

August 16, 2012

## Convocation to celebrate educating 'Children of Promise'



Courtesy photo  
Erin Gruwell  
keynote speaker

Calling all District employees!

Your presence is cordially requested at Convocation 2012. Come join your fellow SAISD family as we kick off the upcoming school year by gathering to celebrate our privilege of educating Children of Promise.

Keynote speaker will be acclaimed inspirational educator and author Erin Gruwell, whose New York Times best-selling book "The Freedom Writers Diary" was the basis for a Hollywood movie.

Gruwell's address will draw upon her own

personal experiences as a first-year teacher who helped her students overcome seemingly insurmountable obstacles.

In 2007 her story made the big screen as the movie "Freedom Writers" starring Hilary Swank and Patrick Dempsey.

Gruwell's appearance will be funded through the SAISD Foundation and H-E-B, which also are underwriting Convocation 2012.

Other guest speakers will include San Antonio's own Henry Cisneros, who prior to serving as the U.S. Housing and Urban Development Secretary between 1993 and '97 was a four-term city mayor.

In addition to setting a tone for and getting employees excited about the new school year, Convocation 2012 will provide the SAISD family a rare opportunity to gather together.

### SAISD Convocation 2012

Aug. 21 (Tues) – 8:45 to 11 a.m.  
Freeman Coliseum, 3201 E. Houston St.

#### Keynote speaker

Erin Gruwell, best-selling author

#### Also featuring

Henry Cisneros, former HUD secretary and San Antonio mayor  
Carri Baker Wells, SAISD Foundation chairman  
Dr. Sylvester Perez, interim superintendent  
Other special guests

#### What to wear

Normal work attire required  
School spirit shirts welcomed

#### Parking and transportation

Bus service will be available at most campuses and major office sites. Employees driving to Convocation 2012 may park free in Lot 9 off Gate A on East Houston Street.

## Search process under way for SAISD's 18th superintendent

If all goes according to schedule, the District could select a new leader in January.

Earlier this summer Trustees hired PROACT Search - a group of more than 100 consultants with experience as educators - to manage the process which will include recruiting qualified candidates.

A key component will be multiple opportunities for gathering public and employee input through public meetings - as well as an online survey to be posted soon on our website.

### Superintendent's search timeline

#### SUMMER/FALL

- Interviews with Trustees and key stakeholders
- Community forums and meetings to gather parent and patron input

#### SEPTEMBER

- Position profile finalized

#### SEPTEMBER-NOVEMBER

- Marketing and recruiting

#### DECEMBER

- Applicant interviews, finalists determined

#### JANUARY

- Finalist interviews and new superintendent selected

#### WANT TO APPLY?

For application information visit:  
[www.proactsearch.com](http://www.proactsearch.com)

## Community input sought on proposed redistricting maps

SAISD patrons will have the opportunity to review and comment on proposals to redraw single-member district boundaries.

Two draft maps will be submitted at upcoming public meetings. Draft Map A would impact Districts 3, 4 and 5 while Draft Map B-1 calls for the redrawing of boundaries for Districts 1,2,3,4 and 5.

The redistricting is necessitated by demographic changes as determined by the

2010 Census and proposals are designed to equalize population.

Currently there is a greater than 10 percent difference between District 3 - the most populated - and District 5 - the least populated. These are served by Trustees Debra Guerrero and Patti Radle, respectively.

Hired to oversee the redistricting process is the law firm of Powell & Leon.

