



# the Wolverine

A NEWSLETTER FOR PARENTS, BUSINESSES, COMMUNITY MEMBERS, & TAXPAYERS

We at Springlake-Earth ISD have always had a tradition of providing superb academic instruction for our outstanding students. We are proud to report to you that the tradition continues, as you will see as you browse through this informative newsletter.

Springlake-Earth ISD is a Class 1 A, Chapter 42 school district with a current enrollment of approximately 370 students in grades PK through 12. The district is led by the board of trustees, consisting of Mark Parish, president, Kevin Riley, vice president, Jimmy McCurry, secretary, Brenda Williams, Frank Mendoza, Albert Daniel, and Bob Jones. The superintendent is Dr. Gary Bigham. The district is divided into two campuses, an Elementary/Jr. High and a High School led by principals Robert Conkin and Jarod Bellar, respectively. Mike Ritchie, our new Athletic Director oversees the athletic program. The Springlake-Earth ISD faculty and staff is a highly educated, caring, dedicated, and highly-experienced group of individuals committed to excellence in education, ensuring all students graduate ready to meet the challenges of an ever-changing world.

Springlake-Earth ISD  
P.O. Box 130  
Earth, TX 79031

(806) 257-3310  
(806) 257-3927 fax



The Springlake-Earth ISD offers a balanced and challenging curriculum that helps prepare its students for their future. The regular curricular program builds a solid foundation in the basics including English Language Arts, Math, Social Studies, and Science. In addition to the regular academic program, the Springlake-Earth ISD offers programs and services including Titles I, II, III, IV, V, and VI, Migrant, English as a Second Language, Compensatory Education, Special Education, Dyslexia, Accelerated Reading and Accelerated Math Instruction, Gifted and Talented, Section 504, and Career and Technology Education. The curriculum includes a rigorous and well-rounded education that includes advanced placement, concurrent college enrollment, and tech prep college courses. Furthermore, the Springlake-Earth ISD believes that extra-curricular activities are a part of a well-rounded education.

We are committed to educational excellence and strive to create the opportunity for all students to develop and grow to become contributing members of society.

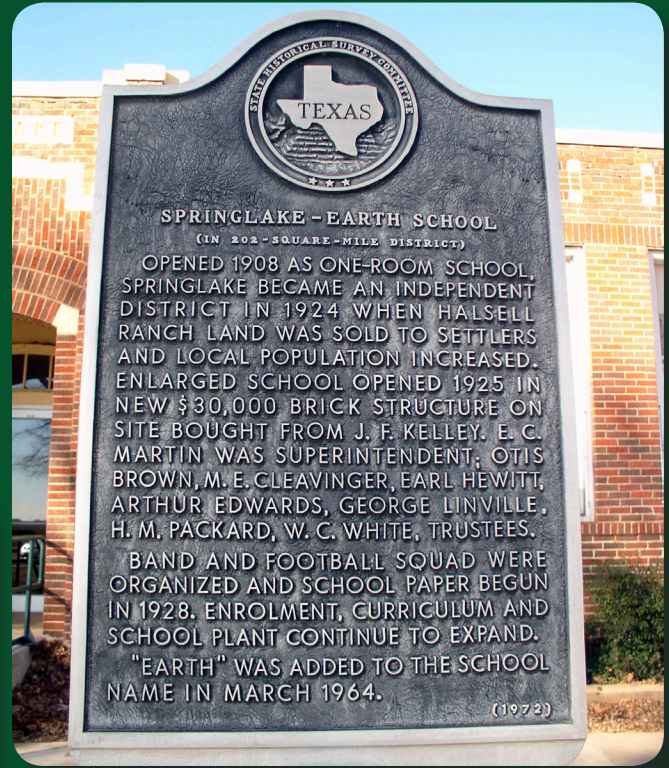
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**A TRADITION OF EXCELLENCE**

## FACILITIES

**S**pringlake-Earth ISD has made great use of its older facilities. In fact, the original school building (pictured above), which was the entire campus in 1930, now has a historical marker in front of it and the building is still being utilized for instructional purposes! Ironically, the oldest building on the campus now serves as the technology center.



