

**EXECUTIVE SUMMARY  
BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING  
DECEMBER 8, 2009**

**NO CHILD LEFT BEHIND REPORT**

**Mission Statement:**

In pursuit of excellence . . .

The mission of the Denton Public Schools, in partnership with home and community, is to provide the best educational opportunities in a challenging yet supportive environment where individuals and cultural diversity are respected, so that our students become knowledgeable and responsible citizens, capable of life-long learning and demonstrate the necessary skills to contribute productively in a complex and ever-changing world.

**Board Goal:**

**II.**

- b. expect full curriculum implementation on each campus by instructional leaders
- c. establish quality staff development programs and promote professional learning communities
- d. strive to deliver all academic programs through teachers possessing advanced degrees and demonstrable competence in their areas of professional responsibility

**V.**

- a. develop and expect a consistently high level of, and respect for, professional performance by all staff
- d. encourage all teachers and staff to pursue advanced professional development and degrees within their specialty area

**Purpose of Report:**

This report provides the Board of Trustees an update of the District's meeting and maintaining the compliance standards as required by the No Child Left Behind Act for the 2009-2010 school year.

**Objective:**

Provide notification to the Board of Trustees that all teachers assigned to the NCLB core areas (Math, Science, Social Studies, English Language Arts, Fine Arts, and Foreign Languages) are 100% Highly Qualified.

**Operational Impact:**

The NCLB Act requires that all teachers in the core areas must be Highly Qualified in the area of teaching assignment upon employment. Failure to do so could possibly result in loss of federal revenue and other sanctions to the District.

**Results:**

The District continues to be compliant with requirements of the NCLB Act. As a note, the Highly Qualified requirements and the Texas certification requirements **are** not in alignment. In

other words, a teacher can be highly qualified for an assignment but not be certified, vice-versa. Additionally, two significant changes need to be discussed.

- The deadline to report the Highly Qualified status of the District was changed to September effective with the 2008-2009 school year. This change necessitated that newly employed teachers must meet all Highly Qualified requirements immediately. In previous years, the reporting timeline was June, July, or August of the school year in which new teachers were hired, thereby giving them the current academic school year to complete testing requirements and/or other requirements to become highly qualified. This change was unforeseen and caused state wide concern and prompted school districts to rethink their hiring process.
- On October 19, 2009, the TEA issued a major advisory to school districts and teachers regarding the change in the US Department of Education’s definition of “Highly Qualified teachers. However, the deadline to report the district’s highly qualified status remained September of the school year. As a result of this reinterpretation, newly hired Texas teachers for the 2009-2010 school year may be required to take new certification tests to maintain their Highly Qualified status. The following chart reveals the significant impact to school districts.

ASSIGNMENT	2008-2009 NEW HIRES		2009-2010 NEW HIRES	
	Test Passed	Highly Qualified	Highly Qualified	New Test Needed
Elem Music	EC-12 Music	Yes	No	EC-4 or EC-6 or 4-8 Generalist
4 <sup>th</sup> or 5 <sup>th</sup> grade Content Area (Math or Science or Social Studies or English Language Arts)	4-8 Generalist	Yes	Yes	EC-6 or 4-8 Generalist or EC-4
	4-8 Content (Math or Science or Social Studies or English Language Arts)	Yes	No	
Elem Special Ed	EC-12 Special Ed (HQ in Math, ELA, and Reading)	Yes	No	EC-4 or EC-6 or 4-8 Generalist
Elem Art	EC-12 Art	Yes	No	EC-4 or EC-6 or 4-8 Generalist

Upon receiving this information, school districts throughout the State of Texas became alarmed and began to operate in a panic mode due to the fact that employees were hired under the interpretation of the guidelines in place for the 2008-2009 school year. The Denton ISD Human Resources office did review all credentials of its new hires to ensure that they met the Highly Qualified standards under the new interpretation and **affirms that the District meets all requirements of the NCLB Act.**