



THE
Blueprint
for EDUCATIONAL CHANGE™

**The Blueprint for Educational Change™ announces
Central Texas School Readiness Standard
*Graduates are Made. Not Born.™***

Austin (April 28, 2009) -- The Blueprint for Educational Change™, announced today a major milestone with the release of the Central Texas School Readiness Standard for Goal 1: *Children Enter Kindergarten School Ready*. The Central Texas School Readiness Standard is the first of its kind in the state's history and results from the collaborative work of Central Texas school districts, community early childhood education providers, community organizations, regional experts and local workforce boards.

The School Readiness Standard builds on the Texas Education Agency's Pre-K Guidelines and program quality standards to provide guidance to schools, teachers, and parents about how to best prepare students for school. The Standard is accompanied by a set of measures that are designed to mark a child's progression throughout the Pre-Kindergarten year. Unlike most current assessments, the Standard broadly covers child development including: Social/Emotional Development; Language and Communication; Emerging Literacy in Reading and Writing; Mathematics; Science, Social Studies, Fine Arts, Physical Development and Technology.

"This marks an exciting day," said Patty Shafer, Superintendent of San Marcos Consolidated Independent School District. "With the School Readiness Standard, our community and schools will have the tools to come together to assess needs and prepare our students for success."

The purpose of The School Readiness Standard is two-fold: to offer teachers instructional strategies and assessment tools to support a child's progress while still in Pre-K and secondly, to help Central Texas better gauge how many of our children enter Kindergarten "prepared" to succeed in public education. Professional development for teachers in nine school districts as well as private providers will take place this summer so that they can roll out classroom instruction and assessment based on the Standard starting this fall. Supporting materials will also be available for parents. Over 70 administrators, Pre-K and Kindergarten teachers, and private providers from across the region are helping to disseminate the materials to families and schools.

The Blueprint for Educational Change™ members Region XIII Education Service Center, San Marcos Consolidated ISD and United Way's Success by Six led this unprecedented effort, which was facilitated by the E3 Alliance and supported by the Buena Vista, Tapestry and Webber Family Foundations.

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About The Blueprint for Educational Change™

The Blueprint for Educational Change, which was launched in May 2008, is Central Texas' commitment to build the most successful educational pipeline in the country. It is an unprecedented, comprehensive strategic plan that is regional in scope, based on objective data, which spans the entire continuum from early childhood to workforce success. The Blueprint is a living document backed by a coalition of community, business and education leaders, to align our work, our resources, our volunteers and our assets around the success of students. Four strategic goals, along with detailed action strategies and data indicators, have been identified as being crucial to making sure that all students reach their highest potential and in turn secure our economic competitiveness and quality of life.

Goal 1: Children Enter Kindergarten School Ready

Goal 2: Eliminate Achievement Gaps for All Students while Improving Overall Performance

Goal 3: Students Graduate College-and-Career Ready and Prepared for a Lifetime of Learning

Goal 4: Central Texas as a Community Prepares Children to Succeed