



PRESS RELEASE

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**TISD BEGINS BUDGET PROCESS FOR 2012-13 SCHOOL YEAR;
APPROVES GRADE LEVEL EXPANSION OF VIRTUAL ACADEMY**

Texarkana, TX – During their Tuesday, February 21, 2012 regular session, the Texarkana Independent School District Board of Trustees approved the 2012-13 budget calendar in order to begin making preparations and determinations of financial needs for the upcoming school year.

“At this point, we know the fixed numbers that will be issued by the State of Texas since those decisions were made during June of last year,” stated Deidra Reeves, Chief Financial Officer. “We will continue with our biennium reduction of \$3.1 million based on state shortfalls and do not anticipate much change to the district budget over last year.”

Since November, TISD has done assessment surveys to determine what expected needs are for the upcoming year. According to Reeves, “Each campus or department has been given a budget template to work from and they, in turn, will review to make the best decisions on what staffing and non-payroll items will be a necessity for 2012-13.”

During the February through March period, campuses or departments will make their budget presentations to the Budget Cabinet that consists of the Superintendent, Deputy Superintendent, Chief Operating Officer and Chief Financial Officer. Additionally, the Bowie County Appraisal District will release their estimated projections in April. It is anticipated that the TISD Board of Trustees will hold their First Budget Reading during their regular scheduled meeting in April with final budget approval expected in late June.

In other business, the Board approved submitting a request to the Texas Education Agency to expand their Texarkana ISD Virtual Academy program to seventh grade effective the 2012-13 school year.

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“Now in its first academic school year, the Texarkana ISD Virtual Academy is serving 77 students in grades 3-6,” commented Marsha Burris, Principal. “Enrolled students are from as far west as El Paso, south to San Antonio, Houston, Austin and many centrally located in the Dallas/Fort Worth area. The grade level expansion will offer room for an additional 30 students in seventh grade.”

Students enrolled in the Texarkana ISD Virtual Academy have course studies that offer flexible pacing and customized instruction in English, Math, Science, Social Studies, Physical Education, Health and Fine Arts. Supervising teachers monitor the virtual classroom along with the student’s progress. They help problem-solve, lead discussion, demonstrate via webcam, offer intervention, remediation and enrichment for the student and the managing parent/guardian. All students enrolled in the academy have the same accountability measures required by the State and are required to take all annual assessments.

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