



# BOARD UPDATE

August 22, 2019

## Action Items

The Board of Directors took action on the following:

- Approved Minutes of June 18, 2019, Board of Directors Meeting,
- Approved Budget Amendments for June, July, and August 2019,
- Approved Expenditure Reports as of July 31, 2019,
- Approved Resolution for Review of Public Funds Investment Policy and Strategies,
- Approved Resolution to Update Individuals Authorized to Initiate Banking Transactions at Lone Star National Bank,
- Approved Child Nutrition Program – South Texas Cooperative Wireless Temperature Monitoring Systems RFP 19-AGENCY-000053, Extension 1 of 3 to the following vendors Digi International (SMART Temps) – Minnetonka, MN; and E-Control Systems, Inc. – Sherman Oaks, CA.,
- Approved Child Nutrition Program – South Texas Cooperative Removal of Grease from Traps and Barrels RFP 19-AGENCY-000054, Extension 1 of 3 to the following vendors Fatty Chem By Products – Los Fresnos, TX; Liquid Environmental Solutions, LLC. – Irving, TX; and South Texas Wastewater – McAllen, TX.,
- Approved Child Nutrition Program – South Texas Cooperative School Nutrition Program Food Safety and Sanitation Products and Services RFP 19-AGENCY-000055, Extension 1 of 3 to the following vendors Sanitech Systems, Inc. – Lakeland, FL; and PortionPac Chemical Corporation – Chicago, Il.,
- Approved Region One Purchasing Cooperative Fire Suppression System and Vent Hood Installation, Training, Parts and Repairs RFP 19-AGENCY-000056,

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

*Region Continues to Top State in Student Performance*

For the second consecutive year, Region One area campuses and school districts achieved outstanding academic performance levels on the 2019 State of Texas A-F Accountability System placing Region One above all other comparable sized education service centers (Austin, San Antonio, and Fort Worth areas). One hundred percent of districts and 99.4% of its 616 school campuses achieved “High Performance” and “Met Standard” ratings, respectively as reported Dr. Eduardo Cancino, Deputy Director for Instructional Leadership, School Improvement, and College Readiness Support. In the A-F grading system of the state accountability system, this means that area school districts received either an “A” or “B” rating, there were no “C” or lower ratings.

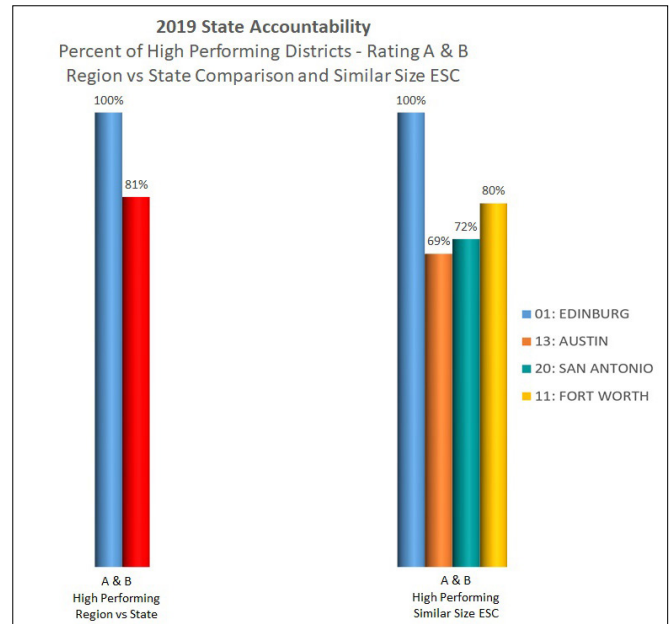
The news was celebrated by those in attendance at the Annual Public Hearing of the Region One Education Service Center. The public hearing was held in conjunction with the regularly called Board of Directors meeting held on August 22, 2019. The Texas Education Code, Sec. 8.003 (f), requires that the 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.

“We are extremely proud of our school districts and campuses for their hard work throughout the year that makes this level of performance possible,” said Dr. Cornelio Gonzalez, Region One ESC Executive Director. “As a region, we have demonstrated that factors such as language barriers and economics do not dictate the destiny of our students. With the commitment of their educational leaders and the tireless work of the teachers of the classroom, educational excellence is possible, and it is happening right here in deep South Texas.”

