



# TEXAS EDUCATION AGENCY

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Shirley J. Neeley, Ed.D.  
Commissioner

January 5, 2007

240-901  
2004-2005

Dr. Daniel Garcia, Superintendent  
Laredo Independent School District  
1701 Houston Street  
Laredo, Texas 78040

Dear Dr. Garcia:

The purpose of this letter is to notify the Laredo Independent School District (ISD) of its current status in the Performance-Based Monitoring (PBM) system for special education. The Laredo ISD was selected for participation in the 2004-2005, 2005-2006, and 2006-2007 PBM process for the special education program area.

In regard to 2004-2005 interventions, the Laredo ISD completed Stage 2 Intervention requirements in the special education monitoring system, including the submission of required documents and information related to a Focused Data Analysis with Program Effectiveness Review, Public Program Performance Review, and Continuous Improvement Plan. Correspondence related to the completion of Stage 2 Intervention monitoring requirements was sent to the local education agency (LEA) on December 20, 2005. This correspondence detailed specific areas of noncompliance, which included:

- Full Individual and Initial Evaluation; and
- Reevaluations.

A plan for correction of these items was included in your Continuous Improvement Plan.

Subsequently, the Laredo ISD was required to provide documentation verifying correction for the issues of noncompliance referenced above. Documentation recently provided by the LEA did not verify compliance with the two areas of noncompliance. Therefore, both areas of noncompliance are continuing issues.

On October 23, 2006, districts, including the Laredo ISD, were notified of their 2006-2007 intervention status in the PBM system for special education. The Laredo ISD was notified of its selection for Stage 4 Intervention in the special education program area based upon its performance on the Performance-Based Monitoring Analysis System (PBMAS) indicators and longitudinal data related to intervention status in the PBM system. In subsequent correspondence dated December 12, 2006, the Division of Performance-Based Monitoring notified the Laredo ISD of an error in the PBMAS processing of statewide assessment data that resulted in the district receiving two incorrect performance levels in the special education program areas. However, due to the areas of continuing noncompliance identified for the district, the Laredo ISD will remain a Stage 4 LEA in the special education program area and will receive an on-site review. These areas of noncompliance, as well as other issues, will be examined during the on-site visit. The TEA will disseminate subsequent correspondence to the LEA detailing information regarding the upcoming on-site review.

*"Good, Better, Best—never let it rest—until your good is better—and your better is BEST!"*

To ensure the immediate correction of ongoing areas of noncompliance, the Laredo ISD will be subject to additional oversight and sanctions under 19 Texas Administrative Code (TAC) §89.1076, *Interventions and Sanctions*. The LEA must take immediate steps to rectify any instances of continuing noncompliance as referenced above. As an initial step, the Texas Education Agency (TEA) will engage in escalated verification activities to ensure that compliance is documented. However, the TEA reserves the right to utilize any of the interventions and sanctions noted in federal law or 19 TAC §89.1076 in order to obtain compliance with program requirements.

The special education unit of this division will be in further communication with your district regarding progress on correction of noncompliance and scheduling of the upcoming on-site review. In the meantime, if you have additional questions regarding this correspondence, please contact Jeanette Potts in this division at (512) 463-9414.

Sincerely,



Laura Taylor, Senior Director  
Program Monitoring and Interventions

cc: Jack C. Damron, Executive Director, Region I Education Service Center  
Kelly Solis, Special Education Contact, Region I Education Service Center  
Tracy Cartas, Special Education Director, Laredo ISD