



# BOARD UPDATE

August 20, 2020

## Action Items

The Board of Directors took action on the following:

- Approved Minutes of the June 16, 2020 Board of Directors Meeting\*
- Approved Budget Amendments for June, July, and August 2020\*
- Approved Expenditure Reports as of July 31, 2020 \*
- Approved \*Region One Education Service Center Meal Catering Services and Supplies RFP 19-AGENCY-000060, Extension 2 of 3\*
- Approved Region One Purchasing Cooperative Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills (TEKS) / State of Texas Assessment of Academic Readiness (STAAR) Aligned Assessment Item Bank RFP 16-AGENCY-000032, Extension 3 of 3\*
- Approved Region One Purchasing Cooperative Integrated Pest Management (IPM) Services RFP 16-AGENCY-000030, Extension 3 of 3\*
- Approved Region One Purchasing Cooperative General Merchandise and School Related Supplies RFP 19-AGENCY-000046, Extension 2 of 3\*
- Approved Region One Purchasing Cooperative Meal Catering and Services RFP 19- AGENCY-000047, Extension 2 of 3\*

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## Region One Public Hearing Held to Announce Student, Financial, and ESC Accountability

In conjunction with the virtual Region One Board of Directors Meeting on August 20, 2020, the Region One Education Service Center shared the successes of regional school districts during the Annual Public Hearing of the Region One Education Service Center presented via Zoom. The Texas Education Code, Sec. 8.003 (f), requires that the Board of Directors of a regional education service center conduct a public hearing on the center’s performance during the preceding year on standards established by the Texas Education Commissioner. Attending the public hearing were mostly school district superintendents, personnel, and charter school representatives.

Due to COVID-19, the Texas Education Agency suspended 2020 Accountability Ratings for all districts and campuses in Texas; school districts and campuses will receive a label of: “*Not Rated: Declared State of Disaster*” for the year. However, there was still a celebratory mood as student progress on the annual TELPAS (Texas English Language Proficiency Assessment System), EOC (End-of-Course) Assessments, and the preliminary FIRST ratings were shared.

### TELPAS and EOC ASSESSMENTS

TELPAS (Texas English Language Proficiency Assessment System) is the assessment of English language proficiency of students who have been identified as English learners (ELs) in four language domains—listening, speaking, reading, and writing, explained Dr. Eduardo Cancino, Deputy Director for Instructional Leadership, School Improvement, and College and Career Readiness Support. Students in grades K-12 that have been identified as an EL are required to take TELPAS. This includes English learners whose parents have declined bilingual or English as a Second Language (ESL) program services. TELPAS evaluates the progress that each student makes in becoming proficient in the use of academic English, as per the English Language Proficiency Standards (ELPS) from the prior year to the current year. In grades 2-12, TELPAS includes online reading, listening and speaking tests and holistically-rated student writing collections. The results in listening, speaking, reading, and writing indicate how well students understand and use English during academic instruction, explained Cancino.

The current English Language Proficiency target is 36% due to a waiver approved by the USDE. According to Cancino, in 2020, TELPAS administration became optional due to COVID-19 and not all English Learners in the state were tested. In sharing the results of the 2019-2020 TELPAS Assessment, once again, Region One schools demonstrated a significant gain in student progress from 33% in 2019 to 44% proficiency.

Grade Level Spans	2019 Students Tested	2019 Student Progress	2020 Students Tested	2020 Student Progress
K-2	28,724	50%	20,026	52%
3-12	94,259	27%	61,364	42%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>122,983</b>	<b>33%</b>	<b>81,390</b>	<b>44%</b>

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In the STAAR End-Of-Course (EOC) Assessments which tests students for college readiness and mastery of the Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills for each course, Region One area students demonstrated achievement levels beyond the state levels in all areas tested: Algebra I, Biology, English I & II, and U.S. History. High school students are required to take the STAAR end-of course assessments for courses in which they are enrolled as part of their graduation requirement.

### FIRST RATINGS

In another type of ratings system, the FIRST (Financial Integrity Ratings System of Texas) Preliminary Ratings were also shared with participants. The FIRST Ratings evaluates a school district’s financial performance during the prior school year. FIRST is designed to encourage Texas public schools to manage their financial resources in order to provide the maximum allocation possible for direct instructional purposes.



The FIRST Ratings also serve as a tool that creates transparency and discloses the quality of local management and decision making processes that the school district uses concerning the financial resources the school district receives, explained Connie Lopez, Deputy Director for Business Operations and Finance Support.

The FIRST Rating is made up of fifteen different indicators which comprise groupings to include 4 critical indicators, 7 solvency indicators, and 3 indicators which examine financial competency. Districts earn points for each of these indicators, except for the critical areas which are either a pass/fail for the district, making it possible for a district to earn a perfect score of 100.

Twenty-six districts received a Superior Rating in the 2019-2020 ratings, the state’s top honor: Brooks County ISD, Brownsville ISD, Donna ISD, Edinburg CISD, Harlingen CISD, La Feria ISD, La Joya ISD, Laredo ISD, Los Fresnos CISD, Lyford CISD, McAllen ISD, Mission CISD, PSJA ISD, Point Isabel ISD, Raymondville ISD, Roma ISD, San Isidro ISD, San Perlita ISD, Santa Maria ISD, Santa Rosa ISD, Sharyland ISD, South Texas ISD, United ISD, Webb CISD, Welsaco ISD, and Zapata County ISD. Charter Schools receiving a Superior Rating include Excellence in Leadership Academy, Triumph Public High School Laredo-Gateway Academy, Horizon Montessori Schools, IDEA Public Schools, Triumph Public High School RGV-Mid-Valley Academy, and Vanguard Academy.

