Waxahachie Independent School District

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News Release

From the Office of Public Relations 972.923.4631

For Immediate Release Date: August 8, 2013

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Waxahachie ISD Meets New State Accountability Standards

Nearly Half of District Campuses Receive Academic Achievement Distinction Designations

On Thursday, August 8, 2013, the Texas Education Agency (TEA) released its latest list of district and campus ratings under the state's new mandated State of Texas Assessments of Academic Readiness (STAAR) test. Waxahachie ISD received a district rating of "Met Standard," the highest rating a district can receive, along with all eleven of its eligible campuses. The district also had five campuses who received academic achievement distinction designations along with two campuses that were designated as Top 25% in Student Progress when compared to like campuses across the state of Texas.

The state's new ratings are "Met Standard" and "Improvement Required." These new ratings replace the previous ratings of "Exemplary," "Recognized," "Acceptable," and "Academically Unacceptable." Campuses are rated on up to four indices including Student Achievement, Student Progress, Closing Performance Gaps, and Postsecondary Readiness. Scores are based on student performance from the spring 2013 STAAR exam for grades three through eight, STAAR End of Course (EOC) exams for grades nine and 10, and TAKS for grade eleven.

In the STAAR test's first year, campuses could receive up to three academic achievement distinction designations. These distinctions include Reading/English Language Arts (ELA), Mathematics, and Top 25% in Student Progress. Waxahachie ISD had three campuses receive academic achievement distinction designations in both Reading/ELA and Mathematics — Wedgeworth Elementary, Howard Junior High, and Waxahachie Global High. The district also had two campuses who received all three academic distinctions — Clift Elementary and Finley Junior High. Only 385 elementaries and 182 middle/junior high school campuses across the state of Texas received all three academic distinctions.

"With a projected enrollment of 7,800 students this fall, Waxahachie ISD is committed to providing an exemplary academic environment where all students are college ready, career ready, and 21st century ready," stated David S. Truitt, Interim Superintendent. "With this commitment comes the need to provide a premier education for all students that focuses on setting high expectations for teaching, learning, and achievement for both students and staff. We are resolved to be the finest school district in the state of Texas."

To view Waxahachie ISD's complete accountability report visit, http://www.tea.state.tx.us/. For more information, contact the Waxahachie ISD Office of Public Relations at 972.923.4631.