



Official Bio of Jerry Sutterfield  
Texas Girls Coaches Association  
2015 Inductee TCGA Hall of Fame

For nearly 40 years, Coach Jerry Sutterfield has given kids his heart, and, in return, they have accomplished more than they ever imagined possible—and the same can be said of him.

In the course of his 36-year career—30 of them at Highland Park Independent School District—he has coached more than 10,000 student athletes, and has mentored another 20,000 non-athletes. In his coach’s notebook, all of them are winners.

Under Coach Sutterfield, the Girls Cross-Country Teams at Highland Park High School won a record nine UIL 4A State Championships, including three in a row, twice —1997, 1998, 1999, and 2010, 2011 and 2012.

During his 18-year tenure as a cross-country coach (1994-2012), his teams earned 14 first, second and third-place medals.

In 1999, Jerry was named the National High School Girls Cross Country Coach of The Year; in 2001 *The Dallas Morning News* High School Cross Country Coach of the Year; and in 2011, one of 20 coaches nationwide selected as a National Double Goal Coach by Positive Coaching Alliance. In all, Coach Sutterfield has been recognized as a “Coach of the Year” by various groups 14 times.

In March of 2015, Coach Sutterfield received the 2015 Baylor University College of Education Most Memorable Teacher Award, for which a former student nominated him.

Born and raised in Tulsa, Oklahoma, Coach Sutterfield graduated from Oklahoma State University in 1979 and began his career as an industrial arts teacher with the Carrollton-Farmers Branch school district.

In 1985, he joined the Highland Park school district as a junior high industrial arts teacher and football and track & field coach.

In 1987-88 school year, he became Head Boys' Track & Field Coach at Highland Park High School and that same year obtained a Master's Degree in Industrial Technology from East Texas State University.

In 1992-93, he became Head Junior Varsity Football Coach at Highland Park High School, and continued with his other teaching and coaching duties.

In 1994-95, he was named Head Girls' and Boys' Cross Country Coach and Head Girls and Boys' Track & Field Coach at Highland Park High School, and continued to teach at McCulloch Middle School, where he was named Teacher of The Year in 1996.

In 1996-97, Coach Sutterfield began coaching girls only, as Head Girls' Cross Country and Head Girls' Track & Field coach while teaching at the Discovery Center at Highland Park Middle School, an assignment he took the year before.

In 2003, he became Director of Women's Athletics for HPISD and continued his Head Coaching responsibilities for girls cross country and track & field until the 2008-2009 school year when he removed himself as Head Girls' Track & Field Coach to focus on the girls cross country team, which, by this time, was attracting an average of 125-140 girls per season who wanted to run on his team.

In 2012, Coach Sutterfield obtained his Texas Principal Certificate.

Following the 2013 Girls' Cross Country State Championship (Class 4A), Coach Sutterfield announced his retirement from Highland Park. However, at the request of the district, Coach Sutterfield has remained in a part-time leadership role, serving as HPISD's new Coordinator for Student Integrity & Compliance, a program that features innovative student-led initiatives to combat alcohol and substance abuse through character development curricula, special speakers, student support groups and teacher training.

Currently a member of the Southwest Track & Field Officials Association (SWTFOA), which is associated with USA Track & Field, Coach Sutterfield is working on obtaining a Master certification level. He is currently at Apprentice level.

Coach Sutterfield and his wife, Coletta, have been married 26 years and have one son, Daniel, a 2013 HPHS graduate and a sophomore at The University of Texas at Dallas. Coach Sutterfield is currently Chair of the Diaconate at Northway Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in Dallas, where he and his family have been members for over 20 years.

“Our community knows Coach Sutterfield has exerted a tremendous positive influence on HPISD students, parents and staff lives through his blending of high expectations, high support and commitment to excellence,” said HPISD Supt. Dr. Dawson Orr.