

BOARD BRIEF

Accountability Update *(Information Item)*

The Board heard an update on the state accountability system from Executive Director of Accountability and Continuous Improvement Elvia Noriega. RISD performed above state averages on most tests and grades on the first administration of STAAR exams in grades 3-10. Students took the STAAR exams this spring in year two of the state's transition to the STAAR test-based accountability system.

The recent Texas legislative session will result in some changes to the state accountability system, most notably a reduction in STAAR End of Course (EOC) exams that students are required to pass in order to graduate from 15 to 5, including English I, English II, Algebra I, Biology and U.S. History.

Schools and school districts will receive accountability ratings in August based largely on the 2013 STAAR results through a series of formulas that calculate four indices:

- Index 1 – Student Achievement
- Index 2 – Student Progress
- Index 3 – Closing Performance Gaps
- Index 4 – Postsecondary Readiness

School rating labels for 2013 will be either “Met Standard” or “Improvement Required.” Campuses that receive a rating of “Met Standard” are eligible to receive designated “distinctions” in specific areas to indicate strong performance in comparison with schools of similar size and demographic makeup. Areas of possible distinction for schools in 2013 include:

- Top 25%: Student Progress
- Academic Achievement – Reading/ELA
- Academic Achievement - Mathematics

For 2013, RISD and all campuses are projected to receive ratings of “Met Standard” based on Indexes 1, 3 and 4. The state has not yet released data for Index 2, which could impact the final accountability rating of each RISD school and/or the district.

The state is expected to release official accountability ratings and distinction designations for districts and schools in August.

For additional, detailed information, [please see the entire presentation here.](#)



About RISD's Board Brief

Board Brief is an RISD electronic communication typically available the day after Regular RISD Board meetings or Study Sessions. Board Brief includes highlights of selected action and information agenda items. Additionally, the RISD Board approves some items under the consent agenda. The full June 17, 2013 agenda may be viewed by visiting risd.org/board and selecting Board Agenda.

Public Hearing – 2013-14 Budget and Tax Rate *(Information Item)*

As required by law, the district advertised and held a public hearing to provide information about the proposed 2013-14 budget and resulting property tax rate. Deputy Superintendent Tony Harkleroad presented information related to the proposed 2013-14 budget and property tax rate, which is projected to remain unchanged for 2013-14 at \$1.34005 per \$100 of taxable property value. That rate includes \$1.04005/\$100 for maintenance and operations and \$0.30/\$100 for debt service as approved by RISD voters. The overall tax rate has not changed since 2007, when it was lowered to the current rate.

The proposed 2013-14 RISD operating budget includes appropriations based on additional projected revenue from several sources, including additional funds from the state of Texas that partially restore what was cut from school districts over the 2011-2013 biennium, and also revenue from RISD's increased enrollment. Additional proposed operating appropriations for 2013-14 include hiring additional teachers to reduce class sizes and increasing employee compensation to become more competitive with other area districts and industries.

[Please click here to see the budget presentation](#) provided by Mr. Harkleroad at the public hearing.

2013-2014 Budget *(Action Item)*

The Board considered and passed the 2013-14 budget and property tax rate. This action concluded the 2013-2014 budget planning process and budget discussions that began in September of 2012 after the 2012-2013 budget was approved in June of 2012. The 2013-14 property tax rate will be \$1.34005 per \$100 of taxable property value, remaining unchanged since 2007. The 2013-14 RISD operating budget appropriates \$273,531,795, and projects continued enrollment growth to 39,018 students, which would represent overall district enrollment growth of more than 12 percent since 2009-10.

RISD's conservative fiscal approach enabled the district to respond to the unprecedented funding cuts from the 2011 legislative session without teacher layoffs or substantial reductions in workforce. RISD experienced a loss of state funding of \$14.3 million in 2011-12 and \$21.7 million in 2012-13. The district made significant operating budget reductions during the 2011-12 budget planning process in advance of the state funding cuts, including an employee salary freeze and a decision to not hire additional teachers for 2011-12 despite continued enrollment growth. A direct result over the last two years has been an increase in class sizes and less competitive salaries for teachers and other staff members.

RISD continues to be in a stronger fiscal position than many school districts due to the conservative approach of the Board of Trustees and administration. In addition, the Texas Legislature partially restored some of the 2011 funding cuts in the recently-completed 2013 session. As a result, the district is able to address two major issues in the 2013-14 budget:

- Provide additional teachers to address enrollment growth with the goal of reducing class sizes and allowing more students to attend their attendance area school.
- Increase employee compensation to become more competitive with area school districts.

2013-2014 Budget *(Continued)*

Overall, major appropriation increases in the budget include:

- \$10,093,205 to increase employee compensation.
- \$7,075,000 for additional teachers, nurses, special education staff, and assistant principals.
- \$1,000,000 increase in the District medical plan contribution for employees to help offset ongoing state increases.
- \$2,250,000 increase in the District contribution to TRS as required by 2013 legislation.
- Various programs that were either eliminated/reduced or unable to be initiated as a result of 2011 state funding cuts, such as mentor teacher stipends, Career and Technology Education stipends, annual stakeholder surveys, secondary summer school, Saturday school, career and college readiness programming, recruiting, and convocation.

For comprehensive information about the 2013-14 budget, [please see the 2013-2014 Proposed Budget Book here](#).

To see information about previous discussions as the 2013-2014 budget planning process has progressed, [please see Board Briefs from 2012-13 Board meetings on the Board Agenda page here](#).

Dual Credit Agreement with Richland Community College *(Action Item)*

The Board voted to authorize the district to continue its agreement with Richland Community College (RCC) to offer eligible RISD students specified classes that allow them to simultaneously earn high school and college credit. Dual Credit programs also offer eligible students the opportunity to gradually become more familiar with the rigors of college courses while still in high school. RCC believes it can again offer classes to students in the program on a no-tuition basis, which makes college courses available to students who might not otherwise be able to afford enrollment. Participation in the courses has been excellent and enrollment has steadily increased each year the program has been offered.

For more information on any action or information item from the [June 17 RISD Board of Trustees meeting, please see the June 17 Board Agenda packet page online here](#).
