

## **ACADEMIC PROGRESS AND PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT**

### **PROFESSIONAL QUESTIONS (essays)**

1. How would your collective constituents from students to janitors, community leaders to classroom aides and board members to principals describe your district's culture? How is your history and culture reflected in your mission and overall educational philosophy and integrated into continuous improvement?
2. If we asked a large number of people in your district to list the unique attributes of its leaders, what would they say? Since excellent leadership is important at all levels in an organization, what are the pathways for development and growth that are available?
3. How do you define rigor and what do you do to ensure that it exists at all levels of instruction? How do you make decisions about when you need to innovate and then strategically evaluate and share best practices?
4. What extraordinary measures are you taking to make sure that all children in your district have the opportunity to achieve academically and to graduate? How are you tracking your results on individual campuses to ensure consistency?
5. Describe a specific initiative that your district has undertaken in the last three years to improve achievement in an underperforming area. Include the theory behind your initiative, the implementation plan, challenges and successes to date, evaluation design and results.
6. What are your priorities in terms of spending and what process did you use to identify them? How do you define "critical need" in your budget planning process?
7. How do you involve key stakeholders, i.e. parents, teachers, business and community leaders, in District initiatives and decision making?

### **LETTER OF SUPPORT**

**Include one (1) letter of support from the following:**

- School Board Member

**Please write your district name at the top of your letter of support and submit it along with your application.**



# Excellence in Education awards

in cooperation with

**Texas Association of Secondary School Principals  
Texas Elementary Principals and Supervisors Association  
Texas Association of School Administrators  
Texas Parent Teacher Association**

## **2010 District Application**



**Helping Here.**

**Purpose**

Created in 2002, the H-E-B Excellence in Education Awards are designed to honor outstanding public school professionals and to thank them for their dedication and commitment. Through this program, H-E-B seeks to pay tribute to those educators and administrators who go the extra mile each and every day to serve their students and their communities and who inspire others to do the same.

**Eligibility**

All public school districts currently located in the H-E-B service area are eligible for nomination. School districts that have previously been selected as statewide winners are not eligible to reapply.

**Criteria**

- Commitment to student achievement through innovative programs
- Parental/Community involvement
- Professional development opportunities for teachers and administrators

**Evaluation Process**

All written applications will be screened and scored by a team of professional readers. Regional finalists will be selected by a panel of judges comprised of educators, administrators and community leaders. There are five identified regions within the H-E-B service area and one (1) large district finalist will be selected from each region. In addition, three (3) small district finalists will be selected from across the state.

Applications from the eight (8) finalists will then be reviewed by the statewide selection committee. The committee will conduct on-site campus visits and personal interviews with members of the school board, teachers, parents, principals, community leaders, superintendents and student leaders. The overall statewide winners will be announced during a recognition dinner and celebration in May 2010.

**Awards**

The superintendents of each of the eight (8) district regional finalists will be notified of their selection beginning in February. During visits from H-E-B Officials and members of the community, each superintendent will be presented with a check, \$5,000 for a large district and \$2,500 for a small district. In addition, each superintendent will receive an all-expense paid trip to the awards celebration in Houston including two nights and a special reception in their honor.

**The Large School District Winner (4A or 5A) will receive \$100,000.**  
**The Small School District Winner (1A, 2A or 3A) will receive \$50,000.**

**Application Guidelines**

Please follow the instructions below when completing your application:

- Use no more than two pages (8.5" x 11") to answer each professional question.
- Use no smaller than 10 pt. type and no less than 1.5" line spacing.
- Type your district name and the corresponding professional question at the top of each page.
- Please retain a copy of the application for your records, as materials will not be returned.
- Districts may submit additional supplemental materials designed to demonstrate student progress.
- Please enclose a total of five (5) copies of your application packet, each stapled in the upper left-hand corner.
- Applications must be postmarked by midnight on January 22, 2010.

Please submit your completed application and copies to:  
H-E-B Excellence in Education Awards  
6929 Airport Blvd., Suite 176  
Austin, TX 78752

Once your application has been received, you will be notified via email.

Please allow 3-5 days for processing.

**H-E-B**  
**DISTRICT APPLICATION FORM**  
Type or clearly print your answers.

**Excellence in Education awards**



District Name: \_\_\_\_\_

ESC Region: \_\_\_\_\_

District Superintendent's Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Dr. \_\_\_ Mr. \_\_\_ Mrs. \_\_\_ Ms. \_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
Street  
City State Zip

Phone: ( ) \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Classification: \_\_\_\_\_ Urban \_\_\_\_\_ Suburban \_\_\_\_\_ Rural \_\_\_\_\_

ESC Region: \_\_\_\_\_

UIL Rating:  
TEA District Rating Small District (1A, 2A or 3A): \_\_\_\_\_ Large District (4A or 5A): \_\_\_\_\_

Number of Schools in District: \_\_\_\_\_

Number of schools rated as Exemplary: \_\_\_\_\_  
Recognized: \_\_\_\_\_  
Acceptable: \_\_\_\_\_  
Low Performing: \_\_\_\_\_

Current District Enrollment: \_\_\_\_\_

Demographic breakdown of the student population: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Percent of students that qualify for free or reduced lunch: \_\_\_\_\_

TAKS Passage Rates for past three consecutive years :

Year 1: Reading _____	English/LA _____	Science _____
Writing _____	Mathematics _____	Social Studies _____
Year 2: Reading _____	English/LA _____	Science _____
Writing _____	Mathematics _____	Social Studies _____
Year 3: Reading _____	English/LA _____	Science _____
Writing _____	Mathematics _____	Social Studies _____

Signature of Superintendent: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_