



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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HOUSTON AREA CHARTER DISTRICT RECEIVES HONORS FROM TEXAS COMPTROLLER

Harmony Public Schools' district receives Texas Honors Circle award for Five-Star FAST rating

HOUSTON – The Harmony School of Science District is listed on the 2014 Texas Honors Circle, for its continued excellence in operations. Texas Honor Circle recognition comes to the district in conjunction with the Five-Star Fast rating awarded to HPS by the Office of the Texas Comptroller.

The Comptroller's Financial Allocation Study for Texas (FAST) examines both academic progress and spending at Texas' school districts and individual school campuses. Each Texas public and charter school district receives a FAST rating from one to five stars, indicating its success in combining cost-effective spending with the achievement of measurable student academic progress. A Five-Star rating reflects the strongest relative progress combined with the lowest relative spending. To be a Texas Honors Circle district, the district must have a Five-Star FAST rating.

The award letter praises the financial leadership of each honoree and states, "Your efforts set an example of wise management of educational spending while preparing students for success in college or the workforce – an effort crucial to the future of Texas."

Harun Karan, area superintendent of the district says, "We are proud of both the operational efficiencies of our schools, as well as student performance. It takes strong leadership, dedicated teachers, extraordinary parental involvement and remarkable students to keep us going strong."

The Harmony School of Science District joins the Harmony School of Excellence District in receiving this award for 2014.

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ABOUT HARMONY PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Harmony Public Schools is a charter network with 43 high performing K-12 college preparatory charter schools across Texas. Harmony blends high standards and expectations with a rigorous math and science-centered curriculum, and dedicated and engaged teachers and families, to cultivate excellence and prepare students to succeed in college, careers and life. For nearly 15 years, Harmony has been preparing Texas children for the careers that are driving the economy of the future. To learn more about Harmony Public Schools and our 43 campuses across Texas, please visit: www.harmonytx.org, and follow us on Twitter at @HarmonyEdu and 'Like' us on Facebook: www.facebook.com/harmonytexas.

About FAST (Financial Allocation Study of Texas)

Public education spending consumes a large and expanding share of state and local revenues. The 81st Texas Legislature directed the Comptroller to "identify school districts and campuses that use resource allocation practices that contribute to high academic achievement and cost-effective operations." In response, the Comptroller's office created FAST to examine district and campus resource allocation – and the relationship between these allocations and student achievement. FAST looks at academic, financial and demographic data and identifies school districts and campuses that produce high academic achievement while maintaining cost-effective operations.

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