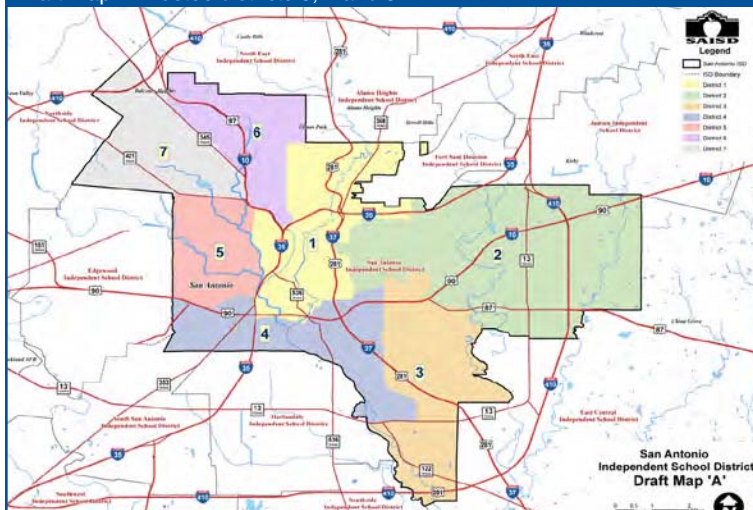
### Community meetings

Aug. 28 (Tues) – 6 p.m.  
Lanier HS, 1514 W. César Chávez Blvd.

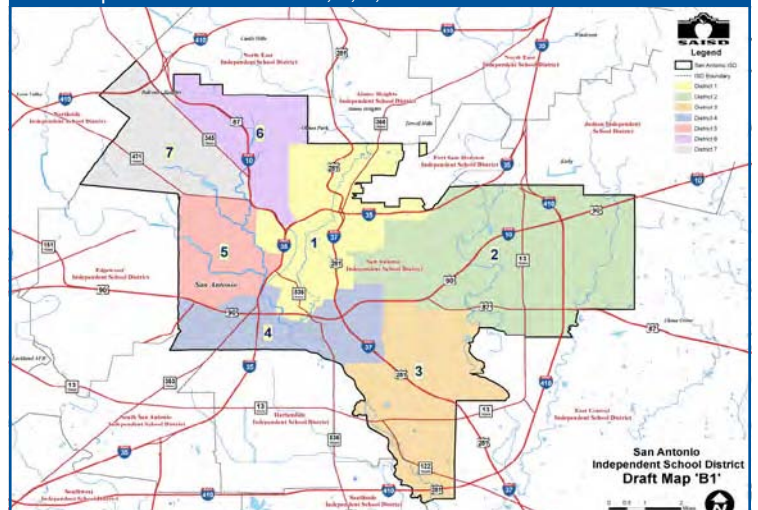
Aug. 30 (Thurs) – 6 p.m.  
Highlands HS, 3118 Elgin Ave.

Sept. 6 (Thurs) – 6 p.m.  
Burbank HS, 1002 Edwards St.

Draft Map A: Trustee districts 3, 4 and 5.



Draft Map B1: Trustee districts 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5.





# Summer in SAISD

From winning awards to getting a jump start on the new school year through workshops and other professional development activities, it's been a busy summer around the District. These are just a few examples.



SAISD's executive director of athletics has another honor to add to his own personal wall of fame. Gil Garza is the latest inductee into the Texas High School Athletics Directors Association Hall of Honor. The 10-year SAISD veteran whose career spans nearly 40 years was inducted during a July 29 ceremony at the Texas High School Coaches Association Convention/Coaching School held here in San Antonio.

Fox Tech HS principal Dawn Parker (right) commends school secretary Carmen Ng, who was honored for signing up the most participants for the 2012 Komen Race for the Cure.



Well prepared to help students improve their writing, reading and literacy skills are the 40 Abydos Summer Writing Institute graduates. Shown at the commencement ceremony are trainers: (first row, seated l to r) Sheryl Lew, Rhodes MS; Jo Rose, Burbank HS; and Karen Guajardo, Bonham Academy. Graduates (second row, l to r) are Cynthia Garza, J.T. Brackenridge ES; Francisca Gonzalez, Sarah King ES; Roxana Reynero-Becerra, Bonham Academy; Isabel Martinez, Bowden ES; and Sarah Carrola, Whittier MS. Third row (l to r) are: Jennifer

