



## Agenda of Regular Meeting

### The Board of Trustees McAllen Independent School District

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A Regular Meeting of the Board of Trustees of the McAllen Independent School District will be held Tuesday, February 24, 2026, beginning at 5:30 PM Dr. Ricardo Chapa Board Room/Administration Building of the McAllen Independent School District, 2000 North 23rd Street, McAllen, TX 78501.

Items listed on this agenda may be taken in an order other than as shown on this agenda. Unless removed from the consent agenda, items identified within the consent agenda will be acted on at one time.

At this meeting there may be discussion and action by the Board on the item(s) and subject(s) listed as follows:

1. **CALL MEETING TO ORDER**
2. **MOMENT OF SILENCE**
3. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**
4. **PUBLIC COMMENT(S)**
5. **CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS**
  - A) Discussion and Possible Action on the Interlocal Cooperation Contract No. 2026-211 with the University of Texas Rio Grande Valley ("UTRGV") for Texas Prefreshman Engineering Program ("TexPREP")  
Item Submitted: Dr. Rosalba De Hoyos, Associate Superintendent for Instructional Services  
**Presenter:** Dr. René Gutiérrez, Superintendent 5
  - B) Discussion and Possible Action on the Memorandum of Understanding No. 2026-207 with The University of Texas Rio Grande Valley (UTRGV) for Dual Credit Program  
Item Submitted: Dr. Rosalba De Hoyos, Associate Superintendent for Instructional Services  
**Presenter:** Dr. René Gutiérrez, Superintendent 13
  - C) Discussion and Possible Action on Request for Proposal No. 2024-1022 Career and Technology Education Instructional Supplies, Materials, Equipment and Related Services (Round 16)  
Item Submitted: Dr. Rosalba De Hoyos, Associate Superintendent for Instructional Services 36

	<b>Presenter:</b> Dr. René Gutiérrez, Superintendent	
D)	Discussion and Possible Action on Approval of Amendment to 2025-245 Interlocal Cooperation Contract with the University of Texas Rio Grande Valley - GEAR UP Item Submitted: Dr. Rosalba De Hoyos, Associate Superintendent for Instructional Services	38
	<b>Presenter:</b> Dr. René Gutiérrez, Superintendent	
E)	Discussion and Possible Action on Amendment to No. 2026-183 Memorandum of Understanding K-12 Teacher Registered Apprenticeship Program for Employer Partners to add Appendix A Employer Partner Agreement with 240 Certification and Edwell, Inc. Item Submitted: Dr. Albert Canales, Chief Human Resources Officer	45
	<b>Presenter:</b> Dr. René Gutiérrez, Superintendent	
F)	Discussion and Possible Action on Request for Proposal No. 2024-1020 Professional Development, Site Licenses, Supplemental Materials, & Other Related Products and Services (Round 23) Item Submitted: Lorena Garcia, Deputy Superintendent for Business and Operations	48
	<b>Presenter:</b> Dr. René Gutiérrez, Superintendent	
6.	<b>INSTRUCTIONAL SERVICES/ INSTRUCTIONAL LEADERSHIP, HUMAN RESOURCES, BUSINESS AND OPERATIONS, AND BOARD OF TRUSTEES ITEMS</b>	
A)	<b>Instructional Services/ Instructional Leadership Item(s)</b> (Dr. Rosalba De Hoyos and/or Jeanette Nino)	
1.	Report Regarding the Career Technical Education Department Item Submitted: Dr. Rosalba De Hoyos, Associate Superintendent for Instructional Services	50
	<b>Presenter:</b> Dr. René Gutiérrez, Superintendent	
2.	Discussion and Possible Action on the 2026 Summer School Programs Item Submitted: Dr. Rosalba De Hoyos, Associate Superintendent for Instructional Services and Jeanette Nino, Associate Superintendent for Instructional Leadership	64
	<b>Presenter:</b> Dr. René Gutiérrez, Superintendent	
B)	<b>Human Resources Item(s)</b> (Dr. Albert Canales)	
1.	Discussion and Possible Action of Senate Bill 11 Item Submitted: Dr. Albert Canales, Chief Human Resources Officer	76
	<b>Presenter:</b> Dr. René Gutiérrez, Superintendent	
2.	Discussion and Possible Action on Partnership Agreement No. 2026-235 with Western Governors University “WGU” for the Pilot Apprenticeship Pathway Related Technical Instruction Item Submitted: Dr. Albert Canales, Chief Human Resources Officer	77

**Presenter:** Dr. René Gutiérrez, Superintendent

C) **Business and Operations Item(s)** (Lorena Garcia)

D) **Board of Trustees Item(s)**

1. Discussion and Possible Action on Nomination of Candidate for Hidalgo County Appraisal District Board of Directors for the 2026-2027 Term and Approval of Resolution 97
2. Discussion and Possible Action to Approve Board of Education Meeting Minutes 101  
for Regular Board Meeting - February 10, 2026 and Budget Workshop-February 17, 2026.

7. **RECESS TO CLOSED SESSION: Board of Trustees may go into Closed Session pursuant to Section(s) 551.071, 551.072, 551.074, 551.076, and 551.089 Texas Government Code, to discuss the following:**

- A) Human Resources Recommendation(s) for School Year 2025-2026
- B) Discussion of Human Resources Employee Resignation(s) and Retirees for School Year 2025-2026
- C) Discussion Regarding School Safety and Security
- D) Pending and/or Potential Litigation
- E) Possible Real Estate Acquisition

8. **RECONVENE IN OPEN SESSION**

9. **ACTION ON ITEM(S) IN CLOSED SESSION**

- A) Discussion and Possible Action of Human Resources Recommendation(s) for School Year 2025-2026 113  
Item Submitted: Dr. Albert Canales, Chief Human Resources Officer  
**Presenter:** Dr. René Gutiérrez, Superintendent
- B) Discussion of Human Resources Employee Resignation(s) and Retirees 114  
for School Year 2025-2026  
Item Submitted: Dr. Albert Canales, Chief Human Resources Officer  
**Presenter:** Dr. René Gutiérrez, Superintendent
- C) Discussion Regarding School Safety and Security
- D) Pending and/or Potential Litigation
- E) Possible Real Estate Acquisition

10. **SCHEDULED MEETINGS**

- A. Budget Workshop #2 March 3, 2026 - 5:30 pm - Administration Building/Dr. Ricardo Chapa Board Room
- B. School Safety and Security Committee Meeting March 10, 2026 - 12:00 pm- Administration Building/Dr. Ricardo Chapa Board Room
- C. Regular Board Meeting March 10, 2026 - 5:30 pm - Administration Building/Dr. Ricardo Chapa Board Room
- D. Board Workshop(Student Recognition) March 24, 2026 - 5:30 pm - McAllen High School Auditorium

11. **ADJOURNMENT**

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*If, during the course of the meeting, discussion of any item on the agenda should be held in a closed meeting, the Board will conduct a closed meeting in accordance with the Texas Open Meetings Act, Government Code, Chapter 551, Subchapters D and E. Before any closed meeting is convened, the presiding officer will publicly identify the section or sections of the Act authorizing the closed meeting. All final votes, actions, or decisions will be taken in open meeting.*

*Pursuant to Texas Government Code 551.127, a member or employee of a governmental body is authorized to participate remotely in a meeting of the governmental body through a videoconference call, as long as a quorum of the governmental body is physically present at the location of the Board Meeting. Any video conference conducted pursuant to this section will comply with the technical requirements of this section.*

*Pursuant to Texas Government Code 551.129, the Board of Trustees may use a telephone conference call, video conference call, or communications over the internet to conduct a public consultation with its attorney in an open meeting of the governmental body, or, a private consultation with its attorney in closed meeting of the governmental body.*


*The notice for this meeting was posted in compliance with the Texas Open Meeting Action on February 18, 2026 by 5:00 p.m.  
Norma Ramirez, on behalf of Board of Trustees.*

**BOARD AGENDA REPORT  
MCALLEN INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT**


**MEETING DATE:** February 24, 2026

**Attachment:**

**SUBMITTED BY:** Alexandra Gonzalez

**SUPERVISOR:**   
Rosalba De Hoyos (Feb 13, 2026 16:43:59 CST)

**Approved for presentation to the Board of Education:**

  
RENE GUTIERREZ (Feb 13, 2026 16:54:22 CST)

5 \_\_\_\_\_  
**Superintendent of Schools**

**INSTRUCTIONS FOR TEXAS PRE FRESHMAN ENGINEERING PROGRAM (TexPREP)  
INTERLOCAL COOPERATION CONTRACT**

1. Please complete the required information in the blank areas.
  
2. Please sign and return **a scanned copy** of the document to the following e-mail address:

UTRGV TexPREP Program  
Attn: Anna L Ramos, Program Coordinator  
Anna.ramos01@utrgv.edu

3. If you have any questions, please contact Anna L Ramos at 665-2526, or via e-mail at [anna.ramos01@utrgv.edu](mailto:anna.ramos01@utrgv.edu) respectively.

# 2026-2027 Texas Pre Freshman Engineering Program (TexPREP)

## Interlocal Cooperation Contract

**District:** McAllen Independent School District

**Address:** 2000 N. 23rd Street

McAllen, TX 78501

**Contact:** Dr. Rene Gutierrez, Superintendent

**Phone:** (956) 618-6000

**E-mail:** Rene.Gutierrez@mcallenisd.net

### Submit to:

Attn: Anna L Ramos, Program Coordinator  
UTRGV TexPREP Program  
Anna.ramos01@utrgv.edu  
(956)665-2526

## INTERLOCAL COOPERATION CONTRACT

This **Interlocal Cooperation Contract** (this "**Contract**") is entered into effective **April 1, 2026**, by and between the Contracting Parties shown below pursuant to authority granted in and in compliance with Chapter 791, *Texas Government Code*.

### CONTRACTING PARTIES:

**Receiving Party:** McAllen Independent School District, a local entity of the State of Texas.

**Performing Party:** **The University of Texas-Rio Grande Valley**, an institution of higher education and agency of the State of Texas.

### PURPOSE:

The purpose of this Contract is to obtain the services from Performing Party for the services of the Texas Prefreshman Engineering Program (TexPREP) to qualify students from the Receiving Party (the "Project"). This Contract will increase the efficiency and effectiveness of the Contracting Parties.

### STATEMENT OF SERVICES TO BE PERFORMED:

Performing Party will perform the following services ("**services**"):

1. Provide qualifying and accepted students with five (5) weeks of instruction in mathematics, pre-engineering, and computer science, as well as mentoring by college students majoring in engineering, computer science, science, and mathematics during Summer 2026.
2. Summer 2026 activities will be held daily (Monday-Friday) from June 8, 2026, through July 10, 2026, from 1:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. We will not have classes on June 19, 2026, and July 3, 2026.
3. Two (2) follow-up Saturday sessions during the 2026/2027 academic year (dates to be determined).
4. All instructional services will be based at the UTRGV Campus.

Receiving Party will perform the following services ("**services**"):

1. If transportation of students participating in the TexPREP activities will be provided by Receiving Party, students will not arrive at UTRGV Campus before 12:45pm.

### WARRANTIES:

Receiving Party warrants that (1) the services are necessary and authorized for activities that are properly within its statutory functions and programs; (2) it has the authority to contract for the services under authority granted in Chapter 11, *Texas Education Code*, and Chapter 791, *Texas Government Code*; (3) it has all necessary power and has received all necessary approvals to execute and deliver this Contract, and (4) the representative signing this Contract on its behalf is authorized by its governing body to sign this Contract.

Performing Party warrants that (1) it has authority to perform the services under authority granted in Section 79, *Texas Education Code* and Chapter 791, *Texas Government Code*; (2) it has all necessary power and has received all necessary approvals to execute and deliver this Contract, and (3) the

representative signing this Contract on its behalf is authorized by its governing body to sign this Contract.

**CONTRACT AMOUNT:**

The cost per student enrolled in the Project shall be \$425, of which \$225 shall be a non-refundable deposit for the students due upon initial acceptance for the Program.

**PAYMENT:**

Receiving Party will remit payments to Performing Party for services satisfactorily performed under this Contract in accordance with the Texas Prompt Payment Act ("Act"), Chapter 2251, *Texas Government Code*.

Payments made under this Contract (1) will fairly compensate Performing Party for the services performed under this Contract, and (2) will be made from current revenues available to Receiving Party.

- UTRGV TexPREP will send an invoice for the total number of students attending.
- A non-refundable deposit of \$225 per student shall be invoiced to the Receiving Party upon student acceptance after the mandatory orientation meeting in March. The balance of \$200 per participant attending the program shall be invoiced to the Receiving Party the second week in June with payment due within 30 days after date of the invoice.
- Receiving Party will designate a contact person for contract matters and billing at the central office or administrative office where payment will be disbursed.
- All checks/payments must be mailed to the following address with a copy of the invoice to ensure receipt of payment and avoid a deposit into a different university project.

Attn: UTRGV Payment and Collections  
The University of Texas Rio Grande Valley (SSB 115)  
1201 W. University Drive, Edinburg, TX 78539

**TERM:**

The term of this Contract begins on the Effective Date and expires on **March 31, 2027**.

**NOTICES:**

Except as otherwise provided by this Section, all notices, consents, approvals, demands, requests or other communications provided for or permitted to be given under any of the provisions of this Contract will be in writing and will be sent via certified mail, hand delivery, overnight courier, facsimile transmission (to the extent a facsimile number is set forth below), or email (to the extent an email address is set forth below) as provided below, and notice will be deemed given (i) if delivered by certified mailed, when deposited, postage prepaid, in the United States mail, or (ii) if delivered by hand, overnight courier, facsimile (to the extent a facsimile number is set forth below) or email (to the extent an email address is set forth below), when received:

If to Receiving Party:

District Name: McAllen Independent School District  
Attention: Dr. Alexandra Gonzalez (District Office Contact)  
Title: Director of Advanced Academic Services  
Secretary: Patricia Alvarez  
Phone: (956) 618-6059  
Fax: (956) 632-8446  
Email: alexandra.gonzalez2@mcallenisd.net

*with copy to:*

Attention: Dr. Rene Gutierrez  
Title: Superintendent  
Secretary: Marta Garza  
Phone: (956) 657-6027  
Fax: (956) 657-8362  
Email: Rene.Gutierrez@mcallenisd.net

If to Performing Party:           The University of Texas Rio Grande Valley  
1201 W. University Drive  
Edinburg, TX 78539  
Attention: Michael Mueller  
Executive Vice President for Finance and Business Affairs & CFO  
Email: [EVPFBA@UTRGV.EDU](mailto:EVPFBA@UTRGV.EDU)  
[isabel.saldana@utrgv.edu](mailto:isabel.saldana@utrgv.edu)

*with copy to:*                   The University of Texas Rio Grande Valley  
1201 W. University Drive  
Edinburg, TX 78539  
Attention: Alex Valdez  
Chief Procurement Officer  
Email: [alex.valdez@utrgv.edu](mailto:alex.valdez@utrgv.edu)

or other person or address as may be given in writing by either party to the other in accordance with this Section.

