



PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

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Finalists Named for 2021 Superintendent of the Year Award, Dr. Jeanette Ball Represents Region 20, Judson ISD

Five public school administrators from across Texas were selected as state finalists for the annual Superintendent of the Year ([SOTY](#)) award. Sponsored by the Texas Association of School Boards ([TASB](#)), the SOTY program has recognized exemplary superintendents for excellence and achievement in educational leadership since 1984.

The 2021 finalists are:

- **Jeanette Ball, Judson ISD, Region 20**
- Courtney Hudgins, East Bernard ISD, Region 3
- Mark Estrada, Lockhart ISD, Region 13
- H.T. Sanchez, Plainview ISD, Region 17
- Samuel Wyatt, Rankin ISD, Region 18

The state selection committee, which interviewed regional winners August 27-28, targeted such issues as the board-superintendent relationship, advocacy, the impact of the pandemic on Texas schools, and education innovations.



Dr. Jeanette Ball, Judson ISD

Ball has led Judson ISD, northeast of San Antonio, for three years, where she serves almost 24,000 students in seven municipalities. The committee commented on Ball's open leadership style and effectiveness at sharing the positive things happening in the district.

Ball approaches decision-making with humility, an open mind, and an attentive ear. Her inclusive approach to tough decisions includes regular conversations with both district staff and students.

An administrator for 23 years, Ball brings her team together behind their shared love of children and the common goal of helping students succeed. In this environment of caring, the district has implemented robust wraparound services that support the whole child and the district's families.

Upon hearing the news, Dr. Jeanette Ball expressed her gratitude. "I truly am humbled to receive this honor, but I want to share it with the people that truly deserve it. I am very fortunate to work with an amazing board that cares about the students and employees of the district. It is because of their outstanding leadership that Judson ISD is thriving and producing excellence for students. In addition, this honor is only achievable because I am surrounded by exceptional people that work diligently to do the very best for students and community. I thank them for always doing their very best and for the dedication they provide to Judson ISD which allows us to shine."



How Superintendent of the Year Candidates are Selected

Candidates are chosen for their strong leadership skills, dedication to improving educational quality, ability to build effective employee relations, student performance, and commitment to public involvement in education. All Texas superintendents are eligible for nomination by their school boards. Local nominees are submitted to a regional selection committee, which chooses one nominee to send to the state selection committee.

Regional superintendents of the year nominated by regional selection committees are:

- Hafedh Azaiez*, Donna ISD, Region 1
- Conrado Garcia, West Oso ISD, Region 2
- HD Chambers, Alief ISD, Region 4
- Mike Gonzales, Port Neches-Groves ISD, Region 5
- Keith Smith, Madisonville CISD, Region 6
- Rickey Albritton, Gilmer ISD, Region 7
- Sidney Harrist, Atlanta ISD, Region 8
- Michelle Cline, Throckmorton Collegiate ISD, Region 9
- Michael Hinojosa, Dallas ISD, Region 10
- Susan Bohn, Aledo ISD, Region 11
- Brandon Hubbard, Chilton ISD, Region 12
- Jason Cochran, Eastland ISD, Region 14
- Dave Lewis, Rochelle ISD, Region 15
- Jimmy Hannon, Highland Park ISD-Potter County, Region 16
- Rosa Vega-Barrio, Tornillo ISD, Region 19

The 2021 Superintendent of the Year will be announced at the [Texas Association of School Administrators | TASB Convention](#). The districts of the winning superintendent and state finalists will receive an award from Balfour, program underwriter.

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About Judson ISD

Judson Independent School District is a Pre-K through 12th grade public school district in the San Antonio area. Prior to its current form, the district was known as Judson Rural School District No. 8. The rural district was created on June 25, 1958, by the Bexar County School Board and combined the existing districts of Converse, Kirby and Selma. The new district was named after Moses Campbell Judson. Today, Judson ISD serves over 23,000 students within the incorporated cities of Converse, Kirby, Live Oak, San Antonio, Selma, and Universal City. Judson ISD produces excellence throughout all campuses and builds strong connections with the community. The district earned a B rating from the Texas Education Agency and is constantly working on innovative ways to enhance the learning for its students. Judson ISD believes in providing a strong foundation for early learners by offering full day Pre-Kindergarten programs beginning at 3 years old. Being a district of choice provides Judson families to customize their own educational experiences through the multitude of programs the District has to offer. For more information, visit www.judsonisd.org
