

# Rural Schools Spotlight Report: 2016–17

Canadian High School  
Martin's Mill Elementary School

Moody High School  
Saltillo Independent School District

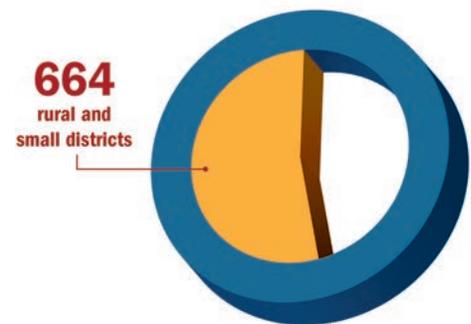


In 2016, the Texas Commissioner of Education created several new initiatives to support small and rural districts. The initiatives address many of the educational challenges that are unique to these sites due to their sizes and regions.

The Texas Education Agency (TEA) and the Texas Comprehensive Center (TXCC) at American Institutes for Research (AIR) collaborated to produce one component of this effort: The Rural Schools Spotlight Report. The report identifies the themes in place at four rural Texas districts in an effort to better understand the nature of their effective practices. These districts exhibit confidence, flexibility, and creativity in their responses to students' needs. They also find their small sizes to sometimes be advantageous as they progressively implement these efforts.

The report is located on the TEA website at [https://tea.texas.gov/Texas\\_Educators/Educator\\_Initiatives\\_and\\_Performance/Rural\\_Schools\\_Task\\_Force/](https://tea.texas.gov/Texas_Educators/Educator_Initiatives_and_Performance/Rural_Schools_Task_Force/)

All Texas School Districts  
2015–16 School Year



1,247  
all school districts

<http://tea.texas.gov/districtinfo.aspx>

## Canadian High School

270 Students  
Grades 9–12  
Canadian ISD

*The community and the school board have very, very high expectations and at the same time make sure we have access to great tools.*

Source: Interview with Canadian ISD staff

- ▶ Exceptional technology—Every student is provided a computer.
- ▶ Involvement—Teachers are involved with all students in their activities.
- ▶ Leadership—School culture reflects great leadership. The superintendent has been at Canadian for more than 25 years, and the district often grows and promotes leaders from within.
- ▶ Great students—Students are involved in many activities, both academic and extracurricular. A variety of dynamic leaders enriches these activities.



### Martin's Mill Elementary School

274 Students  
Grades PK–6  
Martin's Mill ISD

*Planning for data and knowing where the kids have mastery is the right use of data. This takes meetings and finding what works for each kid.*

Source: Interview with Martin's Mill ISD staff

- ▶ TEKS (Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills)—Teachers teach the TEKS, not a textbook.
- ▶ Data—Kids are tested every nine weeks and the data are used to collaboratively update each student's plan.
- ▶ Parent and community involvement—Parents and the community are key to student success and are students' biggest cheerleaders.
- ▶ Looping—Teachers have found that looping is successful at Grades 1–6.

### Moody High School

208 Students  
Grades 9–12  
Moody ISD

*Teachers are traditionally bound into a schedule and instructional model that doesn't allow for time to go back and try new innovations. Some schools rely on before and after school tutorials, but we believe we need to build it all into the school day.*

Source: Interview with Moody ISD staff

- ▶ Individual hand scheduling—Every student is hand-scheduled to ensure that all of his or her needs are addressed.
- ▶ Looping—Ensures that content specialists are hired to improve data reliability and student achievement.
- ▶ Career and technical education—Increased career and technical classes and knowledgeable teachers help to ensure student preparation.
- ▶ Data—Data from unit tests are regularly reviewed, and collaborative planning for new student instructional innovations and consistent monitoring for student success are implemented.

### Saltillo Independent School District

262 Students  
Grades PK–12

*Every kid matters. As a district, we do our very best so that no one falls through the cracks. Our teachers work very hard to engage all students so they do not ever sit back and are not successful.*

Source: Interview with Saltillo ISD staff

- ▶ High expectations—The district is multigenerational and joins with community to ensure the best for all kids.
- ▶ Looping—Serving the same students across multiple grades provides more instructional time because the first six weeks of the school year are not spent becoming acquainted with students.
- ▶ Commitment to do whatever it takes to promote student success—Staff willingly makes major midyear schedule changes to ensure that student learning comes first.
- ▶ Family—Staff is close and tight-knit like a family as they consistently work together to meet students' needs.