

# ANNUAL FINANCIAL ACCOUNTABILITY MANAGEMENT REPORT

Fiscal Year 2007-2008

October 9, 2009

SOUTH TEXAS INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT

## South Texas ISD's financial management gets seventh "Superior" rating

The South Texas Independent School District has once again received a rating of "Superior Achievement" under Texas' school finance accountability rating system.

Schools FIRST, or Financial Integrity Rating System of Texas, was developed for Texas school districts by the Texas Education Agency in response to Senate Bill 875 of the 76<sup>th</sup> Texas Legislature in 1999. The primary goal of Schools FIRST is to achieve quality performance in the management of school district's financial resources, a goal made more significant due to the complexity of accounting associated with Texas' school finance system.

"We are very pleased with our FIRST rating," said STISD Superintendent of Schools Marla M. Guerra, "as it shows that our district is making the most of our taxpayers' dollars. This rating indicates that our schools are accountable not only for student learning, but also for achieving these results cost effectively and efficiently."

The "Superior Achievement" rating system is the state's highest, demonstrating the quality of STISD's financial management and reporting, concluded Dr. Guerra.

The Schools FIRST accountability rating system assigns one of four financial accountability ratings to Texas school districts, with the highest being "Superior Achievement," followed by "Above-Standard Achievement," "Standard Achievement," and "Substandard Achievement." Districts with serious data quality problems may receive the additional rating of "Suspend – Data Quality." Districts that receive the "Substandard Achievement" or "Suspended – Data Quality" ratings under Schools FIRST must file a corrective action plan with the Texas Education Agency.

The first four years of the Schools FIRST remained unchanged with twenty-one defined indicators, each weighted equally however, a negative answer to indicators 1, 2 and 3 or both 4 and 5 would result in the district receiving a rating of "Substandard Achievement." In 2007 the FIRST disclosures requirements were added. In 2008 three new indicators 2, 7 and 14 were added and the indicator weight was changed. The first six indicators have a pass or fail rating and the rest have a weight of 5 points except for 13 and 14 with a weight of 3 points and 24 with a

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## Introduction



Senate Bill (SB) 218 of the 77<sup>th</sup> Legislature (2001) authorized the implementation of a financial accountability rating system, which is officially referred to as School FIRST. The primary goal of School FIRST is to improve the management of school districts' financial resources. School FIRST was developed in consultation with the Comptroller of Public Accounts, and its development also benefited from the many comments that were received from school district and regional education service center personnel. The School FIRST rating is based upon an analysis of staff and student data reported for the 2007-2008 school year, and budgetary and actual financial data for the 2008 fiscal year (for South Texas Independent School District, the fiscal period ended August 31, 2008).

Senate Bill 218 also requires each school district to prepare an Annual Financial Accountability Management Report. Many business-related issues are covered in this report; however, it focuses on indicators on the Schools FIRST rating worksheet. This worksheet was developed by representatives of the Texas Education Agency (TEA), the Texas Business & Educational Council (TBEC) and the Texas Association of School Business Officials (TASBO). The worksheet is used to rate the District according to twenty-four defined indicators.

In 2009, a fail rating for the first four indicators or both the fifth and sixth indicator results in the district receiving a rating of "Substandard Achievement."

South Texas ISD's rating under Schools FIRST for the year ending August 31, 2008, was "Superior Achievement" with a score of 80. This report briefly describes data used to calculate the rating and what each indicator means. Other information affecting the District's financial accountability is also included.

**South Texas  
ISD  
Receives  
"Superior  
Rating"**

## Purpose of the Financial Accountability Rating System

The Financial Accountability Rating System ensures that school districts will be:

- Held Accountable for the quality of their financial management practices and
- Achieve improved performance in the management of their financial resources

It discloses the quality of local management and decision-making processes that impact the allocation of financial resources in Texas public schools.

This rating system was designed to encourage Texas public schools to manage their financial resources better in order to provide the maximum allocation possible for direct instructional purposes.

