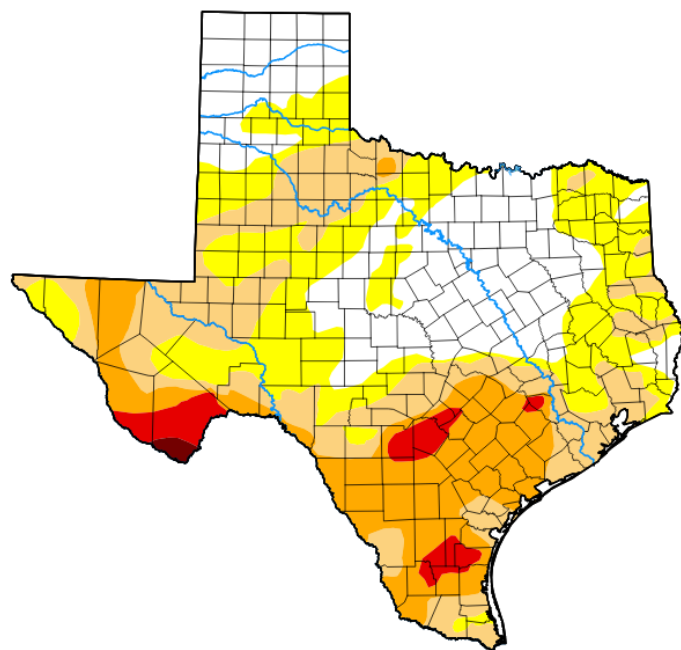


### **Current conditions:**

As of December 11, 2025, the drought across Kendall County continues, as expected, because of impact from the on-going dry La Niña event. According to the US Drought Monitor Map attached below, the intensity of the drought ranges from D1 (moderate drought) across most of the county to D2 (severe drought) across the far southern section of the county. Our on-going weak La Niña event is expected to continue to bring us drier than average and warmer than average conditions through the first quarter of next year.

## Texas

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**Map released: Thurs. December 11, 2025**

Data valid: December 9, 2025 at 7 a.m. EST

### **Intensity**

- None
- D0 (Abnormally Dry)
- D1 (Moderate Drought)
- D2 (Severe Drought)
- D3 (Extreme Drought)
- D4 (Exceptional Drought)
- No Data

### **Authors**

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This is the last educational topic for 2025. In 2026, we are shifting to quarterly educational topics. So, only four written education topics are planned to be provided next year. We do encourage and want your feedback so please reach out to the District with ideas and questions you want us to address.

As a brief reminder, the District meets monthly (usually on the second Monday of each month) during the evening to discuss the District's matters in which regulatory-based water management decisions are made, as directly applicable only to water wells across Kendall County.

Throughout 2025, we started our efforts to incorporate more science and the latest available tools into the District's groundwater management procedures. These efforts and tools were discussed in detail within the bi-monthly educational topics provided to the public for consumption at no cost via the

District's Facebook account as well as the District's website. We encourage you to go through each of those short reads to familiarize yourself with the District's efforts to date. This past year at the District there was a heavy emphasis on education. Today, we discuss what are the plans at the District throughout 2026 to address the on-going efforts to incorporate more science into the monthly water-use restriction drought stage decision.

In 2026, the main focus, a very strong effort, will be on the development of a local drought index decision tool. We expect to spend a lot of time-consuming hours conducting research and development (R&D) to move the development of this local index forward into existence. Thus, this is the main reason for reducing the number and frequency of educational topics in 2026. This does not mean there will be no educational efforts, just a minimization so we can focus on the index.

The development of the index is priority because there is a demand to get it implemented. The District needs a tool for use at the monthly meetings to assist with the drought restriction stage decision the District's board implements.

The development of the index, although not a comprehensive list, will likely consider drought indices, well monitoring data, precipitation and evapotranspiration data, water-use logs and geographic features available across Kendall County and surrounding areas within the adjacent counties. On that note, we have reached out to the Hill Country Underground Water Conservation District serving Gillespie County to get their insight on how they developed and use their index decision tool.

As for hardware and software availability, these components are already in place as the District's index should easily run locally on a Windows OS server that has a combination of statistical-based softwares for use to conduct R&D such as MS Excel, RStudio and NCSS.

This index is intended to be a simple set of mathematical algorithms that has the capability to scale up over time being repetitively used each month with its predictive output available for consideration at each monthly District meeting.

The idea of the use of the index is to predict what the state of the groundwater condition is expected to be for the month ahead so that the appropriate drought restriction stage can be scientifically produced for consideration for the board's decision at the District meeting. Other independent resources outside of the index will still be used to support or deny the index's monthly prediction. The index is intended to be an additional localized tool specific to and developed for Kendall County as atmospheric and groundwater changes occur.

In conclusion, development of the index comes first. We may be able to begin the testing of the index decision tool sometime later in 2026.

Throughout 2026 stay tuned into the District's Facebook account, as Texas Hill Country Weather Services, LLC (TXHCWS) will continue to provide regular weather forecast updates, seasonal weather outlooks, index development updates and drought-related tidbits. As for the written educational topics, these topics will be minimized to only four next year with these updates provided on both the District's Facebook account and its website.

Merry Christmas, Happy New Year 2026 and may you all have safe holiday travels.