



Texas education system earns top spot in Achieve review

AUSTIN- A new report issued today by the bipartisan education reform group, Achieve, found that Texas is the only state in the country to implement all key college and career readiness policies identified by the organization.

Achieve conducts an annual survey of all 50 states and the District of Columbia to determine whether they have implemented strategic college and career readiness policies. Texas was the only state to receive a check mark in the five areas Achieve graded – alignment of curriculum standards, graduation requirements, assessments, P-20 data systems and accountability systems.

The accountability measure examined whether a state annually reported school performance information publicly, set state performance goals, provided school-level incentives and employed measurements that were weighted heavily towards college and career readiness indicators. Texas was the only state that achieved all four accountability criteria.

The Achieve report called *Closing the Expectations Gap 2011* cited Texas for its implementation of best practices, saying:

“Texas’ school-based incentives, the Gold Performance Acknowledgment Standards, are presented alongside one another and annually updated in the Texas Education Agency Accountability Manual to reflect changes in the minimum thresholds for recognition. Texas’ data system (<http://ritter.tea.state.tx.us/perfreport/account/2010/gpa.srch.html>) allows a user to select one or more Gold Performance Acknowledgments (e.g., dual enrollment, Advanced Placement/International Baccalaureate results, college-ready graduates, college and career readiness diploma, college and career readiness assessment results, etc.) and view all schools/districts that met the selected Gold Performance Acknowledgments. These designations also appear at the top of school report cards, reinforcing their visibility and importance to parents, teachers and the public.”

Texas was also recognized for:

- Adopting English language arts and mathematics standards that reflect the knowledge and skills colleges and universities demand of high school graduates.
- Establishing requirements that all high school graduates must complete a college and career ready curriculum that includes at least up to Algebra II and English IV.

- Administering tests that colleges can use to measure students’ mastery of college and career ready content in English and mathematics.
- Providing a P-20 data system that allows public schools and universities to match longitudinal student-level data.

“Texas has long been a leader in the educational reform movement. By working together, the Texas Education Agency, the State Board of Education, local educators and legislators have positioned Texas as a leading state. Creating a college and career ready culture that challenges our students to strive for excellence is important for the continued health and prosperity of Texas,” said Commissioner of Education Robert Scott.

The Achieve report is available at www.achieve.org .

About Achieve – Created in 1996 by the nation’s governors and corporate leaders, Achieve is an independent, bipartisan, nonprofit education reform organization based in Washington, D.C.