoing pilot shortage](#) and staffing crisis.

Major airlines are in full recruitment mode and local programs [might be the key](#) to bringing new talent into the industry.

Filling the Gap

There was talk of a pilot shortage even before the pandemic.

But when air travel plunged in 2020, it forced so many pilots into furloughs and early retirement. Now there's this huge gap to fill for years to come.

[According to database company Statista](#), North American will be in need of about 130,000 pilots in the next 20 years.

Programs that help encourage interest in aviation might be a source for the industry to tap into for new talent.

[Rising Aviation High School](#) in Addison is literally a high school for students who want to fly straight into a career in the aviation industry.

[Classes are geared toward](#) training to not only be a pilot but to also follow career paths in being a mechanic, engineer, and working for dispatch or air traffic control.

"This is a brand new program. There's no other program around that we know of, especially here in the Texas area, that is aviation centric. It's housed in an airport where students are immersed from the moment they arrive to the moment they leave," said Principal and lead flight instructor Brent Fitzgerald.

