



## Press Release

August 11, 2011

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### **Paris ISD educator earns regional honors**

Congratulations to Paris ISD instructor Jennifer Ray who has been selected as the Elementary Teacher of the Year by Region VIII Education Service Center.

She will represent Region VIII as its nominee for the 2012 Texas Education Agency (TEA) Teacher of the Year.

In May, Ms. Ray was honored for her teaching excellence at the annual staff recognition reception. Ray graduated from Paris Junior College in 1994 and Texas A&M University-Commerce in 1997 with a Bachelor of Science degree. She has taught a combination of subjects at Justiss Elementary (gr. 1-5), Aikin Elementary (gr. 4-5), and Crockett Middle School (gr. 5-6), and currently teaches 5<sup>th</sup> grade math at Crockett Intermediate School. She also serves as a STAAR Update and English I-II trainer for Region VIII ESC.



**Jennifer Ray, Region 8  
Elementary Teacher of  
the Year**

State-level judging takes place at the Texas Education Agency. Semifinalist judging will take place on Monday, **August 15, 2011**. Two panels of judges (one for elementary and another for secondary) composed primarily of members of teacher associations will meet in Austin to review the applications of the semifinalists and select three finalists for Elementary Teacher of the Year and three finalists for Secondary Teacher of the Year. Finalists' superintendents and the Education Service Centers will be notified, and TEA will distribute a news release announcing the six finalists.

The final judging is scheduled for Saturday, **September 10, 2011**. The six finalists will be invited to Austin to be interviewed by a panel of judges, which is typically composed of representatives of educational administrator associations, a member of the State Board for Education Certification, a member of the State Board of Education and the previous Texas Teachers of the Year. The panel will choose the two state winners and designate one to represent Texas in the National Teacher of the Year Program. The winners will be announced at the Texas Teacher of the Year Awards Ceremony in October 2011.

Ms. Ray joins an extensive list of Paris ISD teachers who have achieved this honor. Since 1989, Paris ISD has had 20 regional teachers of the year, 5 state finalists, and 1 Texas Teacher of the Year.