**FIRST**

**Financial Integrity Rating System of Texas**

**2007-2008 DISTRICT STATUS**

<b>Name:</b> SOUTH TEXAS ISD (031916)	<b>Publication Level 1:</b> 6/8/2009 4:39:05 PM
<b>Status:</b> Passed	<b>Publication Level 2:</b> None
<b>Rating:</b> Superior Achievement	<b>Last Updated:</b> 6/8/2009 4:39:05 PM
<b>District Score:</b> 80	<b>Passing Score:</b> 55

#	Indicator Description	2007 Result	2008 Result
1	Was the Total Fund Balance Less Reserved Fund Balance Greater Than Zero In The General Fund?	Yes	Yes
2	Was the Total Unrestricted Net Asset Balance (Net of Accretion of Interest on Capital Appreciation Bonds) In the Governmental Activities Column in the Statement of Net Assets Greater than Zero? (If the District's 5 Year % Change in Students was 10% more)	Yes	Yes
3	Were There No Disclosures In The Annual Financial Report And/Or Other Sources Of Information Concerning Default On Bonded Indebtedness Obligations?	Yes	Yes
4	Was The Annual Financial Report Filed Within One Month After November 27 <sup>th</sup> or January 28 <sup>th</sup> Deadline Depending Upon The District's Fiscal Year End Date (June 30 <sup>th</sup> or August 31 <sup>st</sup> )?	Yes	Yes
5	Was There An Unqualified Opinion in Annual Financial Report?	Yes	Yes
6	Did The Annual Financial Report Not Disclose Any Instance(s) Of Material Weaknesses In Internal Controls?	Yes	Yes
7	Did the Districts Academic Rating Exceed Academically Unacceptable?	5	5
8	Was The Three-Year Average Percent Of Total Tax Collections (Including Delinquent) Greater Than 98%?	5	5
9	Did The Comparisons Of PEIMS Data To Like Information In Annual Financial Report Result in An Aggregate Variance Of Less Than 3 Percent Of Expenditures Per Fund Type (Data Quality Measure)?	5	5
10	Were Debt Related Expenditures (Net Of IFA And/Or EDA Allotment) < \$250.00 Per Student? (If The District's Five-Year Percent Change In Students = Or > 7%, Or If Property Taxes Collected Per Penny Of Tax Effort > \$200,000 Per Student)	5	5
11	Was There No Disclosure In The Annual Audit Report Of Material Noncompliance?	5	5
12	Did The District Have Full Accreditation Status In Relation To Financial Management Practices? (e.g. No Conservator Or Monitor Assigned)	5	5
13	Was The Percent Of Operating Expenditures Expended For Instruction More Than 65%? (Functions 11, 36, 93, 95) (Phased in over three years, 55% for 2006-2007; 60% for 2007-2008; and 65% for 2008-2009)	1	0

#	Indicator Description	2007 Result	2008 Result
14	Was The Percent of Operating Expenditures Expended For Instruction More Than or equal to 65%? (Functions 11, 12, 31, 33, 36, 93, 95)	1	1
15	Was The Aggregate of Budgeted Expenditures And Other Uses Less Than The Aggregate Of Total Revenues, Other Resources and Fund Balance In General Fund?	5	5
16	If The District's Aggregate Fund Balance In The General Fund And Capital Projects Fund Was Less Than Zero, Were Construction Projects Adequately Financed? (To Avoid Creating Or Adding To The Fund Balance Deficit Situation)	5	5
17	Was The Ratio Of Cash And Investments To Deferred Revenues (Excluding Amount Equal To Net Delinquent Taxes Receivables) In The General Fund Greater Than or Equal To 1:1? (If Deferred Revenues Are Less Than Net Delinquent Taxes Receivable)	5	5
18	Was The Administrative Cost Ratio Less Than The Threshold Ratio?	5	5
19	Was The Ratio Of Students To Teachers Within the Ranges Shown Below According To District Size?	5	5
20	Was The Ratio Of Students To Total Staff Within the Ranges Shown Below According To District Size?	5	5
21	Was The Total Fund Balance In The General Fund More Than 50% And Less Than 150% Of Optimum According To The Fund Balance And Cash Flow Calculation Worksheet In The Annual Financial Report?	5	5
22	Was The Decrease In Undesignated Unreserved Fund Balance < 20% Over Two Fiscal Years? (If 1.5 Times Optimum Fund Balance < Total Fund Balance In General Fund Or If Total Revenues > Operating Expenditures In The General Fund, Then District Receives 5 points)	5	5
23	Was The Aggregate Total of Cash And Investments In The General Fund More Than \$0?	5	5
24	Were Investment Earnings In All Funds (Excluding Debt Service Fund and Capital Projects Fund) More Than \$20 Per Student?	4	4