In overall student performance, Region One school districts surpassed the state performance (88.3 % to 85.0%). Consistently, Region One out-performed the state

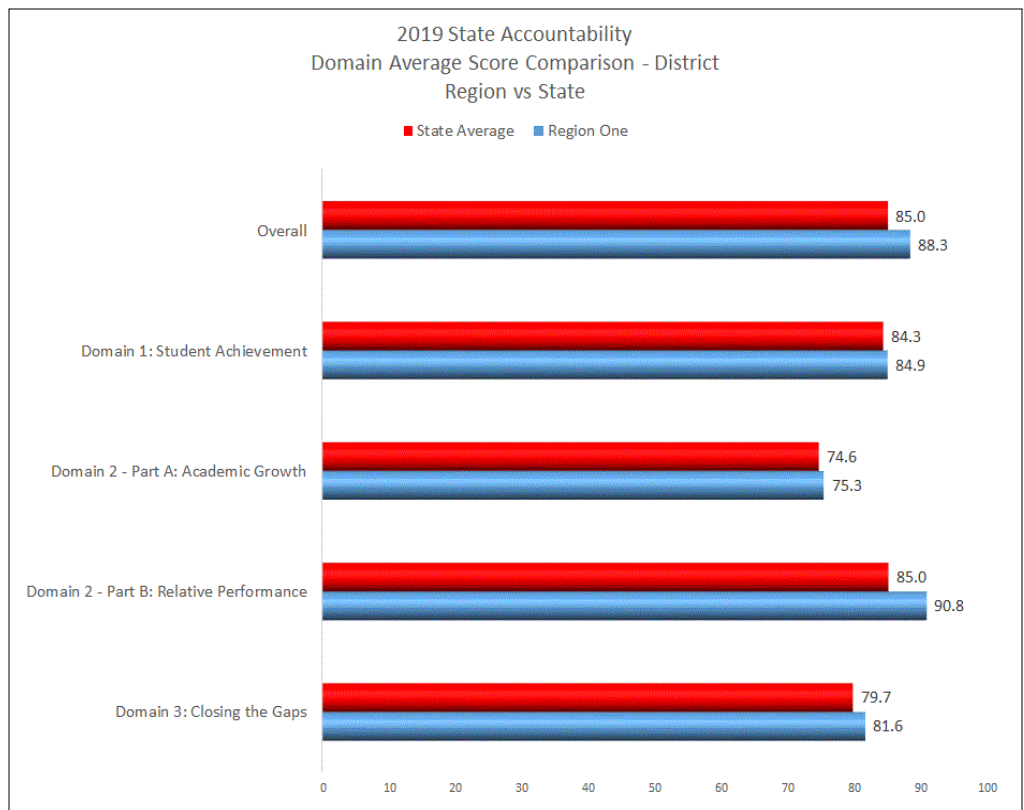
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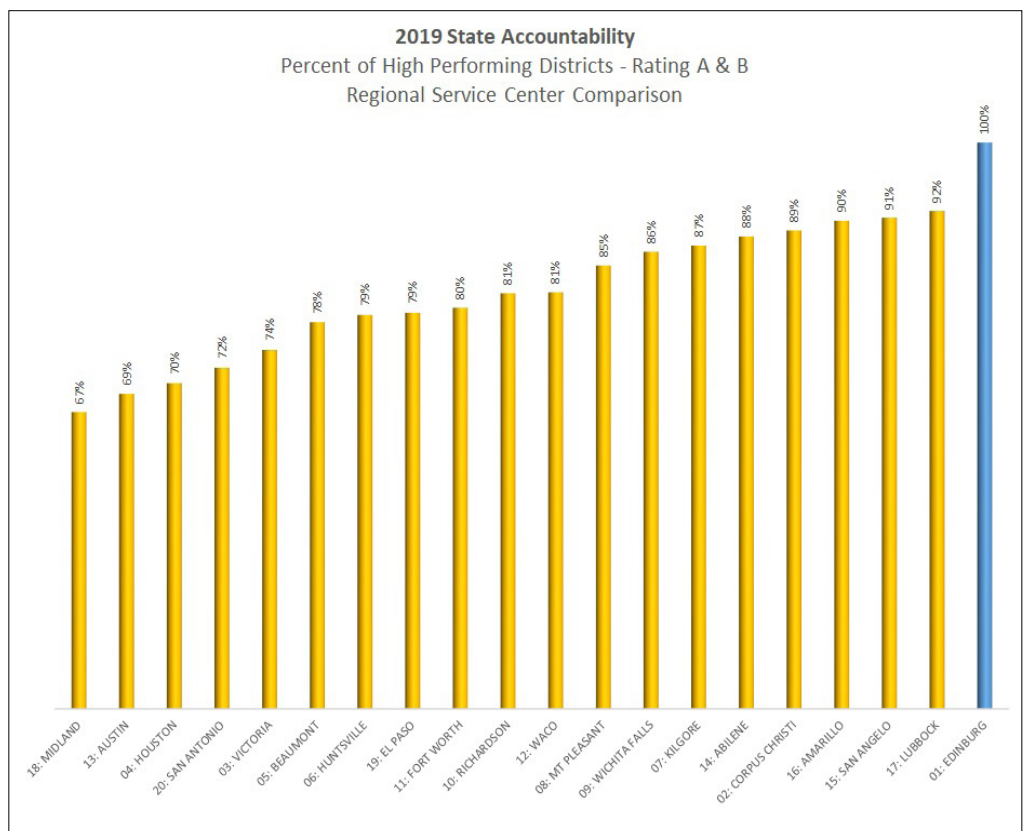
in each of the performance domains.

