

2009 Ratings: Hard Work Creates Success

Rene Sanchez, Principal, Liberal Arts & Science Academy

2008 - Exemplary

2009 - Exemplary

LASA is very excited about our second *Exemplary* rating in as many years. Students, teachers, and parents worked very hard to achieve this goal by focusing on specific TAKS objectives where we needed improvement. We are particularly proud of our gains in commended scores in both Math and Social Studies. We will work to repeat the success of last year again in 2009-2010.

Anna Pedroza, Principal, Ortega Elementary School

2008 - Acceptable

2009 - Exemplary

Attaining the *Exemplary* School level is a testimony to the remarkable relationships that exists at Ortega Elementary School among the teachers, parents, community and the students. Over the past five years, everyone in our school has not only promoted high expectations for students' learning, but has made a commitment to illuminate our collective belief that we can make a difference in the lives of children from poverty, who enter school as English language learners, and often lack daily adequate nutritional meals. The fact that more than 30 percent of our students' achieved Commended levels in the content areas demonstrates that excellent teaching can be found in East Austin. I assure you that this level of achievement required heroic effort on the part of Ortega's dedicated teachers who volunteered their time before school, after school, and on Saturdays as well as the parents who value the learning culture of our school. When I started as principal at Ortega, the parents and community made it clear to me that they wanted our school to have its designation as a Blue Ribbon Campus restored, and becoming a TEA *Exemplary* campus has moved us closer to achieving that goal.

Lisa Robertson, Principal, Travis Heights Elementary School

2008 - Academically Unacceptable

2009 - Recognized

Travis Heights Elementary set a goal for 2009. Through a focused effort of staff, students, and community, we served every student every day. We are proud of this effort and the rating of *Recognized* that we earned. We worked on all content areas but the school-wide focus on Science was evident throughout our campus in the work that our students participated in. Through a focused goal, and a united effort between school, students, and community, we are able to realize the potential of our students and demonstrate the capabilities of our campus.

David Kauffman, Principal, Perez Elementary School

2007 - Academically Unacceptable

2009 - Recognized

I am very proud that the hard work of the staff, students, and families at LCPL Nicholas S. Perez Elementary School resulted in a *Recognized* rating this year. Together, we have built a strong school community, overcome adversity, and improved student achievement significantly each of the three years since we opened. Of course, TAKS scores are only one measure of what our students know and are able to do. I am also proud of our students' many accomplishments that do not appear on standardized tests.