**DETERMINATION OF RATING**

<b>A.</b>	Did The District Answer 'No' To Indicators 1, 2, 3, Or 4? <b>Or</b> Did The District Answer 'No' To Both 5 and 6? If So, The District's Rating Is <b>Substandard Achievement</b> .	
<b>B.</b>	Determine Rating By Applicable Range For summation of the indicator scores (Indicators 7-24)	
	<b>Superior Achievement</b>	75-85 and Yes to indicator 7
	<b>Above Standard Achievement</b>	65-74 or >= 75 and No to indicator 7
	<b>Standard Achievement</b>	55-64
	<b>Substandard Achievement</b>	<55 or No to one default indicator

**INDICATOR 19 & 20 RATIOS**

Indicator 19	Ranges For Ratios		Indicator 20	Ranges For Ratios	
	Low	High		Low	High
District Size – Number of Students Between			District Size – Number of Students Between		
< 500	7	22	< 500	5	14
500-999	10	22	500-999	5.8	14
1000-4999	11.5	22	1000-4999	6.3	14
5000-9999	13	22	5000-9999	6.8	14
=> 10000	13.5	22	=> 10000	7.0	14

## Rating Worksheet Overview

1. **Was total Fund Balance less Reserved Fund Balance greater than zero in the General Fund?**

School districts must legally have a fund balance to ensure adequate funding for operations. This indicator is designed to ensure that your district has a positive amount of fund balance cash (savings) that is not designated or "reserved" for a specific purpose. In other words, "Does our district have funds set aside for a rainy day?"

South Texas ISD's fund balance in the General Fund after reduction for reserves at August 31, 2008, was \$11,146,428.

2. **This indicator seeks to make certain that the District has a positive position on unrestricted net assets available for operations.**

South Texas ISD's net assets balance was \$16,828,391.

3. **Were there NO disclosures in the Annual Report and/or other sources of information concerning default on bonded indebtedness obligations?**

This indicator seeks to make certain that the District has paid its bills/obligations on bonds issued to pay for school construction, etc.

South Texas ISD had no instances of default on bonded indebtedness obligations.

4. **Was the Annual Financial Report filed within one month after the November 27 or January 28 deadline depending upon the district's fiscal Year end date (June 30 or August 31)?**

Our Annual Financial Report for the fiscal year ended August 31, 2008, was filed with the Texas Education Agency before the deadline date of January 28, 2009.

5. **Was there an Unqualified Opinion in the Annual Financial Report?**

The opinion expressed by our independent auditors on the August 31, 2008 Annual Financial Report was unqualified. A "qualification" on our financial reports would have meant that corrections were needed in some of our reporting or financial controls. A district's goal, therefore, is to receive an "unqualified opinion" on its Annual Financial Report.

6. **Did the Annual Financial Report NOT disclose any instance(s) of material weakness in internal controls?**

No material weaknesses in internal controls were found in our 2007-2008 audit.

Internal control weaknesses create a risk that a district would not be able to properly account for its use of public funds, and should be immediately addressed. An independent audit is required to state if a district had material weaknesses.

