

**BOARD OF EDUCATION
BEEVILLE INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT**

Agenda Item No. _____

Date: October 18, 2005

Subject: Public Hearing on School Financial
Rating System of Texas
(FIRST)

Submitted by: Linda O'Connell

Related Pages: 5

Supt's Approval: _____

Report/Public Hearing

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

Beeville ISD received official notification that the district received a rating of "Superior Achievement" under Texas' Schools **FIRST** financial accountability rating system. The Superior Achievement rating is the state's highest, demonstrating the quality of Beeville ISD's financial management and reporting system.

ITEMS ADDRESSED:

Public Hearing on School **FIRST**, financial accountability rating system.

RECOMMENDED ACTION:

None required - overview of **FIRST** and hear public comments.

BUDGETARY INFORMATION:

None

NEWS RELEASE

September 2005
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Beeville ISD Earns State's Highest Fiscal Accountability Rating

Beeville Independent School District officials announced that the district received a rating of "Superior Achievement" under Texas' new Schools FIRST financial accountability rating system. The Superior Achievement rating is the state's highest, demonstrating the quality of Beeville ISD's financial management and reporting system.

This is the third year of Schools FIRST (Financial Accountability Rating System of Texas), a financial accountability system for Texas school districts developed by the Texas Education Agency in response to Senate Bill 875 of the 76th Texas Legislature in 1999. The primary goal of Schools FIRST is to achieve quality performance in the management of school districts' financial resources, a goal made more significant due to the complexity of accounting associated with Texas' school finance system.

"We are very pleased with Beeville ISD's Schools FIRST rating," said Beeville ISD Superintendent John Hardwick, Jr, "as it shows that our district is making the most of our taxpayers' dollars. This rating shows that Beeville's schools are accountable not only for student learning, but also for achieving these results cost-effectively and efficiently."

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 "Suspended-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.

NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING
TO DISCUSS BEEVILLE
INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT'S
State Financial Accountability Rating

Beeville Independent School District will hold
a public meeting at 5:45, October 18, 2005 in the
Board Room, Administration Building,
2400 N. St. Mary's Street, Beeville.

The purpose of this meeting is to discuss
Beeville ISD's rating on the state's financial
accountability system.

YEAR

FIRST

Financial Integrity Rating System of Texas

2003-2004 DISTRICT STATUS

Name: BEEVILLE ISD(013901)			
Rating: Superior Achievement		Last Updated: 8/5/2005 3:29:59 PM	
Indicators Answered YES: 21		Indicators Answered NO: 0	
#	Indicator Description	Updated	Result
1	<u>Was The Total Fund Balance Less Reserved Fund Balance Greater Than Zero In The General Fund?</u>	5/22/2005 6:43:20 PM	Yes
2	<u>Were There No Disclosures In The Annual Financial Report And/Or Other Sources Of Information Concerning Default On Bonded Indebtedness Obligations?</u>	5/22/2005 6:43:20 PM	Yes
3	<u>Was The Annual Financial Report Filed Within One Month After November 27th or January 28th Deadline Depending Upon The District's Fiscal Year End Date (June 30th or August 31st)?</u>	5/22/2005 6:43:20 PM	Yes
4	<u>Was There An Unqualified Opinion in Annual Financial Report?</u>	5/22/2005 6:43:21 PM	Yes
5	<u>Did The Annual Financial Report Not Disclose Any Instance (s) Of Material Weaknesses In Internal Controls?</u>	5/22/2005 6:43:21 PM	Yes
6	<u>Was The Percent Of Total Tax Collections (Including Delinquent) Greater Than 96%?</u>	5/22/2005 6:43:21 PM	Yes
7	<u>Did The Comparisons Of PEIMS Data To Like Information In Annual Financial Report Result In An Aggregate Variance Of Less Than 4 Percent Of Expenditures Per Fund Type (Data Quality Measure)?</u>	5/22/2005 6:43:26 PM	Yes
8	<u>Were Debt Related Expenditures (Net Of IFA And/Or EDA</u>	5/22/2005	Yes

	<u>Allotment) < \$770.00 Per Student? (If The District's Five-Year Percent Change In Students = Or > 2%, Or If Property Taxes Collected Per Penny Of Tax Effort > \$100,000, Then Answer This Indicator Yes)</u>	6:43:27 PM	
9	<u>Was There No Disclosure In The Annual Audit Report Of Material Noncompliance?</u>	5/22/2005 6:43:28 PM	Yes
10	<u>Did The District Have Full Accreditation Status In Relation To Financial Management Practices? (e.g. No Master Or Monitor Assigned)</u>	5/22/2005 6:43:28 PM	Yes
11	<u>Was The Percent Of Operating Expenditures Expended For Instruction More Than 54%?</u>	5/22/2005 6:43:29 PM	Yes
12	<u>Was The Aggregate Of Budgeted Expenditures And Other Uses Less Than The Aggregate Of Total Revenues, Other Resources and Fund Balance In General Fund?</u>	5/22/2005 6:43:29 PM	Yes
13	<u>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)</u>	5/22/2005 6:43:30 PM	Yes
14	<u>Was The Ratio Of Cash And Investments To Deferred Revenues (Excluding Amount Equal To Net Delinquent Taxes Receivables) In The General Fund = Or > 1:1? (If Deferred Revenues < Net Delinquent Taxes Receivable, Then Answer This Indicator Yes)</u>	5/22/2005 6:43:30 PM	Yes
15	<u>Was The Administrative Cost Ratio Less Than The Standard In State Law?</u>	5/22/2005 6:43:31 PM	Yes
16	<u>Was The Ratio Of Students To Teachers Within the Ranges Shown Below According To District Size?</u>	5/22/2005 6:43:31 PM	Yes
17	<u>Was The Ratio Of Students To Total Staff Within the Ranges Shown Below According To District Size?</u>	5/22/2005 6:43:32 PM	Yes
18	<u>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?</u>	8/1/2005 8:23:15 AM	Yes
19	<u>Was The Decrease In Undesignated Unreserved Fund</u>	5/22/2005	Yes

	<u>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 Answer This Indicator Yes)</u>	6:43:33 PM	
20	<u>Was The Aggregate Total Of Cash And Investments In The General Fund More Than \$0?</u>	5/22/2005 6:43:33 PM	Yes
21	<u>Were Investment Earnings In All Funds More Than \$15 Per Student?</u>	5/22/2005 6:43:34 PM	Yes

DETERMINATION OF RATING

A.	Did The District Answer No To Indicators 1, 2, Or 3? Or Did The District Answer No To Both 4 and 5? If Answered No To Either, The District's Rating Is Substandard Achievement .		
B.	Determine Rating By Applicable Range For The Number Of Indicators Answered No :		
	Superior Achievement	0-2	
	Above Standard Achievement	3-4	
	Standard Achievement	5-6	
	Substandard Achievement	7+ Or No To One Default Indicator	

INDICATOR 16 & 17 RATIOS

Indicator 16	Ranges for Ratios		Indicator 17	Ranges for Ratios	
	Low	High		Low	High
District Size - Number of Students Between			District Size - Number of Students Between		
< 500	7	22	< 500	4	14
500-999	10	22	500-999	5.5	14
1000-4999	11.5	22	1000-4999	6	14
5000-9999	13	22	5000-9999	6.5	14
=> 10000	13.5	22	=> 10000	6.6	14