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Contact: Stacy Corluccio, 800.482.7276, ext. 7233

Fund Members Honored for Innovation

(Austin) – Winners of the annual Texas Association of School Boards' (TASB) Risk Management Fund Innovation Award recently received a commemorative plaque and \$1,000 each to apply toward their risk management programs. Fund members recognized include the following independent school districts (ISDs): Aquilla, Bandera, Covington, Deer Park, Hallettsville, Longview, Lubbock, Mesquite, Pleasant Grove, and Willis. Representatives were presented with their awards and checks at the Fund Members' Conference April 18 in Austin.

"Since its inception in 2004, this award has been a special way of honoring Fund members for initiatives, products, or programs that are inventive, timely, and effective. These award winners truly demonstrate innovative and successful approaches to risk management that we encourage other Fund members to emulate," said Kevin Carbo, chair of the TASB Risk Management Fund Board and Mesquite ISD board member.

Applications are rated on cost effectiveness, originality, transferability for use by other Fund members, and ability to address current needs at the overall member level.

Among winning entries were Aquilla's CPR Awareness Day for students, parents, and community members; Bandera's Report a Bully Tip Line to identify possible dangerous behavior or bullying; Covington's Child Sleep Monitors that help ensure student safety on buses; and Deer Park's Return to Work (RTW) Manual and implementation of a modified, light-duty RTW program.

Other innovative ideas included Hallettsville's Employees Health Fair that included community vendors and screenings; Longview's School Located Vaccination Clinics at every campus; and Lubbock's Health Screening Initiative provided for all employees at no cost.

Also honored were Mesquite's Online Safety Seminars for campus personnel; Pleasant Grove's Video Security System that constantly monitors student activities,

vandalism, and burglaries; and Willis' Safety Performance Semester Program aimed at boosting safety and performance recognition.

The TASB Risk Management Fund is the premier provider of risk management services for school districts and educational entities in Texas. With more than 1,100 members, the Fund is one of the oldest, largest, and financially strongest risk pools in the nation. The Fund provides coverage through its unemployment compensation, workers' compensation, and property and liability programs. In addition, it offers a wide range of services and member benefits, such as loss prevention, free member training, online claim forms and resources, and grant programs.

TASB is a voluntary nonprofit association established in 1949 to serve local public school districts. School board members are the largest group of publicly elected officials in the state. The districts they represent serve more than 4.8 million public school students.

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