

SchoolMatters

Educate. Empower. Engage.

Dear Superintendent Rice,

I am writing to make you aware that your school district has been identified as an academic “outperformer” by Standard & Poor’s School Evaluation Services. Lometa ISD is one of 77 districts in Texas to receive this recognition. Congratulations to you, your administrators, teachers and most of all your students.

An outperforming school district is one that reports significantly higher percentages of students who are proficient or above on state reading and math tests when compared to other school districts in Texas with similar levels of economically disadvantaged students. Additionally, these districts must repeat this performance over a two-year period.

Standard & Poor’s hopes that these outperforming districts will serve as appropriate benchmarks to aid educators in similar districts as they seek to improve their own performance. In addition, our analysis allows us to publicly recognize school districts like yours that have consistently achieved high academic performance given the level of economically-disadvantaged students they serve.

In recognition of your achievement, Standard & Poor’s plans to issue a news release to your local media on Wednesday, October 4. We encourage you to let your community know through your own announcement, and to include a story in your district’s newsletter or on your website.

I have enclosed a brief paper naming Texas' other outperforming districts, and which explains the methods Standard & Poor's used to identify them. Standard & Poor's will maintain the list of outperforming districts on SchoolMatters.com, a free website developed by the National Education Data Partnership, of which Standard & Poor's is proud to be a member. SchoolMatters is a tremendous resource of education data and performance analysis for school and district administrators. I encourage you and your staff to further investigate the site at www.schoolmatters.com.

Again, congratulations on your district's achievement. If you have any questions or require additional information, please do not hesitate to contact Jesse Gutierrez on our staff at 212-438-1996.

Sincerely,

Thomas J. Sheridan

Vice President

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