

December 11, 2003

## **26 Texas schools nominated for No Child Left Behind—Blue Ribbon School award**

AUSTIN—Twenty-six Texas schools have been nominated by the Texas Education Agency for the U.S. Department of Education's (USDE) revamped Blue Ribbon Schools Program for 2003-2004.

The program, which has been redesigned to reflect the goals of the nation's No Child Left Behind (NCLB) federal education act, recognizes outstanding schools that are either academically superior in their states or that demonstrate dramatic and consistent gains in student achievement.

The No Child Left Behind—Blue Ribbon Schools Program will recognize schools based on student achievement results, rather than the education process. The redesigned program requires schools to meet one of two new assessment criteria. It recognizes schools that have at least 40 percent of their students from disadvantaged backgrounds and have shown dramatically improved student performance in accordance with state assessment systems; or it recognizes schools that score in the top 10 percent on state assessments.

At least two thirds of the nominees submitted must meet the criteria in which 40 percent of the students come from disadvantaged backgrounds and show dramatic improvement on the state test.

The program requires each state to base its nomination on the national guidelines, along with its own criteria.

For 2003-04, the Texas Education Agency used the following criteria to select its national nominees:

For 2003-04, a campus is a Blue Ribbon campus nominee if it had at least 95 percent of its eligible test takers take the Texas Assessment of Academic Skills (TAAS) or Texas Assessment of Knowledge and Skills (TAKS), had an Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) status of "Met Standard," and had an accountability rating of Exemplary, Recognized, or Acceptable in 2002. Additional criteria required that a campus:

1. had improved TAAS passing rates in reading or language arts and mathematics from 2000 to 2002, as well as TAKS passing rates for 2003. The reading or language arts and math scores were summed and averaged and the campuses with the most improved scores for the last three years were selected. The State of Texas selected two-thirds (18) of the 26 nominees from schools in which at least 40 percent of their students have economically disadvantaged backgrounds.
2. was in the top 10 percent of the schools in the state in student performance on the TAKS in reading or language arts and mathematics in 2003, regardless of the

background of the students in the school. The schools were ranked by the sum of their reading or language arts and math scores, using a percentile option.

Chief Deputy Commissioner Robert Scott praised the nominees and commended them for the advancements they have made. “We are very proud to have submitted these nominations for the NCLB—Blue Ribbon Schools Program. These 26 nominees are among many outstanding campuses we have here in Texas,” he said. “We are very pleased with these schools and I applaud their staff, students, parents, and community for their commitment and hard work to improve student achievement.”

The program recognizes both secondary and elementary schools this year. Since the program began in 1982, 347 Texas public schools have earned the Blue Ribbon School award.

The 26 nominees have been submitted to the USDE in Washington, D.C. Letters of invitation and applications have been sent to the nominated schools. The applications are due to the USDE by Feb. 11, 2004. The USDE will announce the No Child Left Behind—Blue Ribbon School recipients in the fall of 2004, followed by a ceremony in Washington D.C. honoring the recipients.

The Blue Ribbon Schools program was established by the Education Department in 1982 and was redesigned in 2002 under the No Child Left Behind to reflect the program’s high standards and accountability. The Blue Ribbon program will recognize schools that are meeting the NCLB mission to “ensure every child learns, and no child is left behind.”

A list of the 26 Texas schools nominated for the 2003-2004 Blue Ribbon Schools Program follows below.

More information on the No Child Left Behind—Blue Ribbon Schools Program is available on the Texas Education Agency’s web site at <http://www.tea.state.tx.us/awards/br/index.html> .

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**Texas NCLB--Blue Ribbon School Nominees Showing Improvement in Test Results with a student population that is at least 40% Economically Disadvantaged**

<b>DISTRICT</b>	<b>CAMPUS NAME</b>	<b>PRINCIPAL</b>	<b>REGION</b>
Uvalde CISD	Anthon Elementary School	Mr. Michael Thompson	Region 17
Balmorhea ISD	Balmorhea School	Mrs. Mary Lou Carrasco	Region 18
Dallas ISD	James Bonham Elementary School	Mr. Pedro Galaviz	Region 10
San Antonio ISD	Brewer Elementary School	Ms. Adriana Perez	Region 20
Dallas ISD	John Bryan Elementary School	Ms. Orethann Price	Region 10
Dallas ISD	R. C. Buckner Elementary School	Ms. Ona Calvo	Region 10
Fort Worth ISD	Carroll Peak Elementary School	Ms. Lear Linton	Region 11
Brownsboro ISD	Chandler Elementary School	Mrs. Rhonda McCallie	Region 7
Crockett ISD	Crockett Elementary School	Mrs. Ann Fiolek	Region 6
Gatesville ISD	Gatesville Elementary School	Ms. Pamela Bone	Region 12
Fort Worth ISD	Glen Park Elementary School	Ms. Cassandra Morris-Surles	Region 11
Marble Falls ISD	Highland Lakes Elementary School	Mrs. Karol French	Region 13
Denver City ISD	Kelley Elementary School	Mr. Ricky Cox	Region 17
Austin ISD	Pillow Elementary School	Ms. Linda Webb	Region 13
Spring Branch ISD	Treasure Forest Elementary School	Ms. Imelda De La Guardia	Region 4
Wills Point ISD	Wills Point Intermediate	Mrs. Jeanne Deen	Region 10
Winnsboro ISD	Winnsboro Elementary School	Dr. Bettye Herlocker	Region 7
Perryton ISD	James Wright Elementary School	Mrs. Tina Clyburn	Region 16

**Texas NCLB--Blue Ribbon School Nominees in Top 10% of Test Results**

Crawford ISD	Crawford Elementary School	Mrs. Linda Stout	Region 12
Gruver ISD	Gruver Elementary School	Mrs. Diane Brown	Region 16
Gunter ISD	Gunter Elementary School	Mrs. Cheyrl Cohagan	Region 10
Calhoun CISD	Port O'Connor Elementary School	Ms. Marilyn Bratcher	Region 3
Prairie Valley ISD	Prairie Valley Elementary School	Ms. Leslie Christian	Region 9
Houston ISD	T. H. Rogers Elementary School	Ms. Nancy Manley	Region 4
Walcott ISD	Walcott Elementary School	Dr. Bill S. McLaughlin	Region 16
Plemons-Stinnett-Phillips CISD	West Texas Elementary School	Mr. Garey Dozier	Region 16