

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**The National Center for Educational Achievement's Just for the Kids
Campaign Releases This Year's Higher Performing Schools Lists**

(Austin, TX- January 14, 2010) The National Center for Educational Achievement (NCEA) will release the newest edition of its Just for the Kids Campaign for Higher Performing Schools lists on January 19, 2010 to coincide with NCEA hosted regional events featuring several distinguished Texas education leaders and practitioners.

The day-long events address the importance of college and career readiness for all Texas students. The schedule of events is as follows:

- January 19, 2010 - Austin, TX - James Bowie High School Starlight Theater
- January 20, 2010 - Houston, TX - Hattie Mae White Educational Support Center
- January 21, 2010 - Dallas, TX - Dallas ISD Administration Building, Board Meeting Room

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Each event varies, but all feature legislative leaders discussing current issues in Texas education. In Austin, State Senator Florence Shapiro is scheduled to address the audience. In Houston, State Representative Rob Eissler is scheduled to address the audience and in Dallas, State Representative Diane Patrick is scheduled to address the audience.

The events also feature prominent district leaders and educators from Aldine, Austin, Carrollton-Farmers Branch, Cypress-Fairbanks, Dallas, El Paso, Houston, Leander, and Round Rock Independent School Districts who will offer their strategies to help students meet higher college and career readiness standards.

A portion of the program will be dedicated to schools recognized by NCEA as *Just for the Kids Higher Performing Schools* in Texas. Controlling for student demographics, NCEA identifies schools whose students consistently achieved more academic growth, based on TAKS. The top five percent of schools whose students met NCEA's College and Career Readiness Targets also made the list.

Event details for the Austin, Dallas and Houston events are available online at http://www.nc4ea.org/index.cfm/e/event_registration or by phone at 512.466.5383.

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