

Pearsall Independent School District

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pearsallisd.org



Learning Today.... Leading Tomorrow

March 17, 2014

Subject: Assignment of Accreditation Status to the Pearsall Independent School District

Dear Parent/Guardian:

The purpose of this letter is to inform you that the 2013-2014 accreditation status of the Pearsall Independent School District is Accredited-Warned. Under state law, the accreditation statuses that may be assigned to districts include Accredited, Accredited-Warned, Accredited-Probation, and Not Accredited-Revoked. A status of Accredited-Warned means that a district exhibits deficiencies in performance that, if not addressed, will lead to probation or revocation of the district's accreditation status.

Pearsall ISD has been assigned an Accredited-Warned status due to the ratings assigned to the district in the state's Academic Accountability Rating System. Specifically, Pearsall ISD was assigned a 2011 academic accountability rating of Academically Unacceptable, and a 2013 accountability rating of Improvement Required (IR).

The district is taking the following steps to address the areas of identified deficiency. Pearsall ISD is working diligently to meet the state standards as Texas continues to raise the standards each year. Our teachers continue to work extremely hard in the classroom to ensure that they are raising the rigor of their teaching. This is being accomplished by planning lessons that include the use of questioning based on Bloom's Taxonomy, Marzano's High Yield Strategies, and providing assessments that are to the rigor expected by the state. All four campuses have incorporated new programs to try to enhance performance including conducting a TEKS alignment of each of the four core subjects (Math, English, Science, and Social Studies). Ted Flores Elementary has implemented iStation Reading and are looking for volunteers to read to their students each week. The other three campuses have all implemented Lead4ward data disaggregation and Heat Maps to locate strengths and weaknesses for each student and as a result are able to provide interventions to assist students in reaching their educational potential. Pearsall Intermediate and Pearsall Junior High have added iStation Reading (K-8) and Think through Math (3-8) as computer supplements to provide even more educational opportunities to their students. Pearsall Junior High and Pearsall High School have integrated Depth of Knowledge training to be able to identify the cognitive complexity in which they must teach for student understanding and success. Pearsall High School has also incorporated writing across the curriculum to improve their students writing abilities. It is our belief that these initiatives are improving the education for your child and the children across the district. Under law, if the current accreditation concerns for the district are not addressed, the district may be assigned an accreditation status of Accredited-Probation or Not Accredited-Revoked. A Not Accredited-Revoked. A Not Accredited-Revoked status means that the TEA no longer recognizes the district as a Texas public school. Districts with an accreditation status below Accredited also may be subject to additional accreditation sanctions as referenced in statute and rule.

For more information regarding the assignment of accreditation statuses to school district, you may access the TEA website at <http://www.tea.state.tx.us/accredstatus>. This website will provide you with background information as well as links to the Texas Education Code and current commissioner's rules related to accreditation.

If you have additional questions regarding the assignment of an Accredited-Warned status to Pearsall ISD, or if you would like additional information about the district's ongoing improvement efforts, please contact Regina Davis, Chief Academic Officer at (830) 334-8001 or rdavis@pearsall.k12.tx.us.

Sincerely,

Robert C. Lindemann
Interim Superintendent