



Eanes Education Foundation

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**EEF ESTIMATES SIGNIFICANT SHORTFALL IN THE
2008 – 2009 GRANT TO EISD**

-- Foundation Asks Community To Support Teacher Positions --

Austin, TX – April 3, 2008 -- The Eanes Education Foundation (EEF) announced today that its Annual Giving Campaign donations this year have fallen short of last year’s performance, which has resulted in a lower estimated grant to the Eanes Independent School District for teacher and staff salaries and positions.

“Every March we give the district trustees an estimate of our expected August grant so they can plan for next year’s staffing. This was the first time we’ve had to give a lower number than the previous year. It was very sobering,” said Molly Ferguson, EEF president.

The Annual Giving Campaign is one of the Foundation’s major initiatives and the only one specifically designated for EISD teacher and staff salaries and positions. Without additional support from the community, EEF estimates that this year's grant will fund about three fewer positions than last year's grant.

“The difficult economy has certainly played a role in this year’s shortfall,” explains Kaye Kelley, Interim Executive Director of EEF. “And with the recent tax reform, people may not realize that we are still sending approximately \$50 million of our tax dollars back to the state. Regardless, our focus between now and August 31 will be to make up the difference in our grant. Last year, we were able to provide funding for 17+ positions. At this time, our grant will only provide funding for 14 positions. Ultimately, EEF’s goal is to be able to provide consistent funding for 20 positions year after year.”

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At the Foundation's Board meeting on March 24, members estimated a grant of \$710,000 for staff salaries and positions. Net proceeds from the Gala event, the Realtor Partner Program, and the recent H-E-B gift were added to the funds donated to the Annual Giving Campaign to arrive at the \$710,000 figure.

"We are confident that we can fund the \$710,000 estimated grant, and that is certainly a success in a difficult year. But we know this community and the high value it places on educational excellence in Eanes," said Ferguson. "We feel that we owe it to people to sound the alarm now while there is still time to give, to ensure that we at least maintain the teaching positions that we, as a community, have worked so hard to cultivate in recent years."

"It's not too late for this community to rally to meet or exceed last year's grant. Donations can be made online at www.eaneseducationfoundation.org. We always are grateful for individual donations," Kelley added.

"The Annual Giving Campaign holds a special place in my heart," said Ferguson. "It's the one and only fundraiser in the entire district where parents can fund teaching positions in our schools. It really brings the community together, and puts the full force of the community's support behind all of our teachers and all of our schools."

The Eanes Education Foundation is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization. The Foundation is dedicated to funding opportunities for educational excellence within the Eanes Independent School District, a public school serving 7,200+ students. For additional information, please contact Kaye Kelley at the Eanes Education Foundation, 732-9065 ext. 1.

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