Notwithstanding any other requirements for notices given by a party under this Contract, if Performing Party intends to deliver written notice to Receiving Party pursuant to Section 2251.054, *Texas Government Code*, then Performing Party will send that notice to Receiving Party as indicated in above contact information.

## **TERMINATION:**

In the event of a material failure by a Contracting Party to perform its duties and obligations in accordance with the terms of this Contract, the other party may terminate this Contract upon thirty (30) days' advance written notice of termination setting forth the nature of the material failure; provided that, the material failure is through no fault of the terminating party. The termination will not be effective if the material failure is fully cured prior to the end of the thirty-day period.

Performing Party may terminate this Contract upon thirty (30) days' advance written notice of termination to the Receiving Party.

## **OTHER PROVISIONS:**

**Payment of Debt or Delinquency to the State.** Pursuant to Sections 2107.008 and 2252.903, *Texas Government Code*, Performing Party agrees that any payments owing to Performing Party under this Contract may be applied directly toward any debt or delinquency that Performing Party owes the State of Texas or any agency of the State of Texas regardless of when it arises, until such debt or delinquency is paid in full.

**Venue; Governing Law.** Hidalgo County, Texas shall be the proper place of venue for suit on or in respect of this Contract. This Contract and all of the rights and obligations of the parties hereto and all of the terms and conditions hereof shall be construed, interpreted and applied in accordance with and governed by and enforced under the laws of the State of Texas.

**Entire Agreement; Modifications.** This Contract supersedes all prior agreements, written or oral, between Performing Party and Receiving Party and shall constitute the entire agreement and understanding between the parties with respect to the subject matter hereof. This Contract and each of its provisions shall be binding upon the parties and may not be waived, modified, amended or altered except by a writing signed by Receiving Party and Performing Party.

**Loss of Funding.** Performance by a Contracting Party of its duties and obligations under this Contract may be dependent upon the appropriation and allotment of funds by the Texas State Legislature (the "Legislature") and/or allocation of funds by that Contracting Party's governing board. If the Legislature fails to appropriate or allot the necessary funds to a Contracting Party, or a Contracting Party's governing board fails to allocate the necessary funds, then the Contracting Party that loses funding may terminate this Contract without further duty or obligation under this Contract.

**State Auditor's Office.** The Contracting Parties understand that acceptance of funds under this Contract constitutes acceptance of the authority of the Texas State Auditor's Office, or any successor agency (collectively, "Auditor"), to conduct an audit or investigation in connection with those funds pursuant to Sections 51.9335(c), 73.115(c) and 74.008(c), *Texas Education Code*. The Contracting Parties agree to cooperate with the Auditor in the conduct of the audit or investigation, including without limitation providing all records requested. The Contracting Parties will include this provision in all contracts with permitted subcontractors.

**Assignment.** This Contract is not transferable or assignable except upon written approval by Receiving Party and Performing Party.

**Severability.** If any one or more of the provisions contained in this Contract shall for any reason be held to be invalid, illegal, or unenforceable in any respect, such invalidity, illegality or unenforceability

shall not affect any other provision thereof, and this Contract shall be construed as if such invalid, illegal, or unenforceable provision had never been contained therein.

**Public Records.** It shall be the independent responsibility of Receiving Party and Performing Party to comply with the provisions of Chapter 552, *Texas Government Code* (the "*Public Information Act*"), as those provisions apply to the parties' respective information. Receiving Party is not authorized to receive public information requests or take any action under the *Public Information Act* on behalf of Performing Party. Likewise, Performing Party is not authorized to receive public information requests or take any other action under the *Public Information Act* on behalf of Receiving Party.

**Executed effective as of the Effective Date by the following duly authorized representatives of the Contracting Parties:**

**RECEIVING PARTY:**

**PERFORMING PARTY:**


MAllen Independent School District **ISD**

**The University of Texas Rio Grande Valley**

By: \_\_\_\_\_  
Name: Aaron D. Rivera  
Title: Board President  
Date: \_\_\_\_\_

By: \_\_\_\_\_  
Name: Luis H. Zayas, Ph.D  
Title: Provost and Executive Vice President  
For Academic Affairs  
Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Approved as to form

by:   
JOHNATHAN BALL (Feb 10, 2025 14:21:58 CST)  
Johnathan Ball, Staff Attorney

By: \_\_\_\_\_  
Name: Michael Mueller  
Title: Executive Vice President for Finance and  
Business Affairs & CFO  
Date: \_\_\_\_\_

By: \_\_\_\_\_  
Name: Dr. Christine Shupala  
Title: Vice Provost for Institutional Accreditation,  
Program Development, and Analysis  
Date: \_\_\_\_\_


UTRGV Contract ID: \_\_\_\_\_

**BOARD AGENDA REPORT  
MCALLEN INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT**


**MEETING DATE:** February 24, 2026

**Attachment:**

**SUBMITTED BY:** Alexandra Gonzalez

**SUPERVISOR:**   
Rosalba De Hoyos (Feb 13, 2026 16:43:40 CST)

**Approved for presentation to the Board of Education:**

  
RENE GUTIERREZ (Feb 13, 2026 16:51:59 CST)

## MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

The University of Texas Rio Grande Valley, a public university and member institution of The University of Texas System (“UTRGV”), and McAllen Independent School District, a local government entity (“MISD”), enter into the following Memorandum of Understanding (“MOU”) effective September 1, 2025 (“Effective Date”) through August 31, 2027. UTRGV and McAllen Independent School District are referred to collectively as the “Parties.”

1. PURPOSE and AUTHORITY: The purpose of this MOU is to facilitate the enrollment of eligible students from MISD, in courses offered for dual credit through UTRGV. The UTRGV Dual Credit Program (the “Program”) will provide the support services to enable enrollment in university courses for students from MISD. The Parties intend this MOU to conform to the rules set forth by the Texas Administrative Code (TAC), Title 19, Part 1, Chapter 4, Subchapter D, as well as other applicable sections of the TAC and the Texas Education Code, and all applicable federal, state, and local laws and regulations. The Parties enter into this MOU pursuant to Section 29.908 of the Texas Education Code, and authority for making this MOU also is granted by 19 TAC Section 4.84 (a) and Texas Education Code Section 61.076. In addition, Section 61.076 of the Texas Education Code provides the Board (as defined in Section 2 below) with the authority to regulate courses and programs offered by public institutions of higher education in cooperation with secondary schools.
2. DEFINITIONS: The following words and terms, when used in this MOU, shall have the meanings stated below, unless the context clearly indicates otherwise.
  - a. *Academic Advising* -- An intentional process in which students seek and receive guidance with academic program planning and course selection to further post-secondary aspirations.
  - b. *Assessment* – The criterion-referenced assessment instruments adopted by the Board to assess a student’s readiness to enroll in college-level coursework or curricula.
  - c. *Board* – The Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board, or THECB.
  - d. *Core Curriculum* – The approved list of courses that are part of UTRGV’s 42 semester credit hour curriculum in the liberal arts, humanities, sciences, and political, social, and cultural history that all undergraduates of an institution of higher education are required to complete before receiving an undergraduate academic degree. A list of the courses that are part of the Core Curriculum are attached as Exhibit A and incorporated by reference.
  - e. *Dual Credit* -- As defined by 19 TAC Section 4.83, refers to “a system under which an eligible high school student enrolls in college course(s) and receives credit for the course(s) from both the college and the high school.” While dual credit courses may be taught on the secondary school campus to high school students only, certain sections of the rules under TAC Title 19, Part 1, Chapter 4, Subchapter D, also apply when a high

school student takes a course on the college campus and receives both high school and college credit. Dual credit is also referred to as concurrent course credit.

- f. *Dual Enrollment* – refers to a system under which a student is enrolled in more than one educational institution (including high school and a public university). Dual enrollment is not equivalent to dual credit.
  - g. *Dual Credit Program (Program)* – The program that provides the outreach, student learning and support programs for students seeking to earn UTRGV college credit for dual credit courses simultaneously while enrolled in high school.
  - h. *Field of Study curriculum* -- A set of courses that satisfies the lower-division requirements for a baccalaureate degree in a specific academic area at a general academic teaching institution. A field of study curriculum affects academic degree programs at public junior colleges, public technical institutes, or universities as designated within the particular field of study curriculum.
  - i. *TAC* – Texas Administrative Code
  - j. *The University of Texas Rio Grande Valley (UTRGV)* – a state agency and four-year institution of higher education organized under the laws of the State of Texas.
  - k. *UTRGV Provost* – The chief academic officer of UTRGV, regardless of title currently assigned to the position.
  - l. *UTRGV Road Maps* -- A suggested sequence of courses for major fields of study, and a tool to determine course selection in tandem with the Core Curriculum.
3. **ELIGIBLE COURSES:** High school students admitted to the Program will be allowed to enroll in Core Curriculum courses offered by UTRGV during the term of this MOU. A list of the approved 42-hour Core Curriculum is attached as Exhibit A and incorporated by reference. The **McAllen Independent School District** may award dual credit for any course completed under the terms of this MOU. Dual credit may be awarded for an equivalent course, elective credit, local credit, or to satisfy criteria for the Distinguished Achievement Program diploma. UTRGV will assume that dual credit will be awarded for enrollment under this MOU unless notified in writing otherwise by the **McAllen Independent School District**. Upon execution of this MOU, UTRGV and **McAllen Independent School District** will work collaboratively to design a course crosswalk listing UTRGV courses for which the district students may receive high school credit. UTRGV and the **McAllen Independent School District** agree to post the course crosswalk in a timely manner to their respective websites. Students successfully completing courses under this MOU will receive academic credit as documented on an official UTRGV transcript. Exceptions to these requirements shall be considered by the UTRGV Provost or designee on a case-by-case basis.
4. **COURSE APPLICABILITY AND TRANSFERABILITY:** By offering Core Curriculum courses in the Program, UTRGV does not guarantee the applicability of individual courses for satisfying future degree plan requirements of individual students. UTRGV will adhere to applicable TAC or other statutory requirements governing the transferability of Core Curriculum courses between public institutions of higher education in Texas.

5. **STUDENT ELIGIBILITY:** Students seeking dual credit opportunities with UTRGV will have an individual academic profile created based on a variety of factors, including without limitation:

- High School Class Rank;
- Grade Point Average;
- College Entrance Exams, e.g., SAT/ACT, PSAT/ACT-PLAN;
- Extracurricular Activities; and
- Community Involvement.

The student's academic profile will be created with submitted documentation and an admission decision will be rendered based on the information and accomplishments in the academic profile. In addition, the school district must have a current memorandum of understanding (MOU) on file with UTRGV. Students pursuing dual credit must meet the following criteria:

- Be classified as a Junior or Senior in High School; and
- Be eligible to graduate under the Foundation w/Endorsement or Distinguished Achievement Plan.

Dual credit students typically will meet one or more of the following criteria:

- Ranked in the Top 20% of their class;
- Have a 85 GPA or higher;
- Achieve an ACT Composite of 20 or higher;
- Achieve an SAT Total of 1110 (EBRW & MATH combined) or higher;
- Achieve a PSAT Section Score of 460 (EBRW) and 510 (MATH) or higher; or
- Achieve a PLAN Composite of 23 or higher.

Students enrolled at the UTRGV McAllen Collegiate Academy may demonstrate eligibility by meeting college readiness requirements as established by the Texas Success Initiative or another recognized method of demonstrating college readiness as outlined in 19 TAC Sections 4.54 (relating to Exemptions/Exceptions) and 4.56 (relating to Assessment Instrument), including but not limited to STAAR-EOC, SAT, and ACT scores. UTRGV Program staff will work with representatives from the MISD to ensure students at UTRGV McAllen Collegiate Academy proceed through the requisite admissions processes without issue. All possible avenues for admission to the program for students at UTRGV McAllen Collegiate Academy will be explored in the event they do not meet college readiness requirements.

6. **ADMISSIONS REQUIREMENTS:** Admission criteria stated herein for the UTRGV Dual Credit Program will apply to those participants admitted for any enrollment during the term of this MOU. Each student will complete a UTRGV online admission application (Apply Texas Application) and provide additional required documents as follows:

- a. most recent high school transcript, and
- b. official SAT or ACT scores (if applicable), and
- c. a Program Authorization Form signed by the high school principal, counselor, and parents.

7. ENROLLMENT REQUIREMENTS:

a. Upon admission to UTRGV, students must attend an Academic Advisement and Registration session/Dual Credit Program Orientation, prior to being allowed to register for coursework. Sessions may be held on one or both of the UTRGV campuses, or virtually. School Districts or high school campuses can request arrangements to accommodate larger groups. Specific information on how to complete this process will be provided to eligible students via email and to their respective high school counselor(s). Prior to attending an academic advisement session/dual credit orientation, each student who is not exempt from the provisions of the Texas Success Initiative, shall be assessed for readiness to enroll in university courses. For this assessment, UTRGV may use any instrument otherwise approved by the Board for purposes of the Texas Success Initiative, in accordance with 19 TAC Sections 4.54 (relating to Exemptions/Exceptions) and 4.56 (relating to Assessment Instrument), including but not limited to STAAR-EEOC/SAT, and ACT scores. UTRGV Program Staff will collaborate with designated ISD Counselors and Administrators to provide academic advising to students and families on appropriate course selection aligned with state endorsements offered by the district and students declared UTRGV major field of study. The academic advising process shall be at the foundation of the program to promote rigor, access to the university experience, and strategic acceleration to facilitate transition to post-secondary education and success. The parties agree that the UTRGV Road Maps developed by the Academic Advising Center will be used as a resource to align course selection with major field of study. See Section 24 of this MOU and Exhibit C for more information.

b. Students must meet all prerequisites for individual courses such as minimum score requirements for respective course enrollment (e.g., minimum score on the specified placement test, minimum grade in a specified previous course, etc.) or any associated prerequisite courses. Individual exceptions to prerequisite requirements will be considered by UTRGV on a case-by-case basis.

c. Students admitted into the Program will be limited to enrollment in a maximum of two dual credit courses per semester or term. In special circumstances, students in the Program may be given approval to enroll in more than two dual credit courses per semester or term. Exceptions to this requirement for students with demonstrated outstanding academic performance and capability (as evidenced by college grade-point average, SAT or ACT scores, or other assessment indicators) must be approved by the principal of the high school and UTRGV Provost or designee.

