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Gregory-Portland Independent School District

CONTACT:

Crystal Matern, Chief Communications & Engagement Officer

Office: (361) 777-1091, ext. 1045 | **Cell:** (361) 332-1476 | **Email:** cmatern@g-pisd.org

Gregory-Portland ISD honored for Financial & Purchasing Excellence from the Texas Association of School Business Professionals (TASBO)

Gregory-Portland ISD received two prestigious awards this month from The Texas Association of School Business Officials (TASBO): The 2023 Award of Merit for Purchasing Operations, and also the 2023 Award of Excellence in Financial Management. Superintendent Dr. Michelle Cavazos said these coveted awards are an indication of the district's ongoing efforts to employ strategic and purposeful financial management practices.

"Our finance team is dedicated to ensuring transparency and the highest ethical practices as we thoughtfully plan for the needs of our district, budget with consideration for every student and staff member, and proceed with due diligence in the procurement and purchasing of goods, materials, and services for our schools," she said. "Our School Board joins me in congratulating this team for their extraordinary efforts to elevate and streamline procedures that will allow us to best manage our community's investment in our schools for years to come. We are proud of their hard work, and are delighted to see them recognized for it among all K-12 educational organizations throughout the state."

Dr. Ismael Gonzalez III, the district's Assistant Superintendent for Business and Finance, commended his team and emphasized the importance of financial and purchasing management in public schools: "We are fortunate to serve an outstanding community, team, and equally outstanding children in every one of our G-PISD campuses. For their sake, and for their lifelong success, it is vitally important to us that we are continually improving and exercising good stewardship practices for taxpayer dollars. G-PISD has a long history of strong financial management, and we are grateful to continue that legacy today and tomorrow. We thank the TASBO organization for recognizing the efforts of our incredible team, and choosing to honor our district in this way."

The Award of Merit was established in 2009 to recognize Texas school districts, open-enrollment charter schools, and education services centers that are committed to following professional standards in the acquisition of goods and services. Each year, volunteers with the TASBO Purchasing & Supply Management Research Committee evaluate the award criteria to ensure it represents the latest best practices. They then review new and recertification applications. For 2023, only 71 recipients met the stringent criteria to qualify for the award.

The Award of Excellence in Financial Management was established in 2020 to award educational entities that demonstrate professional standards, best practices, and innovations in the area of financial management and reporting. The criteria to qualify for this award is stringent, based on financial accounting and reporting guidelines identified by the Texas Education Agency (TEA) Financial Accountability System Resource Guide (FASRG).

"As Texas school districts face ever-increasing pressure to use funds efficiently, we're proud of the work our honorees do to streamline operations, comply with regulations, and set the standard for how to utilize taxpayer dollars," said Tracy Ginsburg, TASBO Executive Director. "These organizations have gone above and beyond to demonstrate transparency by meticulously documenting their districts' policies and procedures ... showcasing the ways they monitor spending, improve budgeting, implement controls, and enhance financial reporting (as well as) having shared their best practices with colleagues across Texas."

[Members of G-PISD's Business Office](#) who earned these honors were recognized at an awards reception sponsored by BuyBoard Purchasing Cooperative in San Antonio, Texas, this February during the 2023 TASBO Annual Conference.

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