



PRESS RELEASE

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**STUDENT ACADEMIC PERFORMANCE REPORT GIVEN
AT TISD BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING;
MORRISS ELEMENTARY APPLICATION AND SELECTION PROCESS
FOR KINDERGARTEN APPROVED FOR 2011-2012 SCHOOL YEAR**

Texarkana, TX – During their Tuesday, October 19, 2010 regular session, the Texarkana Independent School District Board of Trustees were updated on Student Academic Performance for the 2009-2010 school year.

“Our Tiger Family of students and staff worked exceptionally hard this past year in earning Exemplary level scores in three (3) subject areas and Recognized scores in two (2) subject areas on the 2010 Texas Assessment of Knowledge and Skills (TAKS) testing,” commented James Henry Russell, Superintendent of Schools. “We have increased our scores in Math, Science and Social Studies and are maintaining our levels in Writing and Reading/ELA.”

“Campus ratings have five elementary campuses at the Exemplary status – Highland Park Elementary, Morriss Elementary, Nash Elementary, Spring Lake Park Elementary and Wake Village Elementary. Our Dunbar Elementary, Theron Jones Early Literacy Center and Westlawn Elementary campuses remained at the Recognized level with Texas Middle School, Texas High School and OPTIONS Academic Alternative campuses at Acceptable,” he continued.

A strong highlight of the Student Academic Performance report was data presented on the Dual Credit Program at Texas High School. This program allows students the opportunity to enroll in college-level courses and to earn high school as well as college credit for the completed coursework. The program provides a continuum of learning from high school to college for those students who choose to pursue a post-secondary degree or certificate after high school graduation. This continuum increases opportunities for students to progress through their programs of study at an accelerated pace.

“Texas High School currently offers thirty-seven Dual Credit courses to our students,” stated Lori Ables, Director of Curriculum & Instruction. “We have experienced an outstanding 359% increase in student enrollment and credit earned within this program over the past five years.”

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“Our program allows students to shorten the time required to complete an undergraduate degree and helps to eliminate the duplication of courses taken in high school and in college. The advanced curriculum provides a background for students that will sharpen their academic preparedness for college. At the same time, the program expands the options available for college-bound students.”

With Dual Credit classes, students are required to pay college tuition for the courses. Need based scholarships are available through TISD for concurrent enrollment students who qualify.

Additionally, TISD continues to see increases not only in student participation in the Advanced Placement (AP) Program but in the number of students scoring “3” or higher on the test. During the last five years, Texas High has seen a 34% increase in AP Program enrollment with an 80% increase in students scoring “3” or higher.

The AP Program allows high school students the opportunity to enroll in a college-level course and to possibly earn college credit for that course while in high school. Enrollment in the Advanced Placement Program provides an academic background that will better prepare students for college and the award of college credit hours during the high school years.

“High school students must successfully complete the AP Exam in order to receive college credit for the course,” said Ables. “Each college sets its own policy for the award of AP credit, determining which score is successful and how much college credit will be awarded. Generally, colleges accept a score of “3” with credit ranging from three to six semester college hours per test.”

Since AP courses are a part of the Texas High curriculum, there is no charge to the student for taking the AP course. A fee is required if a student chooses to take the exam for a subject; however, reduced fees for students qualifying for the Federal Lunch Program are available.

In other business, approval of the 2011-2012 application and selection process for Kindergarten at Morriss Elementary School was approved.

Applications will be accepted beginning November 1 and will be available for download at www.txkisd.net or at the TISD Central Office, 4241 Summerhill Road. Completed applications must be submitted no later than November 19 in person or via postal mail to 4241 Summerhill Road, Texarkana, Texas 75503. An acknowledgement receipt will be given at the time of submission. Proof of residency (current photo id or driver’s license along with a utility statement, lease agreement or tax appraisal statement) will be required with all applications.

Students must be five years old by September 1, 2011 to apply. All applicants will be required to take a Reading and Math Readiness Assessment in February/March 2011. This assessment is based upon the Texas

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Essential Knowledge and Skills (TEKS) for Pre-Kindergarten, Kindergarten and First Grade students. They can be found on the Texas Education Agency website at www.tea.state.tx.us. From there, select the "A-Z Index" and then click on TEKS.

The selection process for students will be based on a scoring rubric that awards points based on performance on the required assessments, sibling status and TISD district residency. Additional scoring points will be given to children of staff employed full time at Morriss Elementary School. Applicants with the highest composite score will be selected for admittance.

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