



# North East Independent School District

210-407-0040 - 8961 Tesoro Drive - San Antonio, Texas 78217

Brian G. Gottardy, Ed.D.  
Superintendent of Schools

August 3, 2012

Dear Parents/Guardians:

I am writing with an update regarding the construction projects at Vineyard Ranch and Las Lomas elementary schools. As I told you last week, North East ISD was concerned that the revised completion dates may be in jeopardy. This came after Safeco Bonding Company informed the district that it had taken over the financial administration of the projects from Summit Builders, the general contractor, because of delays in paying subcontractors.

Today, NEISD reached an agreement with Safeco that will allow our students to move into the new schools by the Spring semester, which starts January 7, 2013.

Safeco has agreed to have the schools ready by December 7, 2012. In exchange, NEISD will reduce liquidated damages from \$2,500 amount per day, per project, to \$1,250.

This is not something I was in favor of doing. None of us wanted to make this concession; however, Safeco would not give NEISD a new completion date unless the district agreed to lessen those liquidated damages. We believed there was a possibility that these projects could fall even further behind and the schools may not have been ready for the entirety of the 2012-2013 school year. So, we had to do what was best for our students, families and community and our number one priority is getting the schools opened as soon as possible.

In the event the schools are not complete on December 7, liquidated damages will *not* be reduced and Safeco will be fully liable for the original amount of \$2,500 per day, per project from the original completion dates of July 17 (Vineyard Ranch) and July 19 (Las Lomas).

This has not been an easy process for any of us and I hope there is now a light at the end of the tunnel. I appreciate your continued patience and support.

Sincerely,

Brian Gottardy, Ed.D.  
Superintendent of Schools