8. ELIGIBILITY FOR UTRGV SERVICES: Program students enrolled in UTRGV courses are eligible to request a UTRGV ID card through established institutional procedures and shall be eligible to utilize the same or comparable academic and instructional support services that are afforded to university students on all UTRGV campuses. UTRGV is responsible for requiring timely and efficient access to such academic and supplemental services. For example, some (but not all) of these services include the following: Learning Assistance Center services like tutoring, academic

advising, learning materials, library resources and other academic and instructional benefits for which the student may be eligible.

9. ACADEMIC STANDING: Students are expected to maintain a level of scholastic achievement that allows them to meet the grade requirements for continued enrollment in UTRGV and for college/high school graduation. Any Program student who fails to earn a grade of A, B, or C in any UTRGV course will be placed on academic suspension from the Program. Additionally, if a student withdraws from UTRGV or drops a course more than once during their participation in the Program, they will be placed on academic suspension from the Program. As UTRGV students, Program students are subject to institutional standards regarding academic probation or suspension as outlined by the Office of the Registrar. Program staff are not eligible to override a decision on academic standing as determined by the Office of the Registrar.
10. GRADE REPORTS: Grades posted for dual credit courses will be provided by UTRGV to the school designee or district designee in a manner agreed upon by **McAllen ISD** and UTRGV. Grades and academic records for Program students will be subject to Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act ("FERPA") rules in accordance with UTRGV guidelines. Specific to students at the UTRGV McAllen Collegiate Academy, Program staff will collaborate with faculty to gather numerical grades for each student in each course and will provide MISD with two grade reports: One report indicating alpha grades and one report indicating numerical grades. Grade reports will only be released at the end of each semester following standard reporting timelines established by the UTRGV Office of the University Registrar.
11. TEXTBOOKS AND MATERIALS: Textbooks or materials required for each course shall be determined by the faculty and specified in the course syllabus. The costs of the textbook(s) will be paid by the student or the MISD. Policies for determining who will purchase textbooks or materials will be left to the discretion of the District.
12. TUITION AND FEES: UTRGV will waive all tuition and fees for participating students while they remain eligible to participate in the Program. Students who choose to enroll at UTRGV after graduating from high school, or whose student application status changes for any other reason, are no longer eligible to receive a waiver of tuition and fees through the Program.
13. LOCATION: Classes for the Program will be held at an approved UTRGV facility, classroom on one of the UTRGV campuses, an approved off-campus site, or online. Additional locations may be approved by the UTRGV Provost or designee on a case-by-case basis.
14. STUDENT COMPOSITION OF CLASS: Classes in the Program will be composed of UTRGV students and Program students unless otherwise indicated. All dual credit course content, student learning outcomes, and course requirements will be the same as other similar UTRGV course

sections, meeting all requirements established under law by the Board or other applicable agencies.

15. ATTENDANCE: Attendance in all classes is mandatory according to the UTRGV academic calendar. Additionally, Program students must adhere to the attendance policy of the faculty of record, as stated in the syllabus for that class. Program students who do not meet the prescribed attendance policy may be dropped from the class. Excused absences may be allowed according to UTRGV academic policy and at the discretion of the faculty of record.
16. FACULTY SELECTION, SUPERVISION, and EVALUATION: The faculty who will teach courses in the Program will be selected, supervised, and evaluated as would any other faculty member teaching any other class at UTRGV. UTRGV shall require that courses offered under the terms of this MOU are comparable to any other courses offered by UTRGV and equivalent with respect to the faculty qualifications, curriculum, materials, instructional activity, and method/rigor of evaluation of student performance. UTRGV retains full oversight of its academic programs and offerings, and its faculty selection, supervision, and evaluation.
17. ACADEMIC POLICIES: All academic policies that apply to students at UTRGV will apply to students enrolled in the Program. This includes policies for academic dishonesty, the appeal process for disputed grades, drop or withdrawal policies, the communication of grading policy to students, distribution of the syllabus, and other similar policies.
18. ENROLLMENT OF COURSES: UTRGV will provide district or campus designees with support in developing appropriate course sequencing and selection. UTRGV will also facilitate course registration and will provide a point of contact for enrollment inquiries. Unless otherwise indicated, enrollment in individual courses is on a first-come, first-served basis; UTRGV does not guarantee every Program student the availability of a seat in any specific, individual course in any semester, whether in person at an approved UTRGV site or online.
19. TRANSCRIPTING CREDIT: For dual credit courses, high school as well as college credit should be included on a student's transcript immediately upon a student's completion of the performance required in the course. Transcription of college credit will be the responsibility of UTRGV and transcription of high school credit will be the responsibility of MISD. MISD will determine how UTRGV grades will be recorded in the high school transcript for GPA and ranking purposes. MISD is responsible for making parents aware and knowledgeable of the decision made by MISD concerning these matters.
20. EVALUATION AND ACCOUNTABILITY: UTRGV staff will be responsible for the development and implementation of an evaluation process to determine the effectiveness of the Program. Measures of effectiveness shall include (without limitation) successful student academic performance in college courses, grades in classes offered by the Program, GPA, retention rates,

and graduation rates. UTRGV and MISD agree to the following distinct and/or overlapping responsibilities and/or services as outlined in Exhibit B attached to this document.

21. LIMITATION ON ENROLLMENT: MISD may impose additional limitations on student enrollment in the Program. UTRGV will honor the Program Authorization Form for each participating student until high school graduation, unless written revocation notice is provided to UTRGV by the respective school principal.
22. TRANSPORTATION: All transportation will be provided by the MISD or the individual student. Program students driving their own vehicles to campus will be subject to UTRGV parking rules and transportation rules as set by MISD.
23. DUAL CREDIT RESOURCES AND RESEARCH: The parties agree the tools listed below are available and appropriate to assist counselors, students, and families in selecting endorsements and dual credit courses. Additional tools may be adopted by mutual agreement of the parties. A sample of available resources includes:
  - TEA House Bill 5: Foundation High School Program Website:  
[http://tea.texas.gov/Academics/Graduation\\_Information/House\\_Bill\\_5\\_Foundation\\_High\\_School\\_Program](http://tea.texas.gov/Academics/Graduation_Information/House_Bill_5_Foundation_High_School_Program)
  - THECB Dual Credit Overview:  
<https://reportcenter.highered.texas.gov/agency-publication/miscellaneous/dual-credit/>
  - UT System Dual Credit and Success in College Report:  
<https://www.utsystem.edu/documents/docs/ut-system-reports/2018/dual-credit-and-success-college>
  - UTRGV Academic Advising Roadmaps:  
<https://www.utrgv.edu/advising/one-stop-shop/know-your-roadmap-to-graduation/index.htm>
24. Texas Senate Bill 25 (86<sup>th</sup> Legislature, Regular Session): In an effort to support high school students who participate in dual credit programs, the Texas Education Code was amended by adding Sections 51.400, 51.4033, and 51.4034 which established requirements for institutions of higher education to address postsecondary experiences for this population of students. Exhibit C summarizes the requirements outlined in the legislation and provides methods for meeting the respective requirement, specifically updates to programming and student support services.
25. ALL PARTIES AGREE:
  - a. To be responsible for assuring all sites where Program students participate in this Program are compliant with applicable state or federal disability laws;
  - b. To comply with all applicable provisions of the Family Education Rights and Privacy Act (20 USC §1232g, *et seq*). For purposes of this MOU, pursuant to the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act of 1974 (FERPA), each Party hereby designates the other as a

school official with a legitimate educational interest in the educational records of the students who participate in the Program to the extent that access to the records are required by the receiving Party to carry out the Program. The Parties agree to maintain the confidentiality of the educational records in accordance with the provisions of FERPA;

- c. In all cases, to comply with all federal, state, and local laws applicable to this MOU; and
- d. To have in place and abide by a policy prohibiting harassment or discrimination on any basis prohibited by applicable laws of the United States or the State of Texas.

26. AMENDMENTS: This MOU may be amended by a written document specifically referencing this MOU and signed by authorized officials of each Party.

27. TERMINATION UPON NOTICE: UTRGV and MISD, reserve the right to terminate this MOU upon written notice to the other party ninety (90) days prior to the date of termination. In the event that there are less than ninety days remaining in any given semester when the decision to terminate this MOU is reached, the actual date of termination will be the day after the completion of that semester. If this MOU is terminated during an academic term, students enrolled in Program classes will be allowed to finish their current coursework and receive appropriate course credit.

28. INDEMNIFICATION: To the extent authorized under Texas law and without waiving any defenses including governmental immunity, UTRGV and MISD each agree to be responsible for its own acts of negligence, which may arise in connection with any or all claims for damages, costs, and expenses to person(s) and property that may arise out of or be occasioned by this MOU or any of its activities or from any act or omission of any employee or invitee of the parties. Additionally, as UTRGV and MISD are governmental entities of the State of Texas, the applicable provisions of the Texas Tort Claims Act as set forth in the Texas Civil Practice and Remedies Code S100.001, *et. seq.*, and the remedies authorized therein regarding claims or actions that may be asserted by third parties for accident, injury or death shall apply. UTRGV and MISD do not waive any immunity, limits of liability, or defenses, which are afforded to either of them under law, including without limitation under the Texas Tort Claims Act.

29. LIABILITY INSURANCE: It is the policy of the State of Texas not to acquire commercial general liability for torts committed by employees of the State who are acting within the scope of their employment. Rather, third parties must look to the Texas Tort Claims Act for relief with respect to property damage, personal injury, and death proximately caused by the wrongful act or omission or negligence of an employee acting within the scope of employment. UTRGV and its employees are provided workers' compensation coverage under a self-insuring, self-managing plan as authorized by Chapter 503 of the Texas Labor Code. UTRGV will assure that its self-insurance will comply with applicable laws and regulations.

30. NO ASSIGNMENT: The parties may not assign this contract to any other party without written consent of the other party. Each party must conduct a criminal background check, at its own expense and consistent with its own policies, of all persons they appoint, employ, or assign to provide services under this contract.
31. DISPUTES: To address any dispute that may arise during the implementation of this MOU, a committee consisting of representatives from MISD and UTRGV will be established to discuss and resolve issues. This committee will meet on an “as needed basis” at the written request of any of the parties. The MISD and UTRGV President (or designee) will each select one member of the committee, and those two selected individuals will mutually agree upon a third committee member. The committee is expected to seek robust consultation with appropriate individuals who have knowledge of the issue(s) in dispute, and work together to reach compromise and agreement on a mutually beneficial position within 30 calendar days. In the event the committee is not able to resolve the issue(s) in dispute within 30 calendar days, the party may agree to refer the dispute to non-binding mediation. The parties may agree to select a mutually acceptable mediator and conduct the mediation within 45 calendar days. Neither party may unreasonably withhold consent to selection of a mediator. The parties will share equally in the cost of mediation.
32. GOVERNING LAW: This contract shall be construed under and governed by the laws of the State of Texas.
33. WAIVER: The failure of any party hereto to exercise the rights granted them herein upon the occurrence of any of the contingencies set forth in this MOU shall not in any event constitute a waiver of any such rights upon the occurrence of any such contingencies.
34. MISCELLANEOUS:
- a. Neither Party has authority for an on behalf of the other except as provided in this MOU. No other authority, power, partnerships, use of rights are granted or implied.
  - b. This MOU represents the entire MOU by and between the Parties and supersedes all previous letters, understandings, or oral agreements between the Parties. Any representations, promises, or guarantees made but not stated in body of this MOU are null and void and of no effect.
  - d. Neither Party may incur any debt, obligation expense, or liability or any kind against the other without the other’s express written approval.
  - e. If the Board adopts new rules or guidelines applicable to the Program during the term of this MOU, the new rules or guidelines shall prevail.

35. NOTICES: Notices given pursuant to this MOU shall be sufficient if actually received and sent by certified or registered mail, postage fully prepaid to:

UTRGV:  
Dr. Luis Zayas  
Provost and Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs  
The University of Texas Rio Grande Valley  
1201 W. University Dr.  
Edinburg, TX 78539

McAllen Independent School District:  
Dr. Rene Gutierrez  
Superintendent of Schools  
McAllen Independent School District  
2000 N. 23<sup>rd</sup> St.  
McAllen, TX 78501

**Executed effective as of the Effective Date by the following duly authorized representatives of the Parties:**

The University of Texas Rio Grande Valley  
Name of Agency

McAllen Independent School District  
Name of Agency

By \_\_\_\_\_  
Authorized Signature

By \_\_\_\_\_  
Authorized Signature

Dr. Luis Zayas  
Provost and Senior Vice President  
for Academic Affairs  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Title

Aaron D. Rivera, Board President  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Title

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

The University of Texas Rio Grande Valley  
Name of Agency

McAllen Independent School District  
Name of Agency

By \_\_\_\_\_  
Authorized Signature

By \_\_\_\_\_  
Authorized Signature

Dr. Christine Shupala  
Vice Provost for Institutional Accreditation,  
Program Development, and Analysis  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Title

\_\_\_\_\_  
Title

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

Approved as to form

**Exhibits:**

by:   
JOHNATHAN BALL (Feb 13, 2025 11:01:04 CST)  
Johnathan Ball, Staff Attorney

Exhibit A – Approved 42-hour Core Curriculum

Exhibit B – Goals for Dual Credit Programming

Exhibit C – Texas Senate Bill 25

Exhibit D – Sample Academic Course Crosswalk

## Core Curriculum

The 2024-2026 UTRGV's Core Curriculum consists of 42 credit hours grouped in eight Foundational Component Areas and one Component Area Option.