SPRINGLAKE - EARTH ISD

# TECHNOLOGY CENTER



# CAMPUS IMPROVEMENTS

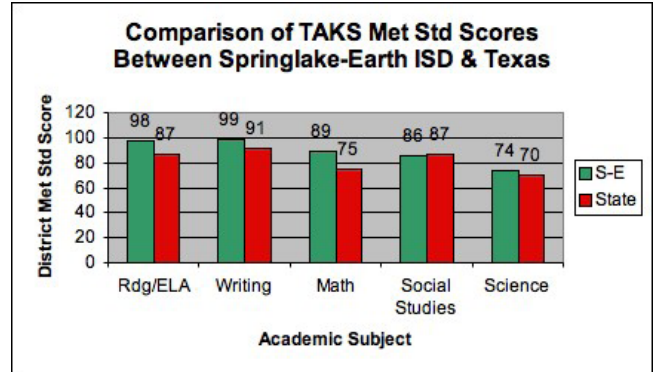
For those who have not visited the campus lately, we invite you to see the improvements (over and above regular maintenance) that were made during the summer, which include:

- Refinished and re-stripped the parking lot
- Built railing on east end of parking lot and installed vehicle stops
- Replaced sidewalk in front of the campus
- Poured concrete viewing area and installed benches around the war memorial
- Landscaping work around the campus
- Renovated the tennis court
- Repainted all athletic facilities – stadium, field house, ticket booth, restrooms
- Repainted elementary gym
- The playing surfaces on the practice and game fields look fantastic!
- Tested and repaired every gas line and fitting on the campus
- Completed the auditorium renovations
- Re-roofed & carpeted band hall
- Installed security systems
- Replaced fence around outer perimeter of the campus
- Constructing a new waste water facility

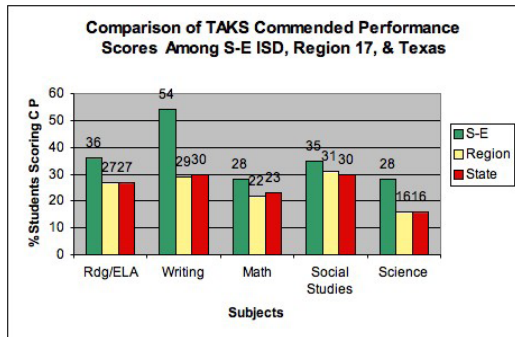


# ACCOUNTABILITY

The administration, faculty, and staff at Springlake-Earth ISD is thrilled to share with you that it Met Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) on the federal level. On the state level, Springlake-Earth ISD students continue to score as well as or above other students across the state of Texas in standardized test scores as reported on the Texas Assessment of Academic Skills (TAKS).



Even more exciting than the passing rate is our students who not only pass, but score high enough to be recognized with the state's



honorable "Commended Performance" label! As you will see in the graphic below, in most subject areas, Springlake-Earth ISD students are scoring noticeably above other students in both the region and state.

Due to the performance of our students, both the district and the elementary campus have received state recognition from the Standard & Poor's Evaluation Service and the Texas Business & Education Coalition. Written notification from both organizations is provided.



NEW YORK--Standard & Poor's School Evaluation Services today recognized 77 Texas school districts as academic "outperformers." In a separate analysis, Standard & Poor's announced it has identified 41 Texas schools that have significantly narrowed the achievement gap between higher- and lower-performing student groups.

## Texas Outperformers Analysis

To be identified as an outperformer by Standard & Poor's, school districts, over the course of two consecutive school years (2003-04 and 2004-05), had to show a significantly higher percentage of students that scored proficient or above on the state's reading and math tests when compared to other school districts with similar levels of economically disadvantaged students.

Academic achievement levels are compared with the percentage of economically disadvantaged students because educators and researchers have found that there is often a strong correlation between the two indicators.

Standard & Poor's developed the analysis used to identify outperforming school districts as a way to highlight outstanding academic performance, and to help educators in school districts with similar characteristics identify appropriate benchmarks to guide their own improvements.

"Congratulations to these outstanding school districts," said Thomas Sheridan, vice president of Standard & Poor's School Evaluation Services. "The data reveal that improvements are occurring in these Texas classrooms. We hope that the effective strategies these districts are employing can be replicated or adapted elsewhere."

Achieving proficiency in reading and math for all students by 2014 is one of the goals of the federal No Child Left Behind law. Linking school districts in need of improvement with outperforming school districts that have similar student demographics so that effective practices can be shared, replicated, or adapted is one method that can help educators reach that target.

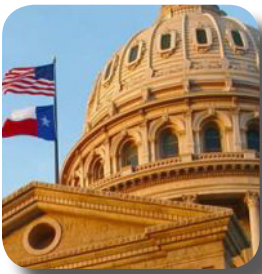
Standard & Poor's conducted its analysis using state-reported data and used the state department of education's definition of economically disadvantaged students. Analysts determined academic performance by using the aggregate percentages of students scoring proficient or better on the state's reading and math tests.



