

Notice of Assignment of Accreditation Status for Southwest Schools

The purpose of this notice is to inform the public that the 2010-2011 accreditation status of Southwest Schools is Accredited-Warned. Under state law, the accreditation statuses that may be assigned to charter schools include Accredited, Accredited-Warned, Accredited-Probation, and Not Accredited-Revoked. A status of Accredited-Warned means that a charter school exhibits deficiencies in performance that, if not addressed, will lead to probation or revocation of the charter school's accreditation status.

Southwest Schools has been assigned an Accredited-Warned status due to the ratings assigned to the charter school in the state's Academic Accountability Rating System. Specifically, Southwest Schools was assigned a 2009 Academic Accountability Rating of Academically Unacceptable and a 2010 Academic Accountability Rating of Academically Unacceptable.

Southwest Schools is taking the following steps to address the areas of identified deficiency. Accountability issues that caused the 2009 unacceptable rating were low performance in the area of mathematics for the sub-population African American and high drop-out rate. Issues that caused the 2010 unacceptable rating were low completion rate and high drop-out rate. In 2009, Southwest Schools hired an external consultant to assist with mathematics performance. That consultant has remained in place for the 2010 academic year as well. In 2010, Southwest Schools hired an additional consultant to assist with the completion and drop-out issues. All campuses have gone through training on tracking 9th grade cohorts for completion issues and training to assign appropriate leaver codes to address the drop-out issues.

Under law, if the current accreditation concerns for Southwest Schools are not addressed, the charter school may be assigned an accreditation status of Accredited-Probation or Not Accredited-Revoked. A Not Accredited-Revoked status means that the TEA no longer recognizes the charter school as a Texas public school. Charter schools with an accreditation status below Accredited also may be subject to additional accreditation sanctions as referenced in statute and rule.

For more information regarding the assignment of accreditation statuses to charter schools, you may access the TEA website at <http://www.tea.state.tx.us/accredstatus>. This website will provide you with background information as well as links to the Texas Education Code and current commissioner's rules related to accreditation.

If you have additional questions regarding the assignment of an Accredited-Warned status to Southwest Schools, or if you would like additional information about the charter's ongoing improvement efforts, please contact the Superintendent of Schools, Janelle James, at 713-784-6345.