### Requirements

010 - Communication (2 courses - 6 hours required; minimum grade of C)

ENGL 1301	Rhetoric and Composition I
ENGL 1302	Rhetoric And Composition II
	Or
ENGL 1305	Writing Cultural Studies

020 - Mathematics (1 course - 3 hours required; minimum grade of C)

Choose one:

MATH 1314	College Algebra
MATH 1414	College Algebra
MATH 1324	Mathematics for Business and Social Sciences
MATH 1332	Math for Liberal Arts
MATH 1342	Elementary Statistical Methods
MATH 1343	Introduction to Biostatistics
MATH 2412	Precalculus
MATH 2413	Calculus I

030 - Life and Physical Sciences (2 courses - 6 hours required; lecture only)

Choose two:

ASTR 1401	Introduction to Astronomy I
ASTR 1402	Introduction to Astronomy II
BIOL 1406	General Biology I
BIOL 1407	General Biology II
BIOL 2401	Anatomy and Physiology I
BIOL 2402	Anatomy and Physiology II
CHEM 1311	General Chemistry I
	Or
CHEM 1309	Chemistry for Engineers
CHEM 1312	General Chemistry II
ENVR 1401	Introduction to Environmental Science I
ENVR 1402	Introduction to Environmental Science II
GEOL 1403	Physical Geology
GEOL 1404	Historical Geology
PHYS 1401	General Physics I
PHYS 1402	General Physics II
PHYS 2425	Physics for Scientists and Engineers I

PHYS 2426	Physics for Scientists and Engineers II
PSCI 1421	Physical Science I
PSCI 1422	Physical Science II

## 040 - Language, Philosophy and Culture (1 course - 3 hours required)

Choose one:

ANTH 1302	Human Cultures in World Prehistory
ANTH 1354	The Anthropology of Expressive Culture
ENGL 2321	Introduction to British Literature
ENGL 2326	Introduction to American Literature
ENGL 2331	Introduction to World Literature
ENGL 2341	Introduction to Literature
ENGL 2351	Introduction to Mexican American Literature
	Or
MASC 2351	Introduction to Mexican American Literature
FREN 2382	Introduction to French Literature (in English)
GWSP 1301	Introduction to Gender, Women's, and Sexuality Studies
GWSP 2301	Concepts in Gender and Sexuality
HIST 2321	World History I
HIST 2322	World History II
MASC 2301	Introduction to Mexican American Studies
MUSI 1309	World Music Cultures
PHIL 1300	Critical Thinking
PHIL 1301	Introduction to Philosophy
PHIL 1304	Introduction to World Religions
PHIL 1305	Introduction to Latin American Philosophy
PHIL 1306	Introduction to Asian Philosophy
PHIL 1310	Ethics, Happiness, and the Good Life
PHIL 1312	Introduction to Social and Political Philosophy
PHIL 1366	Philosophy and History of Science and Technology
PHIL 2306	Introduction to Ethics
PHIL 2322	Ethics, Health, and Culture
PHIL 2326	Ethics, Technology and Society
PHIL 2351	Religious Diversity in the Global Community
SPAN 2320	Latina/o Culture and Civilization in Spanish
SPAN 2330	Introduction to Spanish and Latin American Literature

## 050 - Creative Arts (1 course - 3 hours required)

Choose one:

ARTS 1301	Art Appreciation
ARTS 1303	Art History I, Prehistoric to the 14th-Century
ARTS 1304	Art History II, 14th-Century to the Present
DANC 2323	Dance Appreciation

ENGL 2312	History of Film as Visual Art
	Or
FILM 2312	History of Film as a Visual Art
ENGL 2316	Poetry Appreciation
FREN 2323	Introduction to French Cinema in English
MUSI 1306	Music Appreciation
MUSI 1308	Music History and Literature I
MUSI 1310	History of Rock
PHIL 1330	Philosophy, Art, and Film
THTF 1310	Theatre Appreciation
THTF 2366	Cinema Appreciation

## 060 - American History (2 courses - 6 hours required)

Choose one:

HIST 1301	U.S. History I
HIST 2327	Mexican American History I
	Or
MASC 2327	Mexican American History I

Choose one:

HIST 1302	U.S. History II
HIST 2328	Mexican American History II
	Or
MASC 2328	Mexican American History II

## 070 - Government/Political Science (2 courses - 6 hours required)

Choose one:

POLS 2305	U.S. Federal Government & Politics
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Choose one:

POLS 2306	Texas Government & Politics
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## 080 - Social and Behavioral Sciences (1 course - 3 hours required)

Choose one:

ANTH 1324	Human Evolution
ANTH 2302	Introduction to Archeology
ANTH 2351	Introduction to Cultural Anthropology
ECON 1301	Introduction to Economics
ECON 2301	Principles of Macroeconomics
ENGL 2315	Humans and Language
HDOS 2301	Introduction to the Human Dimensions of Organizations
MEDH 2311	Introduction to Medical and Health Humanities
PHIL 1362	Race, Sexuality, and Class

PSYC 2301	General Psychology
SOCI 1301	Introduction to Sociology

### 090 - Integrative/Experiential Learning Option (6 hours required)

#### Applied Communication and Literacies (maximum 3 hours)

COMM 1311	Introduction to Communication
COMM 1315	Public Speaking

#### Humanities (maximum 3 hours)

Students may also select an additional three-hour course from the (040) Language, Philosophy, and Culture area to complete the six required hours in the (090) Component Area Option.

PHCE 1301	Introduction to Public Heritage and Community Engagement
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#### Science Labs (maximum 3 hours)

Students may use up to 3 hours from the lab component of any of the science courses listed in the Life & Physical Sciences component area (030) for the Integrative/Experiential Learning component area. Courses that have a separate lab are also listed below.

ASTR 1401	Introduction to Astronomy I
ASTR 1402	Introduction to Astronomy II
BIOL 1406	General Biology I
BIOL 1407	General Biology II
BIOL 2401	Anatomy and Physiology I
BIOL 2402	Anatomy and Physiology II
CHEM 1111	General Chemistry I Lab
	Or
CHEM 1109	Chemistry for Engineers Lab
CHEM 1112	General Chemistry II Lab
ENVR 1401	Introduction to Environmental Science I
ENVR 1402	Introduction to Environmental Science II
GEOG 1403	Physical Geology
GEOG 1404	Historical Geology
PHYS 1401	General Physics I
PHYS 1402	General Physics II
PHYS 2425	Physics for Scientists and Engineers I
PHYS 2426	Physics for Scientists and Engineers II
PSCI 1421	Physical Science I
PSCI 1422	Physical Science II

#### Interdisciplinary (maximum 4 hours)

ANTH 2311	Global Health and Social Justice: Interdisciplinary Approaches to Illness and Inequality
ENST 1301	Introduction to Environmental Studies
HONR 2388	Honors Humanities II
INDS 2390	Humanities in the World
INDS 2190	Humanities and Service Learning
QUMT 2398	Decision Analytics

#### Technologies (maximum 3 hours)

CSCI 1380	Introduction to Programming in Python
CSCI 1381	Introduction to Programming C++

Language Diversity and Writing (maximum 4 hours)

SPAN 2321	Spanish in the United States
WRLS 1100	Language Exploration Lab
WRLS 2301	Multilingual Writing in Academic and Community Contexts

**Goals for Dual Credit Programming  
The University of Texas Rio Grande Valley**

Goals	Metrics	ISD Responsibilities/Services	UTRGV Responsibilities/Services
ISDs and IHEs will implement purposeful and collaborative outreach efforts to inform all students and parents of the benefits of DC, including enrollment and fee policies.	Documentation summarizing collaboration and outreach efforts of IHEs and secondary school partners.	District website to include MOU, crosswalk, and an online link to UTRGV's academic and student resources.	Academic crosswalks, campus presentations to various groups, district leadership teams, updated website, DC resource guide.
DC Program will assist HS students in the successful transition to and acceleration through postsecondary education.	Analysis of measures in enrollment and persistence through postsecondary education, disaggregated by student subpopulation. Included here are: student enrollment in postsecondary after high school; time to degree completion; and, semester credit hours to degree.	PEIMS data for subgroups at the time of graduation; track students after graduation through national student clearinghouse.	Cohort tag for students who enroll at UTRGV in DC and then continue; persistence; time to degree; total number of hours to degree completion.
All DC students will receive academic and college readiness advising with access to student support services to bridge them successfully into college course completion.	Analysis of measures in enrollment and degree completion, disaggregated by student sub-population. Included here are: student enrollment in postsecondary after high school; time to degree completion; and, decrease in excess number of semester hours beyond required hours to degree completion.	See above, plus: college, career, and military readiness (CCMR) counseling services.	See above, plus: credit to degree alignment; connecting with Student Success services; professional development for counselors by UTRGV Student Success professionals.
The quality and rigor of DC course will be sufficient to ensure student success in subsequent courses.	Analysis of performance in subsequent course work.	Not applicable in this scenario since dual credit courses are taught by UTRGV faculty.	Track subsequent grades in scaffolded courses: ENGL 1301/1302; MATH 1314/2412/2413; BIOL 1406/1407.

As required by HB 1638 (Texas, 85R).

### **Introduction Statement**

In an effort to support high school students who participate in dual credit programs, Texas Senate Bill 25 (SB 25; 86th Legislature, Regular Session) amended the Texas Education Code by adding Sections 51.400, 51.4033, and 51.4034, establishing requirements for institutions of higher education to address postsecondary experiences for this population of students. The following section summarizes the requirements outlined in the legislation and provides methods for meeting the respective requirements.

### **Filing a Degree Plan**

Students participating in a dual credit program must file a degree plan with the institution of higher education providing that coursework. Institutions must work with students who meet one of the following criteria to ensure a degree plan is on file:

1. **Earned a cumulative total of 15 or more hours at the institution.** Students must have a degree plan on file at the institution by the end of the semester or term immediately following the semester or term in which the fifteenth hour or more was earned; or,
2. **Enrolled for the first time at the institution with 15 or more hours.** Students must have a degree plan on file at the institution during their first semester or term of enrollment if the student has earned 15 or more hours from another institution.

For the purpose of this requirement, the phrase “file a degree plan” equates to “declares a major” in that students declare an intent to pursue a particular program of study that, upon successful completion, results in the awarding of a baccalaureate degree from the institution. A major is declared at the time of application to the university using the student’s intended major as listed in the official Apply Texas application.

Dual credit students are eligible to enroll in courses from the university’s core curriculum that have been identified by their respective high schools as also qualifying for equitable high school credit (i.e., course alignment crosswalk). Core curriculum classes are the most applicable to a range of degree programs and transferable between institutions of higher education.

If a dual credit student decides to change their declared major from what was originally listed in their application to the university, they must follow the university’s standard procedures as outlined in the appropriate Undergraduate Catalog. The process outlined in the *Undergraduate Catalog for 2024-2025* may be found at the following website: <https://utrgv.smartcatalogiq.com/en/2024-2025/student-policies/academic-policies-and-procedures/registration-and-enrollment/undergraduate-registration-and-enrollment/>

### **Notification of Process for Filing a Degree Plan**

Under SB 25, institutions of higher education are required to provide students with notification of the process for filing a degree plan. To the best of its ability, UTRGV commits to providing students with multiple active and passive information channels through which they are able to learn more about the process of filing a degree plan and other enrollment-related information, including:

1. **Website:** UTRGV maintains a Dual Credit Program website through which detailed programmatic information may be found. Admission and enrollment processes are clearly outlined and provide specific information about filing a degree plan and accessing resources.

2. Dual Credit Student Resource Guide: A resource guide specific to dual credit students is available electronically through the program's website, providing detailed program information and instructions for how to access university resources.
3. Dual Credit Program Orientation: Prior to enrolling in dual credit courses at UTRGV, students must complete a program orientation session where important program information is reviewed. Content for this session includes but is not limited to: understanding the core curriculum; reviewing academic course policies and institutional calendars; introducing academic and individual support services; planning ahead for postsecondary enrollment; and, financial implications of participating in dual credit.

### **Supporting Students' Postsecondary Success**

SB 25 requires institutions of higher education provide students with verification of their declared major and that the courses in which they are enrolled align with their intended major. UTRGV utilizes the Degree Works platform, which provides a clear and transparent report of a student's academic progress and time toward degree. To achieve the latter requirement of course alignment with intended majors, UTRGV utilizes a holistic approach that incorporates direct interaction with students and continued education for high school counselors.

While incorporating several standard core curriculum requirements, degree plans/majors are unique programs that must be followed in order to meet degree completion requirements. Moreover, adhering to these course/programmatic requirements is sometimes required in a specific sequence. Therefore, UTRGV utilizes the following methods for educating students, families, and high school counselors about degree requirements:

1. Institutionally Designed Roadmaps: UTRGV provides students with detailed, sequenced Roadmaps for academic planning purposes. Roadmaps include required courses, suggested courses, and a sample course sequence to maximize the student experience. Additional programmatic information (e.g., minimum grade requirements, pre-requisites, etc.) is also included. Roadmaps may be accessed electronically at <https://www.utrgv.edu/advising/one-stop-shop/know-your-roadmap-to-graduation/index.htm>.
2. College-Specific Information Sessions: The Dual Credit Program in collaboration with the Academic Advising Center and/or academic departments host college-specific information sessions for students and families at strategic times during the year. Sessions are facilitated by UTRGV personnel who introduce important topics such as academic planning, career exploration, and degree pathways.
3. Professional Development for ISD Counselors: Recognizing the critical role counselors play in supporting dual credit students, UTRGV commits to offering ongoing professional development workshops on topics related to academic roadmaps, degree requirements, and supporting students through early and targeted academic advisement.

While students participating in dual credit at UTRGV are not required to meet with an institutional Academic Advisor, they are required to attend a program orientation session associated with the Dual Credit Program. Failure to attend program orientation will result in a registration hold being placed on the student's academic record until such time that the requirement is fulfilled.

Course #	UTRGV Course Name	Credit	TSI Requirement*	Course Pre-Requisite	Course Descriptions
1301	Composition I	3	Pass ELAR		English 1301 is designed to help students become more effective and confident writers as well as more active and engaged in writing. To do this, students will engage in a variety of writing projects which will help them become more reflective writers to revise their work to meet the needs of a given writing situation. (Credit for this course may be obtained by qualified advanced placement or advanced standing examinations.)
1302	Composition II	3	Pass ELAR	ENGL 1301 (C or Better)	English 1302 is designed to teach students how to initiate inquiry, engage in meaningful research, and produce effective arguments. To do this, students will get experience with primary and secondary research methods, engage in a variety of research projects, and create at least one major research project. (Credit for this course may be obtained by qualified students through advanced standing examinations.)
1314	College Algebra	3	Pass MATH		Topics include polynomial functions, rational functions, exponential functions, logarithmic functions, and matrices. Applications will be emphasized.
2412	Pre-Calculus	4	Pass MATH	MATH 1314 (C or Better)	Topics include trigonometric functions, applications, graphs, equations, and identities; inverse trigonometric functions; series; the Binomial Theorem; conic sections; and parametric and polar equations.
2413	Calculus I	4	Pass MATH	MATH 2412 (C or Better)	Topics include limits, derivatives, antiderivatives, and definite integrals of algebraic and transcendental functions. Applications will be emphasized.
1406	General Biology I	4	-		A study of the basic principles of Biology. Topics will include biological chemistry, cell structure and function, photosynthesis, DNA structure and function, mitosis, meiosis, Mendelian genetics, evolution, and the structure and function of bacteria, algae, fungi, and plants.
1407	General Biology II	4	-	BIOL 1406 (C or Better)	A continuation of Biology 1406. Topics include evolution and diversity of invertebrate and vertebrate animals; mechanical movement, digestion and nutrition, respiration, circulation homeostasis, hormonal control, nervous control, sexual reproduction, development, behavior, and ecology. Prerequisites: BIOL 1406 or BIOL 1487.
2401	Anatomy and Physiology I	4	-		A study of the structure and function of the human body including cells, tissues, and organs of the following systems: integumentary, muscular, nervous system, and special senses.
1311	General Chemistry I Lecture	3	-	MATH 1314 or Higher (C or Better)	Fundamentals of atomic structure, electronic structure and periodic table, nomenclature, the stoichiometry reactions, thermochemistry, chemical bonding, and structure and geometry of molecules.
1111	General Chemistry I Lab	1	-		An introduction to basic laboratory techniques using experiments to understand chemical concepts of reactions, stoichiometry, and equilibrium. Prerequisites: Credit/registration in CHEM 1311.
1401	General Physics I	4	-	MATH 1314 or Higher	An algebra-based introduction to the principles of mechanics, fluids, heat, waves, and sound for students fulfilling a natural science requirement and premedical students. The course includes three laboratory hours a week to emphasize course concepts.
1402	General Physics II	4	-	PHYS 1401	A continuation of PHYS 1401 covering the principles of electricity, magnetism, light, and modern physics. The course includes three laboratory hours a week to emphasize course concepts. Prerequisites: PHYS 1401.
2321	Introduction to British Literature	3	Pass ELAR		A study of several masterpieces of English Literature, with emphasis on carefully reading and on writing critical essays.
2341	Introduction to Literature	3	Pass ELAR		An introduction to literary genres, with special emphasis on the short story, novel or novella, drama and poetry. Requires the writing of critical essays about individual works.
1301	Art Appreciation	3	-		A general introduction to the visual arts designed to create an appreciation of the vocabulary, media techniques, and processes. Students will critically interpret and evaluate works of art within formal, cultural, and historical contexts.
1306	Music Appreciation	3	-		An introduction to the formal study of music. Subject matter includes the basic elements of music and the historical styles of art music along with their most important composers. Although "classical" music will be the course's emphasis, popular music (jazz and rock), as well as several non-Western musical traditions may also be covered. Listening, reading, and analysis will be used to understand and appreciate of these styles. No prerequisite. Meets the requirements for the Creative Arts in the General Education Program.

