

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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**Texas Education Agency Announces Granting
Westlake Academy Appeal**
Decision Means no Funding Reduction for Westlake Academy

WESTLAKE, TX-- The Town of Westlake received word today from Texas Education Agency (TEA) Commissioner Robert Scott of his decision to grant the appeal of its public charter school, Westlake Academy. Westlake appealed a TEA ruling earlier this year which would have reduced the Academy's funding by \$266,000 over two years.

The decision to reduce funding was based on Westlake Academy finding and self-reporting 10 students enrolled in the Academy during the 2006-2007 school year residing outside the school's TEA approved attendance boundaries. Following this self-reporting, Westlake Academy applied for and received approval from TEA to amend its charter to include these areas in its approved secondary attendance boundaries. However, the funding reduction was still in place.

According to Westlake Academy Board of Trustees' President Laura Wheat, "Commissioner Scott graciously gave us an opportunity to demonstrate that Westlake Academy's situation was very unique, that we self-reported and self-corrected this situation, and most importantly, that these students received a first-class education from an exemplary rated school".

Wheat went on to note that State Representative Vicki Truitt was instrumental in facilitating dialogue and conversations with the TEA regarding Westlake Academy's appeal. "Not only did Vicki arrange the meetings and conversations necessary to resolve this matter satisfactorily, she was always an active participant, advocating on behalf of both Westlake Academy and the Town." In commenting on the Commissioner's decision, Representative Truitt stated, "I am delighted that Commissioner Scott and TEA recognize and acknowledge that these students were well served by Westlake Academy. It was the right thing to do."

Wheat added, "We could not be more pleased with Commissioner Scott's decision, but especially appreciate his thoughtful consideration of all the issues regarding our request, as well as the fact that throughout our appeal the Commissioner always kept his central focus on the education of these 10 children who attended Westlake Academy".

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