

## SSHS sending 14 to state UIL, earns second place sweepstakes at region

Written by From Staff Reports  
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The Sulphur Springs High School UIL Academic Team returned from the Region 2-4A Spring Academic Meet with the second place sweepstakes award. Fourteen SSHS students scored high enough at region to advance to the state meet. Two of these students will be competing in two events.

“We had a great weekend! Both the students and their sponsors have worked very hard preparing for the regional meet, and will continue to work hard leading up to our state meet,” said Gina Wilder, SSHS UIL coordinator.

The state meet will be held Tuesday-Wednesday, May 20-21 at the University of Texas in Austin.

SSHS earned 149 points, second only to Hallsville High School, who earned 176 points. This marks the second time this season that SSHS has come in second to Hallsville for academic UIL sweepstakes; they finished second behind Hallsville for the district title as well.

Of the 14 SSHS students advancing from region to state UIL competition, two will be competing in two events each.

Overall, 25 SSHS students scored high enough at the district contest to advance to and compete at the May 2-3 regional UIL contest at the University of Texas-Arlington. Three of the regional qualifiers competed in two events, and another was an alternate in a second contest at region.

MiKayla Jones is advancing to state after earning first place honors in computer applications.

In spelling and vocabulary at the regional meet, Jacqueline Tovar Yanez placed first, Jenna Ash placed second and Jessye Castro was sixth. They, along with Jordan Eckerd, placed first as a team. The SSHS spelling and vocabulary team advanced to region as not only the first place district team, and was also noted to have earned a score that tied with another school as the

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second highest team in the state following the district meet.

In ready writing, McKenzie Hohenberger placed second.

In social studies, Mariela Bravo placed second and Ariel Gonzalez placed sixth individually at the region meet. They, along with Alma Zapata and Andrew Allen, won first place team honors.

In literary criticism, Jessica Boyd placed fourth and McKenzie Hohenberger fifth individually at region. They, along with Laura Graham and MiKayla Jones, won second place team. This team also won the wildcard spot, so they will be competing at the state meet.

Lacey Jackson placed third in feature writing.

Ariel Gonzalez placed fifth in the current issues and events competition at region.

In computer science, M. Hunter Allen won fifth place at region. He, along with Ryan Moore, Karl Sehnert and Devin Mitchell were recognized as third place team.

In poetry interpretation, Triston Pullen came in fifth place at region.