1301	United States History I	3	Pass ELAR	An integration of social, political, and economic history of the United States with attention directed to geography and its approach is by problems that move chronologically from the earliest colonial period through the Civil War. Open to freshmen for credit in American history from high school. Prerequisites: TSI exemption in Reading, or College Ready TSI status in Reading grade for ENGL 0301/WRLS 0300.
1302	United States History II	3	Pass ELAR	An integration of social, economic, and political history of the United States with attention to geographical influences. Problems that move chronologically from Reconstruction to the present. Open to freshmen who enter with a credit in a high school.
2305	Federal Government and Politics	3	Pass ELAR	This course examines the origins and development of the U.S. federal system of government and politics, which includes policymaking processes, political action, power relations, and various political issues. This course fulfills the six-credit requirement in U.S. and Texas government and politics. Open to freshmen.
2306	Texas Government and Politics	3	Pass ELAR	This course examines the origins and development of the Texas state system of government and politics, which includes Constitution, policymaking processes, political action, power relations, and various political issues. This course fulfills the legislative requirement in U.S. and Texas government and politics. Open to freshmen.
2301	General Psychology	3	Pass ELAR	An introduction to the discipline of psychology as a natural science and as an applied social science. This course includes biological bases of behavior, sensation and perception, learning and memory, emotions, personality, abnormal psychology, developmental and social psychology.
2301	Principles of Macroeconomics	3	-	Provides an introduction to the economy as a whole. Topics include national income and output, unemployment, inflation, economic growth, international linkages (such as trade deficits), and economic, social and political structures and institutions and monetary policies and the Federal Reserve System).
1301	Introduction to Sociology	3	Pass ELAR	The study of human society and the relationship of culture, social interaction, and group life to personality and human behavior.
1311	Introduction to Communication	3	-	COMM 1311 introduces basic communication principles in a variety of contexts including interpersonal small group, and organizational communication. Students will learn to adapt and deliver verbal and nonverbal messages to communicate effectively with family, friends and colleagues. Students will also learn how to successfully develop and deliver a persuasive presentation.

UTRGV Course #	UTRGV Course Name	Credit	TSI Requirement*	Course Pre-Requisite	District Course	TEA Course Code	TEA Course Title
NGL 1301	Composition I	3	Pass ELAR				
NGL 1302	Composition II	3	Pass ELAR	ENGL 1301 (C or Better)			
MATH 1314	College Algebra	3	Pass MATH				
MATH 1342	Elementary Statistics	3	Pass MATH				
MATH 2412	Pre-Calculus	4	Pass MATH	MATH 1314 (C or Better)			
MATH 2413	Calculus I	4	Pass MATH	MATH 2412 (C or Better)			
OL 1406	General Biology I	4	-				
OL 1407	General Biology II	4	-	BIOL 1406 (C or Better)			
OL 2401	Anatomy and Physiology I	4	-				
11311/1111	General Chemistry	4	-	MATH 1314 or Higher (C or Better)			
PHYS 1401	General Physics I	4	-	MATH 1314 or Higher			
PHYS 1402	General Physics II	4	-	PHYS 1401			
NGL 2321	Introduction to British Literature	3	Pass ELAR				
NGL 2341	Introduction to Literature	3	Pass ELAR				
ARTS 1301	Art Appreciation	3	-				
USI 1306	Music Appreciation	3	-				
HIST 1301	United States History I	3	Pass ELAR				
HIST 1302	United States History II	3	Pass ELAR				
DLS 2305	Federal Government and Politics	3	Pass ELAR				
DLS 2306	Texas Government and Politics	3	Pass ELAR				
PSYC 2301	General Psychology	3	Pass ELAR				
ECON 2301	Principles of Macroeconomics	3	-				
SOCI 1301	Introduction to Sociology	3	Pass ELAR				
MM 1311	Introduction to Communication	3	-				
MM 1315	Public Speaking	3	-				


requirement, students must demonstrate that they have attempted both sections of the TSI/A2.

**BOARD AGENDA REPORT  
MCALLEN INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT**


**MEETING DATE:** February 24, 2026

**Attachment:**

**SUBMITTED BY:**   
LEO SAENZ (Feb 13, 2026 16:08:47 CST)

**SUPERVISOR:**   
Rosalba De Hoyos (Feb 13, 2026 16:42:57 CST)

**Approved for presentation to the Board of Education:**

  
RENE GUTIERREZ (Feb 13, 2026 16:51:15 CST)

**Request for Proposal No. 2024-1022 Career and Technology Education Instructional Supplies, Materials,  
Equipment and Related Services (Round 16)**

<b>No.</b>	<b>Responding Supplier</b>	<b>City</b>	<b>State</b>	<b>Recommendation</b>
1	Discount Two-Way Radio Corporation	Compton	CA	Qualified
2	EMPIRENEURS DeFi LLC	Waco	TX	Qualified
3	Igotcoderz	Denver	CO	Qualified
4	Teacher's Discovery (American Eagle Co Inc)	Auburn Hills	MI	Qualified
5	McGraw Hill LLC	Columbus	OH	Qualified

**BOARD AGENDA REPORT  
MCALLEN INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT**

**MEETING DATE:** February 24, 2026

**SUBJECT:** Discussion and Possible Action on Approval of Amendment to 2025-245 Interlocal Cooperation Contract with the University of Texas Rio Grande Valley - GEAR UP

**REFERENCE:** Goal 1 - Student Achievement/Student Focus; Strategy 3 - Engaging Learning Environment

**BACKGROUND INFORMATION/REASON FOR BOARD CONSIDERATION:**

The Interlocal Cooperation Agreement with the University of Texas Rio Grande Valley ("UTRGV") allows McAllen Independent School District ("McAllen ISD") students to participate in the Gaining Early Awareness and Readiness for Undergraduate Program ("GEAR UP") starting in 7th grade at Brown Middle School, De Leon Middle School, and Travis Middle School. The GEAR UP is a seven year program that started in 2024-2025 and ends in 2030-2031. The purpose of the program is to equalize access to higher education for low-income students. The goal is to increase postsecondary access by promoting information to students and parents about the cost of attendance, college courses, financial assistance and different programs of study. It will also support individualized academic and social supports to students, enhance parent involvement programs, and encourage students to participate in rigorous courses.

**ADMINISTRATIVE CONSIDERATIONS/FACTS AND ANALYSIS:**

The Interlocal Cooperation Agreement will be utilized to establish a collaboration under the UTRGV GEAR UP program to secure federal funding from the United States Department of Education.

**LEGAL REVIEW:**

The contract has been approved by legal counsel.

**BUDGETARY CONSIDERATIONS:**


This grant is reviewed annually and the approximate annual amount that is provided to McAllen ISD is \$227,940.

**RECOMMENDED BOARD ACTION:**

Administration recommends that the Board of Trustees approve the of Amendment to 2025-245 Interlocal Cooperation Contract with the University of Texas Rio Grande Valley - GEAR UP.

**Attachment:**

**SUBMITTED BY:** \_\_\_\_\_

**SUPERVISOR:**   
Rosalba De Hoyos (Feb 13, 2026 16:43:22 CST)

For further information contact:  
Name: Dr. Rosalba De Hoyos, Associate Superintendent for Instructional Services  
Office: 956-618-6048  
eMail: rosalba.dehoyos@mcallenisd.net

**Approved for presentation to the Board of Education:**

  
RENE GUTIERREZ (Feb 13, 2026 16:51:37 CST)

**INTERLOCAL COOPERATION CONTRACT AMENDMENT No. 1**

This **Interlocal Cooperation Contract Amendment No. 1** (this “Amendment”) is entered into effective as of September 1, 2025 (“Effective Date”), by and between McAllen Independent School District (“McAllen ISD”) and The University of Texas Rio Grande Valley (“UTRGV”), collectively referred to as “the Parties”.

This Amendment amends the Interlocal Cooperation Contract entered by and between the Parties on May 5, 2025, to extend the budget period to August 31, 2026 and award year two funding in the amount of \$227,940.

WHEREAS, the parties wish to amend the Contract Amount, Term, and ATTACHMENT B.

NOW THEREFORE, the parties agree to the following:

**AMENDMENT**

**CONTRACT AMOUNT** is hereby amended and reinstated in its entirety to read as follows:

The total amount of this Contract shall not exceed \$227,940.

**TERM** is hereby amended and reinstated in its entirety to read as follows:

This amendment is for work performed during from September 1, 2025 to August 31, 2026 ("Budget Period"). The overall period of performance remains unchanged and reflects September 1, 2024 through August 31, 2031 ("Period of Performance"). This Contract is subject to Receiving Party’s receipt of annual notices of award from the Department of Education for the Project, and each subsequent annual performance period through August 31, 2031 will be established by written amendment and funded only upon Receiving Party’s receipt of the corresponding annual notice of award. If an annual notice of award is not received for any subsequent year, the Parties will adjust the scope and compensation accordingly or suspend performance for that year without breach, subject to closeout. This Contract may be terminated earlier under its termination provisions, including funding contingency/non-appropriation.

**ATTACHMENT B** is hereby amended to add ATTACHMENT B-1, which includes the budget for the services to be provided during the period of September 1, 2025 to August 31, 2026. ATTACHMENT B-1 is hereby made part of this amendment.

**UNOBLIGATED FUNDS.** The Parties acknowledge and agree that any grant funds remaining at the end of any Budget Period during the Period of Performance shall not roll over into the following Budget Period. McAllen ISD shall not invoice UTRGV for any

expenditures incurred before the current Budget Period. All invoices must be limited to allowable costs expended within the current Budget Period.

**All other terms and conditions remain unchanged and in full force.**

Executed effective as of the date of the last signature below by the following duly authorized representatives of the parties.

McAllen Independent School District    The University of Texas Rio Grande Valley

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: Thomas B. Spencer, PhD.

Title: \_\_\_\_\_

Title: Senior Associate Vice President for Research Operations

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Approved as to form

by: \_\_\_\_\_  
Johnathan Ball, Staff Attorney

**UTRGV GEAR UP College Bound-Career Linked!**  
**MCALLEN ISD**  
**Budget**  
**09/01/2025 - 08/31/2026**

<u>School</u>	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Category</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Campus- Based Budget</u>	<u>Campus In-Kind</u>
BROWN MIDDLE SCHOOL	75,300.00				
DE LEON MIDDLE SCHOOL	77,970.00				
TRAVIS MIDDLE SCHOOL	74,670.00				
<b>Total</b>	<b><u>227,940.00</u></b>				
		<b>Salaries &amp; Wages</b>	Salary/Wage - GEAR UP Coordinators (4)	150,000	150,000
			Salary/Wage - Substitute Teachers	3,750	3,750
			Supplemental Wages	12,000	12,000
			Tutors	12,000	12,000
			Salaries & Wages Total	<u>177,750</u>	<u>177,750</u>
		<b>Travel/Transportation</b>	Travel - Employee	10,500	10,500
			Travel - Student/Parent	19,200	19,200
			Travel Total	<u>29,700</u>	<u>29,700</u>
		<b>Materials &amp; Supplies</b>	General Education Supplies - Students	13,660	13,660
			General Supplies - Parent Involvement	6,830	6,830
			Materials & Supplies Total	<u>20,490</u>	<u>20,490</u>
			<b>Total Direct Costs</b>	<u>227,940</u>	
			<b>Total Expected Campus In-Kind</b>		<u>227,940</u>

**UTRGV GEAR UP College Bound-Career Linked!  
 BROWN MIDDLE SCHOOL  
 Budget  
 09/01/2025 - 08/31/2026**

Category	Description	Proposed Campus-Based Budget	Proposed Campus In-Kind
<b>Salaries &amp; Wages</b>			
	Salary/Wage - GEAR UP Coordinator	50,000 *	50,000
	Salary/Wage - Substitute Teachers	1,250	1,250
	Supplemental Wages	4,000	4,000
	Tutors	4,000	4,000
	Salaries & Wages Total	59,250	59,250
<b>Travel/Transportation</b>			
	Travel - Employee	3,500	3,500
	Travel - Student/Parent	6,400	6,400
	Travel Total	9,900	9,900
<b>Materials &amp; Supplies</b>			
	General Education Supplies - Students	4,100	4,100
	General Supplies - Parent Involvement	2,050	2,050
	Materials & Supplies Total	6,150	6,150
	<b>Total Direct Costs</b>	75,300	
	<b>Total Expected Campus In-Kind</b>		75,300

\* Schools will hire a GEAR UP Coordinator(s) to assist with initiatives related to the grant.

