

# **SAN ANTONIO EXPRESS-NEWS**

## **Northside Finalist for National Award**

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Northside Independent School District is a finalist for a national education award whose value totals \$1 million and honors urban school districts that have made the greatest gains in student achievement.

The Broad Foundation (pronounced "brode") announced five national finalists for its annual Broad Prize for Urban Education this morning. The winner will receive \$500,000 in scholarship money for graduating seniors and the four finalists will receive \$125,000 each.

The winner will be announced Sept. 18 in Washington D.C.

Its founders call the award "the largest education award in the country" and it also comes with a great deal of national acclaim.

"The Broad Prize is a most prestigious award. To be recognized by that organization as a national finalist is something that not just Northside ISD but all of San Antonio can be proud of," said Northside Superintendent John Folks. "It recognizes the committed efforts of all teachers and staff and parents and students to make NISD the premier district that we are."

Other finalists are: Bridgeport Public Schools, Conn.; Long Beach Unified School District, Calif.; Miami-Dade County Public Schools; and New York City Department of Education.

The prize is awarded annually and honors the school district found to have made the greatest improvement in student achievement while reducing achievement gaps among ethnic groups and between high- and low-income students.

Finalists were selected based on a review of national data that was compiled and analyzed by MPR Associates, Inc., a national education research consulting firm. A review board of 14 education leaders selected the finalists. Over the next few months, teams will make site visits to the school districts and talk with parents, community leaders, school board members and union representatives before a winner is chosen, according to a media release released by the Broad Foundation this morning.

The Broad Foundation is a Los Angeles-based philanthropic organization established by Eli and Edythe Broad in 1999 with the goal of improving urban public education.

Houston Independent School District was the inaugural winner in 2002. Northside is the only other Texas district to be honored as a winner or finalist since then.

“After decades of decline, American public education continues to struggle compared with other industrialized nations, yet these five urban school districts have proven that with hard work, it is possible to raise student achievement in our inner cities,” Eli Broad said in the media release. “Other urban districts nationwide can learn a great deal from what is working in Northside.” [jcaputo@express-news.net](mailto:jcaputo@express-news.net)