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Texas Monthly Magazine Awards Big Sandy 4 Stars
Dallardsville School District Ranks as One of Best in State

(December 13, 2002) Texas Monthly magazine has awarded Big Sandy Independent School District four of a possible five stars based on ratings by the National Center for Educational Accountability (NCEA), the Austin-based nonprofit organization that now helps 13 other states analyze their educational data.

This is the highest ranking Big Sandy has ever received in the annual independent compilation. It follows on the heels of the state's certification of Big Sandy as a "Recognized" district, just two percentage points shy of the coveted top "Exemplary" rating and up from the previous year's "Acceptable" rating.

School Superintendent Darrel Myers attributes their success to implementation of Renaissance Solutions throughout the district. "There is no doubt that Renaissance has had a big impact on these remarkable gains," says Myers. "By giving our excellent faculty these tools, it has produced measurable and dramatic increases in student performance."

Texas Monthly magazine uses a detailed and rigorous process in its determination of school ratings, and even cautioned readers that schools might note a dip in their ratings because of the additional stringency applied this year. Despite that, Big Sandy showed a gain.

Students are judged based on TAAS proficiency and school scores are established by comparing them to an average of the best schools in the state with similar or greater disadvantages. NCEA also tracks performances by individual students over a period of years.

"One star short of the top rating and just two percentage points shy of Exemplary gives us a valid goal for this year," concludes Superintendent Myers.

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