**UTRGV GEAR UP College Bound-Career Linked!**  
**DE LEON MIDDLE SCHOOL**  
**Budget**  
**09/01/2025 - 08/31/2026**

<b>Category</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Proposed Campus-Based Budget</b>	<b>Proposed Campus In-Kind</b>
<b>Salaries &amp; Wages</b>			
	Salary/Wage - GEAR UP Coordinator	50,000 *	50,000
	Salary/Wage - Substitute Teachers	1,250	1,250
	Supplemental Wages	4,000	4,000
	Tutors	4,000	4,000
	Salaries & Wages Total	<u>59,250</u>	<u>59,250</u>
<b>Travel/Transportation</b>			
	Travel - Employee	3,500	3,500
	Travel - Student/Parent	6,400	6,400
	Travel Total	<u>9,900</u>	<u>9,900</u>
<b>Materials &amp; Supplies</b>			
	General Education Supplies - Students	5,880	5,880
	General Supplies - Parent Involvement	2,940	2,940
	Materials & Supplies Total	<u>8,820</u>	<u>8,820</u>
	<b>Total Direct Costs</b>	<u><u>77,970</u></u>	
	<b>Total Expected Campus In-Kind</b>		<u><u>77,970</u></u>

\* Schools will hire a GEAR UP Coordinator(s) to assist with initiatives related to the grant.

**UTRGV GEAR UP College Bound-Career Linked!  
 TRAVIS MIDDLE SCHOOL  
 Budget  
 09/01/2025 - 08/31/2026**

<b>Category</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Proposed Campus-Based Budget</b>	<b>Proposed Campus In-Kind</b>
<b>Salaries &amp; Wages</b>			
	Salary/Wage - GEAR UP Coordinator	50,000 *	50,000
	Salary/Wage - Substitute Teachers	1,250	1,250
	Supplemental Wages	4,000	4,000
	Tutors	4,000	4,000
	Salaries & Wages Total	<u>59,250</u>	<u>59,250</u>
<b>Travel/Transportation</b>			
	Travel - Employee	3,500	3,500
	Travel - Student/Parent	6,400	6,400
	Travel Total	<u>9,900</u>	<u>9,900</u>
<b>Materials &amp; Supplies</b>			
	General Education Supplies - Students	3,680	3,680
	General Supplies - Parent Involvement	1,840	1,840
	Materials & Supplies Total	<u>5,520</u>	<u>5,520</u>
	<b>Total Direct Costs</b>	<u><u>74,670</u></u>	
	<b>Total Expected Campus In-Kind</b>		<u><u>74,670</u></u>

\* Schools will hire a GEAR UP Coordinator(s) to assist with initiatives related to the grant.

**BOARD AGENDA REPORT  
MCALLEN INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT**

**MEETING DATE:** February 24, 2026

**Attachment:**

**SUBMITTED BY:** *Alberto Canales*  
Alberto Canales (Feb 17, 2026 08:34:15 CST)

**SUPERVISOR:** *Lorena Garcia*  
Lorena Garcia (Feb 17, 2026 08:56:10 CST)

**Approved for presentation to the Board of Education:**

*Rene Gutierrez*  
RENE GUTIERREZ (Feb 17, 2026 09:03:57 CST)

**Appendix A  
Employer Partner Agreement**

This Appendix A is incorporated into and forms a part of the Apprenticeship Related Technical Instruction (“RTI”) Agreement (“Agreement”) and is effective as of the date of the signature below between 240 Certification (“RTI Provider”), located 3122 Nealy Way, Suite 211-B, Longview, Texas 75605 and edwell, Inc. (“Sponsor” or “edwell”), a nonprofit corporation doing business in Texas with a Federal Department of Labor Registered Apprenticeship Program and McAllen Independent School District (“Employer”), a Public School District in Texas; (each a “Party” and collectively the “Parties”).

WHEREAS the Employer and Sponsor both acknowledge that they have entered into an Memorandum of Understanding for a K-12 Teacher Registered Apprenticeship Program for Employer Partners.

WHEREAS the Employer acknowledges receipt of the Apprentice Related Training and Instruction Partnership Agreement with 240 Certification and agrees to be bound by its terms and conditions, as if Employer were an original party to the agreement.

NOW, THEREFORE, in recognition of our mutual commitments and the shared vision to foster a transformative educational experience, the Parties hereby agree that the EMPLOYER NAME will become an Employer partner under this agreement.

**McAllen ISD**

**edwell, Inc.**

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature  
Printed Name: Dr. Rene Gutierrez  
Role: Superintendent  
Date: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature  
Kristi Kirschner  
President  
Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**Designated Primary Contact Information – Employer**

**Program Contact Information – Sponsor**

\_\_\_\_\_  
Name  
  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Title  
  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Email

\_\_\_\_\_  
Name  
  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Title  
  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Email

Approved as to form:

By: \_\_\_\_\_  
Johnathan Ball, Staff Attorney

**FIRST AMENDMENT TO**

**CONTRACT NO. 2026-183 MOU K-12 Teacher Registered Apprenticeship Program for Employer Partners (edwell, Inc.)**

This First Amendment to Contract No. 2026-183 (the "Contract") effective this 25th day of February 2026 by and between McAllen Independent School District ("District") and edwell, Inc., a Non-Profit ("Contractor") as follows:

WHEREAS, the District entered into Contract No. 2026-183 dated December 11, 2025; and

WHEREAS, the District and Contractor desire to amend the Contract.

NOW THEREFORE, for and in consideration of the clarification of the terms and provisions set forth herein and, for other good and valuable consideration, the receipt and sufficiency of which are hereby acknowledged, District and Contractor hereby agree to the following amendment to the Contract.

1. Appendix A Employer Partner Agreement is hereto and hereby incorporated and made part of Contract No. 2026-183;
2. Except as modified herein, all terms and conditions of the Contract, as amended, remain in full force and effect. District and Contractor ratify and confirm the terms and provisions of the Contract as amended.

EXECUTED on \_\_\_\_\_  
Date

McALLEN INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT      edwell, Inc.

By: \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Aaron Rivera,  
President of Board of Trustees

By: \_\_\_\_\_  
Kristi Kirschner, President

Approved as to form:

by: \_\_\_\_\_  
Johnathan Ball, Staff Attorney

**BOARD AGENDA REPORT  
MCALLEN INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT**

**MEETING DATE:** February 24, 2026

**Attachment:**

**SUBMITTED BY:** *Laura Williams*

**SUPERVISOR:** *Lorena Garcia*  
Lorena Garcia (Feb 13, 2026 16:17:41 CST)

**Approved for presentation to the Board of Education:**

*Rene Gutierrez*  
RENE GUTIERREZ (Feb 13, 2026 16:50:53 CST)

RECOMMENDED VENDORS

Request for Proposal No. 2024-1020 Professional Development, Site Licenses, Supplemental Materials,  
& Other Related Products and Services (Round 23)

No.	Vendor Name	City	State	Recommendation
1	Cognia, Inc.	Alpharetta	GA	Qualified
2	Complete Book and Media Supply, LLC	Cedar Park	TX	Qualified
3	Edward Schultz PhD (Edward Karl Schultz)	Wichita Falls	TX	Qualified
4	The Primary Parade LLC	Cypress	TX	Qualified
5	Walker EDquity Group, LLC	Diamond Bar	CA	Qualified

**BOARD AGENDA REPORT  
MCALLEN INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT**

**MEETING DATE:** February 24, 2026

**SUBJECT:** Report Regarding the Career Technical Education Department

**REFERENCE:** Goal 1: Student Achievement/Student Focus

**BACKGROUND INFORMATION/REASON FOR BOARD CONSIDERATION:**

The McAllen ISD Career and Technical Education Department provides opportunities for students to complete programs of study that will lead to in demand, high wage jobs in the community. The CTE Department offers students opportunities to earn dual-enrollment credits as well as Industry-Based Certifications.

**ADMINISTRATIVE CONSIDERATIONS/FACTS AND ANALYSIS:**

To provide information regarding the department.

**LEGAL REVIEW:**

None required.

**BUDGETARY CONSIDERATIONS:**

None

**RECOMMENDED BOARD ACTION:**

This item is for information purposes only.


Attachment:

**SUBMITTED BY:**   
LEO SAENZ (Jan 16, 2026 15:50:41 CST)

**SUPERVISOR:**   
Rosalba De Hoyos (Jan 20, 2026 08:42:35 CST)

**SUPERVISOR:** \_\_\_\_\_

For further information contact:  
Name: Leo Saenz  
Office: 956-632-5181  
eMail: leo.saenz@mcallenisd.net

**Approved for presentation to the Board of Education:**  
  
50 RENE GUTIERREZ (Jan 20, 2026 09:27:04 CST)  
**Superintendent of Schools**

# CAREER TECHNICAL EDUCATION

# CAREER TECHNICAL EDUCATION DEPARTMENT

## MISSION

The mission of the McAllen ISD Career and Technical Education Department is to **empower students** by combining rigorous academics, leadership development, and career-readiness skills for high-wage, in-demand careers and post-secondary opportunities.

## VISION

The vision of the McAllen ISD Career and Technical Education Department is to **provide hands-on opportunities** for student to explore career fields that align with the job market and economic growth of our community.

# 24 PROGRAMS OF STUDY

## 13 CAREER CLUSTERS

Agriculture, Food and Natural Resources



- Animal Science
- Agriculture Technology and Mechanical Systems

Architecture and Construction



- HVAC and Sheet Metal

Arts, Audio Visual Technology and Communications



- Graphic Design and Interactive Media
- Digital Communications

Business, Marketing, and Finance



- Accounting and Financial Services
- Business Management
- Entrepreneurship
- Marketing and Sales

Education and Training



- Teaching and Training

Health Science



- Exercise Science, Wellness and Restoration
- Diagnostic & Therapeutic Services

Hospitality and Tourism



- Culinary Arts

Human Services



- Family and Community Services
- Cosmetology and Personal Care Services

Information Technology



- Programming and Software Development

Law and Public Service



- Fire Science
- Law Enforcement
- JROTC

Manufacturing



- Welding

Engineering



- Engineering Foundations

Transportation, Distribution, and Logistics



- Automotive Collision and Repair
- Aviation (Pilots)

# 40 INDUSTRY CERTIFICATIONS

## Agriculture, Food and Natural Resources

- Animal Science
- Elanco-Fundamentals of Animal Science
- Elanco-Veterinary Medical Applications
- AWS D9.1 Sheet Metal Welding
- AWS D1.1 Structural Steel

## Architecture and Construction

- NCCER Core
- Refrigerant Handling (EPA 608)
- NCCER Heating, Ventilation, Air Conditioning Level I

## Arts, Audio Visual Technology and Communications

- Adobe Certified Professional in Visual Design Using Adobe Photoshop
- Adobe Certified Professional in Digital Video Using Adobe Premiere Pro
- Adobe Certified Professional in Visual Effects and Motion Graphics Using Adobe After Effects
- Adobe Certified Professional in Graphic Design and Illustration Using Adobe Illustrator
- Adobe Certified Professional in Print and Digital Media Publication Using Adobe InDesign

## Business, Marketing, and Finance

- Intuit QuickBooks Certified User
- Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) Basic
- Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) Advanced
- Microsoft Office Specialist: Microsoft Word Expert (Word 2019)
- Entrepreneurship and Small Business (ESB)
- NRF: Retail of Business

## Education and Training

- Educational Aide I

## Health Science

- Pre-Professional Certification in Nutrition, Food, and Wellness
- Certified EKG Technician
- Pharmacy Technician
- Certified Clinical Medical Assistant

## Hospitality and Tourism

- Culinary Meat Selection and Cookery Certification
- ServeSafe Manager

## Human Services

- Community Health Worker
- Pre-Professional Certification in Nutrition, Food, and Wellness
- Cosmetology Operator License

## Law and Public Service

- IAED Emergency Telecommunicator
- Emergency Medical Technician – Basic
- Non-Commissioned Security Officer Level II License

## Manufacturing

- AWS D9.1 Sheet Metal Welding
- AWS D1.1 Structural Steel

## Engineering

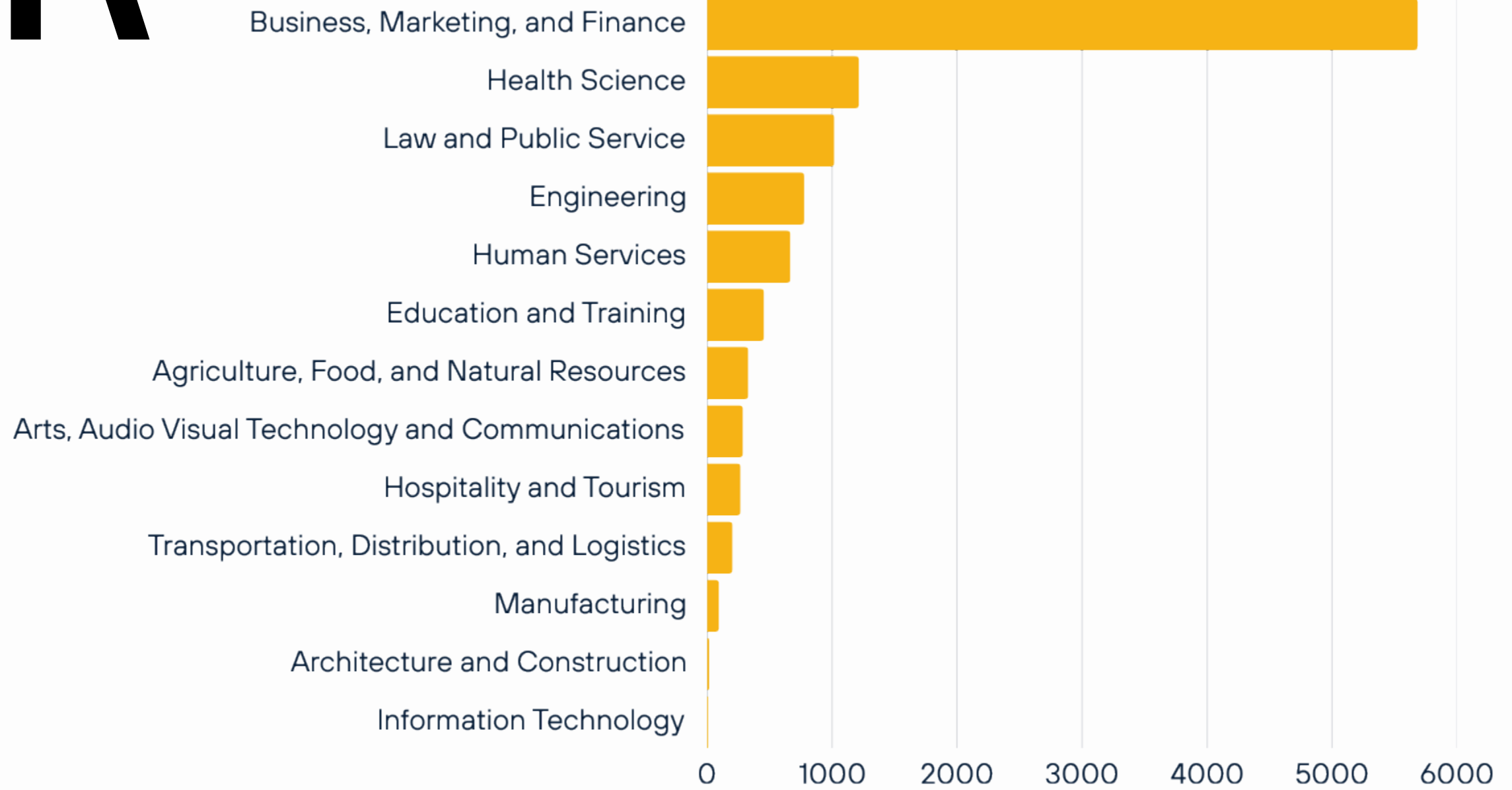
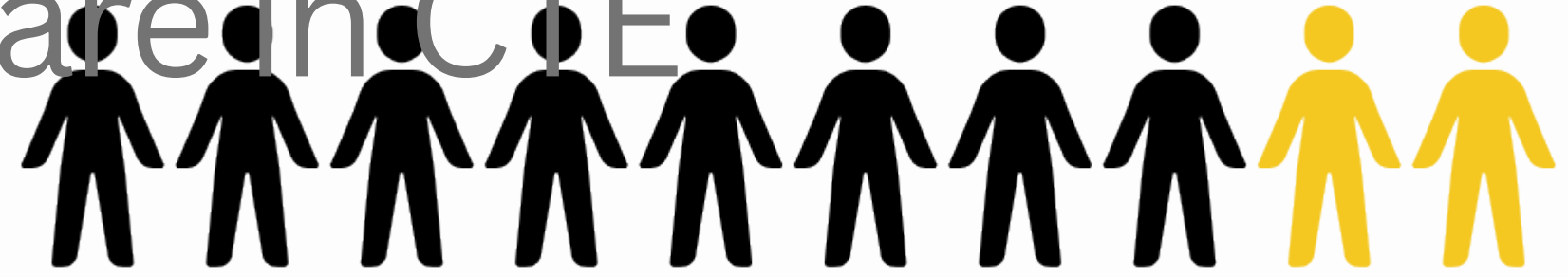
- Autodesk Associate (Certified User) Fusion 360