A District that answers "Fail" to any indicators

1 to 4 automatically receives a rating of "Substandard Achievement"

If both indicators 5 & 6 are answered "Fail", the District automatically receives a rating of "Substandard Achievement"



A District that is academically unacceptable cannot receive a "Superior" rating.

**7. A district with academically unacceptable cannot receive a rating of “Superior” regardless of how good its financial records and reporting are.**

South Texas ISD had an academic rating of academically acceptable.

**8. Was the three-year average percent of total tax collections (including delinquent) greater than 98 percent?**

This indicator measures the District's success in collecting the taxes owed by the community's businesses and homeowners, placing a 98 percent minimum collections standard. The District must collect 98 percent or more of taxes, including any delinquent taxes owed from past years.

South Texas ISD's percentage of tax collections for the 2007-2008 school year was 99.9%. For the 2006-2007 school year, the collection percentage was 99.42%

**9. Did the comparison of PEIMS data to like information in the Annual Financial Report result in an aggregate variance of less than 3 percent of expenditures per fund type (Data Quality Measure)?**

This indicator measures the quality of data reported to PEIMS and in the Annual Financial Report to make certain that the data reported in each case “matches up.” If the difference in numbers reported in any fund type is more than 3 percent, the district “fails” this measure.

South Texas ISD's data quality measure was far below the allowable 3 percent variation.

**10. Were Debt-Related Expenditures (net of IFA and /or EDA allotment) less than \$250 per student? (If the district's five year percent change in students was a 7 percent increase or more, or if property taxes collected per penny of tax effort were more than \$200,000 per student.)**

This indicator shows the Legislature's intent for school districts to spend money on education, rather than fancy buildings, by limiting the amount of money district's can spend on debt to \$250 per student. Fortunately, the Legislature did allow for fast-growth schools to exceed this cap.

South Texas ISD's debt-related expenditures for the 2007-2008 school year was \$341.79 per student, meeting the criteria. Debt-related expenditures in school year 2006-2007 were \$370.48 per student.

**11. Was there NO disclosure in the Annual Audit Report of Material Noncompliance?**

NO disclosure means the Annual Audit Report includes no disclosure indicating that the school district failed to comply with laws, rules and regulations for a government entity. Our Annual Audit Report for the year ended August 31, 2008, had no such disclosure.

**12. Did the district have full accreditation status in relation to financial management practices?**

South Texas ISD had full accreditation status.

**13. Was the percentage of Operating Expenditures expended for instruction more than 65 percent?**

This indicator shows a district's ability to focus the majority of its funding so that it directly pays for student instruction. Only items such as salaries of classroom teachers and classroom supplies qualify as “Instruction” expenditures in this calculation (Functions 11, 36, 93, 95).

For the year ended August 31, 2008, South Texas ISD's percentage of operating expenditures for instruction was 51.39 percent. In 2006-2007, the percentage was 50.92 percent.

It is our position that it takes more money to support a high school than an elementary school. It costs more in library, school administration, and counseling plus we always spend more money in transportation than other districts. Since we don't have elementary schools to offset the higher costs to support high schools, we feel that these four items plus instruction should be used to come up with a fair percentage. We compared ourselves with other districts that met the 65% test and found that when you add all these expenses together we have a higher percent than most of them do.

**14. Was the percentage of Operating Expenditures expended for instruction more than 65 percent?**

This indicator shows a district's ability to focus the majority of its funding so that it directly pays for student instruction. Only items such as salaries of classroom teachers and classroom supplies qualify as "Instruction" expenditures in this calculation (Functions 11, 12, 31, 33, 36, 93, 95).

For the year ended August 31, 2008, South Texas ISD's percentage of operating expenditures for instruction was 61.05 percent. In 2006-2007 the percentage was 60.48 percent.

It is our position that it takes more money to support a high school than an elementary school. It costs more in library, school administration, and counseling plus we always spend more money in transportation than other districts. Since we don't have elementary schools to offset the higher costs to support high schools, we feel that these four items plus instruction should be used to come up with a fair percentage. We compared ourselves with other districts that met the 65% test and found that when you add all these expenses together we have a higher percent than most of them do.

