San Antonio Independent School District

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Office of the Superintendent

IMPORTANT ACCREDITATION INFORMATION

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March 1, 2011

To: All Parents and Property Owners of the San Antonio Independent School District

Subject: Assignment of Accreditation Status to the San Antonio Independent School District

The purpose of this letter is to inform you that the 2009-2010 accreditation status of SAISD is **Accredited-Warned**. Under state law, the accreditation statuses that may be assigned to districts include Accredited, Accredited-Warned, Accredited-Probation, and Not Accredited-Revoked. A status of **Accredited-Warned** means that a district exhibits deficiencies in performance that, if not addressed, will lead to probation or revocation of the district's accreditation status.

SAISD has been assigned an **Accredited-Warned** status due to the ratings assigned to the district in the state's academic accountability rating system. Specifically, SAISD was assigned a rating of Academically Unacceptable in 2009 and 2010 based on the Class of 2008 and Class of 2009 high school completion rates.

The district is taking the following steps to address the areas of identified deficiency. The District created a Completion Rate Task Force focused on early identification of students that might be at risk of dropping out and offering support to these students. In addition, Leaver Teams have been established at each high school to follow up on all students that leave school to ensure that they continue their education. The interventions put in place over the past two years have resulted in steady improvement and the preliminary estimates for the Class of 2010 meet or exceed state standards.

Under law, if the current accreditation concerns for the district are not addressed, the district may be assigned an accreditation status of **Accredited-Probation** or **Not Accredited-Revoked**. A Not Accredited-Revoked status means that that TEA no longer recognizes the district as a Texas public school. Districts with an accreditation status below Accredited also may be subject to additional accreditation sanctions as referenced in statute and rule. SAISD has shown significant gains in both academics and projected completion rate. The district is expected to be identified as Accredited next year.

For more information regarding the assignment of accreditation statuses to school districts, you may access the TEA website at http://ritter.tea.state.tx.us/accredstatus/. This website will provide you with background information as well as links to the Texas Education Code and current commissioner's rules related to accreditation.

If you have additional questions regarding the assignment of an Accredited-Warned status to the SAISD or if you would like additional information about the district's ongoing improvement efforts, please Ms. Betty Burks, Deputy Superintendent of Curriculum and Instruction at 210-554-2271 or by email at mburks1@saisd.net.

Thank you for your continued support.

SAISD ACCREDITATION STATUS

Determining Accreditation Status:

The commissioner shall evaluate:

- (A) Performance on student achievement indicators described by Section 39.053(c); and
- (B) Performance under the Financial Integrity Rating System of Texas (FIRST) developed under Subchapter D

SAISD Accreditation History:

2007 FIRST Rating	2007 Accountability Rating	2008 FIRST Rating	2008 Accountability Rating	2009 FIRST Rating	2009 Accountability Rating
Superior Achievement	Academically Acceptable	Superior Achievement	Academically Acceptable	Superior Achievement	Academically Unacceptable

SAISD Current Status

2010 FIRST Rating	2010 Accountability Rating	**Accreditation Status**	Reason For Status
Above Standard Achievement	Academically Unacceptable	**ACCREDITED - WARNED**	2009 Accountability Rating, 2010 Accountability Rating

Note: 2010 Finance Rating is the highest allowable rating given the current accreditation status.

Cause for Unacceptable Status:

- SAISD was Academically Unacceptable for the 2008-09 and 2009-10 school years solely due to performance on the Completion Rate measure.
- In 2008-09 the Class of 2008 missed the performance target of 75% by at most 15 students: 15 for the Economically Disadvantaged subgroup and 10 for the African American subgroup.
- In 2009-10 the Class of 2009 missed the performance target of 75% by 9 students: 5 for the African American subgroup and 4 for the White subgroup

Consequence for Non-Improvement:

- If SAISD is Academically Unacceptable for 2010-11 the status will be: Accredited-Probation. (Year 3)
- If SAISD is Academically Unacceptable for both 2010-11 and 2012-13, the status will be Not Accredited-Revoked. (Year 4) Please note there will be no assigned academic rating for the 2011-12 school year.
- A Not Accredited-Revoked status means that TEA no longer recognizes the district as a Texas public school.

SAISD Systemic Plan for Improvement:

- Early identification of high school students by graduating cohort is now possible utilizing TEA released cohort lists. This has allowed us to research and recover students who left SAISD two to three years prior and failed to enroll in any other Texas campus or District. Previously these students were not known until we received our final report.
- Using TEA cohort lists, Research and Evaluation has been able to create reports by graduating cohort rather than by grade level.
- Every high school has assigned one campus administrator to track the progress of students in each graduating cohort.
- Every high school has created campus leaver teams that meet weekly during the school start window and every two weeks for the remainder of the year. The team includes district and campus administrators (principal, counselors, attendance auditors, data clerks, etc.) and is charged with identifying potential dropouts for immediate intervention.
- The High School Leadership Executive Director conducts weekly status meetings during the school start window and monthly for the remainder of the year to review the status of graduation and completion data for all cohorts.
- The High School Leadership Executive Director monitors District and campus cohort status by subpopulation using data submitted weekly by high schools.
- PEIMS and Data Services present regularly to high school staff in order to ensure appropriate student coding and compilation of required documentation for each cohort. Updates and changes to State requirements are shared regularly.