



## Higgs, Carter, King, Gifted & Talented Charter Academy

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Higgs, Carter, King is an Accelerated School.

GO TIGERS!

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**Nationally, Higgs, Carter, King Gifted and Talented Charter Academy identified as #1 Middle School for achieving highest gains for middle school students**

San Antonio, Texas, Mar. 5 2009 – Higgs, Carter, King Gifted and Talented Charter School

### Summary

Higgs, Carter, King Gifted and Talented Charter Academy has been Nationally recognized and honored by New Leaders for New Schools' Effective Practice Incentive Community (EPIC) program for its significant student achievement gain on the Texas TAKS achievement tests in 2007-08. Identified as the #1, top **GOLD – GAIN** school in the Middle School Division, educators at the school will each receive financial rewards of a minimum of \$4,000 in recognition of their efforts and in exchange for working with New Leaders for New Schools to document and share the practices that led to the award-winning Gold gains. New Leaders for New Schools announced the EPIC awards for charter schools today.

### Higgs, Carter, King Gifted and Talented Charter Academy Student Achievement Gains

Higgs, Carter, King Gifted and Talented Charter Academy is among the 21 highest ranked charter schools of the 144 schools in the EPIC National Charter School Consortium and the #1 highest ranked middle school honored today.

Mathematica Policy Research, an independent, nationally recognized research firm calculated the gains by:

- Comparing results of state achievement tests taken in the 07-08 school year over 06-07 scores.
- Adjusting for the different levels of difficulty of the different state tests.
- Determining the elementary, middle and high schools with the highest one-year gains.

EPIC awards are based on the progress a school's students make over time, rather than overall proficiency rates. In this way, EPIC identifies and rewards schools that have had a clear impact on their students' learning.

### HCK PRESS CONFERENCE

At 8:30am on Friday, March 6, 2009, Higgs, Carter, King (HCK) will hold a Press Conference to officially share the EPIC announcement with the local community, its 540 students, 100 parents, volunteers and 60 staff and to officially acknowledge the specific educators, students and parents who have continued to make strides towards closing the achievement gaps for minority students. *"To hear from the actual educators who helped the school achieve this status will make a tremendous impact on all of our students, staff and parents and we are eager and excited about this opportunity to share what our students, parents and teachers are capable of achieving,"* said Claudette Yarbrough, founder, Higgs, Carter, King (HCK). *"This is a definite start to what we believe is becoming our forte – empowering parents with teachers to have the courage and confidence in their ability to significantly impact higher achievement and expectations for all children."*

### HIGGS, CARTER, KING PARTNERS

Believing that no school is an island, Higgs, Carter, King (HCK) acknowledges that the following partners, entities and individuals have significantly contributed towards helping HCK's students, parents, and staff work together to

continually close the achievement gaps for all students. The emphasis on partnership has been a significant factor in the achievement of the EPIC Gold Gain achievements being recognized today and at the Press Conference on Friday, March 6, 2009 at 8:30am.

Accelerated Schools Process at the University of Texas  
Beacon Hill Baptist Church  
Charter School Division, Texas Education Agency  
Charter School Resource Center  
Destiny Child Care Learning Center  
Dwight Norton Architects  
EduTEKS Consultants  
EPIC  
Floyd Wilson, Frost National Bank  
Frank Dunn Insurance  
Frost National Bank  
Gigi Mason of Mason Realty  
Harry Wong, The First Days of School  
Isolina Byrd, 3iConstruction LLC  
Intensive Summer Program (ISP), Texas Education Agency  
Kids N Us Child Care Learning Center  
Kirby Forest, MacStuff Computers  
LifeTouch  
Lorraine De Leon, Reading First RTA  
Over The Rainbow Learning Center  
Parent Child Incorporated  
Raise Your Hand Texas  
Ray Landry, Owner, Team Concepts  
Region 20 Education Center  
Richard Hardin  
San Antonio Council on Drug and Alcohol Abuse (SACADA)  
Solutions For Texas Charters  
Teacher Advancement Program (TAP) at the University of Texas  
TxPEP  
Texas A&M Agricultural Extension Service  
Texas Early Education Model Program at the University of Texas at Houston and the Texas Education Agency  
Valero Texas Open Birdies for Charities  
Youth Advocates AmeriCorps Program

Additional information about Higgs, Carter, King (HCK) can be found at [www.higgscarterking.org](http://www.higgscarterking.org).

### **EPIC Awards**

EPIC is unique in that the program compares charter school achievement gain across states and financially rewards educators for sharing their effective practices. EPIC is in its second year of a five-year grant funded primarily by the federal government. Schools have the opportunity to win in multiple years.

Principals, assistant principals, teachers and instructional aides in a total of 21 schools will receive awards. School leaders at winning schools will receive awards ranging from \$8,000 to \$12,000, while all instructional staff at each school will receive awards ranging from \$3000 to \$4000. Additional information on the EPIC program can be found at [www.nlms.org/epic.jsp](http://www.nlms.org/epic.jsp).

### **Sharing Practices**

By allowing EPIC to identify and convey the practices being used in their schools and agreeing to share them with others, EPIC award-winning schools provide a unique opportunity for educators to learn from their peers in order to strengthen their own school's practice.

*“The critical component for EPIC is to identify effective practices that positively impact student achievement,”* said Dianne Houghton, Chief Community Resources Officer of New Leaders for New Schools. *“What we’ve learned thus far is that effective schools can and do have a dramatic impact on student achievement no matter their students’ backgrounds or prior schooling.”*

All winning schools will collaborate with a team of experts led by SchoolWorks, a nationally recognized education firm with expertise in identifying school practices that contribute to effective teaching and learning.

Effective practices will be documented and shared with all EPIC schools. Case studies and profiles from all 21 award-winning charter schools will be posted on the EPIC Knowledge System, which is a comprehensive professional development site available to staff at all EPIC schools.

### **EPIC National Charter School Consortium**

The EPIC National Charter School Consortium includes 144 schools in 17 states and the District of Columbia.

To qualify for consideration of an EPIC award, charter schools must have at least 30% of their students qualify for free and reduced price meals and must be willing share what they are doing with other schools.

### **EPIC & New Leaders for New Schools**

The goal of EPIC is to identify and share effective practices that have contributed to significant one-year academic achievement gains among students in charter schools throughout the country.

Conceived in 2006 by the non-profit, New Leaders for New Schools, EPIC is funded primarily by the U.S. Department of Education’s Teacher Incentive Fund Program.

New Leaders for New Schools’ mission is to ensure high academic achievement for every child by attracting and preparing outstanding leaders and supporting the performance of the urban public schools they lead at scale. New Leaders for New Schools has partnerships in Baltimore, the Bay Area of California, Charlotte, Chicago, Memphis, Milwaukee, Greater New Orleans, New York City, Prince George’s County (MD), and Washington, DC. Since 2000, New Leaders has selected and trained 550 outstanding leaders from almost 8,000 applicants. Additional information can be found at [www.nlms.org](http://www.nlms.org).

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