School districts earning an “A” rating include Brownsville ISD, Los Fresnos CISD, McAllen ISD, Roma ISD, San Perlita ISD, Sharyland ISD, South Texas ISD, United ISD, Valley View ISD, and Vanguard Academy.

In addition to letter grade ratings, districts and campuses are eligible to receive additional accolades for their student performance based on academic achievement in content areas, academic growth, closing the gaps, and postsecondary readiness. Again, Region One school campuses exceeded the performance of other regions across the state. Eighty-five percent of Region One eligible campuses earned one or more Distinction(s); in comparison, in the next closest service center region only 76% of eligible campuses earned distinctions.



The Texas school accountability system was expanded by the 85<sup>th</sup> Texas Legislature to evaluate school districts and campuses in areas of student performance, academic growth, and closing the gaps (equity). School districts received an A-F rating last year based on the district’s performance; this is the first year that individual school campuses received a letter grade. The calculation that determines a letter rating include Student Achievement, School Progress and Closing the Gaps. The Student Achievement measure is determined by student performance on the STAAR test, level of post-secondary readiness, and graduation rates. School Progress is determined by student progress on the STARR test or maintaining a proficiency level on the test and the proficiency level of economically disadvantaged students. Closing the Gaps is measured by different indicators including academic achievement in Reading and Mathematics, student growth in Reading and Mathematics, four-year graduation rates, English Learner proficiency status, college, career, or military readiness, and achievement on the STAAR test.



**Next Board of Directors Meeting**  
**September 17, 2019**  
**11:00 a.m.**  
**Region One ESC**

Adding to the success, twelve Region One area school districts earned **Postsecondary Readiness Distinction Designations** including Edinburg CISD, Harlingen CISD, Laredo ISD, Los Fresnos CISD, McAllen ISD, Raymondville ISD, Roma ISD, Sharyland ISD, South Texas ISD, United ISD, Valley View ISD, and Vanguard Academy. School districts are eligible to receive Distinction Designations if at least 55% of all their campuses' postsecondary indicators in the top quartile. Of the more than 1,200 school districts in the state, only 5 school districts have earned the Postsecondary Readiness Distinction for the past six years since the distinction became part of the accountability system. Of those five districts, three are Region One school districts, Los Fresnos CISD, Sharyland ISD, and South Texas ISD.

**FIRST RATINGS** School districts and Charter Schools also receive ratings based on financial management. Connie Lopez, Region One ESC Executive Deputy Director of Business, Operations, and Finance Support reported on the preliminary regional results of FIRST, the state's financial accountability system. Lopez explained the FIRST system creates transparency and is designed to encourage Texas public schools to better manage their financial resources to provide maximum allocation possible for direct instructional purposes. The 2018-2019 ratings, based on the prior year's data, 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.

