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## **Temple ISD continues to shine with 23 distinctions**

TEMPLE, Texas, August 15 — The Temple Independent School District continues to reach new heights in academic excellence. For the 2017-2018 school year, Temple schools surpassed a previous best with 23 state distinctions.

Looking at STAAR test scores, a distinction is awarded to a school that places in the top 25% of its peer group in seven categories: Math, Science, English Language Arts (ELA)/Reading, Social Studies, Academic Growth, Closing the Gaps, Postsecondary Readiness.

Temple elementary schools earned 14 total distinctions:

- Cater: **1** – Academic Growth
- Scott: **1** – Academic Growth
- Raye-Allen: **1** – Academic Growth
- Western Hills: **1** – Science
- H.P. Garcia: **2** – Academic Growth, Closing the Gaps
- Jefferson: **2** – Science, Postsecondary Readiness
- Kennedy-Powell: **6** – ELA/Reading, Math, Science, Academic Growth, Postsecondary Readiness, Closing the Gaps

At the secondary level, Temple schools earned 9 total distinctions:

- Lamar Middle School: **2** – Science, Social Studies
- Bonham Middle School: **5** – Math, Science, Social Studies, Academic Growth, Postsecondary Readiness
- Temple High School: **2** – Science, Academic Growth

“The 23 Stars of Distinction mirror the academic excellence that Temple continues to experience across the school district, especially in the areas of Science, Postsecondary Readiness and Academic Growth,” said Dr. Bobby Ott, Superintendent of Schools for Temple ISD. “This is

attributed directly to exceptional instruction from Temple teachers, and the knowledge, comprehension and hard work of our students. We are very proud of our individual campus accomplishments.”

In addition to distinctions, the district received its first overall rating under the new A-F accountability system. This grade will only be applied to overall district ratings in its first year of use. Temple ISD was assigned a “C” as an overall district rating.

“As the superintendent of a school district with over 70 percent of our students identified as economically-disadvantaged, I cannot be more proud of a 96 percent graduation rate and ACT and IB scores higher than the state and world averages respectively,” Dr. Ott said. “So this rating does not disappoint me.”

In fairness to our public, this rating has explained no more about what is going on in our schools than previous ratings. For well over a decade, the state of Texas has committed to developing an accountability system that is simple and informs the public. Unfortunately, the design of the new A-F system does not accomplish these goals.

“As we look forward to the next legislative session, the more concerning issue is the state’s grade of an “F” on funding "fairness" measures,” Ott said.

As reported, Texas received an "F" grade for investing a small share of revenue in public schools relative to the state's overall economic capacity. This should be of utmost priority this next legislative session and a major contributing factor in individual district letter grades.

#### **ABOUT TEMPLE ISD**

*TISD Motto: Offering families a GLOBAL education in Central Texas*

Temple ISD is a 6A school district with an early childhood academy (Pre-K), eight elementary schools (K-5), three middle schools (6-8) two high schools (9-12) and an alternative education campus. Temple ISD serves a very diverse student body of approximately 8,600 students and is the fourth largest employer in Temple with approximately 1,200 employees. Through the years, Temple ISD has produced more than 225 National Merit Scholar Award winners, including Black Achievement and Hispanic Recognition Scholars.