

# FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE



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*"Excellence Every Day...No Alibis, No Excuses"*

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## **Preliminary Performance Results from first STAAR Administration are Encouraging**

Lancaster, TX/Lancaster ISD

The Lancaster Independent School District is strongly encouraged by the preliminary performance results for the first administration of the 2013 State of Texas Assessment of Academic Readiness (STAAR) for fifth and eighth grade students in the area of mathematics and English Language Arts (ELA).

"We have continued to consistently show significant positive gains across the board for our students in spite of the current challenges with the assessment system," stated Dr. Michael D. McFarland, Superintendent of Schools for Lancaster ISD.

In a single year, the current results display a wide range of successful upward trends including the highest scores ever recorded for students in the eighth grade - increasing by 14-percentage points in Reading (83%) and 13-percentage points in Math (77%) from 2012 to 2013.

Fifth graders in the district boasted an 8-percent point increase in Reading (73%) and a 12-percent point increase in Math (61%) when comparing 2013 scores to 2012 scores.

Six of the seven of the campuses recorded gains ranging from 4% to 33% and only one campus recorded a 5-percent decrease in reading scores of about 5-percentage points.

Dr. McFarland concluded, "This is a testament to the systems, structures and educators who are working tirelessly to ensure higher levels of learning. Our efforts are continuing to show the desired results."

Keenly aware that the current numbers only partially represent the final performance score, his expectations remain high.

"It is anticipated that we will be able to increase these scores significantly by the second administration which so that we should boost our scores into the 80% range or higher."

Final performance scores are to be compiled by adding the results of the first and second administrations.

*The Lancaster Public Schools serve more than 6,000 pre-kindergarten through grade 12 students in 11 schools. The mission of the Lancaster Independent School District, a leader in providing innovative, quality programs, is to educate every student with the knowledge; skills; and principles to succeed and contribute in a competitive and technologically advancing world by providing rigorous and engaging learning opportunities that promote diversity; create an environment of integrity and respect; and establish a commitment to continued improvement in partnership with families and community.*

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