Congratulations! Springlake-Earth Elementary has made the Texas Business & Education Coalition's Honor Roll for 2006. We are so pleased to include your school in this select group of the best two hundred and sixty-nine elementary, middle, and high schools in Texas.

The TBEC Honor Roll is the most prestigious award for sustained, academic excellence in Texas. It recognizes schools that have three years of consistent, high performance in all subjects compared to other schools serving similar student populations. We raised the bar this year by emphasizing the percentage of students "passing all tests" and achieving "commended on all tests." You and your school have truly earned a place on the Honor Roll through hard work and student achievement over time.

## LEGISLATION



House Bill 1 (HB 1) was passed by the 2006 Special Session of the Texas Legislature. An overview of some of the changes brought about by HB 1 and its effects on the students, parents, taxpayers, business owners, community members, and supporters of the Springlake-Earth ISD include:

- **Reduction in property tax rate** - As a result of HB 1, your 2006-07 the S-E ISD tax rate decreased from \$1.48 / \$100 valuation in 2005-06 to \$1.352316 / \$100 valuation. You can expect it to decrease to somewhere around \$1.04 for the 2007-08 school year.
  - **Changes the state funding mechanism** - The state funding mechanism yielded additional revenue to the Springlake-Earth ISD to compensate for lost revenue in local property taxation.
  - **Salary increases** - All S-E ISD teachers and staff realized a salary increase as a result of the requirements set forth in HB 1.
  - **Health insurance changes** - Changes were made to S-E ISD employees' health plans to comply with HB 1 requirements.
  - **Instituted the 4 X 4 requirement** - This legislation requires 4 courses in each of the foundation areas (English Language Arts, Math, Social Studies, and Science) for graduation under the Recommended High School Program (RHSP) and the Distinguished Achievement Program (DAP), and requires that at least one required course include a research writing component. This is required for those students entering the 9th grade in 2007-08.
  - **High school allotment** - The S-E ISD will receive HS Allotment funds = \$275 x Grades 9-12 in Average Daily Attendance (ADA). These funds will be earmarked for programs/initiatives including, but not limited to: College readiness, Advanced academic opportunities, Rigorous course work, Curriculum alignment 6-12, Success initiatives
  - **Optional flexible day program** - This program was designed for students in grades 9-12 who are dropouts or at risk of dropping out, or attend a campus that is implementing innovative redesign or early college plan approved by the commissioner.
  - **Accountability** - Added 2 new indicators to the Academic Excellence Indicator System (AEIS), Added a measure of annual improvement in student achievement, Builds in more rigorous accountability ratings and sanctions, Specifically outlines accreditation procedures for low performing schools
  - **Restricts school start date** - For the 2007-08 school year, no school in Texas is allowed to start prior to the 4th Monday in August.
  - **Changes board elections** - The S-E ISD school board elections will move from May to November.
- By no means is this an all inclusive list of the changes brought about by HB 1, however it is representative of many of the changes made by the Springlake-Earth ISD as a result of the legislation. For more information on HB 1 see the House Research Organization Focus Report on the web at <http://www.hro.house.state.tx.us/focus/schools&taxes79-13.pdf>.

# ENROLLMENT

The student enrollment for the Springlake-Earth ISD from grades PK-12 is totals approximately 370 students. Specifically, at the end of the 1st 6 weeks, the total enrollment and demographic breakdown can be seen on the chart to the right.

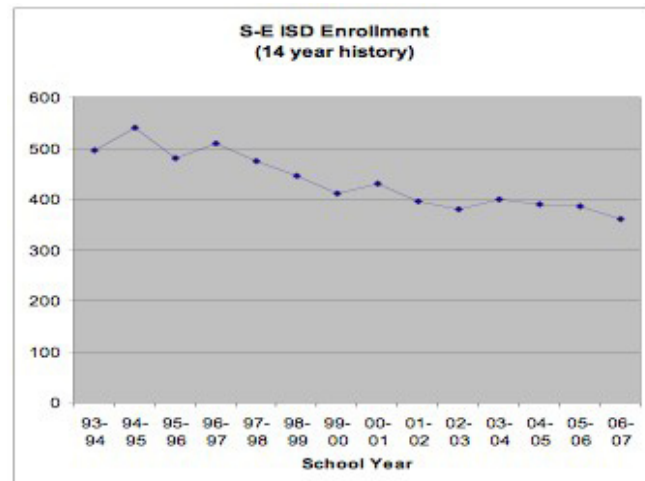
From a funding perspective, with enrollment dropping...

