



Window on State Government

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Comptroller Helps Holliday Independent School District Achieve Energy Savings

(AUSTIN) — Holliday Independent School District will soon start saving an estimated \$20,000 annually in energy costs while improving the environment at the same time. The school district will begin to install energy-efficient equipment throughout its campuses using a \$188,000 loan from the Texas Comptroller of Public Accounts.

Funding for this project comes from the LoanSTAR (Saving Taxes and Resources) Revolving Loan Program, administered by the State Energy Conservation Office, a division of the Comptroller's office.

“The state wants to help Texas schools save valuable taxpayer dollars by using energy efficiently and reducing utility costs,” said Texas Comptroller Susan Combs. “The LoanSTAR Revolving Loan Program is an excellent way to help them obtain resources to realize those savings.”

A detailed utility assessment report recommended several energy-efficient projects within the school district's various campuses. Energy-efficient retrofit projects include replacement of the schools' heating, ventilation and air conditioning equipment; upgrading systems to accurately control temperature and humidity in classrooms; and installing motion sensors.

The Comptroller's office estimates Holliday ISD's energy retrofits will pay for themselves from the estimated annual energy saving, paying off the LoanSTAR loan over a 10-year period. Also, and most importantly, these upgrades will create a better classroom learning environment for the students at Holliday ISD.

“This comes at no new cost to the school district,” Combs said. “After the loan is paid off, the school district will continue to reap the benefits of saved energy costs by reallocating money for other needs, if necessary, within Holliday ISD campuses.”

Projects funded through LoanSTAR have a significant environmental impact, reducing the release of pollutants from power plants as they burn less fuel to serve the public facilities, which become more energy efficient.

The LoanSTAR Revolving Loan Program is the largest state-run building conservation program in the

United States and has saved public entities in Texas more than \$200 million since 1990. Texas schools, cities and counties undergo a process of strict quality control and must meet rigorous guidelines to participate in the program. For more information on LoanSTAR, visit www.seco.cpa.state.tx.us/lr.htm.

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