

Letters to the Editor

MISD proud to continue Dallas Challenge

Dear Editor:

The Mesquite Independent School District has a long-standing reputation for maintaining healthy collaborative relationships with key community organizations.

With this in mind, it is no surprise that the MISD is announcing the start of a four-year partnership with Dallas Challenge, Inc. The pilot program for at-risk students began on four campuses and has expanded into programs that involve both parents and students receiving education on goal setting and conflict management.

The initial program, which was introduced to the district as The Lasting Connection (TLC), is a prevention/intervention-based curricu-

lum that helps students identify and address at-risk behavior.

Students participate in groups that teach positive responses, conflict management and personal responsibility. The rewarding part of TLC is to see the students using the skills they have learned to avoid conflict and make wise decisions in real life situations.

This year, in addition to TLC, a new program called Conquering Conflict is being introduced through Dallas Challenge, Inc.

The MISD is proud to be a part of this new concept—a three-way venture between the municipal court system, Dallas Challenge, Inc., and the school district.

Students who have demonstrated disruptive behavior in school are ticketed for offenses and must appear before the municipal court judge. Once the student appears, the judge offers the parent and student the option of completing six hours of Conquering Conflict training in lieu of a court fine.

If the parent and student choose to attend the training, they participate in separate small-group settings that focus on dealing with difficult situations and anger management. Once they have completed their sessions, they come back together to learn how to work as a team to overcome their issues.

The evaluations and feedback from the participants

show that the results of the program have been extremely positive. Participants have expressed how valuable the program has been in helping them develop and maintain the necessary skills to manage their child's behavior. There are many situations today that create hardships on students and parents. Through these great programs, the MISD and Dallas Challenge, Inc. have found the right combination for helping families overcome at-risk behaviors, getting them on the right path for future success.

Linda Henrie, Ed.D.
MISD Superintendent