## Transportation, Distribution, and Logistics

- ASE Entry-Level Automobile Brakes (BR)
- ASE Entry-Level Automobile Suspension and Steering (SS)
- ASE Entry-Level Automobile Electronic/Electrical Systems (EE)
- ASE Entry-Level Automobile Engine Repair (ER)
- ASE Entry-Level Collision Non-Structural Analysis and Damage Repair (SR)
- ASE Entry-Level Collision Painting and Refinishing (PR)
- FAA Part 107 Remote Drone Pilot

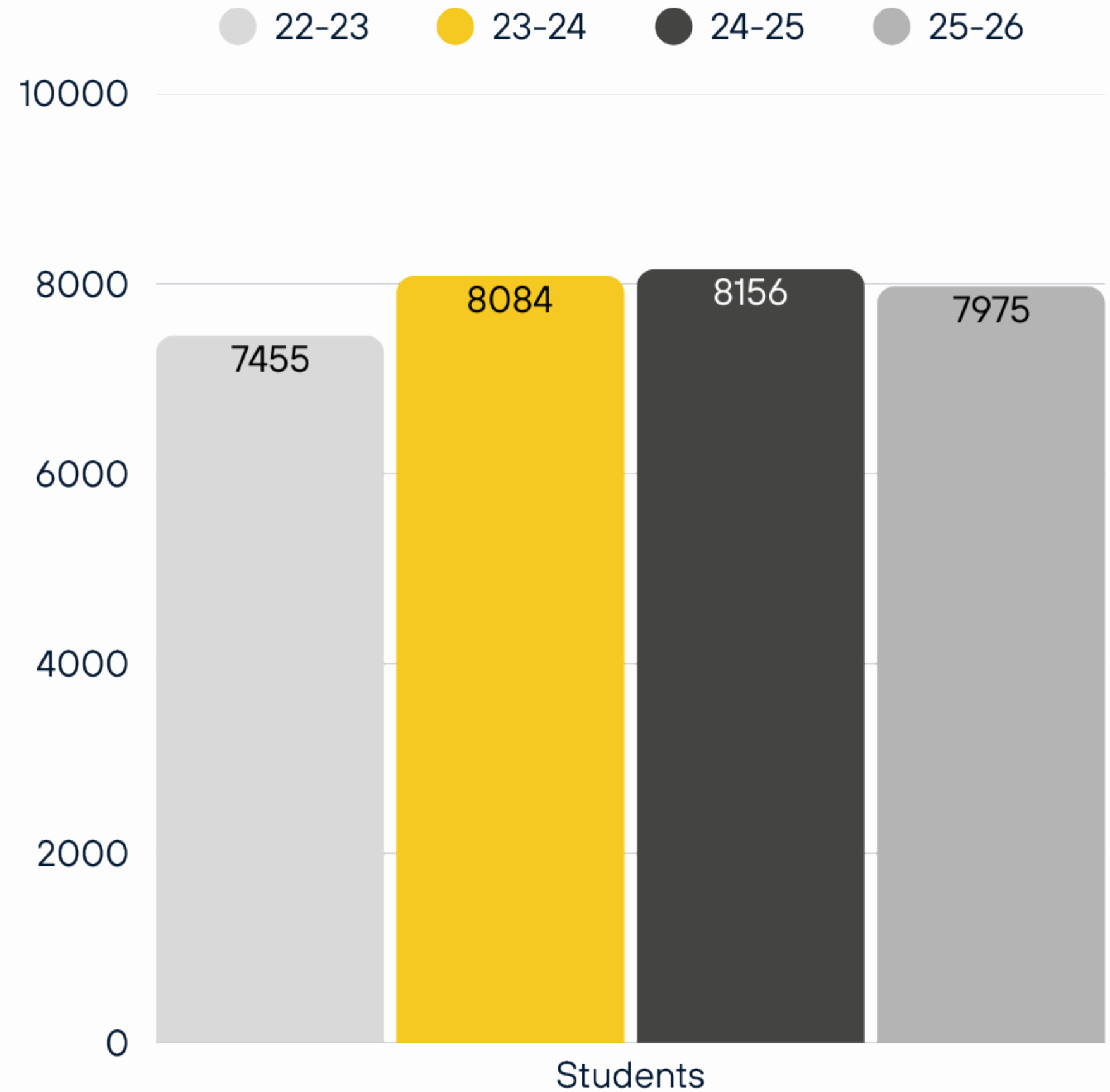
# BY THE NUMBER

85% of all HS students are in CTE



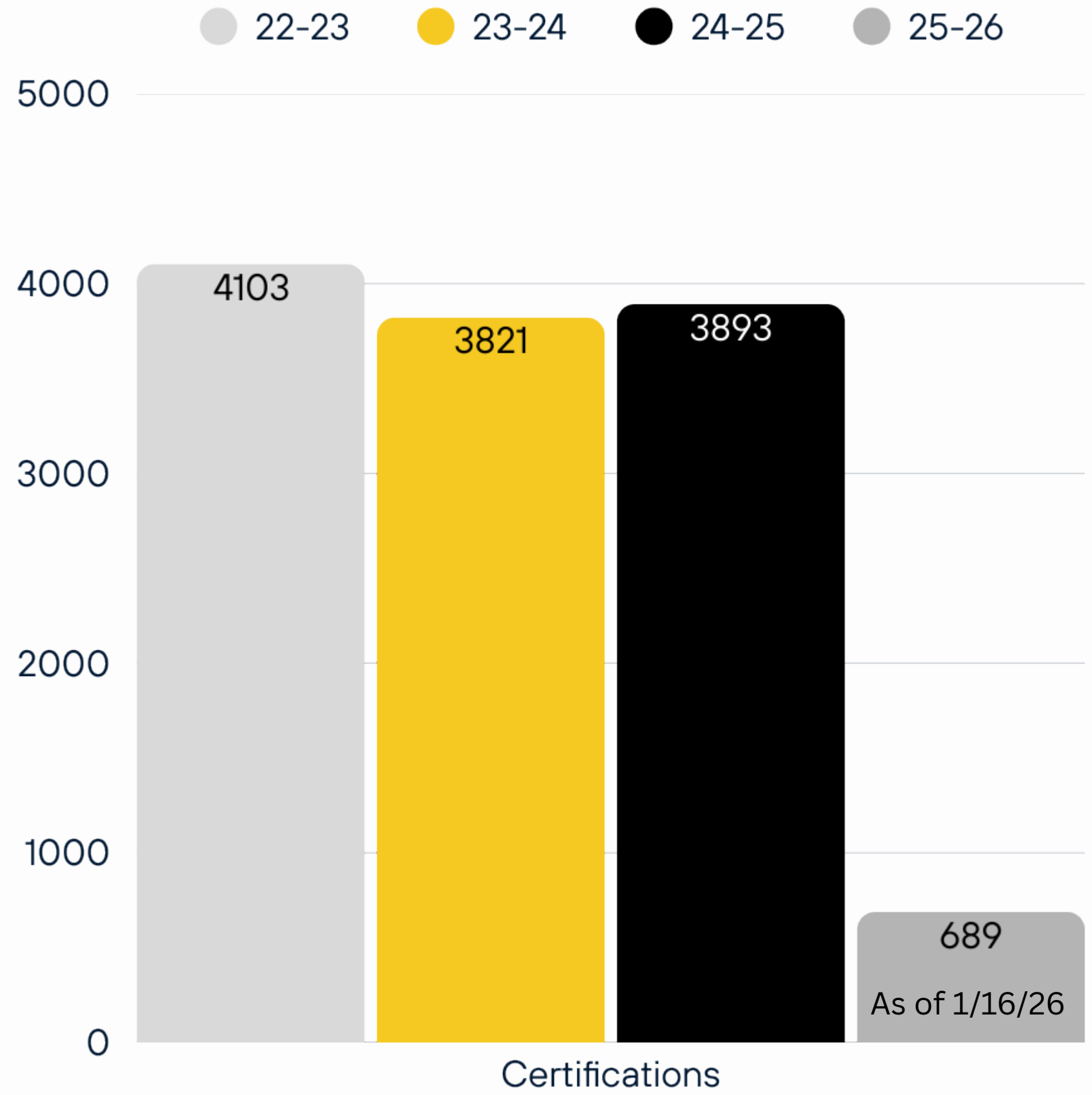
# BY THE NUMBER

Students taking CTE courses.



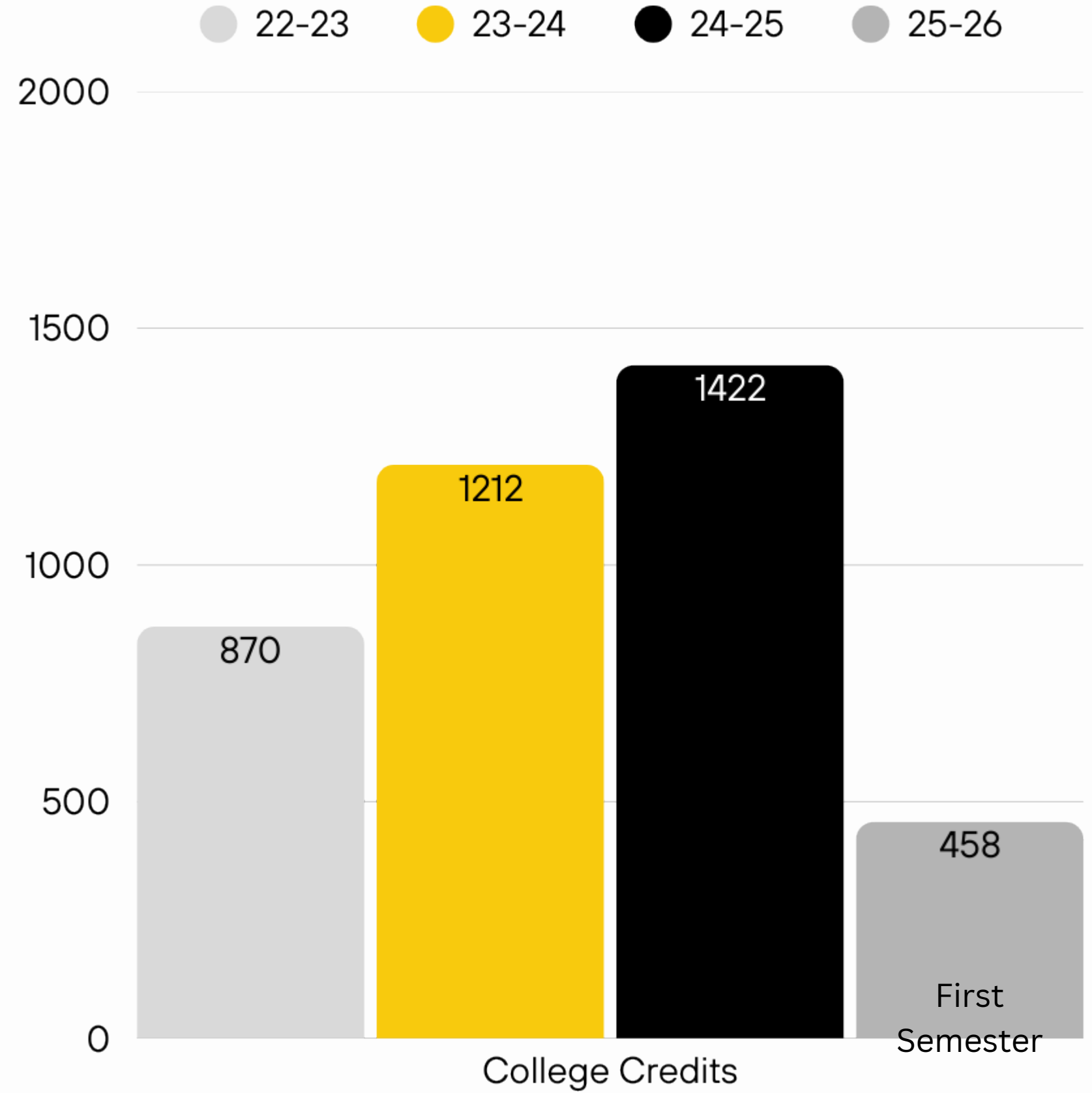
# BY THE NUMBER

TEA Approved Industry-Based Certifications.



# BY THE NUMBER

CTE Students are earning more College Credits.



**McALLEN ISD**  
WE ARE **ALL** IN!

  
**SOUTH TEXAS  
COLLEGE**



# P-TECH

AT ROWE

**McALLEN ISD**  
**CTE** Career  
Technical  
Education

# P-TECH



## Recruitment Efforts

- Our CTE Counselors along with our CCMR Coordinator have been providing Middle School students presentations on facts about this new program.
  - We created a website for parents/students to get more information.
  - We presented at the McAllen Has It All event and received good feedback from parents out of the district.
- We opened the application in November and will continue till August. We will take a count in April so that we may plan accordingly for the Summer Bridge.



