



## News Release

May 29, 2013  
For Immediate Release

### **Northwest ISD Shows Commitment to Keeping Schools Safe**

As the recipient of state and national recognition for its safety and security programs, Northwest ISD has maintained a commitment to providing a safe environment in which students can learn.

In an effort to seek continuous improvement, Northwest ISD retained ERCM Consultants to conduct a security audit of an NISD elementary, middle and high school, as well as review the district's safety and security policy and procedures. The results show a significant amount of work and capital has already been invested in the schools' physical security. Northwest ISD uses access control systems at front entrances, extensive video surveillance and two-way radio systems to facilitate communication between each school and law enforcement during an emergency. The NISD teachers, staff and community have accepted personal ownership in the protocols, procedures and drills designed to support school safety.

"Because of the success of the Northwest ISD safety and security program and leadership of Director Glenda Beam, I believe Northwest ISD is the safest school district in the nation," says Board Member Mark Schluter during the safety and security audit report at the May 28 school board meeting. "Beam should be commended. She pours her heart and soul into providing a safe environment for the students and staff in Northwest ISD."

Nearly 2,500 parents responded to the Northwest ISD parent survey conducted in February and approximately 89 percent agreed Northwest ISD provides a safe and orderly environment. Northwest ISD strives to provide premier facilities and support systems that enhance a positive learning environment and fosters student and community pride.

As Northwest ISD continues to grow in population, ERCM Consultants recommended integrating an interagency threat assessment team that includes district administration, law enforcement, mental health and juvenile justice partners. Additional recommendations include practicing a full scale reunification exercise with students, parents, school and district personnel to use in the aftermath of a crisis.

"Our team has rarely observed such a strong safety and security program within a district," noted ERCM Consultant John McDonald in his report.

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