

# Q&A

## All About Alief ISD

- Q.** Does Alief ISD have any Recognized or Exemplary campuses?  
**A.** Yes! There are 21 Recognized schools and 7 Exemplary. All other schools have been ranked as Academically Acceptable. Alief ISD has NO low performing campuses.
- Q.** How do Alief ISD high school test scores compare to those across the state?  
**A.** Our students have made tremendous gains over the past five years, **outpacing the state improvement rate in all content areas.**
- Q.** What is the district's completion rate?  
**A.** In Texas, the Academic Excellence Indicator System (AEIS) definition for the acceptable standard is 75%. As reported in the 2008 AEIS data, **Alief ISD had a completion rate of 80.7% last year!**
- Q.** What are some of the unique programs Alief ISD has in place for students?  
**A.** Two new programs this year are the Alief Early College High School in which students can earn a diploma and up to 60 hours college credit simultaneously, and the Dual Language at the kindergarten level. We also have a night high school and our daytime SOAR program in which students can earn high school credits at an accelerated rate. Our Advancement Via Individual Determination (AVID) program promotes college awareness and college prep, and our AIMS program addresses the needs of elementary gifted and talented students.
- Q.** Is Alief ISD's enrollment decreasing?  
**A.** No! Alief ISD's enrollment has actually increased over the past 10 years. In 1999, Alief had 42,035 students. Our beginning enrollment for this school year is 45,602. Hurricanes Katrina and Rita caused an increase of 4.3% during the 2005-06 school year with a subsequent decrease over the next two years as most of these students returned to their former homes. Our district has grown by a percentage point for the past two years.
- Q.** What are the current demographics for Alief ISD as compared to the state?  
**A.**
- |                    | <u>Alief</u> | <u>State</u> |
|--------------------|--------------|--------------|
| • Native American  | 0.2%         | 0.4%         |
| • White            | 3.6%         | 46.5%        |
| • Asian            | 12.4%        | 4.0%         |
| • African-American | 34.8%        | 13.3%        |
| • Hispanic         | 49%          | 35.8%        |
- Q.** Are there other subgroups?  
**A.**
- |                             |       |
|-----------------------------|-------|
| Economically-Disadvantaged  |       |
| Alief                       | 70.2% |
| State                       | 55.3% |
| Limited English Proficiency |       |
| Alief                       | 34.5% |
| State                       | 16.7% |
- Q.** What is Alief ISD's current tax rate?  
**A.** Over the past 10 years, the Alief ISD tax **rate has decreased more than 35 cents from \$1.6995 to \$1.34.**
- Q.** Does the law allow me to choose between an optional 20% homestead exemption and the current \$15,000 homestead exemption?  
**A.** No. Section 11.13(n) of the Texas Property Tax Code states that if a school district adopts an optional homestead exemption, **the exemption will be in addition to the mandatory \$15,000 residential homestead exemption.**