The results of the learning outcomes for the Rural Talent Search Program (RTS) for school year 2008-2009 are as follows. The information was collected throughout the school year (September 1, 2008 through August 31, 2009) in the Blumen Database and then reported in the U. S. Department of Education’s Talent Search Annual Performance Report. The Rural Talent Search Program is funded to serve 600 participants of which two-thirds of the students served must be identified as both low-income and potential first generation (LIFG) students. The program was successful identifying 71% as LIFG and serving 600 students. Of the 600 participants served during the 2008-2009 academic year, 499 were identified as non-senior (6-11th graders) participants. Of those, 496 (99%) were promoted to the next grade level in middle or high school and 3 (1%) were retained in their current grade. Of the 600 participants served by RTS during this time, 101 were high school seniors. One hundred percent (101) of the senior participants successfully graduated from high school. One hundred percent (101) of the graduating senior participants applied for admission to a program of postsecondary education through the completion of the Texas Common Application, Private, and Proprietary institution application forms. Additionally, 97 (96%) of the graduating seniors applied for financial aid by completing the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) and various scholarship applications. Lastly, 86 (85%) of the 101 seniors participants enrolled in an institution of postsecondary education in fall semester of 2009.

The results from the report will be used to determine whether or not the program met and/or exceeded its objectives. Rural Talent Search will use the data results to make improvements and enhance the program’s services for student success in the areas of retention, graduation and postsecondary enrollment.