Chamberlain, Hawthorne Academy; Maria Espinosa, Collins Garden ES; Catherine Reyes, Rogers ES; Juanita Torres, Highland Hills ES; Maribel Cortez, Twain MS; and Jamie Dittlinger Medellin, YWLA. Fourth row (l to r) are: Anthony Villarreal, Miller ES; Miles Smith, Department of Reading/ELA; Kristin Dickson, YWLA; Elizabeth Smith, Cameron ES; and Michael Michaud, Smith ES. Not pictured are: Griselda Arciniega, Pickett Academy; Melissa Chagoya, Sarah King ES; and Johanna McGhee, Tafolla MS.

## The PTA wants you!

The entire SAISD community is invited to show support for the District's students and schools through joining the local chapter of the nation's largest parent-teacher organization.

Membership is open and not just restricted to parents. To learn more attend the:

**SAISD Council of PTAs Membership Drive Kickoff**  
**Aug. 20 (Mon) – 4 p.m.**  
**Burnet Center, 406 Barrera St.**

Lending their support at this annual event will be a variety of student spirit organizations.

Congratulating Lanier HS Criminal Justice Program participants for their outstanding performances at the SkillsUSA national competition are principal Miguel Elizondo and teacher Tamara Ford (far left and right, respectively). The students also were recognized at the Aug. 13 School Board meeting.

Shown (l to r) with their certificates of recognition are Joseph Garcia, Bianca Garcia, Melody Hernandez, Joe Pena and Justin Mercado. They were among 5,700 students nationwide competing at the contest in Kansas City, Mo.



## New District appointments and assignments announced

**Rebecca Atchley, Adult & Community Ed director**

Formerly: Neal ES principal

**Dr. Mateen Diop, IT director**

Formerly: On leave of absence to write book "Inner-City Public Schools Still Work." Previously served as Hirsch ES principal 2006-11.

**Sylvia Garza, LED - high schools**

Formerly: Midland ISD chief academic officer

**Dr. John Jenkins, Student Attendance director**

Formerly: Navarro HS principal

**Mona Lopez, LED - middle schools**

Formerly: Burbank HS principal

**Lewis Barr, Poe MS principal**

Formerly: Highlands HS academic dean

**Derrick Brown, Douglass ES principal**

Formerly: Longfellow MS asst. principal

**Derrick Cade, MLK Academy principal**

Formerly: Douglass ES principal

**Christopher Castro, Twain MS principal**

Formerly: Highlands HS asst. principal

**Yesenia Cordova, Burbank HS principal**

Formerly: Poe MS principal

**Cynthia De La Garza, Collins Garden ES principal**

Formerly: Graebner ES principal

**Alexandro Flores, Austin Academy principal**

Formerly: Mission Academy asst. principal

**Theresa Flores-Lopez, Hillcrest ES principal**

Formerly: Regency Place ES (NEISD) asst. principal

**Claudio Garcia, Lowell MS principal**

Formerly: Burbank HS academic dean

**Melanie Herr-Zepeda, J.T. Brackenridge ES principal**

Formerly: Franklin ES administrative assistant

**Jennifer Maestas, Wilson ES principal**

Formerly: Beacon Hill ES asst. principal

**Venus Medina, Neal ES principal**

Formerly: Wilson ES principal

**Mark Mendoza, New Tech HS director**

Formerly: Sam Houston HS teacher

**Patricia Ortiz, Bonham Academy principal**

Formerly: J.T. Brackenridge ES principal

**Janet Perez, Whittier MS principal**

Formerly: Bonham Academy principal

**Maribel Rodriguez, Mission Academy principal**

Formerly: Austin Academy principal

**Noemi Saldivar, Graebner ES principal**

Formerly: Whittier MS principal

**Joseph Zatarain, Cooper Academy/Navarro HS principal**

Formerly: Cooper Academy principal



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 Patti Radle, Trustee

**Interim Superintendent**  
 Dr. Sylvester Perez

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