

KVUE News

Video

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KVUE's Quita Culpepper reports

Hundreds of area educators are earning big bonuses from the Austin Independent School District.

Wednesday AISD officials announced the district would give out \$991,000 in compensation payments for higher TAKS test scores -- 335 teachers and six principals from six different campuses will share that money.

Teachers can earn up to \$4,000 for higher reading and math test scores. Principals can earn up to \$8,000.

Throughout the year, educators can also earn thousands of extra dollars for professional growth, and retention and recruitment.

Money for the payouts comes from taxpayer dollars, and some believe it's worth every penny.

"This pilot is at different campuses with different demographics, because you want to see what works. At the end of the day this is about moving the needle for kids," said Mark Williams, president of the AISD school board.

Hart Elementary school teacher Katie Turner added, "It's just another way that it can keep good teachers in the classroom, and doing what they need to do."

This is the second year for the four-year pilot program. The district hopes to bring it to every campus within the next few years.