## ATTENDANCE IS CRITICAL!

For obvious reasons, attendance is critical to the overall academic success of students. The more time a student

spends directly engaged in educational activities in the class, the better (s)he performs academically. Additionally, revenues are generated through the state funding mechanism based upon the average daily attendance of the students enrolled in the school district.

Grade	Total	Gender		Ethnicity			Eco. Disadvantaged	Special Programs						
		Male	Female	AA	H	W		CATE	LEP	Dyslexia	GT	Migrant	Sp. Ed	SCE
12	23	8	15	1	11	11	10	37	3	0	3	3	9	10
11	28	11	17	0	16	12	14	26	2	0	3	3	7	5
10	33	22	11	3	16	14	15	29	3	0	5	6	5	9
9	25	16	9	1	13	11	9	32	2	0	7	4	7	6
8	33	12	21	0	14	19	12	23	1	0	6	1	5	5
7	29	12	17	0	21	8	20	0	4	0	2	2	11	9
6	29	17	12	0	19	10	20	0	4	0	3	7	8	13
5	27	16	11	0	16	11	16	0	2	0	1	3	5	9
4	21	15	6	1	14	6	13	0	1	0	2	3	10	13
3	25	14	11	1	17	7	17	0	4	0	1	4	7	9
2	26	13	13	0	20	6	24	0	7	0	0	5	3	16
1	31	16	15	2	18	11	23	0	3	0	0	2	7	20
K	24	13	11	1	18	5	19	0	1	0	0	2	0	1
PK	19	14	5	2	14	3	13	0	0	0	0	0	1	0
Total	373	199	174	12	227	134	225	147	37	0	33	45	85	125
S-E %		53.35%	46.65%	3.22%	60.86%	35.92%	60.32%	39.41%	9.92%	0.00%	8.85%	12.06%	22.79%	33.51%



Thus, not only are enrollment figures important, but attendance of those enrolled is equally important! With our block schedule and 2:40 p.m. dismissal time on Thursdays and Fridays, we encourage students to strive to schedule medical appointments on those afternoons after school. If medical appointments simply can not be scheduled after school hours, parents and students are encouraged to make every effort to be present at some time during the school day with a doctor's note, because the school district will be able to receive funding for that student for that day!

# FOR YOUR INFO

**Bad Weather** - If inclement weather prompts a late school day start or an early dismissal, alternative schedules will be used. A late start will be at 9:30 a.m. and most early releases will be at 12:55 p.m. The school will notify television stations including Lubbock channels 11, 13, and 28 and Muleshoe channel 6. Please tune into these television stations for updates regarding late starts, early dismissals, or school cancellations.



## Bad Weather Bell Schedule

MTW Schedule	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	Lunch	5th	6th	7th	8th
→	9:30-10:18	10:12-10:50	10:54-11:35	11:39-12:17	12:17-12:47	12:52-1:30	1:34-2:12	2:16-2:54	2:58-3:36
Thursday Schedule	→	1st	2nd	3rd	Lunch	4th			
→	9:30-10:35	10:39-11:47	11:51-12:57	12:57-1:27	1:32-2:39				
Friday Schedule	→	5th	6th	7th	Lunch	8th			
→	9:30-10:35	10:39-11:47	11:51-12:57	12:57-1:27	1:32-2:39				

We work hard to manage the finances of the district with the utmost of care, and consequently, the Springlake-Earth ISD was once again recognized by the state for receiving a SUPERIOR ACHIEVEMENT rating (the highest rating a Texas school district can attain) on the Financial Integrity Rating System of Texas (FIRST).

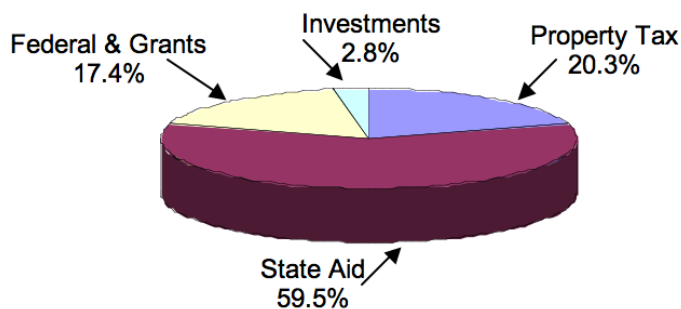
## Revenue

The board and administration works judiciously at making the most of the tax dollars it receives. The state funding system is a shared arrangement between the local school district and the state, and through strategic management, the tax dollars can be used to leverage additional funding from the state. As you will see in the pie chart below, the S-E ISD strives to use that leveraging mechanism to maximize funding received from the state. The primary sources of school revenue are derived from local property taxes, state aid, federal grants, and investment income.



