



PRESS RELEASE

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**MARSHA BURRIS SELECTED AS PRESIDENT-ELECT
FOR TEXAS ASSOCIATION FOR ALTERNATIVE EDUCATION**



Texarkana, TX – Serving as President-Elect for the Texas Association for Alternative Education (TAAE) during the upcoming two school years will be Marsha Burris, Principal of Texarkana Independent School District's OPTIONS Academic Alternative High School. Burris will assume the role of President in 2013 and serve in that position for two years followed by two additional years as Past President. She was chosen for the position from amongst her peers during the recent TAAE 20th Annual Conference held in Austin, TX on February 4-6.

Burris has been a member of TAAE since 2002 serving five years on the TAAE Legislative Committee, two years as Chairman. In 2009, she was elected Treasurer overseeing the Finance Committee for the organization. As part of her duties as President-Elect, she will oversee the duties of the Legislative and Bylaws Committees.

"I have already started working on setting up the TAAE Legislative Committee in order to get the ball rolling on contacting our state house and senate representatives to let them know that we cannot leave one Texas student behind in education. They must invest now in the future of our students," commented Burris.

Burris has been in the educational field for twenty-three years beginning as an Educational Aide with Birdville ISD. She became a member of the TISD Tiger Family in 1993 as a 6th Grade Science Teacher at Westlawn Middle School and continued in that role until 1999. During the 1999-2000 school year, she served in the Instructional Services Department as Coordinator of Testing, Textbook & Technology and in 2000 was named Principal of the OPTIONS Academic Alternative High School.

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The OPTIONS Academic Alternative High School was established to offer an alternative high school setting to students at-risk of dropping out of school. The school provides direction and opportunities designed to allow the non-traditional student to work at their own pace on individualized competency-based curriculum to achieve a high school diploma.

“I strongly believe in the mission of OPTIONS Academic Alternative High School,” stated Burris. “As educators, it is our responsibility to ensure every student has the opportunity to graduate from high school so that they can become responsible productive members of our community and our area workforce.”

Burris was selected in July 2008 and June 2010 by Raise Your Hand Texas (RYHT) as one of 100 public school leaders in Texas to attend the Summer Institutes at the Harvard Graduate School of Education. She is a member of the Texarkana Chamber of Commerce and Delta Kappa Gamma. She and her husband, Ricky Burris, have three children and two grandchildren.

The Texas Association for Alternative Education’s mission is to create a supportive network committed to providing a quality education for all students in Alternative Education.

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