REPORT FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT

Office of Superintendent of Schools
Board of Education Meeting of October 11, 2012

SUBJECT: BOARD MONITORING SYSTEM—GOAL 1, SECTION D: HISD WILL BECOME A RECOGNIZED DISTRICT

At the February 11, 2010 meeting, the Houston Independent School District (HISD) Board of Education implemented a revised Board Monitoring System in order to efficiently maintain and measure HISD’s goals and core values. The monitoring system was designed to give district administrators clear direction on how to meet the board’s expectations in these crucial areas.

Board Policy AE(LOCAL) states “[T]he administration shall report to the Board on each goal and core value using the specific method and timing set out below…”

In reference to the district’s Goal 1: Increase Student Achievement, the attached report provides information regarding Section D: HISD Will Become a Recognized District. The policy states that “[T]he administration shall provide the Board of Education with bar charts representing each TEA accountability measurement used statewide for grading districts as a whole, and reflect on the bar chart the extent to which the District measures. The bar charts shall report the levels needed for various standards (such as recognized, exemplary, etc.) to help measure the District’s progress.”

Timing: “The charts shall be provided to Board members as an A-1 report annually in October, commencing in 2004.”

The attached summary provides an explanation of the current status of the Texas Education Agency (TEA) accountability system and why there are no ratings for 2012.
EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Purpose
The Houston Independent School District (HISD) exists to strengthen the social and economic foundation of Houston by assuring its youth the highest-quality elementary and secondary education available anywhere. In fulfilling this goal, HISD's Board of Education has designed a program to systematically monitor the district’s goals and core values. The Board Monitoring System will report on each goal and core value on a routine basis. The goal currently under review is to meet the Texas Education Agency’s criteria for Recognized status in the state accountability system (Goal 1, Section D).

The Texas Education Agency (TEA) Accountability system is the state-mandated method for evaluating schools and school districts with regard to their student performance on certain indicators. In the past, each indicator was examined for all students as well as for each student group (African American, Hispanic, White, and Economically Disadvantaged). Under the state accountability system of 2012, no ratings will be assigned for 2012, and the ratings for 2011 do not apply to 2012. It is still being decided if 2012 performance of the State of Texas Assessments of Academic Readiness (STAAR) will be used for purposes of calculating improvement from 2012 to 2013 in determining ratings for 2013. Schools and districts will be rated under the new accountability system in 2013 and will receive those ratings on August 8, 2013. At this time no decisions have been made regarding the rating labels for 2013 and beyond. This will be among the many issues to be discussed by the Accountability Technical Advisory Committee (ATAC) and the Accountability Policy Advisory Committee (APAC) in upcoming meetings. Recommendations of these committees will be considered by the Commissioner of Education.