The results of the learning outcomes for the Educational Talent Search Program (ETS) 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 Educational Talent Search Program is funded to serve 950 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 more than 67% (77%) as LIFG, but was only successful recruiting and serving 854 participants, 96 less than it is funded to serve. Of the 854 participants served during the 2008-2009 academic year, 726 were identified as non-senior (6-11th graders) participants. Of those, 662 (91%) were promoted to the next grade level in middle or high school and 12 (1.6%) were retained in their current grade. Additionally, there were 14 (1.9%) students who were unable to be tracked. The remaining 38 (5.2%) were summer enrollees that did not receiving services to aid in grade promotion, therefore being classified as other. Of the 854 participants served by ETS during this time, 128 were high school seniors. Ninety-six percent (123) of the senior participants successfully graduated from high school with the additional 4% (5) not graduating due to not passing the state mandated exit level TAKS test. Ninety-Seven percent (124) 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, 115 (90%) of the graduating seniors applied for financial aid by completing the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) and various scholarship applications. Lastly, 95 (74%) of the 128 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. Educational 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.