



Super Bowl Event Update
September 14, 2009

On July 17, 2008 the Arlington ISD Board of Trustees asked me to step in and assume the position of superintendent of the AISD. In my first meeting with the Board I shared with them that my focus would be on the instruction of students. I made many presentations during the fall of 2008 and shared with the community that I would focus on instruction. When I was officially appointed superintendent on January 14, 2009 I reaffirmed my main focus would be on instruction and have repeated the remarks to numerous audiences during the spring and summer of 2009, including a presentation on my focus to 4,000 teachers at our district's convocation. On the district's Web site I have stated my primary focus is instruction. During the 2008-2009 school year the district made significant strides in becoming a Recognized school district through instruction.

Last week I made the same decision that many of our neighboring districts did and did not show the president's speech live, and I apologized for my decision. The issue of a field trip for 600 fifth-grade students to participate as a part of a Super Bowl XLV kickoff event for a community service program has become a local and national issue and a distraction for the AISD. I have informed the North Texas Super Bowl XLV host committee that the AISD will not participate in the kickoff event on September 21 in order to maintain our focus on instruction. My responsibility as superintendent is to provide a learning environment for all 63,000 students in the AISD.

Jerry McCullough