**15. Was the aggregate of Budgeted Expenditures and Other Uses LESS THAN the aggregate of Total Revenues, Other Resources and Fund Balance in General Fund?**

A district will receive a negative rating on this measure if its total expenditures and other uses for the fiscal year exceeded its total funds available. A negative rating would indicate that the District had overspent its budget.

South Texas ISD's aggregated budgeted total revenues, other resources and fund balance exceeded expenditures and other uses by \$8,634,147 in the General Fund for the year ended August 31, 2008.

**16. If the district's Aggregate Fund Balance in the General Fund and Capital Projects Fund was LESS THAN zero, were construction projects adequately financed? (Were construction projects adequately financed or adjusted by change orders or other legal means to avoid creating or adding to the fund balance deficit situation?)**

This indicator measures the District's ability to construct facilities without damaging our Fund Balance. At August 31, 2008, the fund balance in the General Fund was \$17,645,095 and we had no Capital Projects Fund.

**17. Was the ratio of Cash and Investments to Deferred Revenues (excluding amount equal to Net Delinquent Taxes Receivable) in the General Fund greater than or equal to 1:1? (If Deferred Revenues are less than Net Delinquent Taxes Receivable)**

This indicator measures whether or not the District has sufficient cash and investments to equal to deferred revenues less net Delinquent Taxes Receivable.

For the year ended August 31, 2008, cash and investments in the General Fund were \$16,778,574. Deferred revenues less net delinquent taxes receivables amounted to - 0 -. South Texas ISD ended the year with a ratio of 16,778,574:0.

**18. Was the Administrative Cost Ratio less than the Threshold Ratio?**

TEA and state law sets a cap on the percentage of their budget that Texas school districts can spend on administration based on district size. For districts in South Texas ISD's category, the administrative cost ratio should fall below 14.01 percent. Our District's ratio for the 2007-2008 school year was 11.2 percent, well below the state cap.

**19. Was the Ratio of Students to Teachers within the range according to district size?**

This indicator measures our pupil-teacher ratio to ensure that it is within TEA recommended ranges for districts of our student population range. A district like South Texas ISD with population between 1,000 and 4,999 should have no more than 22 students per teacher and no less than 11.5 students per teacher. For the 2007-2008 school year, South Texas ISD had 13.46 students per teacher.

**20. Was the Ratio of Students to Total Staff within the range according to district size?**

This indicator measures our pupil-staff ratio to ensure that it is within TEA recommended ranges for districts of our student population range. A district like South Texas ISD with population between 1,000 and 4,999 should have no more than 14 students per district employee and no less than 6.30 students per district employee. For the 2007-2008 school year, South Texas ISD had 6.41 students per district employee.

**21. Was the Total Fund Balance in the General Fund more than 50 percent and less than 150 percent of Optimum according to the Fund Balance and Cash Flow Calculation Worksheet in the Annual Financial Report?**

Exhibit J-3 in the District's 2007-2008 audit provides an optimum General Fund "Fund Balance" for the District of \$20,760,999. We should have no less than one-half and no more than one and one half times this amount in our Fund Balance, counting both reserved and unreserved fund balances. At August 31, 2008, the District's Fund Balance was 84.99 percent of the calculated optimum fund balance.

**22. Was the decrease in Undesignated Fund Balance less than 20 percent over two Fiscal Years? (If 1.5 times Optimum Fund balance is less than Total Fund Balance in General Fund or if Total Revenues exceeded Operating Expenditures in the General Fund, then District Receives 5 Points)**

This indicator attempts to identify districts that are utilizing fund balance to pay for salaries or other district operating expenses. This indicator notes rapid decreases in a district's undesignated Fund Balance (those dollars not designated as a "land fund" or "construction fund") or emergency fund, which could indicate a district is borrowing to pay for recurring costs that will continue to deplete the district's reserves.

