

TEA releases 2009 ISD ratings

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TEA releases 2009 ISD ratings

Friday, the [Texas Education Agency](#) released the 2009 academic ratings for all schools and school districts in Texas.

How did Collin County's districts fair?

Of the 14 school districts in Collin County, only one, Lovejoy ISD was given the highest rating - 'exemplary'.

Ten received an 'recognized' rating, which is the next highest. [The Dallas Morning News reports](#) that Allen ISD, which was scored as 'recognized', narrowly missed earning the coveted 'exemplary' rating.

Three school districts, including the 2 largest (Plano and *McKinney*) were rated as only 'acceptable'. Also scored as 'acceptable' was the Anna ISD. All three school districts have managed to stay in the lower rated 'acceptable' class for the last three years, despite the fact that *McKinney* and Anna citizens pay some of the highest school property taxes in the county.

Solid gains were realized by the Blue Ridge, Community, Farmersville, and Wylie school districts. These three improved their grades - earning 'recognized' ratings in 2009, while having been rated as only 'acceptable' in 2007 and 2008.

While no districts in the county were given an 'unacceptable' score, two schools were. Plano's Armstrong Middle School and *McKinney* High School both earned 'unacceptable' grades.

According to an [article in the Dallas Morning News' McKinney Blog](#), *McKinney* High lost its 'acceptable' rating due to the poor graduation rates for Hispanic and economically disadvantaged students.

McKinney ISD officials have said that the low rating given to MHS would be appealed. They blamed the low scores on clerical mistakes by school officials. An MISD press release quoted Superintendent Tom Crowe as saying, "*The teachers and administrators of MHS have worked very hard to maintain high academic standards and have seen the fruits of their labors through the improved academic performance campus-wide... It is a real shame that one indicator has caused this rating.*"

In explaining that MISD would appeal to the TEA, Crowe said, "*As a district and campus we bear the responsibility for improving the process of coding students properly when they transfer out of the district, move out of state, pursue a GED, or begin home-schooling. But it is imperative that when judging the quality of education at a school the other factors are considered. In this case, they are close to achieving 'recognized' status, but will be labeled 'unacceptable' until we have the opportunity to appeal the designation.*"

The Collin County Observer

It is my hope that this forum will serve as an acute observer of Collin County government, leading to the return of the county to those it is supposed to serve.

I will post my opinions, fair analysis, news clippings that are relevant to local issues, and your comments.

To post your comment, you must register, or you may post as "anon" (password "anon"). Anonymous posts will have to be reviewed before being placed online.

Subscribers will receive an email whenever a new blog entry is posted, and be able to comment directly to this blog.

[Bill Baumbach](#)

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IN MEMORIUM

Sr. Airman Matthew R. Courtois

U.S.A.F. Senior Airman Matthew R. Courtois, 22 of Lucas has died in a "non-hostile incident" at a Kuwait airbase, the U.S. Department of Defense said. .

Courtois was stationed at Abdullah Al Mubarak Airbase in Kuwait.

He was assigned to the 366th Security Forces Squadron, Mountain Home Air Force Base, Idaho.

According to a Boise TV station, Courtois leaves behind a wife and two stepchildren.

Crowe's protests sound suspiciously similar to the complaints MISD made in 2007 when the [AP and Johns Hopkins University listed McKinney North High School](#) as one of the nation's "dropout factories". Once again, MISD blamed transfer student statistics for the dubious distinction. In 2007, MISD [called the university's methodology a 'joke'](#). At least this time, they blamed themselves.

Anna ISD is a rural district without the high property valuations of most other school districts in the county. Anna ISD taxpayers pay one of the highest tax rates in the county, but they still can not seem to advance past an 'acceptable' rating. The same can not be said for the Plano school district. Plano's taxpayers pay one of the lowest tax rates in Collin County. Perhaps if the citizens of Plano want to return to the days when people actually moved to Plano for the excellent schools, they will consider investing in those schools.

Lovejoy ISD is the polar opposite of Anna. Although their taxpayers pay a similar rate as Ann's do, the Lovejoy ISD contains some of the per capita highest valued residential property in the region. The citizens investment in Lovejoy has paid off. Although it is the smallest district, it is the only one to consistently be rated 'exemplary', the state's highest rating.

The most tax efficient district in the county has to be Farmersville ISD. Like Anna, Farmersville is mostly rural farm land. Yet their children are educated in a district rated as 'recognized', while their parents pay the lowest school taxes in the county.

The highest school taxes are paid by the citizens of Prosper ISD. A few years ago, PISD invested heavily in building for future growth. While some of that growth has been realized, the economic downturn does not bode well for any immediate tax relief for Prosper ISD.

Collin County ISD Ratings 2007-2009

District	2008 Tax Rate	2009 Dist. Rating	2008 Dist. Rating	2007 Dist. Rating
Allen ISD	1.47	Recognized	Recognized	Acceptable
Anna ISD	1.54	Acceptable	Acceptable	Acceptable
Blue Ridge ISD	1.54	Recognized	Acceptable	Acceptable
Celina ISD	1.54	Recognized	Recognized	Recognized
Community ISD	1.49	Recognized	Acceptable	Acceptable
Farmersville ISD	1.28	Recognized	Acceptable	Acceptable
Frisco ISD	1.37	Recognized	Recognized	Acceptable
Lovejoy ISD	1.51	Exemplary	Exemplary	Exemplary
McKinney ISD	1.52	Acceptable	Acceptable	Acceptable
Mellisa ISD	1.54	Recognized	Recognized	Recognized
Plano ISD	1.30	Acceptable	Acceptable	Acceptable
Princeton ISD	1.49	Recognized	Recognized	Acceptable
Prosper ISD	1.67	Recognized	Recognized	Acceptable

Wylie ISD	1.51	Recognized	Acceptable	Acceptable
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2009 Campus ratings by district

District	# Exemplary	# Recognized	# Acceptable	# Unacceptable	# Not Rated
Allen ISD	15	4	0	0	1
Anna ISD	2	1	1	0	0
Blue Ridge ISD	1	2	1	0	1
Celina ISD	2	1	1	0	0
Community ISD	1	3	0	0	0
Farmersville ISD	2	1	1	0	1
Frisco ISD	32	7	1	0	1
Lovejoy ISD	5	0	0	0	1
McKinney ISD	12	9	8	1 (McKinney HS)	1
Mellisa ISD	2	2	0	0	0
Plano ISD	32	24	6	1 (Armstrong MS)	5
Princeton ISD	3	2	1	0	1
Prosper ISD	4	1	0	0	0
Wylie ISD	10	4	3	0	2