



June 1, 2026

To: Dr. Joe Rodriguez

RE: LEAD Academy Recognition

The Area Executive Directors would like to recognize the participants of the LEAD Academy at the June 1st Board meeting.

The LEAD Academy, led by our Area Executive Directors in collaboration with Curriculum & Instruction Directors, is a leadership development program designed for assistant principals who aspire to serve in a principal role. The program equips prospective principals with a comprehensive overview of the principalship and the essential competencies required for campus leadership.

Participants were selected through a rigorous application process that included submission of a professional résumé, written responses to short essay questions, and a favorable recommendation from their campus principal. Throughout the academy, participants engaged in focused learning experiences centered on Strong Leadership and Planning, Strategic Staffing, Positive School Culture, High-Quality Instruction, and Observation and Feedback. Each participant also participated in field experiences where they shadowed current Principals, and completed a mock interview where they received immediate, targeted feedback to support their continued growth.

We are proud of their commitment to leadership development and look forward to the meaningful impact they will continue to make on their campuses and across our district.



Name	Campus
Jonathan Abston	RSS
Adrian Alarcon	Highlands JS
Leah Bell	Hopper
Tonara Benard	GCM
Steven Bingham	EF Green JS
Michelle Cason Solomonsz	CBJ
Kelly Congdon	RSS
Lauren Eubank	Travis
Tara Fountain	Gentry JS
Tracy Haywood	Baytown JS
Michelle Jackson	REL
Donald Lacy	REL
John Langlois	HMJ
Jaylene Lemus	Crockett
Deanna Marsalis	Austin
Marissa Phillips	Pumphrey
Dolores Serrano	Carver
Sherry Smith	REL
Karli Tarver	GCM
Louann Taylor	Carver
Paola Thibodeaux	Highlands Elem.
Elizabeth Thomas	HMJ
Lisa Vavricka	Stuart
Michelle Williams	PEH
Julicia Wooten	De Zavala
Robin Wright	Pumphrey