



Response to media inquiries

ARLINGTON, TX-September 8, 2009

Several months ago the North Texas Super Bowl Host Committee invited 28 fifth-grade classes to attend a field trip to the new Dallas Cowboys Stadium to announce details of what will be one of the largest youth-education program in Super Bowl history. Students will hear from business and community leaders throughout North Texas, legendary Dallas Cowboys, and the 43rd President of the United States George W. Bush and Mrs. Laura Bush, the program's honorary chairs. Parents of students in the randomly selected classes must grant written permission to participate in the event, as is the practice with any field trip.

The district did not show President Obama's address to schoolchildren today live, but the recorded speech will be made available in the future as an instructional resource as deemed appropriate to the district's curriculum. The district will allow parents the opportunity to opt out and request an alternative assignment if a teacher uses the recorded presidential address as an instructional tool at a later date. Students and parents will also be able to access the recorded speech through a link on the district's Web site.

Students with appropriate parent notification (phone call, e-mail, letter, etc.) were dismissed from school for one-half of the regular school day to watch the president's address at an off-site location (home, church, community center, etc.). This was considered an excused absence. Students were to return to school within a reasonable time after the address. For students that remained on campus, the day was a regularly scheduled instruction day.