



# PRESS RELEASE

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

February 16, 2012

**CONTACT:**

Tina Veal-Gooch  
Director of Public Relations  
903.794.3651 ext. 1013

**TISD SELECTED AS ONE OF FOURTEEN NATIONWIDE  
LEGO SMART SCHOOLS**

**Texarkana, TX** – Texarkana Independent School District has been selected as one of fourteen nationwide LEGO Smart Schools for LEGO Education products and with that selection will receive a \$40,000 grant from Education Blueprint Association (EBA).

EBA focuses on championing for learners in science, technology, engineering and mathematics education by designing, developing and implementing programs at all levels of the education continuum.

“This is a wonderful opportunity for TISD,” commented Mark Patrick, TISD Instructional Technology Specialist for Secondary Campuses. “From these grant funds, we will be able to purchase equipment, create professional development training programs and most importantly provide another dimension of education to our STEM program.

Through the granting process, EBA will develop fourteen centers of influence that demonstrate the full continuum of LEGO Education products and services from elementary through high school based on the LEGO System of Learning. Each LEGO Smart School was chosen because of their ability to help students master STEM skills, while at the same time, providing opportunities to integrate their STEM knowledge with critical-thinking, teamwork and creative problem-solving skills in order to help form the necessary foundation to become an active participant in our ever-changing world.

For TISD, grant monies will be used at Dunbar Intermediate Center, Theron Jones Early Literacy Center, Texas Middle School and Texas High School for a minimum of three academic years. EBA will work with selected districts to customize a product and training package that is right for them and will also receive an in-kind production donation of \$5,000 as part of the Build the Change LEGO Education community package.

###