



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Superintendent praises dedication, hard work of staff, students on TAKS

DEER PARK – On the eve of the school year’s busiest week of state-mandated testing, Deer Park ISD received the preliminary results from testing that took place earlier in the year. These early results of the Texas Assessment of Academic Skills, or TAKS, testing indicate that students made tremendous gains in several areas.

Results are typically received by school districts in a staggered pattern that corresponds with the TAKS testing schedule. Superintendent of Schools Arnold Adair compared the situation to an important sports game. “It’s like playing the first quarter of a championship game and thinking that your team played very well, but not finding out about the actual score until several weeks later,” he said. “In this case, Team Deer Park played an outstanding first quarter, and we can’t wait to see how we do for the rest of the game.”

Fifth-grade students took the math TAKS on April 3, and the preliminary results show that several schools had more than 90 percent of its students pass and half of its students commended:

PRELIMINARY RESULTS 5TH-GRADE MATH APRIL 2007		
SCHOOL	% PASSING	% COMMENDED
WAC	90	51
DWE (ENGLISH)	85	34
SJE	96	58
DPE	96	52
DE	90	42
FE	98	55

(More)

Adair paid specific attention to the significance of the increases in commended rates for the schools. "When a student is commended on TAKS, it is similar to receiving all A's in that class on his or her report card," he said. "When you have more students at the commended rate, it means that, not only do you have a high percentage of students passing, but those who pass the test are doing so at a higher level. In Deer Park, we don't just want students to pass; we want them to be commended."

The district received similarly good news from preliminary results of the Feb. 13 third and fifth-grade reading TAKS, in which all schools had at least 88 percent of third-graders and 82 percent of fifth-graders passing:

PRELIMINARY RESULTS 3RD/5TH GRADE READING FEB. 2007				
	3RD GRADE		5TH GRADE	
SCHOOL	% PASSING	% COMMENDED	% PASSING	% COMMENDED
WAC	94	48	82	25
DE	91	26	92	19
DWE (ENGLISH)	88	28	85	20
DPE	99	50	97	44
FE	99	56	99	38
SJE	99	55	93	27

"On one hand, we are pleasantly surprised at the results so far, but on the other hand, I wouldn't expect anything else from our students and staff," Adair said. "I continue to be inspired by the dedication of our teachers, administrators and support staff, and our students responded with the same level of intensity."

Adair also noted that the preliminary passing and commended rates could improve because students who did not pass the first time are allowed several more attempts before the end of the testing cycle. "In some cases, we've had students go from not passing on their first try to being commended on their second attempt, so things can only improve from here," he explained.