South Texas ISD's total revenues for school year 2007-2008 exceeded operating expenditures in the General Fund, which results in a positive answer to this indicator.

**23. Was the Aggregate Total of Cash and Investments in the General Fund more than \$0?**

This indicator simply verifies that we have cash in the bank and/or investments. At August 31, 2008, the District had General Fund cash and investments totaling \$16,778,574. The District had \$9,113,859 at August 31, 2007.

**24. Were Investment Earnings in all funds (Excluding Debt Service Fund and Capital Projects Fund) more than \$20 per student?**

Verifying that investments earnings were more than \$20 per student indicates that the District is investing its funds wisely. For the school year ending August 31, 2008, South Texas ISD's investment earnings per student were \$262.07.



## FIRST DISCLOSURES REQUIREMENTS

**In calendar year 2008, new reporting requirements are effective for the financial management report that will be distributed at the Schools FIRST public hearing on the 2007-2008 school year.**

### 1. Superintendent's Employment Contract

The school district is to provide a copy of the superintendent's employment contract that is effective on the date of the Schools FIRST hearing in calendar year 2009. In lieu of publication in the Schools FIRST financial management report, the school district may choose to publish the superintendent's employment contract on the school district's internet site. If published on the internet, the contract is to remain accessible for twelve months.

### 2. Reimbursements received by the Superintendent and Board Members for school year 2007-2008

The spirit of the rule is to capture all reimbursements for school year 2007-2008 for expenditures in or out of the district. Reimbursements are to be reported in the following categories: Meals (does not include meals prepared for board meetings); Lodging, Transportation, Motor fuel and Other. Other includes registration fees, supplies, telephone and miscellaneous expenses.

### 3. Outside compensation and/or fees received by the Superintendent for professional consulting and/or other personal services in school year 2007-2008.

### 4. Gifts received by the Superintendent and Board Members or their immediate family in school year 2007-2008 that exceed \$250 in the aggregate from an outside entity doing business or companies competing to do business with South Texas ISD.

### 5. Business transactions between South Texas ISD and board members for school year 2007-2008.

## FIRST DISCLOSURES

South Texas ISD is providing the following five (5) disclosures as per Title 19 Texas Administrative code Chapter 109, Budgeting, Accounting, and Auditing Subchapter AA, Commissioner's Rules Concerning Financial Accountability Rating System.

### 1. Superintendent's Employment Contract

The district has the option of providing a copy of the Superintendent's employment contract in this report or publish it on the district's internet site.

- The district chose to publish the Superintendent's employment contract on the district's internet site.
- The contract can be viewed at [www.stisd.net](http://www.stisd.net) under Finance.

**FIRST DISCLOSURES CONT'D****2. Reimbursements Received by the Superintendent and Board Members for the Fiscal Year 2008****For the twelve-month period ended August 31, 2008**

	Superintendent	Ernesto Alvarado	Douglas E. Buchanan	Cain Caceres	Eduardo Cantu	Mariaelena Champion
Meals	684	445	216	365	365	437
Lodging	2,182	896	487	1,016	1,396	1,383
Transportation	3,195	1,072	1,048	1,005	1,143	1,166
Motor Fuel	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other	3,052	1,953	400	1,135	1,060	1,060
Total	9,113	4,366	2,151	3,521	3,964	4,046

	Robert De La Garza	Homero Garcia	Sylvia Garza	Hector Gonzales	Eduardo Gonzalez	Octaviano Gonzalez
Meals	337	252	236	108	234	761
Lodging	883	1,059	563	320	892	2,276
Transportation	1,124	516	828	530	825	1,981
Motor Fuel	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other	810	525	835	150	550	1,630
Total	3,154	2,352	2,462	1,108	2,501	6,648

	Arturo Guajardo	Maria G. Leal	Filomena Leo	Robert J. Lerma	Henry LeVrier	Joe L. Lopez
Meals	0	1,201		126	437	382
Lodging	167	3,285	320	938	1,165	1,621
Transportation	81	2,732	333	909	1,218	1,232
Motor Fuel	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other	50	1,705	150	600	1,150	1,135
Total	298	8,923	803	2,573	3,970	4,370