**Ten school districts received a perfect score;** those districts include Brownsville ISD, Donna ISD, Laredo ISD, Los Fresnos CISD, McAllen ISD, Mission CISD, PSJA ISD, Point Isabel ISD, Roma ISD, and South Texas ISD. Charter School Systems also receive ratings; achieving a "Superior" rating are Triumph Public High Schools-RGV and Vanguard Academy.

**ORION Update** An update on the region's ORION project, a regional fiber optic network which provides a fast connection to the internet and a connection to other regional school districts to support classroom initiatives, was presented by Ali Kolahdouz, Region One Chief Technology Officer. When the project was first introduced in 2017, school districts, charter schools, and libraries were invited to join the Orion consortium to take advantage of lower bandwidth costs for their districts. Currently, the consortium boasts 28 members made up of school districts, charter schools, and libraries. Through their membership, Kolahdouz said members will recognize a significant cost savings for Orion's 10Gb internet service compared to their current service. A funding application was filed to the Universal Service Administration Company (USAC) last year, and though the application was initially returned, the application was re-filed shortly after and fortunately resulted in an even better deal being negotiated for members. Those districts that have not yet joined the Orion consortium have even more reason to do with the coming E-Rate funding cycle, added Kolahdouz.

**EVALUATION SURVEY** An overview of the Survey of Region One ESC Evaluation of Services was presented by Heriberto Villarreal, Deputy Director for Administrative Leadership, Community, & School Support. The statewide survey, conducted by the Texas Education Agency and administered by the University of Texas Organizational Excellence Group, analyzed the satisfaction of Superintendents and Charter School Directors with the regional education service centers. The survey measured satisfaction in three main areas: support of regular education programs, support of programs for special populations, and with other ESC services. Survey participants rated each area on a 1-5 scale (5=very satisfied to 1=very dissatisfied). ❖

## Executive Director's Report

In his Executive Director's Report, Dr. Gonzalez reported on the following items:

- A construction update was presented by Mr. Juan Mujica, Gignac & Associates. Regarding the Laredo construction project, he reported that the project was delayed due to a request by the City of Laredo for an asbestos report. Asbestos was discovered requiring abatement; this process delayed construction for 264 calendar days. Mujica added that a building permit was issued on the project and work commenced on July 8, 2019.
- Mr. Mujica also presented an update on the Edinburg Conference Center construction. Construction permits were issued on July 30, 2019, and work commenced on the building on August 7, 2019, the day following the official ground-breaking ceremony. The projected completion date for the conference center is November 2020.
- In his Personnel Report, Dr. Gonzalez reported on the following new additions: Francene Phoenix, *Effective Schools Lead, Office of School Improvement, Accountability, & Compliance/Turnaround*; Linda Rodriguez, *Director-Educator Preparation Program*, Arminta Silva, *Effective Schools Lead, Office of School Improvement, Accountability, & Compliance/Turnaround*, Brenda Villasano, *Specialist-Early Literacy/ RECESS, Office of Curriculum, Instruction, and Assessment*, Rosey Solis-Guerra, *Effective Schools Lead, Office of School Improvement, Accountability, & Compliance/ Turnaround*. Dr. Gonzalez also reported on the following resignations: Erin Villarreal, *Business Analyst-Specialist*. ❖



Extension 1 of 3 to the following vendors : Industrial Fire and Safety, LLC – Donna, TX; and RMZ Kleaning Zolutions, LLC – Mission, TX.

