



## Press Release

### **EMBARGOED**

For release of July 29, 1 p.m.

#### **NISD Celebrates Another Year as a ‘Recognized’ District**

The Texas Education Agency (TEA) has deemed Northwest ISD a ‘Recognized’ school district according to the 2011 accountability ratings. The district’s ‘Recognized’ rating reflects the actual performance of NISD students meaning the Texas Performance Measure (TPM), which was used in previous years to give districts accountability credit, was not used to factor the district’s overall rating. NISD has maintained its ‘Recognized’ status since 2008.

“We are celebrating the hard work of students and teachers as they create challenging learning experiences in their classroom,” said Superintendent Karen G. Rue, Ed.D. “This state accountability rating is one reflection of the successes our students have achieved.”

The state accountability system is based on student performance on the Texas Assessment of Knowledge and Skills (TAKS). The TAKS data indicates considerable gains in subjects and grade levels.

At the district level:

- Five campuses received an ‘Exemplary’ rating.
- 14 campuses received a ‘Recognized’ rating.
- 29 of the 33 performance accountability indicators are at the ‘Exemplary’ range for NISD.
- English Language Learners (ELL) progress indicator was at the ‘Exemplary’ level.
- The percentage
- of students who achieved passing standards is listed by subject:
  - Social Studies – 99%
  - Reading/ELA – 95%
  - Writing – 94%
  - Science – 94%
  - Math – 92%

Northwest ISD, along with school districts across the state of Texas, is transitioning to the State of Texas Assessments of Academic Readiness (STAAR), a new test which includes 12 end-of-course (EOC) assessments mandated by SB 1031 in 2007 and the new grade three through eight assessments mandated by HB 3 in 2009. This new state assessment will be administered in the 2011-2012 school year. According to the Texas Education Agency (TEA), the key changes represented in STAAR are:

- increase in difficulty and rigor of test,
- emphasis on college-ready initiatives,
- students in grades three through eight will be tested in reading and math,
- students in specific grades are also tested in science, social studies, and writing,
- a four-hour time limit, and
- high school students will take 12 end-of-course exams (three each in English, math, science, and social studies). The STAAR end-of-course exams will be phased in with ninth-graders this school year.

**-more-**

“Northwest ISD has been preparing for students to succeed in post-graduate endeavors in preparation for the competitive workplace by teaching a rigorous curriculum and providing innovative opportunities through digital classrooms. As with any change comes new transitions, challenges and opportunities,” said Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction Edward Chevallier. “Our students will be equipped with the tools and resources needed to achieve success and rise above the standards on this new state assessment.”

Below are the TEA ratings by campus in Northwest ISD:

**Elementary School**

Beck, Samuel Elementary School	Exemplary
Granger, Kay Elementary School	Exemplary
Haslet Elementary School	Recognized
Hatfield, W.R. Elementary School	Recognized
Hughes, J. Lyndal Elementary School	Recognized
Justin Elementary School	Recognized
Lakeview Elementary School	Exemplary
Love, Clara Elementary School	Recognized
Nance, Sonny & Allegra Elementary School	Recognized
Peterson, O.A. Elementary School	Recognized
Prairie View Elementary School	Recognized
Roanoke Elementary School	Exemplary
Sendera Ranch Elementary School	Recognized
Seven Hills Elementary School	Recognized

**Middle Schools**

Medlin Middle School	Exemplary
Chisholm Trail Middle School	Recognized
Pike, Gene Middle School	Recognized
Tidwell, John M. Middle School	Recognized (campus opened in August 2010)

**High Schools**

Nelson, Byron High School	Recognized
Northwest High School	Acceptable
Steele, James M. Accelerated High School	Acceptable* (campus opened in August 2010)

\*In its inaugural year, James M. Steele Accelerated High School is an acceptable campus, which is the highest ranking under the Texas Alternative Accountability System. To compare Steele to schools ranked by the state’s Standard Accountability System, the campus met all requirements of a ‘Recognized’ campus.

Northwest ISD is the second fastest growing district in Texas, with more than 16,700 students. The NISD vision is to be the best and most sought-after school district where every student is future ready: ready for college, ready for the global workplace, and ready for personal success. The district will open two new campuses this school year: Carl E. Schluter Elementary School and J.C. Thompson Elementary School.

“We are eager to begin a new year with a strong academic focus where our students will thrive,” said Superintendent Rue.

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**Media Note: Northwest ISD Offices are closed Friday, July 29. Contact Emily Olson, Communications and Multimedia Specialist, at 940.535.8010 for more information.**