

## **District accepts DATE to ensure teaching excellence**

Alief ISD was awarded a 2010 DATE (District Awards for Teacher Excellence) grant for more than \$2.6 million from the Texas Education Agency (TEA). These funds are dedicated to the creation of performance-based award systems to improve instructional quality and teacher efficiency ultimately to positively impact student achievement.

During the 2009-2010 school year the Alief ISD Educational Improvement Council (EIC) and DATE committees reviewed performance data for Alief schools and selected middle and intermediate school Mathematics, Science, and Special Education Reading as the target areas for the 2010-2011 school year. Mathematics, Science and Read 180 teachers will be eligible for awards based on student performance on the Alief TAKS Management System and TAKS assessments. Other campus staff members are eligible to earn awards for mentoring and contributing to the achievement of a campus rating of Exemplary or Recognized.

Each of the 12 Alief ISD middle and intermediate schools voted to participate in the DATE program. Currently, over 1,200 staff members have completed the initial documentation for participation and are eligible to earn mini-grants ranging from \$200 to \$2000.

If you would like more information about the Alief DATE program, it can be accessed on the Alief Website's Instruction tab, under Additional Programs. Information about the DATE grant is available at [www.tea.state.tx.us](http://www.tea.state.tx.us). The district and TEA believe this program will have a strong impact on teacher recruitment, retention, and development while improving student performance and narrowing the achievement gap.