

RAINS ISD

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The Rains Independent School District, along with three of its four school campuses, received the state's highest accountability ranking of Exemplary in the 2010 Texas Assessment of Knowledge and Skills (TAKS). Official results were released Friday, July 30, by the Texas Education Agency.

Rains High School, Rains Intermediate School and Rains Elementary School joined 2,621 other schools statewide in achieving the Exemplary rating.

The school district was one of 239 districts to earn the rating.

To earn an Exemplary rating, at least 90 percent of a district's or school's students had to have passed the TAKS, 95 percent of high school students either graduated on time or continued high school for a fifth year, and the district had to have had an annual middle school dropout rate of 1.8 percent or less.

Rains Junior High School received the state's second highest ranking, Recognized. A total of 3,153 schools statewide received a Recognized rating.

More rigorous standards were implemented this year to determine the state's Recognized rating. The new standards required 80 percent of all students and each evaluated student group to pass the TAKS, compared to 75 percent in previous years. Additionally, the school must achieve an 85 percent completion rate and must now have an annual seventh and eighth-grade dropout rate of 1.8 percent or below. The previous dropout rate was two percent.

A district or campus could earn a rating by meeting the absolute standards or by using the Texas Projection Measure (TPM) or exceptions. Special measures may only be used to move up one rating category. Rains' district and all school campuses used the TPM to achieve their rankings.

The following is how other local school districts and campuses scored:

Alba-Golden ISD: Academically Acceptable; High School: Academically Acceptable; Alter School: Academically Acceptable; Elementary School: Recognized.

Lone Oak ISD: Exemplary; Lone Oak High School: Recognized; Lone Oak Middle School: Exemplary; Lone Oak Elementary School: Exemplary.

Miller Grove ISD: Academically Acceptable; Miller Grove School: Academically Acceptable.

State accountability rankings in order from highest are: Exemplary, Recognized, Academically Acceptable, Academically Unacceptable.

Information in a press release on the Texas Education Agency's Website contributed to this article.