

Mayor's Back to School Fair set for Aug. 11 at Fair Park *City of Dallas joined by ExxonMobil as principal sponsors*

DALLAS (June 15, 2005) – Mayor Laura Miller announced today that the annual Mayor's Back to School Fair is set for Thursday, August 11, 2005 at Dallas Fair Park's Automobile Building and Centennial Hall from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. The Mayor's Back to School Fair is a collaborative effort between local school districts, public health departments, state agencies, non-profit organizations, corporations and volunteers. The Mayor's Back to School Fair began in 1997 as a result of a federally funded drug prevention program. Over the course of the last several years, and as a result of generous funding from local businesses and foundations, the Back to School Fair evolved into a comprehensive event that not only focuses on drug prevention, but also on helping students with many of their school-related needs.

The purpose of the Back to School Fair has thus shifted to reducing the number of students who return to school without the proper school supplies, social services, and required health exams. Additionally, the fair provides an opportunity to increase awareness and availability of education, health and social services for parents and guardians of participating school children.

In order to take advantage of the services and supplies provided by the Back to School Fair, children must be in grades K through 12, enrolled in Dallas area Independent School Districts schools, be from families who live in Dallas, and qualify from an income perspective.

According to the Dallas Independent School District Campus Data Support Department, some 76 percent of Dallas public school children are living below the federal poverty level. Many of these families are not able to provide their children with mandatory immunizations or required school supplies. In an effort to address this crisis, the City of Dallas has continued to coordinate the annual Back to School Fair.

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