



PRESS RELEASE

HOUSTON
Independent School District

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Creating a College-Bound Culture

Just in time for Dr. Saavedra's last day HISD breaks another record

August 31, 2009 - Today is Dr. Abelardo Saavedra's last day as HISD Superintendent and just in time for his departure the school district has set yet another record. **The Texas Business and Education Coalition (TBEC) has released its 2009 list of Texas Honor Roll Schools and 21 HISD schools are on the list. That's new record for the district**, which had 18 schools on the list in 2008, 16 in 2007 and 14 in 2006.

The TBEC Honor Roll recognizes schools that have demonstrated three years of consistent, high performance in all subjects compared to other schools serving similar student populations. The TBEC Honor Roll schools have the highest percentage of students performing at the state's most rigorous standard, "commended" performance, in every subject. Less than five percent of the more than 8,000 public schools in Texas earn the honor. This year only 254 Texas schools made the grade.

HISD has about three per cent of the schools in Texas, yet this year it has 8.2 per cent of the schools on the Honor Roll list.

HISD Superintendent Dr. Abelardo Saavedra said, "The TBEC Honor Roll is the Gold Standard of academic excellence, so I can think of no better parting gift than to set a new record for Honor Roll schools."

Here are the HISD Schools that made the grade on the TBEC Honor Roll this year. An Asterisk denotes two consecutive years on the list.

2009 TBEC Honor Roll Schools

Bush Elementary	Energized for Excellence *	Project Chrysalis Middle School
Briar Meadow Elementary	Kennedy Elementary *	River Oaks Elementary
Carnegie Vanguard High *	Kolter Elementary *	Roberts Elementary
Condit Elementary *	Lanier Middle School *	TH Rogers Elementary *
Cornelius Elementary *	Lovett Elementary	TH Rogers Middle School *
DeBaKey High School	Lyons Elementary	West University Elementary *
East Early College	Oak Forest Elementary	White Elementary *

When he announced his decision to retire in February 2009, Dr. Saavedra said, "My parents taught me to leave a place better than what it was when I arrived. I think I will have done that when I leave HISD. With the support of the board and the dedication and hard work of our central and regional administrators and their staffs, the tenacity and brilliant work of our principals, and the unwavering dedication and extraordinary work that our teachers perform in their classrooms every day, I am able to leave behind a school district that five years ago had six Exemplary schools and today has 84, a district where being an Exemplary or Recognized school is the norm and not the exception, a district that beats the state in the percentage of Exemplary/Recognized schools, a district that improved commended TAKS test performance in science by 87 percent, in math by 36 percent, and in reading and social studies by 35 percent over a period of just two years. During the same two years, HISD's growth in college-readiness has surpassed the state, closing the gap between the district and the state to just five points in English and one point in math. We accomplished this by focusing on individual student academic growth instead of chasing accountability ratings, and by our doing so the accountability ratings improved dramatically."

The **Houston Independent School District** is the largest school district in Texas and the seventh-largest in the United States with 295 schools and more than 200,000 students. The 301-square-mile district is one of the largest employers in the Houston metropolitan area with nearly 30,000 employees. As a result of tremendous academic gains in recent years, a record 200 HISD schools achieved Texas' top ratings of Exemplary or Recognized in 2009.

For more information, visit the HISD Web site at www.houstonisd.org.
