



# Terrell Independent School District

*Committed to Excellence*

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**Kelly Rodgers**  
Superintendent

May 12, 2009

Dear TISD Parent/Guardians:

TISD hosted a public forum May 4, 2009 to present information and answer questions regarding the potential grade realignment of our Long and Wood campuses. The proposal being considered is to establish boundaries for 3<sup>rd</sup>- 6<sup>th</sup> grade at each of these schools. Most of the questions May 4th focused on research, cost, student safety, transfer policies, curriculum and instruction. This letter is being mailed to parents of TISD students Pre-K through 5<sup>th</sup> grade and will also be sent home with each Pre-K through 5<sup>th</sup> grade child in the district to answer questions asked at the public forum. A copy of the boundary distribution information and boundary map developed by our demographer are included with this letter.

**Research-** There are several sources of research supporting the emotional, social and cognitive development of children and greater parental involvement when children have fewer transitions in their life. The relationship between families and schools is stronger when the school staff and parents have more time to develop relationships. Please refer to the following sources:

“Grade Span Configurations: Essentials on education data and analysis from research authority AEL”. (March 2005). [www.districtadministration.com/viewarticle.aspx?articleid=675](http://www.districtadministration.com/viewarticle.aspx?articleid=675)

All Together Now: Sharing Responsibility for the Whole Child By Martin J. Blank and Amy Berg [July 2006] [www.ascd.org/ASCD/pdf/sharingresponsibility.pdf](http://www.ascd.org/ASCD/pdf/sharingresponsibility.pdf)

Community Schools: Engaging Parents and Families  
The National Parents Teachers Association Magazine-Our Children [January/February 2004]  
<http://www.communityschools.org/images/Media/OurChildren.pdf>

**Cost -** The cost to provide equal programs with equipment, science labs, playground equipment, library materials, art, music, and band is approximately \$200,000.00. The TISD Board has undesignated funds to provide for the proposed changes.

**Student Safety -** Safety is a priority in the Terrell District. Currently, students up through sixth grade ride buses to and from school together. Both campuses have classroom configurations that separate students and will continue this practice for each grade. Grades will not mix during physical education, lunch and transition times. Students will be separated at morning arrival to each campus and waiting for the bus after school.