### EVALUATION OF SERVICES

Each year, the Texas Education Agency surveys school districts statewide to evaluate education service centers. The survey conducted by The University of Texas asks superintendents to rate their respective service centers on a scale of 1 to 5 in three primary areas: satisfaction with services supporting regular education programs, satisfaction with services supporting programs for special populations, and satisfaction with other services. Of the region’s 44 school districts and/or charter school executives, 30 responded to the survey. Overall, the scores received by Region One ESC programs and services exceeded the state’s threshold of 4.0 score indicating a substantial strength for the organization.



### ORION UPDATE

An update of the ORION High-Speed Fiber Optic Network was provided by Ali Kolahdouz, Deputy Director for Division



of Technology for Learning. ORION, a regional fiber optic network provides a fast connection to the internet and a connection to other regional school districts to support classroom initiatives. As of July 2020, several milestones have been met including the installation and connection of equipment and testing at all district and library sites; but most importantly, according to Kolahdouz, all member sites went live with 10 GB bandwidth in July 2020. What this means for member districts is that they now have increased “bandwidth”, or internet speed, a baseline for resource availability, and one-to-one or one-to-many connections between members. In addition to the increased bandwidth per student, which exceeds FCC per student recommendations, reduced costs per megabyte, ORION members also have equalized access across the region.

There are currently 32 members in the ORION consortium consisting of ISDs, Charter Schools, Region One ESC, and municipalities. For those districts and charter schools that opted out of the first round of ORON membership, Kolahdouz invited them to contact his office if they are interested in joining. ❖

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*The Region One Annual Performance Report, with detailed reports and graphs can be found on the Region One website at <https://www.esc1.net/Page/3814>.*

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- Approved Region One Purchasing Cooperative Professional Consultant Services RFP 19- AGENCY-000048, Extension 2 of 3\*
- Approved Region One Purchasing Cooperative Audiovisual (AV) Contract 67 Services RFP 20-AGENCY-000067, Extension 1 of 3\*
- Approved Region One Purchasing Cooperative Decor Services and Merchandise RFP 20-AGENCY-000068, Extension 1 of 3\*
- Approved Region One Purchasing Cooperative Maintenance Department Building Material, Hardware, Supplies, Equipment and Repairs RFP 20-AGENCY000069, Extension 1 of 3\*
- Approved Region One Purchasing Cooperative Janitorial Supplies, Paper and Plastic Products RFP 20-AGENCY-000070, Extension 1 of 3\*
- Approved Region One Purchasing Cooperative Promotional Merchandise and Services RFP 20-AGENCY-000083\*
- Approved Child Nutrition Program – South Texas Cooperative Removal of Grease from Traps & Barrels RFP 19-AGENCY-000054, Extension 2 of 3\*
- Approved Child Nutrition Program – South Texas Cooperative School Nutrition Program Food Safety and Sanitation Products and Services RFP 19-AGENCY-000055, Extension 2 of 3\*
- Approved Child Nutrition Program – South Texas Cooperative Wireless Temperature Monitoring Systems RFP 19-AGENCY-000053, Extension 2 of 3\*
- Approved Coastal Property Alliance of Texas (CPAT) Interlocal Agreement for Property and Casualty Insurance\*
- Approved Compliance Coordinator Update\*
- Approved Resolution to Update Individuals Authorized to Initiate Banking Transactions at Lone Star National Bank\*
- Approved Adoption of the 2020-2021 Official Budget - General Fund Only
- Approved Proposed Pay Plan and One-Time Salary Supplement for the 2020-2021 School Year (*one time salary supplement of \$500, payable in December 2020, for all staff in the Professional Staff Pay Plan and the Support Staff Pay Plan.*)
- Approved Region One ESC Delegate and Alternate Appointments to TASB 2020 Delegate Assembly
- Approved Discussion and Possible Action Regarding The Search For The New Executive Director of Region One ESC: A) Consider The Possibility Of Hiring An Executive Search Firm, B) Review the Timeline to Conduct the Search 106, and C) Discuss Qualifications Of The New Executive Director. ❖



**Next regularly scheduled  
Board Meeting:  
September 22, 2020**  
*(tentatively scheduled  
as a ZOOM meeting)*

## Board of Directors 2020-2021

Raul R. Chapa, Chairperson  
Place 7 – Brooks County & Willacy County

Sonia A. Falcon, Vice-Chairman  
Place 4 – Hidalgo County

Dr. Manuel Gomez, Jr., Secretary  
Place 6 – Cameron County

Alicia E. Requenez  
Place 1 – Hidalgo County

Ricardo Gutierrez  
Place 2 – Jim Hogg County, Starr County  
& Zapata County

Laura A. McCoy  
Place 3 – Webb County

Ruben Cortez, Jr.  
Place 5 – Cameron County

Roberto Moroles  
Charter Schools Representative

## Administration

Dr. Cornelio Gonzalez  
Executive Director

Dr. Eduardo Cancino  
Deputy Director, Instructional Leadership,  
School Improvement, & College Readiness Support

Mr. Heriberto Villarreal  
Deputy Director, Administrative Leadership, School  
& Community Support

Connie Lopez, CPA  
Deputy Director, Business,  
Operations & Finance Support

Ali Kolahdouz  
Deputy Director  
Division of Technology for Learning



*Board Update is an electronic publication of the Region One Education Service Center Office of Communications & Creative Services and is available at [www.esc1.net](http://www.esc1.net).*

*Board Update is intended as an informational document only and does not reflect the official board minutes. For questions or concerns, contact the Office of Communications & Creative Services at (956) 984-6011.*