***George West ISD Earns State’s Highest Fiscal Accountability Rating***

Once again the George West Independent School District received the state’s highest rating under the Texas’ School FIRST financial accountability rating system for the 2014-2015 rating year.

This is the 13th year of School FIRST (Financial Accountability Rating System of Texas), a financial accountability system for Texas school districts developed by the Texas Education Agency in response to Senate Bill 875 of the 76th Texas Legislature in 1999.

Major changes to the School FIRST system were implemented by the Texas Education Agency in August 2015 that combined financial indicators with financial solvency indicators, in accordance with House Bill 5, 83rd Texas Legislature, Regular Session, 2013. The primary goal of School FIRST is to achieve quality performance in the management of school districts’ financial resources, a goal made more significant due to the complexity of accounting associated with Texas’ school finance system.

The Texas Education Agency converted Schools FIRST to a two-tier rating system of either “P” for “Pass” or “F” for “Substandard Achievement” for the 2014-2015 rating year. Prior to the 2014-2015 rating year, the Schools FIRST accountability rating system assigned one of four financial accountability ratings to Texas school districts, with the highest being “Superior Achievement,” followed by “Above-Standard Achievement,” “Standard Achievement” and “Substandard Achievement.” George West ISD achieved the rating of “Superior Achievement” for the 2013-2014 rating year and the previous eleven years.

“We are pleased with the George West ISD’s School FIRST rating,” said George West ISD Superintendent Ty Sparks. It shows that George West ISD’s schools are accountable not only for student learning, but also for achieving these results cost-effectively and efficiently.”