



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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BELTON ISD SUPERINTENDENT COMMENTS ON A-F RATINGS

BELTON, Texas – On Thursday, the Texas Education Agency will release the 2019 Accountability Ratings which assign an A-F letter grade to the district and campuses based on three domains: student achievement, school progress, and closing the gaps.

The overall score for Belton ISD increased by five percentage points over last year, moving from 83% to 88%.

In response to the District's new A-F rating, Belton ISD Superintendent Dr. Susan Kincannon issued the following statement:

“While pleased with an increased score and our overall success under this new system as evidenced by more than 25% of our students scoring at the ‘Mastery’ level or higher, I want parents and the community to recognize and understand that the scores and rating don’t accurately paint a picture of the quality of our schools and the breadth and depth of teaching and learning experiences that public schools provide for children. These ratings are based merely on selected content area tests taken on one day of the school year. They are designed to be only one measure of success, and should be seen for no more than just that.

In 2018-2019, Belton ISD achieved over 100 Advanced Placement Scholars with seven seniors being recognized as National Merit Commended and National Hispanic Scholars for high performance on the PSAT. Students also achieved state recognition in fine arts, engineering, construction trades, athletics, and academic competitions such as History Fair. Students were honored throughout the year for a number of accomplishments including participation in memorable events such as the Tournament of Roses Parade, patriotic events, storybook parades, and community service projects such as Kids Against Hunger and the annual United Way Kids Campaign. Furthermore, every school in Belton ISD earned designation as a No Place for Hate school whereby students at each campus participated in special activities designed to teach tolerance and respect. These measures enrich our students’ learning and help them gain valuable skills that will impact them in positive ways into adulthood and throughout their lives.

A–F rating systems are inherently flawed in that students and schools are held to the same standards and rate of learning without consideration of the many variables and factors which impact achievement. This inequitable system places judgment on schools without consideration of unique human conditions, especially for schools with high concentrations of poverty.

Ultimately, our success and the achievements of our students are much broader than this system, and we will continue to understand and communicate that it does not define or limit us. Belton ISD will continue to hold high expectations and provide students with the appropriate support to build the skills necessary to meet or exceed those expectations.”

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