



PRESS RELEASE

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**STUDENT ACADEMIC PERFORMANCE REPORT PRESENTED
DURING TISD BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING**

Texarkana, TX – During their Tuesday, October 18, 2011 regular session, the Texarkana Independent School District Board of Trustees were updated on Student Academic Performance for the 2010-2011 school year.

“For this past school year, TISD earned Exemplary level scores in three subject areas and Recognized scores in two subject areas on the 2011 Texas Assessment of Knowledge and Skills (TAKS),” commented Lori Ables, Director of Curriculum & Instruction. “I am pleased to report that our campuses have been able to maintain scores from last year in Math, Science, Social Studies, Writing and Reading/ELA.”

The number of students testing for college readiness through the Scholastic Aptitude Test (SAT) and American College Test (ACT) have dramatically increased. According to Ables, “the number of students taking the SAT tripled over the past year with the District score average (1,023) exceeding the state score average (981) by forty points.” In ACT testing, TISD saw the number of students participating increase by 59 and the district average score of 20.7 remaining on par with the state average score of 20.8.

TISD continues to see increases in student participation in the Advanced Placement (AP) Program. During the last five years, Texas High has seen a 13% increase in enrollment with a 38% increase in students scoring “3” or higher. For 2010-11, fifteen students received the highest score possible of “5” and eighteen students were named AP Scholars, AP Scholars with Honor and AP Scholars with Distinction.

The AP Program allows high school students the opportunity to enroll in fifty-four college semester hours of credit 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.

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High school students must successfully complete the AP Exam in order to receive college credit for the course. Each college sets its own policy for the award of an 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, and the state of Texas provides an additional reduced rate for all students.

A 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 equivalent to 302 college semester hours credit for our students,” shared Ables. “We have experienced an outstanding 257% increase in student enrollment and credit earned within this program over the past five years.”

“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 dual credit students who qualify.

The final aspect of the student academic report focused on the three state graduation programs that Texas students may choose from. They are: the Minimum Program, Recommended Program or Distinguished Achievement Program.

For the Texas High School 2011 graduating class, 19%, or a total of 94 students, attained the Distinguished Achievement Program level. This ranking is the highest diploma a student can earn in Texas. It requires advanced school work that reflects college or professional-level skills and a combination of

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four advanced measures – “3” or above on an Advanced Placement (AP) exam, Research Project, Commended Scholar or higher on Preliminary Scholastic Assessment Test (PSAT) and 3.0 or higher grade for college credit courses.

Graduates achieving the Recommended Program level equated to 62%, or 302 students. This level of diploma is for those students who earn twenty-six course credits, including four credits each of Math, Science, Social Studies and English Language Arts. Recommended Program level graduates must not only pass their classes but must also complete passing standards for the Exit Level TAKS exams.

Texas High School also had 81%, or a total of 396 students, named Texas Scholars. This achievement level must be a graduate who has completed the Distinguished Achievement Program or the Recommended High School Program and who has completed at least two college credit courses while in high school.

In other business, David Alexander and Wanda Boyette were nominated as District Directors to the Bowie Central Appraisal District Board for a two-year term. Based upon the number of votes allotted by the Appraisal Board, TISD typically will fill two seats of the five-member board. The Bowie Central Appraisal District is responsible for setting the assessed value of all property in Bowie County and collecting the taxes levied by the taxing entities.

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