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## NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### **Application Process Opens for Ann Richards School for Young Women Leaders**

Nov. 9, 2006 – Austin School District officials and Ellen Richards, the daughter of the late Governor Ann Richards, today visited Zavala Elementary School in East Austin to announce the opening of the application process for admission to the Ann Richards School for Young Women Leaders.

Ellen Richards, who is also the newly appointed chair of the school's advisory committee, urged girls from across the District to look into this exciting new opportunity. "This school will help create future generations of strong women leaders in government, business, science, education, the arts and technology," Richards said. "We want these students to be leaders, go to college and be healthy."

Richards' school principal Jeanne Goka explained the admission standards and process to the 5th and 6th grade students. The selection process is designed to admit a student body of diverse learners. The five areas of scoring are the student letter, last year's scores on the Texas Assessment of Knowledge & Skills tests, this year's report card and attendance, and teacher recommendations. From the selection pool of applicants, students will be chosen by lottery, with 75 percent of the students coming from Title I Schools and 25 percent from non-Title I schools.

Ms. Goka told the girls that the first students in the Ann Richards School will be pioneers in the Austin School District, leading the way for other girls to follow while preparing themselves for college. "We will be making sure every one of our graduates is well-prepared for college and to lead this community and nation in the future," she said. She encouraged all girls who are interested to apply. If more than 115 girls apply for each grade level, the district will hold a lottery of eligible applicants. "You don't have to be a top student in your school to get in," Goka said, "but you do need the desire and motivation to attend this unique school to prepare for college and an exciting life ahead."

The deadline for application is Feb. 9, 2007. Application forms will be available from every AISD elementary school and middle school counselor.

The school will open in August 2007 with grades 6 and 7, serving 115 girls in each grade on the site of the current Porter Middle School campus at 2206 Prather Lane in south Austin. The district will provide transportation for students.

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