- Approved Region One Purchasing Cooperative Fire Suppression System and Vent Hood Scheduled Maintenance, Inspection and Cleaning RFP 19-AGENCY-000057, Extension 1 of 3 to the following vendors : E I Fire & Safety Inc. – Mission, TX; Industrial Fire and Safety, LLC – Donna, TX; and RMZ Kleaning Zolutions, LLC – Mission, TX.
- Approved Region One Purchasing Cooperative Facility Products, Services, and Rentals RFP 19-AGENCY-000058, Extension 1 of 3 to the following vendors Model Laundry, LLC – San Benito, TX; Productos Ramsa, LLC – Pharr, TX and Unifirst Holdings, Inc. – Harlingen, TX
- Approved Region One Purchasing Cooperative Integrated Pest Management RFP 16-AGENCY-000030, Extension 2 of 3 to the following vendors Kill-A-Bug – McAllen, Texas; Little Joe’s Insect and Pest Control Co. – Donna, Texas,
- Approved Region One Purchasing Cooperative Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills (TEKS) / State of Texas Assessments of Academic Readiness (STAAR) Aligned Assessment Item Bank RFP 16-AGENCY-000032, Extension 2 of 3 to the following vendors Illuminate Education, Irvine, CA; TX Bank One, Edinburg, TX; SchoolCity, Inc., Santa Clara, CA,
- Approved Region One Purchasing Cooperative General Merchandise and School Related Supplies RFP 19- AGENCY-000046, Extension 1 of 3 to the following vendors APC Direct – Dallas, TX; ASW Enterprises, LLC – Groesbeck, TX; Blick Art Materials, LLC – Galesburg, IL; Cielo Office Products, LLC – McAllen, TX; Coast to Coast Computer Products, Inc. – Simi Valley, CA; ECS Learning Systems, Inc. – Bulverde, TX; Express Booksellers – Dallas, TX; Gateway Printing & Office Supply, Inc. – Edinburg, TX; Gulf Coast Paper Co – Victoria, TX; hand2mind, Inc. – Vernon Hills, IL; Integral Mathematics, Inc. – Frisco, TX; KAMICO Instructional Media, Inc. – Salado, TX; Kaplan Early Learning Company – Lewisville, NC; Lakeshore Learning Materials - Carson, CA; Laserlink International, Inc. - Emeryville, CA; Lone Star Learning - Lubbock, TX; MathWarm-Ups.com – Round Rock, TX; Nasco – Fort Atkinson, WI; Prufrock Press, Inc. – Waco, TX; Rally! Education – Glen Head, NY; Ray’s Business Products – Pharr, TX; S&S Worldwide – Colchester, CT; School Nurse Supply, Inc. – Schaumburg, IL; Sirius Education Solutions, LLC – Austin, TX; SuccessEd, LLC – Frisco, TX; Supporting Science, Inc. - Smithville, TX; The Library Store, Inc. – Tremont, IL; The Print Shop at Shipping Depot – Rio Grande City, TX; The Storybook Garden – Weslaco, TX; Westcom Wireless, Inc. (formerly Advanced Communication Systems) – Lower Burrell, PA.
- Approved Region One Purchasing Cooperative Meal Catering and Services RFP 19-AGENCY-000047, Extension 1 of 3 to the following vendors Coastal Deli, Inc. dba Jason’s Deli, Corpus Christi, TX; EPL Ventures dba El Pollo Loco, McAllen, TX; Mario’s Banquet and Conference Center, Mission, TX.
- Approved Region One Purchasing Cooperative Professional Consultant Services RFP 19-AGENCY-000048, Extension 1 of 3 to the following vendors AISYS Consulting, McAllen, TX; Bettina Atkins, Education and Leadership Consultant, McAllen, TX; Education Partners, McKinney, TX; EGT Institute, Inc., Edinburg, TX; Frances Guzman, Edinburg, TX; Hermelinda H. Romeros, CPA, McAllen, TX; Jeff Key, Lubbock, TX; KAMICO Instructional Media, Inc., Salado, TX; Lakeshore Learning Materials, Carson, CA; Richards Lindsay & Martin, LLP, Austin, TX; s3strategies, Lubbock, TX; Sandra D. Gaspar, Edinburg, TX; Seeds Training, San Diego, CA; True North Consulting Group, LLC, Waco, TX; ValidateME!, Brownsville, TX; Walsh Gallegos Trevino Russo & Kyle, PC, Austin/Weslaco, TX; Zepol, Inc., Edinburg, TX.
- Approved Texas Energy Center Energy Supply and Related Services RFP 16-03-12, Extension 3 of 4 to the following vendors Constellation NewEnergy – Houston, TX; Hudson Energy – Houston, TX; Reliant Energy – Houston, TX.
- Approved Region One ESC Delegate and Alternate Appointments to TASB 2019 Delegate Assembly: Mr. Ricardo Gutierrez, Delegate and Mr. Raul Chapa, Alternate.

## Board of Directors 2019-2020

Ruben Cortez, Jr., Chairperson  
Place 5 – Cameron County

Raul R. Chapa, Vice-Chairperson  
Place 7 – Willacy County

Sonia A. Falcon, Secretary  
Place 4 – Hidalgo 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

Dr. Manuel Gomez, Jr.  
Place 6 – 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  
Chief Technology Officer  
Division of Technology for Learning



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