



Office of
Community Relations

North East Independent School District

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Contact:

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MEDIA ADVISORY

- What:** North East ISD will host its second Mental Wellness Fair, a free event open to the community to provide families with information on mental health issues affecting middle and high school students.
- Who:** NEISD students, parents, and nurses; local physicians; and representatives from the Rape Crisis Center, Palmer Drug Abuse and Prevention Program, Child Bereavement Center, National Association of Mental Illness and the Eating Disorder Center of San Antonio.
- When:** September 22, 2010, 5-8 p.m. (Dinner: 5-6 p.m.; Educational sessions: 6-8 p.m.)
- Where:** MacArthur High School, 2923 MacArthur View. Cafeteria and Science Wing. **Media will need to ask accompanying parents for permission to film/interview/photograph students.**
- Why:** The fair is part of NEISD's wellness initiative to provide a healthy environment throughout the district. During educational sessions, physicians and counselors will help families identify and work through teen issues such as depression, eating disorders, bipolarism, anxiety and substance abuse; learn the signs of "typical" or "troubled" behavior; and receive support from school and community organizations.
- Visuals:** Six local physicians will give presentations to identify and treat mental illnesses, and vendors will have information booths set up. Free information and goodie bags will also be available to all participants. A student session will be offered covering wellness.
- Other:** According to the National Alliance on Mental Illness and the U.S. Surgeon General, 10 percent of children and adolescents in the U.S. suffer from serious emotional and mental disorders causing functional impairment in their day-to-day lives at home and school. Less than half of them ever receive any mental health services. The Academy for Eating Disorders, a global association, states that one in 20 young women has an eating disorder, and the largest population treated for bulimia are adolescents and young adults.

View this online at www.neisd.net/ComRel/MediaCenter.html.

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About NEISD:

North East ISD has more than 70 schools and magnet programs with an expected fall 2010 enrollment of more than 66,000 students. NEISD employs more than 9,000 people. It is the second largest public school district in the San Antonio area and the eighth largest in the state. Under the Texas accountability system, 87 percent of NEISD schools are rated Exemplary or Recognized. The district earned Recognized for the third year in a row. More information about NEISD can be found at www.neisd.net.