



# PRESS RELEASE

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**TISD HOLDS HEARING ON AEIS AND NCLB STATUS;  
MAKES AMENDMENTS TO POLICY ON CLASS RANKING  
AND GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS  
DURING JANUARY BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING**

*Texarkana, TX* – During their Tuesday, January 17, 2012 regular session, the Texarkana Independent School District Board of Trustees held public hearings on the Academic Excellence Indicator System (AEIS) and No Child Left Behind (NCLB) Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) reports from Texas Education Agency for 2010-11.

Student performance results for the 2011 Texas Assessment of Knowledge and Skills (TAKS) testing in all subject areas give TISD Exemplary scores for Nash Elementary and Morriss Elementary. Highland Park Elementary and Spring Lark Park Elementary earned Recognized status and all remaining campuses – Dunbar Intermediate, Theron Jones Early Literacy Center, Wake Village Elementary, Westlawn Elementary, Texas Middle School, Texas High School and OPTIONS Academic Alternative High School – secured an Acceptable rating.

Additionally, TISD schools received twelve Gold Performance Acknowledgements from the Texas Education Association for high performance in math, writing, science and reading.

For the NCLB AYP report all campuses, excluding Texas Middle School, met federal standards.

“Our students and staff worked very hard last year on state testing efforts,” commented Paul Norton, Superintendent of Schools. “I am pleased with the results and proud of their academic efforts. We have Exemplary level scores in Reading/ELA, Writing and Social Studies and Recognized scores in Science. However, the state and federal mandates continue to be at odds with each other. Our efforts remain on meeting state standards and doing what is best for each child in terms of their individual learning ability.”

Both the AEIS and NCLB report for TISD can be found at [www.txkisd.net/campuses/](http://www.txkisd.net/campuses/)

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In other business, board members took action on amending several policies and administrative regulations that will need to reflect new state requirements as the State of Texas transitions from the Texas Assessment of Knowledge and Skills (TAKS) to State of Texas Assessments of Academic Readiness (STAAR).

According to Lori Ables, Director of Curriculum & Instruction, “based on new interpretations of recent legislation, school districts have several decisions to make concerning the provision that the STAAR End-of-Course (EOC) exam scores will count for 15% of the final course grade as reported on the student’s transcript. With this requirement several issues surface, including the award of credit, class rank, test re-takes and score conversion.”

Amended Policy EIC (Local) which originally stated that EOC exams shall not be used in calculations for class rank will now state that *“the district shall include the initial EOC assessment score in class rank calculations. If a student retakes an EOC assessment during the first available retake of the summer assessment administration and achieves a higher score than the students’ original score, the higher score shall replace the original score in class rank calculations. No other retake scores shall be included in class rank calculations.”*

For Policy EIF (Local) and Policy EIF (Exhibit) on Academic Achievement: Graduation, the amended policy will now reflect new state and local graduation requirements effective in 2011-12 for all high school students. “These changes will provide a benefit by allowing our students more freedom in choosing foundation and enrichment courses that may be taken as state credits,” continued Ables.

Changes will include: state requirement for one (1) credit of physical education rather than 1.5 credits; the elimination of state-required electives in Health; the elimination of state-required electives in Technology Applications; the addition of courses that may be used for the graduation requirement in English Language Arts, mathematics, science, physical education and career and technology education; and, the addition of a fine arts credit on the Minimum Plan.

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