



*Preparing today's learners for tomorrow's opportunities*

Clyde W. Steelman, Jr., Ed.D.  
Executive Director

May 31, 2018

## ***PRESS RELEASE***

### **Grapevine-Colleyville Leader Named Regional Superintendent of the Year**

(White Settlement, TX) On Wednesday, May 30, a panel of school board members selected Grapevine-Colleyville ISD Superintendent Dr. Robin Ryan as the Region 11 Superintendent of the Year for 2018. The Superintendent of the Year Award, sponsored by the Texas Association of School Boards, honors outstanding Texas administrators for achievement and excellence in public school administration.

Candidates for the award must be nominated by their school boards and are chosen for their strong leadership skills, dedication to improving the quality of education in their districts, commitment to public support and involvement in education, and ability to build good employee relations among teachers and staff members. The Region 11 selection panel, comprised of school board members from districts within the Region 11 area, conducted interviews and reviewed application submissions which highlighted the following performance areas:

- Leadership, Management, and School Climate
- School Board-Superintendent Relations
- School Improvement and Instructional Leadership
- Fiscal Management
- School-Community Relations

(more)

In addition to addressing the specified performance areas, school boards were asked to answer the question, “Why should your chief administrator be selected as Superintendent of the Year?”

Ryan, who has 24 years of administrative experience, has served GCISD as superintendent of schools for nearly seven years. His experience in education spans more than 30 years, serving as a teacher and coach in Hurst-Euless-Bedford and Graham ISDs, a principal in San Angelo, Carroll, and Grapevine-Colleyville ISDs, and chief academic officer and area superintendent in Dallas ISD. He earned his bachelor’s degree in health education/biology from Texas A&M University, his master’s degree in school administration from Midwestern State University, and his doctorate in school administration from the University of North Texas.

When Dr. Ryan first became superintendent of GCISD, he began building relationships with stakeholders and assessing district needs. The result of his effort was the development of a 10-year strategic plan called LEAD (Leading Excellence-Action Driven) 2021. His board of trustees shared that Ryan’s vision was that “a district with high expectations for student learning, a collaborative culture, and the expectation that innovation and reexamination of traditional school practices would be the norm” for GCISD.

The selection panel was not only impressed with the achievements that Ryan has made as superintendent, but admired his views on education and the relationships that are crucial to a successful school experience. “Throughout his interview, Dr. Ryan continued to give credit to his team and others who ultimately did the work,” said Julie Cole, trustee for Hurst-Euless-Bedford ISD.

Karina Davis, trustee for Keller ISD, also served as a member of the selection panel. “In all of his responses, his message always came down to what is best for each and every student.”

The selection panel took note of the fact that Ryan works hard to develop and maintain relationships. “Relationships are important to him...across the board,” commented Michelle Moore, trustee for Carroll ISD.

(more)

When asked how he measures the success of his district, Ryan responded by saying that the culture of his district was more important than student test scores. “He indicated that he wants to measure himself and his team based on how his staff members feel about working there. If they love their jobs, they will make the education experience for students even better, thus making everyone successful,” said John Finnell, trustee from Cleburne ISD.

As the Region 11 winner, Ryan will move on to the state level of the competition. The state selection committee will interview all regional winners on August 24-25 and choose five finalists. The finalists will be called to participate in a second interview by the state selection committee in September. The state winner will then be announced at the Texas Association of School Administrators/Texas Association of School Boards (TASA/TASB) joint annual convention on September 28.

The state winner of the Superintendent of the Year award receives a \$5,000 professional development award, which will be presented at the 2018 TASA/TASB Joint Annual Convention. The award program is funded by Balfour and coordinated by TASB.

ESC Region 11 serves 77 school districts and 75 charter schools in the north central Texas area. Also nominated for this year’s award were Dr. Telena Wright from Argyle ISD, Dr. Jim Chadwell from Eagle Mountain-Saginaw ISD, and Dr. Kevin Rogers from Lewisville ISD.

***For more information, contact:***

***Lori Burton, Communications Coordinator***

***ESC Region 11***

***(817) 740-3690 or (817) 235-4809 (cell)***

***lburton@esc11.net***