NEWS Texas Education Agency
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TEA News Releases Online

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Twenty-six Texas public schools earn prestigious Blue Ribbon award

AUSTIN – U.S. Secretary of Education Arne Duncan announced today that 26 Texas public schools have won the prestigious Blue Ribbon School Award.

The award recognizes schools that are either academically superior or that demonstrate dramatic and consistent gains in student achievement.

The Texas Education Agency was permitted to nominate 26 public schools for this award and all the nominees were selected to receive the award.

"These schools represent schools that excel, and many times against the odds. Each of the Texas winners have at least 40 percent of the student body who come from economically disadvantaged families, yet they have risen to the challenge and are delivering a first class education. I am very proud of each of these schools, They will be role models for other schools both in Texas and beyond," said Commissioner of Education Robert Scott.

The 2009 Texas Blue Ribbon School winners are listed below. The schools shaded blue are the ones that have shown dramatic academic improvement.

Campus	District	City	Principal	Superintendent
Fletcher Elementary	Beaumont ISD	Beaumont	Mike Gonzales	Dr. Carrol Thomas
Bosqueville Elementary	Bosqueville ISD	Waco	Kelly Bray	James Hopper
Southmost Elementary	Brownsville ISD	Brownsville	Jimmy Haynes	Brett Springston
Brownwood High School	Brownwood ISD	Brownwood	Bill Faircloth	Reece Blincoe
Chapel Hill Elementary	Chapel Hill ISD	Mount Pleasant	Missy Walley	Marc Levesque
George Bannerman Dealey International	Dallas ISD	Dallas	Johanna Bortem	Dr. Michael Hinojosa
George Peabody Elementary School	Dallas ISD	Dallas	Dee Anne Egan	Dr. Michael Hinojosa
School of Health Professions	Dallas ISD	Dallas	Myrtle Walker	Dr. Michael Hinojosa
Victor H. Hexter Elementary School	Dallas ISD	Dallas	Jolee Healey	Dr. Michael Hinojosa

Devine High School	Devine ISD	Devine	Mike Lawson	Linda McAnelly
Tice Elementary	Galena Park ISD	Galena Park	Judy Holbrook	Dr. Mark Henry
Brandenburg Middle School	Garland ISD	Garland	Carra King	Dr. Curtis Culwell
DeBakey HS for Health Professions	Houston ISD	Houston	Linda Lazenby	Dr. Terry Grier
Garden Villas Elementary	Houston ISD	Houston	Vesta Terry	Dr. Terry Grier
Kennedy Elementary	Houston ISD	Houston	Daryl K. Sherman	Dr. Terry Grier
Lantrip Elementary	Houston ISD	Houston	Matilda R. Orozco	Dr. Terry Grier
Iola Elementary	Iola ISD	Iola	Danny Mallett	Douglas Devine
Mumford Elementary	Mumford ISD	Mumford	Pete J. Bienski Jr.	Pete J Bienski Jr.
Natalia Junior High	Natalia ISD	Natalia	Henry Booth, Jr.	Joey Moczygemba
Garner Middle School	North East ISD	San Antonio	Donna Newman	Dr Richard A Middleton
Patton Springs School	Patton Springs ISD	Afton	Mike Norrell	Larry J McClenny
Bowie Elementary	Pharr-San Juan-Alamo ISD	Pharr	Rosario Coplea	Dr. Daniel King
Sands School	Sands CISD	Ackerly	Zelda Bilbo	Wayne Blount
St. Mary's Academy Charter School	St. Mary's Academy Charter School	Beeville	Stan Simonson	Merle S. Simonson
Wellington Elementary	Wellington ISD	Wellington	Marcy Lea Sessions	Carl Taylor
Yes Prep – North Central Campus	Yes Preparatory	Houston	Mark Dibella	Christopher Barbic

The schools nominated for the recognition met one of two criteria:

1. At least 40 percent of the school's student body came from disadvantaged backgrounds and students showed dramatic improvement in performance on the Texas Assessment of Knowledge and Skills (TAKS) over the past three years in reading or English language arts and mathematics; or
2. The schools' students ranked in the top 10 percent in Texas on tests in reading or English language arts and mathematics.

In addition, Blue Ribbon Schools met Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) targets in reading or English language arts and mathematics, were not be identified as a "Persistently Dangerous" school within the last two years, and are in compliance with other USDE requirements.

The Texas schools will be among 264 public schools and 50 private school winners from around the country will be recognized during a ceremony at the Omni Shoreham Hotel in Washington, D.C. Nov. 2-3.