	Irma Perez-Trevino	Joe A. Rodriguez	Julio S. Saldana	David W. Vela	Romeo Villarreal	
Meals	509	90	306	365	311	
Lodging	1,634	729	689	1,134	1,049	
Transportation	1,246	230	854	1,212	1,052	
Motor Fuel	0	0	0	0	0	
Other	1,235	975	600	985	872	
Total	4,624	2,024	2,449	3,696	3,284	

**FIRST DISCLOSURES CONT'D**

3. The Superintendent had no outside compensation for Professional Consulting and/or Other Personal Services in Fiscal Year 2008.

4. Gifts Received by the Executive Officer and Board Members (and First Degree Relatives, if any) in Fiscal year 2008.

For the twelve-month period ended August 31, 2008.

	Superintendent	Ernesto Alvarado	Douglas E. Buchanan	Cain Caceres	Eduardo Cantu	Mariaelena Champion
Summary Amounts	0	0	0	0	0	0

	Robert De La Garza	Homero Garcia	Sylvia Garza	Hector Gonzales	Eduardo Gonzalez	Octaviano Gonzalez
Summary Amounts	0	0	0	0	0	0

	Arturo Guajardo	Maria G. Leal	Filomena Leo	Robert J. Lerma	Henry LeVrier	Joe L. Lopez
Summary Amounts	0	0	0	0	0	0

	Irma Perez-Trevino	Joe A. Rodriguez	Julio S. Saldana	David W. Vela	Romeo Villarreal	
Summary Amounts	0	0	0	0	0	

**FIRST DISCLOSURES CONT'D****5. Business Transactions Between School District and Board Members for Fiscal Year 2008**

For the twelve-month period ended August 31, 2008.

	Superintendent	Ernesto Alvarado	Douglas E. Buchanan	Cain Caceres	Eduardo Cantu	Mariaelena Champion
Summary Amounts	0	0	0	0	0	0

	Robert De La Garza	Homero Garcia	Sylvia Garza	Hector Gonzales	Eduardo Gonzalez	Octaviano Gonzalez
Summary Amounts	0	0	0	0	0	0

	Arturo Guajardo	Maria G. Leal	Filomena Leo	Robert J. Lerma	Henry LeVrier	Joe L. Lopez
Summary Amounts	0	0	0	0	0	0

	Irma Perez-Trevino	Joe A. Rodriguez	Julio S. Saldana	David W. Vela	Romeo Villarreal	
Summary Amounts	0	0	0	0	0	

### Vision

The vision of South Texas Independent School District is to engage students in a focused, challenging curriculum within a small, caring community of learners.

### Mission

The mission of the South Texas Independent School District, a public open enrollment magnet district, is to nurture and develop life-long learners by providing challenging, focused educational experiences.

### Beliefs

- WE BELIEVE that learning happens best when it is exercised as a choice.
- WE BELIEVE in focused teaching and learning.
- WE BELIEVE that life-long learning is fundamental to every individual.
- WE BELIEVE that education is both an individual and shared responsibility.
- WE BELIEVE that a safe environment promotes learning.
- WE BELIEVE that learning about diverse cultures, ideas, and values is essential in a global society.
- WE BELIEVE that integrity is reinforced and supported within the school culture.
- WE BELIEVE that communication is vital to learning.
- WE BELIEVE that change is an opportunity for growth.
- WE BELIEVE that education is an investment in community well being.
- WE BELIEVE that all students have potential to learn.



### Superintendent's Goals for 2009-2010

1. Student performance level will exceed Local, State, National and International measures of achievement.
2. Establish an individualized and timely systematic intervention plan for all students.
3. Focus on instructional efforts, resources and district services to maximize student achievements.
4. Organize, develop and maximize resources so all students seeking enrollment have the opportunity to enroll.