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More than half of AISD campuses earn Exemplary or Recognized rating *6 campuses earn Exemplary rating, 32 campuses earn Recognized rating*

ARLINGTON, Texas, July 31, 2009 – According to accountability ratings released today by the Texas Education Agency, the AISD continues to make strides, more than doubling the number of campuses earning an Exemplary or Recognized rating. The number of Exemplary campuses increased from three to six, and the number of Recognized campuses increased from 15 to 32. That means that 56 percent of all AISD schools that are eligible for an accountability rating will be Exemplary or Recognized.

Ashworth, Butler, Ditto, Farrell, Key and Moore elementaries received the Exemplary rating, while 32 AISD campuses – including Bailey, Boles and Ferguson junior highs – received the Recognized rating. All other campuses received an Academically Acceptable rating except for Hutcheson and Nichols junior highs, which received Academically Unacceptable. Both Hutcheson and Nichols missed the Academically Acceptable rating due to eighth-grade science.

“It was an amazing year with everyone working together toward set goals, and I am proud of everyone’s hard work,” Superintendent Jerry McCullough said. “At every level we stayed focused on the one thing that has the biggest impact on our students – instruction.”

“We have a plan in place to refocus and continue to support our two campuses that are rated Academically Unacceptable, and I am confident that both of these schools will see great improvements,” McCullough said.

This is Hutcheson’s second consecutive year to be rated Academically Unacceptable, and the district has announced a change in leadership.

"I have asked one of our strongest junior high principals, Ferguson principal David Tapia, to replicate his proven success to focus on instruction and to lead Hutcheson as principal effective immediately, and he has accepted this challenge," McCullough said.

Tapia has a rich and successful career with the AISD that started in 1996, when he served as a sixth-grade teacher at Speer Elementary. He went on to become an administrative intern at Morton and Webb elementaries. Tapia was named principal of Ferguson in late 2000 and opened the campus in the fall 2001, a post he has held since.

"I love Ferguson. It's been my home and I've proudly watched it blossom into an exceptional and effective learning institution. However, duty has called, and the superintendent has tapped me for a challenge," Tapia said. "I accept the challenge, and I will dedicate myself to meeting all expectations. Hutcheson is staffed by talented teachers, and the halls are filled with wonderful students. We are going to be focused on instruction, and we will build on our skills."

Rose Mary Bolden, who served as principal of Hutcheson for 11 years, will now work with the three-year, \$499,000 Latino Youth Mentoring Grant recently awarded to the district. The program will focus on reducing the dropout rate by pairing incoming ninth-graders with upperclass student mentors.

The district also announced plans to appeal Martin High School's Academically Acceptable rating. The administration previously expected Martin to receive the Recognized rating and will appeal to the TEA for the Completion Rate I for the Economically Disadvantaged student group. This is the only indicator keeping Martin from achieving a rating of Recognized. The district's analysis shows coding by the state of four dropouts as economically disadvantaged when the students were at Martin. But the district asserts that no such designation was attributed to them by the campus, and that there was no free- or reduced-lunch application submitted for them.

"We do have improvements to make, and when I look at how far we have come in just one year, I am certain that we will make those improvements and be able to realize our goal of becoming a

Recognized district," McCullough said. "We are focused, we are committed, and we are diligent about every student learning. It's all about instruction."

AISD Recognized campuses are as follows:

Bailey Junior High	Crow Elementary	Miller Elementary
Boles Junior High	Duff Elementary	Morton Elementary
Ferguson Junior High	Dunn Elementary	Pearcy Elementary
Amos Elementary	Ellis Elementary	Pope Elementary
Atherton Elementary	Fitzgerald Elementary	Rankin Elementary
Beckham Elementary	Foster Elementary	Starrett Elementary
Berry Elementary	Goodman Elementary	Thomton Elementary
Blanton Elementary	Hale Elementary	West Elementary
Bryant Elementary	Hill Elementary	Williams Elementary
Burgin Elementary	Knox Elementary	Wood Elementary
Corey Elementary	Little Elementary	

To review the entire report, visit the TEA Web site at www.tea.state.tx.us

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