

Lancaster ISD Board of Trustees Named 2016 Texas Outstanding School Board

September 27, 2016 — [Lancaster ISD's Board of Trustees](#) has been named the 2016 Texas Outstanding School Board. Board members were recognized by Region 10 Executive Director Gordon Taylor during their regular September board meeting.

"We applaud the board for its exemplary service not only to Lancaster's administrators, teachers and other education professionals, but most importantly to the district's more than 7,000 students," said Dr. Taylor.

"Too often," he added, "I think we overlook the fact that decisions made by these volunteer public servants have the power to change the future of the communities they serve. We probably don't thank them as much as we should for their selfless dedication or for the countless hours they pour into their work."

The board was honored over the weekend in Houston at the annual joint convention for the Texas Association of School Administrators (TASA) and Texas Association of School Boards. Since 1971, the [TASA School Board Awards program](#) has honored outstanding Texas school boards that have demonstrated commitment to their students and to their communities.

Lancaster ISD Superintendent Michael McFarland, the [2015 Texas nominee for National Superintendent of the Year](#), nominated the board for the award. "It's great to see our board members being recognized at the state level. Now Texas will know what I have known for quite some time: that we have an outstanding team of eight."



Photo credit: Sonya Cole-Hamilton



Lancaster's board was chosen from among five finalists interviewed by a committee of Texas school superintendents. Their decision was based on several [criteria](#), including the board's support for educational performance; educational improvement projects and school transformation initiatives; commitment to a code of ethics; and placement of the welfare of children served by the school system above other motives.

"Lancaster ISD's success has reinvigorated the community, leading to partnerships with business and industry and bringing students back to the district for the quality of education," said Clark Ealy, superintendent of College Station ISD and acting chair of the TASA School Board Awards Committee.

In particular, committee members were impressed by the transformation the board has achieved in the district, which went from having a state conservator, low financial reserves, and negative public image to a model for district turnaround. Besides working to improve district schools, board members now share their experiences with other boards at both the state and national level.

"I am hopeful this recognition will allow us to develop additional partnerships to assist us in realizing our vision for all students to achieve self-sustaining success and leave a lasting legacy," said Board President Ty G. Jones.

Lancaster ISD, south of Dallas, serves more than 7,000 students, 96 percent of whom are African-American and Hispanic. Eighty-six percent of students are identified as economically disadvantaged.

In addition to the Lancaster ISD board, the other four [finalists](#), or “Honor Boards,” were recognized at the TASA/TASB Convention: Denver City ISD, Region 17; Eagle Mountain-Saginaw ISD, Region 11; Robstown ISD, Region 2; and Schertz-Cibolo-Universal City, Region 20.

