

**Recognition
Board of Trustee Meeting
September 27, 2022**

District receives highest fiscal rating for two decades

Denton ISD received a rating of “A” for “Superior Achievement” under Texas’ School FIRST financial accountability rating system, the district’s 20th time to earn the honor.

The “Superior Achievement” rating is the state’s highest, demonstrating the quality of Denton ISD’s financial management and reporting system. School FIRST (Financial Accountability Rating System of Texas) is the 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. It was amended under House Bill 5, 83rd Texas Legislature, Regular Session, in 2013.

The primary goal of School FIRST is to achieve quality performance in the management of the school district's financial resources, a goal made more significant due to the complexity of accounting associated with the Texas school finance system.

FIRST ratings are in place to hold districts accountable for the quality of their financial management practices, to provide a maximum allocation for direct instructional purposes, and to evaluate the quality of the district’s financial management decisions. There are 20 financial indicators used to calculate FIRST ratings. Examples of those indicators are sufficient days of cash on hand, general fund revenues exceeding general fund expenditures, debt service coverage ratio, and administrative cost ratio.

All school districts and charter schools in the state of Texas are required to report information and financial accountability ratings to parents and taxpayers, although the criteria charter schools must meet are less comprehensive and transparent.

The Texas Education Agency assigns one of four financial accountability ratings to school districts, with the highest being “A” for “Superior Achievement,” followed by “B” for “Above-Standard Achievement,” “C” for “Standard Achievement” and “F” for “Substandard Achievement.”

For the twentieth year in a row, Denton ISD continues its financial excellence with a “Superior Achievement” rating for the 2019-2020 fiscal year, scoring positive responses on all 20 of the indicators and an overall score of 98 out of 100.

Dr. Scott Niven, CFO and deputy superintendent, will join members of the Business Services Dept. to accept the award.

United Way of Denton County honors district as “Pacesetter”

At the recent kick-off of the 2022-23 campaign of United Way of Denton County, Denton ISD was honored as a “Pacesetter” for the previous year’s employee giving campaign. Pacesetter Campaign Partners lead the way by planning and conducting highly successful workplace campaigns. Pacesetters, as their title would suggest, led by example, set the pace and build momentum for others in our community to follow.

Meeting our goal of connecting Denton ISD with other leading businesses to build a strong and healthy community through support, this award signifies our employee’s commitment to our students and families.

Dr. Buddy Dunworth, principal of McMath Middle School, and Dr. Beth Kelly, principal of Navo Middle School will be on hand to share the award.

Board Spotlight

Last May, Texas PTA announced the recipients of the 2022 Outstanding Educator of the Year Awards. Among 300 nominations at the elementary, secondary and district levels, Dr. Chris Rangel, principal of Ann Windle School for Young Children, was selected as 2022 Elementary Principal of the Year.

“It is Texas PTA's privilege to highlight the people who work tirelessly in our state’s public schools to make a difference,” said Texas PTA President Suzi Kennon. “We believe that student success is best fostered by collaboration between parents, families and teachers – that is exactly what these administrators and educators help make a reality every day.”

Each year, Texas PTA requests nominations for outstanding educators in PTA schools. Texas PTA recognizes outstanding educators whose work embodies the association’s mission, enhances student learning environments, and directly involves students’ parents and families in their school life. After a careful review process, award recipient selections were based on both the nomination and nominee profile.

“Dr. Rangel is the most consistently involved principal I've ever seen in my 27 years of involvement in education as a teacher and parent. She is at every PTA Board Meeting and even attended one on her birthday! She - herself - volunteers on/for PTA and doesn't ask any parent to do something she wouldn't also do herself. She empowers the PTA and supports them wholeheartedly without micromanaging.”