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**Possible Testing Irregularities Under Investigation at Two Elementary Schools**

*November 15, 2013* – Independent investigators hired by the Houston Independent School District have recently uncovered information indicating possible student testing irregularities during the 2012-2013 school year at two elementary schools – Jefferson Elementary School and Atherton Elementary School.

Following standard district practices when potential testing irregularities are identified, teachers who administered the tests under investigation have been reassigned to non-classroom duties within the district.

 Eleven teachers from Jefferson Elementary School and four teachers at Atherton Elementary School have been reassigned. Additionally, five teachers who taught at Jefferson Elementary School during the 2012-2013 school year but who are currently teaching at other HISD campuses have also been reassigned as part of this investigation.

This investigation is ongoing. **It is important to remember that none of the teachers who have been reassigned as part of this investigation have been found guilty.** Once the investigations are complete, decisions will be made as to whether reassigned teachers return to their classrooms, or if permanent replacement teachers are hired for the remainder of the school year.

Experienced district teachers will assume temporary responsibility for the classrooms taught by the reassigned teachers.

“Testing helps the district measure the degree to which students are learning,” said HISD Superintendent Terry Grier.  “When the district receives information that the integrity of the state’s testing process might have been compromised, it’s important that a thorough investigation is conducted. Throughout this process, our top priority is to ensure that learning is not disrupted for any student.”

 Because the investigation is ongoing, district officials will have no additional comment at this time.

The **Houston Independent School District** is the largest school district in Texas and the seventh-largest in the United States with 282 schools and 210,000 students. The 334-square-mile district is one of the largest employers in the Houston metropolitan area with more than 25,000 employees.

**For more information, visit the HISD Web site at** [**www.houstonisd.org**](http://www.houstonisd.org/)**.**