



Brownsville Independent School District

Agenda Category: General Function Board of Education Meeting: 09/01/2026

Item Title: H-E-B Excellence in Education Award
Grant to Porter Early College High
School

X Action
Information
Discussion

BACKGROUND:

The H-E-B Excellence in Education program awarded Porter Early College High School a \$10,000.00 grant as part of the Secondary Leadership Award presented to Claudia Cortez. The grant funds will be distributed to the following Porter ECHS student motivation accounts:

NASA Hunch: \$2,500.00

Technology Student Association: \$7,500.00

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS:

H-E-B Excellence in Education Award Grant of \$10,000.00

RECOMMENDATION:

Recommend approval to accept the H-E-B Excellence in Education Award Grant in the amount of \$10,000.00 to Porter ECHS to be distributed to the NASA Hunch and the Technology Student Association student motivational accounts. No cost to the district.

Dr. Rachel R. Ayala

Submitted by: Principal

Dr. Norma Ibarra-Cantu

Recommended by: Executive Director

Dr. Alma C. Rubio

Approved by: Assistant Superintendent

Approved for Submission to Board of Education:

Dr. Timothy E. Cuff

Dr. Timothy E. Cuff, Superintendent

When Necessary, Additional Background May Follow This.



BROWNSVILLE INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT

RECEIPT OF DONATION/SPONSORSHIP FORM

PRINT

SAVE AS

CLEAR FORM

Date: 8/13/26

Organization/Vendor: H-E-B

Presented To: Gladys Porter Early College High School
(Club/School/Department)

Purpose of Donation: H-E-B Excellence in Education Grant to be distributed to NASA Hunch
& Technology Student Association student motivation accounts for competition fees & resources

Amount of Donation: \$10,000.00

Principal's Approval:

[Signature]

Area Superintendent / Deputy
Superintendent:

[Signature]

(Requires signature if donation is \$4,999 or less)

Superintendent of Schools:

(Requires signature if donation is \$5,000 to \$9,999)

Board of Trustees:

(Requires signature if donation is \$10,000 or more)



Dear Claudia,

Congratulations! We hope you enjoyed your time at the Marriott Marquis in Houston as much as we enjoyed having you there.

As you know, for winning the Excellence in Education Awards in the Leadership category, H-E-B is awarding you with \$10,000.00 and awarding your school a grant in the same amount.

Enclosed please find your personal check and the check for your school. Please meet with your principal to discuss how the check for the school will be spent. We would be delighted to know how your school benefits from these funds. Please feel free to e-mail me with that information at Reynolds.Jill@heb.com.

The success of the H-E-B Excellence in Education Awards depends upon participation from Texas educators. Your participation in the 2026 H-E-B Excellence in Education Awards is most appreciated. We hope you will continue your involvement.

On behalf of everyone at H-E-B, thank you for your continued dedication to excellence in education for Texas students.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Jill Reynolds'. The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name 'Jill' and last name 'Reynolds' clearly distinguishable.

Jill Reynolds
H-E-B Excellence in Education Awards

Dr. Rachel R. Ayala

From: Claudia E. Cortez
Sent: Tuesday, May 26, 2026 2:01 PM
To: Dr. Rachel R. Ayala
Cc: Santiago Salazar Jr
Subject: HEB Grant
Attachments: HEB Letter.pdf

Dr. Ayala,

We have received the HEB check over the weekend and will be depositing it in the NASA HUNCH and TSA Accounts.

First, I would like to sincerely thank you and the administration for the continued support you have provided to our Engineering, NASA HUNCH, TSA, and VEX Robotics programs at Gladys Porter Early College High School. I am honored to have been selected as the recipient of the 2026 H-E-B Excellence in Education Awards Leadership Award, and I am grateful that our school has also been awarded a \$10,000 campus grant to continue expanding opportunities for our students.

After reviewing the current needs of our STEM and engineering programs, I would like to respectfully propose the allocation of the H-E-B grant funds toward the following student-centered initiatives:

Proposed Allocation of \$10,000 H-E-B Grant

Program	Proposed Amount	Purpose
Technology Student Association (TSA)	\$2,500	Competition materials, travel support, project supplies, registration fees, engineering design materials, and student competition resources
Engineering Infento Pro Kit Equipment	\$3,100	Engineering design materials, and student competition resources
NASA HUNCH	\$2,500	Prototype development materials, CAD/engineering resources, fabrication supplies, and STEM project implementation
BEST Robotics	\$1,000	Robotics components, tools, team registration, and competition preparation
VEX Robotics New Game Elements	\$900	Updated VEX competition elements and field components for student practice and competition readiness

These programs directly impact a large number of students by providing hands-on, real-world engineering experiences that strengthen problem-solving, collaboration, leadership, and technical skills. The funding would help ensure our students continue competing and excelling at the regional, state, and national levels while expanding access to STEM opportunities for all learners.

Through TSA, NASA HUNCH, and VEX Robotics, our students have consistently demonstrated outstanding achievement and have represented Gladys Porter Early College High School with excellence. These programs also align closely with our mission of preparing students for careers in engineering, aerospace, cybersecurity, and advanced technology fields.

I greatly appreciate your consideration of this proposal and your continued support of STEM education and student innovation on our campus. I would be happy to discuss the proposal further or provide any additional information needed.

Respectfully,

Claudia E. Cortez

CTE Engineering

Gladys Porter Early College High School

3500 International Blvd., Room F154

Brownsville, TX 78521

956-698-0994



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H-E-B, LP
P.O. BOX 839944
SAN ANTONIO, TX 78283-3944
USA

JPMorgan Chase Bank,
N.A.
Columbus, OH
USA

0004328926

94-1544/441

Date 05/12/2026

Amount

\$10,000.00

Ten Thousand US Dollars

Cash Promptly - Void Six Months From Issue Date

Pay To The
Order Of

GLADYS PORTER EARLY COLLEGE HIGH SCHOOL
8500 INTERNATIONAL BLVD
BROWNSVILLE, TX 78521-9230
USA


Authorized Signature

⑈0004328926⑈ ⑆044115443⑆

633681119⑈