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# NEWS

Texas Education Agency

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Sept. 15, 2011

## 26 Texas schools earn 2011 Blue Ribbon honors

AUSTIN – Twenty-six Texas schools today won the prestigious 2011 Blue Ribbon Schools award from the U.S. Department of Education.

This program has recognized more than 6,500 of America's most successful schools, including about 500 Texas schools, since its creation in 1982. The Blue Ribbon Schools Program honors public and private elementary, middle and high schools. The schools are selected based on one of two criteria:

- schools that dramatically improve student performance to high levels on state tests;
- schools whose students achieve in the top 10 percent of their state on state tests.

The nominated public schools were recommended by a Texas Education Agency committee that examined student achievement statistics for the more than 8,000 public school and charter campuses in the state. The schools selected have demonstrated success in closing the achievement gap and each school has an economically disadvantaged population of 40 percent or greater.

Schools nominated by TEA for the award serve as models of best practices for schools across the state.

The award-winning schools will be recognized at the Blue Ribbon School conference Nov. 14-15 at the Washington, D.C. Omni Shoreham Hotel.

The schools selected for the Improvement category are:

**Alpine ISD\***: Wayne Mitchell, interim superintendent

Alpine High School: Verl L. O'Bryant, principal

**Beaumont ISD**: Carrol Thomas, superintendent

Martin Elementary School (formerly Lucas Elementary School): Martha Fowler, principal

**Breckenridge ISD\***: Jennings Teel, superintendent

Breckenridge Junior High School: Jessica Stapp, principal

**Corrigan-Camden ISD \***: Thomas Bowman, superintendent

Corrigan-Camden High School: Elisha Bell, principal

**Corpus Christi ISD**: D. Scott Elliff, superintendent

Blanche Moore Elementary School: Janie Vela, principal

**El Paso ISD**: Terri Jordan, interim superintendent

Coldwell Elementary School: Jason Yturralde, principal

**Mount Pleasant ISD\***: Lynn Dehart, superintendent

Annie Sims Elementary School: Pam McCollum, principal

**Richardson ISD**: Kay E. Waggoner, superintendent

Westwood Junior High Math, Science, Leadership Magnet School: Troy Gray, principal

**Sharyland ISD\***: Scott B. Owings, superintendent

B. L. Gray Junior High School: Cynthia Wilson, principal

Sharyland North Junior High School: Leticia Leal, principal

**Socorro ISD\***: Xavier de la Torre, superintendent

Escontrias Elementary School: Magdalena Aguilar, principal

**Stamford ISD\***: Arthur Casey, superintendent

Oliver Elementary School: Susan Mueller, principal

The schools that were selected to receive the award in the High Performing Schools category are:

**Dallas ISD**: Alan King, interim superintendent

Dallas Environmental Science Academy: Angela West, principal  
 Irma Lerma Rangel Young Women's Leadership School: Vivian Taylor, principal  
 Rosie Sorrells School of Education and Social Services: Alice Black, principal  
 School of Science and Engineering: Jovan Wells, principal

**El Paso ISD**: Terri Jordan, interim superintendent  
 Silva Magnet School for Health Professions: Fred Rojas, principal

**Galveston ISD**\*: Larry Nichols, superintendent  
 Austin Middle School: Cathy Vanness, principal

**Houston ISD**: Terry B. Grier, superintendent  
 E. A. "Squatty" Lyons Elementary School: Cecilia Gonzales, principal  
 Eastwood Academy High School: Paula Fendley, principal  
 Challenge Early College High School: Tonya Miller, principal

**La Porte ISD**\*: Lloyd W. Graham, superintendent  
 Lomax Elementary School: Vickie Gentile, principal

**Nederland ISD**\*: Robert Madding, superintendent  
 Hillcrest Elementary School: Karen Noble, principal

**Rising Star ISD**\*: Max Thompson, superintendent  
 Rising Star Elementary School: Barbara Long, principal

**Spring Branch ISD**: Duncan Klussmann, superintendent  
 Westchester Academy for International Studies: Natalie Blasingame, principal

**YES Public Schools**: Jason Bernal, chief executive officer  
 YES Prep Southwest Campus: Christopher Claflin, school director

\* This is the first Blue Ribbon School nomination for the district.

Additional information about the program and past award winners can be found at <http://www2.ed.gov/programs/nclbbrs/index.html>.

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