



PRESS RELEASE

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Three HISD Schools Nominated for 2011 National Blue Ribbon Awards

December 3, 2010— Three HISD schools are among 26 Texas schools nominated for the 2011 Blue Ribbon Schools Award. The list was revealed today by Texas Education Commissioner Robert Scott. The HISD schools that were nominated are Lyons Elementary, Eastwood Academy and Challenge Early College High School. HISD accounts for about three percent of the schools in Texas, but has nearly 12 percent of the Blue Ribbon nominations for 2011.

The nominated schools will now complete a rigorous application process through the U.S. Department of Education. The award winners will be announced in September 2011 and the schools will be recognized at the Blue Ribbon School conference in Washington, D.C.

The Blue Ribbon Schools Award honors public and private elementary, middle, and high schools whose students achieve at very high levels or have made significant progress and helped close gaps in achievement, especially among disadvantaged and minority students. The program recognizes schools based on one of two criteria: (1) schools whose students, regardless of backgrounds, are high performing. These are schools ranked among the state's highest performing schools as measured by their performance on state assessments, or (2) schools with at least 40 percent of their students from disadvantaged backgrounds that improve student performance to high levels as measured by the school's performance on state assessments or nationally normed tests.

The Texas nominations were recommended by an intra-agency committee that examined student achievement statistics for the more than 8,000 public, private and charter school campuses in the state.

The **Houston Independent School District** is the largest school district in Texas and the seventh-largest in the United States with 298 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.

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