



Government Finance Officers Association

Award for
Outstanding
Achievement in
Popular Annual
Financial Reporting

Presented to

**Harlingen Consolidated Independent
School District, Texas**

For its Annual
Financial Report
for the Fiscal Year Ended

August 31, 2015

Executive Director/CEO

GOVERNMENT FINANCE OFFICERS ASSOCIATION
POPULAR ANNUAL FINANCIAL REPORTING PROGRAM
PAFR REVIEWER'S COMMENTS AND SUGGESTIONS

FOR: Harlingen Consolidated Independent School District, TX
FISCAL YEAR: August 31, 2015

READER APPEAL

The reviewers commented favorably that the report is professionally formatted and the information is accessible and informative to the community member, parents, and students. The "Fast Facts" on page 7 is very useful information to the taxpayers.

Consider including the month and day of the fiscal year on the report cover, that is, it would be August 31, 2016 for the next year's report.

One reviewer suggests identifying where the School District is located in the state and including a brief background about the School District, for example, the major industries and the top five or ten employers of the District which it serves.

Consider formatting the report in single page rather than two-page in the electronics format to make it easier for readers navigating through the report. Consider also increasing some of the legend keys throughout the report, for instance, on pages 14 and 16.

UNDERSTANDABILITY

The reviewers noted favorably that the financial data is presented in a format in this report that is much easier to comprehend than the Comprehensive Annual Financial Report (CAFR) from which the amounts were originally derived. The reviewers comment favorably that they were able to trace the amounts easily to the related amounts reported in the CAFR.

The reviewers suggest including the information on the student's academic performance, for example, scores and graduation rate, etc.

Consider including an analysis of the underlying reasons for the changes in financial data from the previous year to the current year, for instance, the net position on page 12.

DISTRIBUTION

The reviewers suggest notifying the public about the availability of the report on the District's website, for example a brief reference in the School board meeting, press release, libraries, parent and community meetings, or through social media outlets, i.e., Twitter and Facebook posts.

OTHER

The reviewers commend the School District for successfully achieving the first Popular Annual Financial Reporting Award.

General comments and suggestions to all participants:

Currently, there are requirements included in questions 2 and 3 of the application that all participants must comply with in order for the report to be considered eligible for the Program. The following explanations should clarify the intent of these requirements.

The requirements include:

(1) The basis of presentation should be consistent with GAAP and also should be disclosed.

The financial data presented in the PAFR must be derived from the CAFR and consistent with GAAP. For example, information on governmental funds must be presented using the current financial resources measurement focus and the modified accrual basis of accounting. Nonetheless, the typical PAFR is not expected to provide all of the detail and disclosure required for fair presentation in conformity with GAAP. Likewise, a PAFR need not encompass the entire financial reporting entity as defined by GAAP. Accordingly, to minimize the possibility for confusion, GFOA requires that popular reports submitted to the PAFR program indicate whether they are presented in conformity with GAAP and, if not, briefly disclose how their manner of presentation differs from GAAP (e.g., elimination of certain component units and funds).

(2) The report should refer users desiring additional detail to the comprehensive annual financial report (CAFR).

The report should not only make mention of the CAFR but also explain that the CAFR does contain more detailed information. Also, consider disclosing that the CAFR is available for interested users and information on how to obtain a copy.

Harlingen Consolidated Independent
School District, TX

JUDGE 1 JUDGE 2 JUDGE 3

I. ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

1. CLEAR SCOPE	Y	Y	Y
2. REFERS TO CAFR	Y	Y	Y
3. EXPLAINS GAAP DIFFERENCE	Y	Y	Y

II. REPORT CHARACTERISTICS

AVERAGE 3 SCORE 3

READER APPEAL (10%)

1. REPORT IS SHORT	4	4	4	4.00	0.0240
2. FORMAT LOGICAL	4	4	3	3.67	0.0220
3. EASY TO READ TYPE	4	3	3	3.33	0.0100
4. APPEALING TYPE	4	4	3	3.67	0.0110
5. PHOTOS,GRAPHS ENHANCE	4	4	3	3.67	0.0073
PERCENTAGE TOTAL	8.00%	7.70%	6.60%		7.43%

