The results of the learning outcomes for the Rural Talent Search (RTS) Program for the school year 2007-08 are as follows. The Rural Talent Search Program is funded to serve 600 participants of which 402 (67%) are to be identified as both low-income and potential first generation (LI/FG) students. The program was successful in identifying 426 (71%) as LI/FG. Of the 605 participants served during the academic year 2007-08, 516 participants were identified as non-senior (6-11th graders) participants. Of those, 516 (100%) were promoted to the next grade level in middle or high school. Of the 605 participants served by RTS during this time, 89 were high school seniors. One hundred percent (89) of the senior participants successfully graduated from high school. One hundred percent (89) of the graduating senior participants applied for admission to a program of postsecondary education through the completion of the Texas Common Application and Private and Proprietary school application forms. Additionally, 89 (100%) of the graduating seniors applied for financial aid by completing the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) and various scholarship applications. Lastly, 72 (80%) of the 111 graduating seniors enrolled in an institution of postsecondary education.

The information was collected throughout the school year (September 1, 2007 through August 31, 2008) in the BLUMEN Database and then reported in the Department of Education Talent Search Annual Performance Report.
**Assessment Title:** Annual Assessment Review for 2007-2008

**Response Rate:** Identify demographics of respondents; include the number mailed or interviewed and the number completed.

605 Participants, between the ages of 11 and 18; 279 were male, 326 were female. 426 were low-income and potential first generation students, from San Marcos and Seguin Independent School Districts.

The information collected throughout the school year (September 1, 2007 through August 31, 2008 in the BLUMEN Database and then reported on in the Department of Education Rural Talent Search Annual Performance Report (APR).

Rural Talent Search APR (November 2008) reported on 605 student with the following demographics:
- 70.41% (426) students were low-income and potential first generation
- 3.3% (20) students were low-income only
- 16.85% (102) students were potential first generation only
- 9.42% (57) students were other
- 0.66% (4) students were American Indian or Alaska Native
- 1.15% (7) students were Asian
- 6.44% (39) students were Black or African American
- 70.41% (426) students were Hispanic or Latino of any race
- 21.15% (128) students were White
- 0.16% (1) student was Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander
- 46.11% (279) students were male
- 53.88% (326) students were female
- 29.91% (181) students were between the ages of 11 to 13
- 70.08% (424) students were between the ages of 14 to 18
Summary of Findings: Attach executive summary, table and figures, if applicable. What did you learn?

1. **Secondary School Promotion**
   Non-senior secondary school participants served during each budget year will be promoted to the next grade level at the end of each academic school year.

    **Result:** 516 out of 516 students (100%) were promoted. We met and exceeded this objective.

2. **Secondary School Graduation**
   High School seniors (and their equivalents in alternative education programs) will graduate from secondary school or receive a certificate of high school equivalency during each project period.

    **Result:** 89 out of 89 students (100%) graduated. We met and exceeded this objective.

3. **Student Financial Aid**
   “College-ready” project participants will apply for financial aid during each budget period.

    **Results:** 89 out of 89 students (100%) applied for financial aid by completing the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) and scholarships. We met and exceeded this objective.

4. **Application for Post-Secondary Education Admissions**
   “College-ready” project participants will apply for postsecondary school admission during each budget period.

    **Result:** 89 out of 89 students (100%) applied for admission. We met and exceeded this objective.

5. **Post-Secondary Enrollment**
   “College-ready” participants will enroll in a program of postsecondary education during each budget period (or during the next fall term)

    **Results:** 72 of 89 students (81%) enrolled in a program of postsecondary education. We met and exceeded this objective.
**Distribution**: List groups that will receive reports (oral or written) from this assessment.

1. Rural Talent Search Stakeholders
2. The United States Department of Education
3. Multicultural Students Affairs (MSA)
4. Student Affairs Office
5. Rural Talent Search Staff

**Recommendations/Action Plan**: Describe specific actions or programmatic changes you will make resulting from this assessment.

1. The Rural Talent Search Program will continue to increase and maintain the level of student contact in the target schools. With Program Advisors spending more time with students, the resulting rate of retention, promotion, and enrollment is shown.

2. The Rural Talent Search Program will continue to offer workshops for our parents at night in order to increase their awareness of college admissions and the financial aid processes.

3. The Rural Talent Search Program will continue their collaboration with the Upward Bound Program, Student Support Services, Hip Hop Congress and the Texas State University Psychology Department to offer our students more opportunities throughout the year.

**Changes made after assessment (Fall, Spring or Summer):**

1. Rural Talent Search staff continues to attend trainings hosted by the Council of Education (COE) and University of Nevada Las Vegas (UNLV) to ensure that the program remains in compliance and offers our students new opportunities.

2. Rural Talent Search had a total of 5 college interns that provided one on one support to program seniors and facilitated college prep workshops for 9th-11th grade students.

3. Rural Talent Search Advisors will continue to work diligently with participants and parents assisting them to reach their postsecondary enrollment goals and assisting them monetarily by assisting them with financial aid and scholarships (RTS participants were awarded over one million dollars in scholarships this year).

Return completed form to Susan Thompson, Research Associate in the VPSA Office, 980 J.C. Kellam, before the end of the semester in which the assessment was conducted.