



# San Antonio Independent School District

Our Mission: Graduate all students and prepare them for success in higher education.



Technology



Instruction



ISSUES FOR THE

# 111th

U.S. CONGRESS



Text Books



Facilities



Testing



Programs



Transportation





# Successes in the San Antonio Independent School District

**Our mission: Graduate all students and prepare them for success in higher education**

## **Who we are**

SAISD is a family-oriented, urban community of thriving neighborhoods, well-established businesses – including the downtown and central business district – historic sites and world-renowned museums. The District retains 90 percent of its school-age population, yet that population continues to decline.



- Third largest district in Bexar County with approximately 54,000 students
- Student-teacher ratio of 17 to 1
- Approximately 88 percent of students are economically disadvantaged
- Ethnic composition: 88 percent Hispanic; nine percent African-American; three percent White

## **High-performing schools**

SAISD increased the number of high-performing schools from **27** in 2007 to **36** in 2008 under accountability ratings issued by the Texas Education Agency. Two schools achieved *Exemplary* while 34 schools are *Recognized*. As the state standards become more rigorous, SAISD students are meeting the challenge.

- 2008 – 36 *Exemplary* and *Recognized* campuses
- 2007 – 27 *Exemplary* and *Recognized* campuses
- 2006 – 25 *Recognized* campuses
- 2005 – 15 *Recognized* campuses

## **College-going Culture**

More SAISD students than ever are going to college. Through an unprecedented partnership with Alamo Community Colleges, 32 percent more students enrolled in community college in 2007-08 than the year before.

Approximately \$16.2 million in scholarships are awarded to SAISD graduates each year to attend universities and colleges.

Travis Early College High School – Opened this school year with ninth-graders who can earn an associate's degree and/or up to 60 hours college credit upon graduating from high school.

Young Women's Leadership Academy – San Antonio's first all-girls public school is a college preparatory for grades 6-12 focused on math, science and technology along with college prep, leadership and wellness.

The MET – A partnership with St. Philip's College focused on manufacturing, engineering and technology with students earning 30 hours of college credit and a high school

# 2009 Priorities for the 111<sup>th</sup> United States Congressional Session

SAISD advocates for legislation that:

- Supports **revisions to the No Child Left Behind Act** for an accountability model that
  - is aligned between state and federal requirements
  - emphasizes achievable goals and student academic growth
  - ensures valid assessments for all students including English Language Learners and those with special needs
  - evaluates outcomes in a fair and equitable mannerThe current system is focused on sanctions and penalties.
- Supports continued funding of the E-rate program for **technology** improvements.
  - helps efforts in educating students for a 21st century global competitive market.
- Supports expanding the E-rate program to allow **funding for computers** and other related equipment needs.
- Opposes the use of federal dollars for private **school vouchers**, tuition tax credits and other such programs.
  - Vouchers eliminate public accountability
  - Voucher schools do not have to meet state and NCLB standards
  - Vouchers divert needed public dollars from public schools and students
- Provides full aid to school districts impacted by **federally-connected students**
  - SAISD is eligible for \$1.06 million but only receives \$71,719.



# San Antonio Independent School District

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