



# Newcastle Independent School District

September 30, 2016

## **Newcastle ISD** Earns State's Highest Fiscal Accountability Rating

The Newcastle Independent School District officials announced that the district received a rating of "A" for "Superior Achievement" under Texas' Schools FIRST financial accountability rating system. The "Superior Achievement" rating is the state's highest, demonstrating the quality of Newcastle ISD's financial management and reporting system.

This is the 14th year of Schools FIRST (Financial Accountability Rating System of Texas), a financial accountability system for Texas school districts developed by the Texas Education Agency in response to Senate Bill 875 of the 76th Texas Legislature in 1999 and amendments under House Bill 5, 83<sup>rd</sup> Texas Legislature, Regular Session, 2013. The primary goal of Schools FIRST is to achieve quality performance in the management of school districts' financial resources, a goal made more significant due to the complexity of accounting associated with Texas' school finance system.

"We are very pleased with Newcastle ISD's Schools FIRST rating," said Newcastle ISD Superintendent Ty Spitzer. This rating shows that our district is making the most of our taxpayers' dollars. This rating shows that Newcastle school is accountable not only for student learning, but also for achieving these results cost-effectively and efficiently."

The Texas Education Agency assigned one of four financial accountability ratings to Texas school districts, with the highest being "A" for "Superior Achievement," followed by "B" for "Above-Standard Achievement," "C" for "Standard Achievement" and "F" for "Substandard Achievement."

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