## Texas School Finance System

The basic structure of K-12 public education financing in Texas is a two-tiered system that ensures a school district access to revenue based on the district's tax effort. It preserves a balance between state and local funding responsibility and local autonomy. State aid is provided to school districts in inverse proportion to district wealth in order to ensure a high degree of revenue equity. The two tiers of the system are:



- Tier 1. Tier 1 ensures a base or "foundation" funding level for all students at a local tax rate of \$0.86 per \$100 of property value. All districts are entitled to \$2,748 per student in Average Daily Attendance (ADA). This entitlement is increased according to certain district and student "adjustments" (or "weights") that apply to the district and the individual students in the district. If the district cannot generate its entitlement with local revenue, state assistance will make up the difference.

- Tier 2. Tier 2 has been referred to as the "enrichment" tier. It delivers state aid to districts base \$0.86 and \$1.50. As per HB 1, the 2006-07 maximum

tax rate, without a rollback election, is 88.67% of the 2005-06 tax rate + a 4¢ discretionary addition and in 2007-08, 66.67% of \$1.50 + a 4¢ discretionary addition. The mechanism that ensures a high level of equity in the system is the "guaranteed yield," which is a state guarantee of a specific revenue yield per "weighted" student (WADA) per penny of local tax effort, regardless of local property wealth. The guaranteed yield for the 2006-07 school year is \$31.95 per weighted student per penny of tax effort in Level 1 of Tier 2, \$41.21 per weighted student per penny of tax effort in Level 2 of Tier 2, and \$31.95 per weighted student per penny of tax effort in Level 3 of Tier 2. If a district's wealth level generates less than the specified amounts at Levels 1 through 3 of Tier 2 per WADA, state assistance will make up the difference.

So what does all of this mean to the Springlake-Earth ISD?

- Tier 1. The state projected cost to educate Springlake-Earth ISD students at the Tier 1 level for the 2006-07 school year is \$1,885,148. The 86¢ of taxation / \$100 valuation generates \$397,489 and the state of Texas funds the remaining \$1,487,659.

- Tier 2. The guaranteed yield at Level 1 is \$31.95 per WADA. The 45.2316¢ of taxation / \$100 valuation generates \$7.22 per WADA and leverages \$24.73 per WADA from the state. The guaranteed yield at Level 2 is \$41.21 per WADA. The 4¢ of taxation / \$100 valuation generates \$7.22 per WADA and leverages \$33.99 per WADA from the state.

When all summed up, the \$1.352316 tax rate that was adopted for the 2006-07 will generate an estimated 21% of the required operating budget. This in turn will leverage the remaining 79% of the required operating budget from the state of Texas.

In accordance with the requirements of the NCLB act, we have 100% of our teaching faculty meeting the Highly Qualified guidelines for the 2006-07 school year. The chart reveals the history of the work of the district to come into total compliance. For more information, please visit <http://www.tea.state.tx.us/nclb/hqreport.html>.

STATE OBJECTIVES	STATE TARGETS	SPRINGLAKE-EARTH ISD	SPRINGLAKE-EARTH HIGH SCHOOL	ELEMENTARY /MIDDLE SCHOOL
<b>1. Percentage of Classes Taught by Highly Qualified Teachers</b>				
<b>05-06 Year</b>	100%	95.65	100%	85.71%
<b>04-05 Year</b>	90%	86.27%	92.86%	84.78%
<b>03-04 Year</b>	80%	86%	88.68%	83.33%
<b>2. Percentage of Highly Qualified Teachers (State Aggregate)</b>				
<b>05-06 Year</b>	100%	100%	100%	100%
<b>04-05 Year</b>	90%	91.18%	81.82%	95.65%
<b>03-04 Year</b>	80%	91.43%	83.33%	95.65%
<b>3. Percentage of Teachers Receiving High-Quality Professional Development</b>				
<b>05-06 Year</b>	100%	100%	100%	100%
<b>04-05 Year</b>	97%	100%	100%	100%
<b>03-04 Year</b>	94%	100%	100%	100%

*Thank you...*

The Springlake-Earth ISD school board, administration, faculty, and staff want to express our most sincere thanks to the **parents** for sharing your children with us and allowing us to play such an important part in their lives. We thank the **businesses** for supporting our school and youth groups through your generous donations, sponsoring of groups and activities, etc. We thank the **community members** for assisting our students through their fund raising efforts, attending student activities and events, and being there for whatever you seem to be called on to help with. Finally, we especially thank the **tax-payers** for so generously supporting the youth in this great community and making such a great investment in the future!

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