UNDERSTANDABILITY (25%)

1. AVOIDS JARGON	4	4	4	4.00	0.0400
2. CHART/GRAPH ENHANCE DATA	4	4	4	4.00	0.0400
3. NARRATIVE HIGHLIGHT	4	4	4	4.00	0.0400
4. TREND INFORMATION	4	4	4	4.00	0.0400
5. MINIMIZES MISINTERPRETING	4	4	4	4.00	0.0400
PERCENTAGE TOTAL	20.00%	20.00%	20.00%		20.00%

DISTRIBUTION (7.5%)

1 TARGET AUDIENCE	4	4	3	3.67	0.0220
2. MODE	4	4	3	3.67	0.0330
PERCENTAGE TOTAL	6.00%	6.00%	4.50%		5.50%

OTHER (7.5 %)

1. NOTABLE ACHIEVEMENT	4	4	3	3.67	0.0110
2. INNOVATIVE	3	4	4	3.67	0.0110
3. USEFUL TO USERS	4	4	4	4.00	0.0120
4. USEFUL TO LEGISLATURE	5	4	4	4.33	0.0130
5. MAKES ENTITY ATTRACTIVE	4	4	4	4.00	0.0120
PERCENTAGE TOTAL	6.00%	6.00%	5.70%		5.90%

SUMMARY(50%)

PERCENTAGE TOTAL	40.00%	40.00%	35.00%	3.83	0.38333333
TOTAL SCORE (100 %)	80.00%	79.70%	71.80%		77.17%

Instructions for Reproducing/Referencing the Popular Award

Reproduction of the Award for Outstanding Achievement in Popular Annual Financial Reporting is permitted only in the Popular Annual Financial Report (PAFR) of the year succeeding the award.

Reference to the receipt of the Popular Award, however, may be made in other documents. The reference to the Popular Award should use the standard terminology noted below and be formatted in the document where the PAFR is mentioned during the year the award was received.

Standardized text should be used for the statement/reference required by the above as follows:

"The Government Finance Officers Association of the United States and Canada (GFOA) has given an Award for Outstanding Achievement in Popular Annual Financial Reporting to (NAME OF GOVERNMENT) for its Popular Annual Financial Report for the fiscal year ended (MONTH, DAY, YEAR). The Award for Outstanding Achievement in Popular Annual Financial Reporting is a prestigious national award recognizing conformance with the highest standards for preparation of state and local government popular reports.

In order to receive an Award for Outstanding Achievement in Popular Annual Financial Reporting, a government unit must publish a Popular Annual Financial Report, whose contents conform to program standards of creativity, presentation, understandability and reader appeal.

An Award for Outstanding Achievement in Popular Annual Financial Reporting is valid for a period of one year only. ((NAME OF GOVERNMENT) has received a Popular Award for the last ____ consecutive years (fiscal years ended XXXX-XXXX)*.) We believe our current report continues to conform to the Popular Annual Financial Reporting requirements, and we are submitting it to GFOA."

*This sentence is optional.

Documents (i.e., CAFR) referencing the CAFR

"(NAME OF GOVERNMENT) comprehensive annual financial report(s) for the year(s) ended 20XX (-20XX), from which the information on page(s) ____ has been drawn, was (were) awarded the Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting by the Government Finance Officers Association of the United States and Canada (GFOA). The Certificate of Achievement is the highest form of recognition for excellence in state and local government financial reporting.

In order to be awarded a Certificate of Achievement, a government unit must publish an easily readable and efficiently organized comprehensive annual financial report, whose contents conform to program standards. Such CAFR must satisfy both generally accepted accounting principles and applicable legal requirements.

A Certificate of Achievement is valid for a period of one year only. We believe our CAFR continues to conform to the Certificate of Achievement program requirements and we are (will be) submitting our CAFR for the current year to the GFOA."