# CAREER TECHNICAL EDUCATION DEPARTMENT

2025-2026

Leo Sáenz, Director - Career Technical Education

David Lyons, Coordinator - Career Technical Education

Diana Peña, Coordinator - Career Technical Education

Monica Peña, Coordinator - Career Technical Education

Pedro Alvarez, Coordinator - College, Career, & Military Readiness

# Preparing the Workforce of Tomorrow

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Career, College, Military

**READY**

# THANK YOU

## Questions?



**BOARD AGENDA REPORT  
MCALLEN INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT**

**MEETING DATE:** February 24, 2026

Attachment:

**SUBMITTED BY:** *Dr. Cynthia Olivarez*  
Dr. Cynthia Olivarez (Feb 13, 2026 14:01:18 CST)

**SUPERVISOR:** *Rosalba*  
Rosalba De Hoyos (Feb 13, 2026 16:41:17 CST)

**SUPERVISOR:** *Jeanette*  
Jeanette Nino (Feb 17, 2026 09:18:28 CST)

**Approved for presentation to the Board of Education:**

*Rene Gutierrez*  
64 RENE GUTIERREZ (Feb 17, 2026 09:19:59 CST)  
**Superintendent of Schools**



# Summer School Programs 2026

Presentation to Board of Trustees Tuesday, February 24, 2026





# Summer 2026

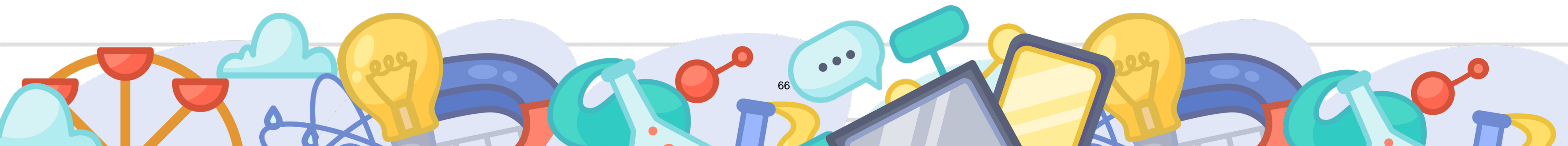


The purpose and intent of our McAllen ISD Summer Programs is to provide remediation (3-12) and enrichment opportunities for McAllen ISD students in grades K -12.




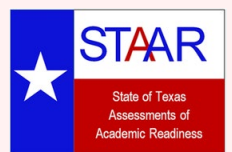
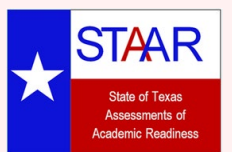
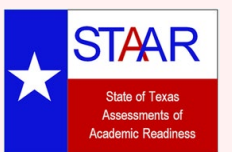


Start Date: Monday, June 8, 2026  
End Date: Friday, June 26, 2026  
Duration: 15 days (M-F)  
Instructional Time: 8:00-12:30\* (includes lunch time)

Bilingual Program required  
16 days of instruction;  
program will run June 5-26  
8:00-4:00 pm  
At 3 Elementary Sites

• excludes STC Summer Dual classes



# JUNE 2026

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	1	2 Last Day of School 	3 PD/Workday for Summer Staff *	4  GRADUATIONS	5 Bilingual Program Begins 	6
7 First Day of Summer Programs	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23 	24 	25 	26  Last Day	27
28	29	30	 June 3rd PD/Workday for all Summer Staff; Teachers attending NMSI will work halfday PM on Friday, June 5th			

# Summer Sites



## Elementary

Escandon ES

Jackson ES

McAuliffe ES

## Middle School

De Leon MS



## High School

McAllen HS

Achieve ECHS

Memorial HS

Lamar Options at AECHS

Rowe HS

STC Summer Dual Classes

## Navarro Parent Center

Migrant Education Summer Program

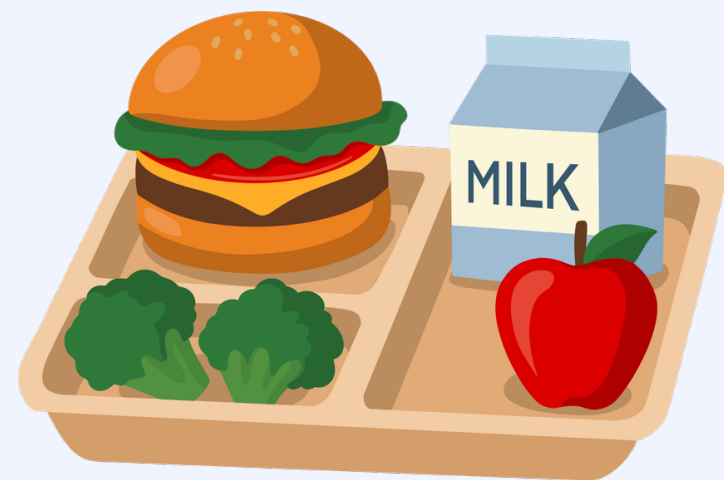
<sup>68</sup>Parent & Family Engagement Summer Program



# Summer Sites (Tentative)

- Alvarez Elementary
- Fields Elementary
- Garza Elementary
- Milam Elementary
- Roosevelt Elementary

# Daily Meals & Transportation



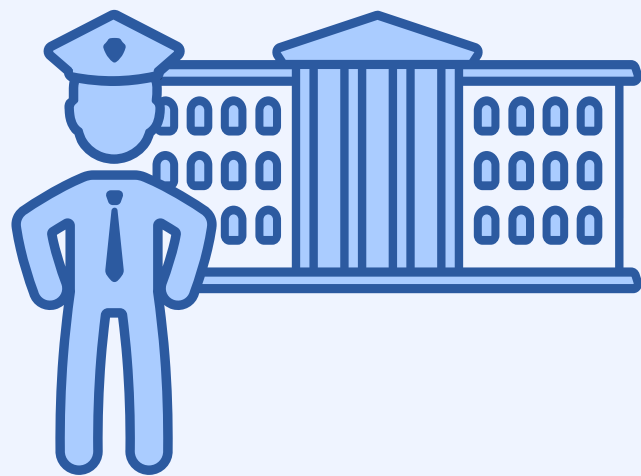
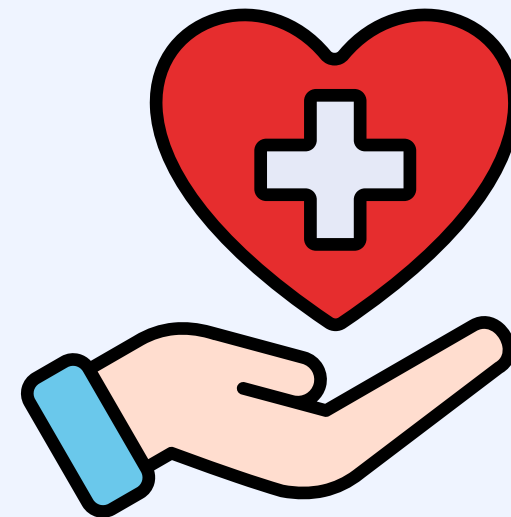
McAllen ISD Child Nutrition Department will provide breakfast and lunch at all Summer Program Sites. Meals will also be provided to McFun sites.

McAllen ISD Transportation Department will provide transportation to all Summer School Program sites. Pick-up and Drop-off will be from student's home school campus.



# Health & Safety

McAllen ISD Health Services Department will provide five (5) Registered Nurses from June 8–26. Nurses will be assigned a home campus and will travel as needed.



McAllen ISD Police Department will have an officer at each Summer Program Site. Two (2) officers will be assigned at each Comprehensive High School and AECHS.

McAuliffe Elem Site Cluster	At-Risk Total 3rd-5th	45%Summer Remediation	3rd Grade RLA and Math	4th Grade RLA and Math	5th Grade RLA and Math	
Castañeda	113	51	18	12	21	<b>McAuliffe</b>
Garza	87	39	13	12	14	<b>TOTAL</b>
Hendricks	104	47	17	14	16	<b>370</b>
<b>McAuliffe</b>	109	50	17	16	17	
Milam	143	65	21	21	23	<b>20 classrooms</b>
Sanchez	115	52	17	19	16	<b>@18:1</b>
Seguin	147	66	24	17	25	
			<b>127</b> (7 Classrooms)	<b>111</b> (6 Classrooms)	<b>132</b> (7 Classrooms)	
Escandon Elem Site Cluster	At-Risk Total 3rd-5th	45%Summer Remediation	3rd Grade RLA and Math	4th Grade RLA and Math	5th Grade RLA and Math	
Alvarez	89	40	13	14	13	<b>Escandon</b>
<b>Escandon</b>	95	44	12	18	14	<b>TOTAL</b>
Houston	113	51	17	16	18	<b>238</b>
Roosevelt	121	54	15	16	23	<b>13 classrooms</b>
Thigpen-Zavala	106	49	18	14	17	<b>@18:1</b>
			<b>75</b> (4 Classrooms)	<b>78</b> (4 Classrooms)	<b>85</b> (5 Classrooms)	
Jackson Elem Site Cluster	At-Risk Total 3rd-5th	45%Summer Remediation	3rd Grade RLA and Math	4th Grade RLA and Math	5th Grade RLA and Math	
Fields	135	61	26	19	16	<b>Jackson</b>
Gonzalez	117	53	18	14	21	<b>TOTAL</b>
<b>Jackson</b>	143	65	24	18	23	<b>304</b>
Perez	102	46	14	16	16	
Rayburn	80	36	17	8	11	<b>17 classrooms</b>
Wilson	96	43	10	18	15	<b>@18:1</b>
			<b>109</b> (6 Classrooms)	<b>93</b> (5 Classrooms)	<b>102</b> (6 Classrooms)	

# Summer

# 2026

# Enrollment

# per

# Elementary

# Site



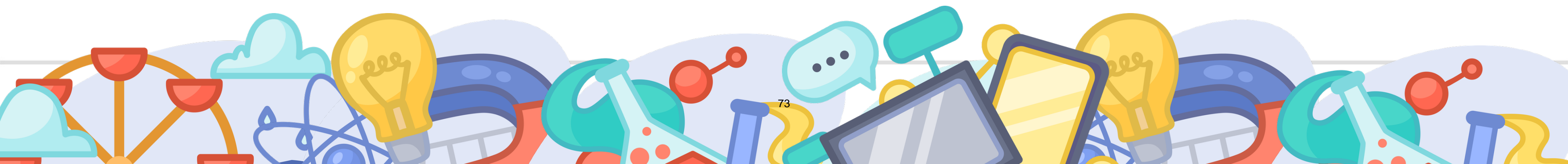


# Summer 2026



## Enrollment at Middle School Site

De Leon MS Site	At-Risk Total 6th-8th	18% Summer Remediation	6th Grade	7th Grade	8th Grade	
Brown	366	66	21	24	22	<b>De Leon TOTAL</b>
Cathey	413	74	23	27	25	
<b>De Leon</b>	472	85	26	31	28	
Fossum	393	71	21	21	28	<b>23 classrooms @18:1</b>
Morris	379	68	23	23	22	
Travis	307	55	15	19	21	
			<b>129</b> (7 Classrooms)	<b>145</b> (8 Classrooms)	<b>146</b> (8 Classrooms)	



# Summer Payrate

## McALLEN INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT 2026 SUMMER SCHOOL/PROGRAM RATES

June 5, 2026 through July 31, 2026

**PENDING** Board Approved February 24, 2026

Summer School/Program Position	Remediation Hourly Pay Rate	Enrichment Hourly Pay Rate
Summer School Director	\$45	-----
Program Lead Teacher	\$41	\$33
Teacher/Coach	\$40	\$32
Instructional Assistant	\$13	\$12
Instructional Assistant for Tech Support	\$13	\$12
Counselor	\$36	-----
Registered Nurse	\$36	-----
Health Assistant/LVN	\$22	-----
Summer School Secretary	\$15	-----
Office Clerk	\$13	-----
Social Worker	\$33	-----
Graduation Specialist	\$33	-----
Parent & Family Engagement Specialist	\$33	-----
STAAR Test Administrator/Proctor	-----	\$40
Parent Educator (degreed) (Parent and Family Engagement Program)	-----	\$32
Parent Educator (non-degreed) (Parent and Family Engagement Program)	-----	\$15
Child Care Aide (Parent and Family Engagement Program)	-----	\$13
Part-Time Clerk (Parent and Family Engagement Program)	-----	\$10
Bus Drivers	current hourly rate	
Bus Aides	\$12	
Child Nutrition Workers	current hourly rate	
Child Nutrition Asst Managers/Managers	current hourly rate	
Teacher/Professional/Paraprofessional Support Staff Staff Development/Workday	6 hours - \$100/day (Under 6 hours - \$16.67 hour)	
Professional/Paraprofessional Summer School Registration	\$14	
Substitute Pay (for degreed and certified)	\$20	
Tutors – Certified Teachers	\$25	
Tutors – Non-certified, bachelor's degree	\$20	
Tutors- College students	\$12	
Other hourly employees asked to work beyond their work calendar for summer school	current hourly rate	

A decorative border on the left and right sides of the slide, featuring various science-related icons such as a lightbulb, a microscope, a globe, a book, a computer monitor, and a DNA helix.

Thank You!

Questions?

**BOARD AGENDA REPORT  
MCALLEN INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT**

**MEETING DATE:** February 24, 2026

Attachment:

**SUBMITTED BY:** *Alberto Canales*  
Alberto Canales (Feb 13, 2026 15:17:03 CST)

**SUPERVISOR:** *Lorena Garcia*  
Lorena Garcia (Feb 13, 2026 16:13:34 CST)

**SUPERVISOR:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Approved for presentation to the Board of Education:**

*Rene Gutierrez*  
76 RENE GUTIERREZ (Feb 13, 2026 16:50:31 CST)  
\_\_\_\_\_  
**Superintendent of Schools**

**BOARD AGENDA REPORT  
MCALLEN INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT**

**MEETING DATE:** February 24, 2026

**Attachment:**

**SUBMITTED BY:** *Alberto Canales*  
Alberto Canales (Feb 17, 2026 09:06:57 CST)

**SUPERVISOR:** *Lorena Garcia*  
Lorena Garcia (Feb 17, 2026 10:51:30 CST)

**Approved for presentation to the Board of Education:**

*Rene Gutierrez*  
RENE GUTIERREZ (Feb 17, 2026 11:45:22 CST)

**Pilot Apprenticeship Pathway  
Related Technical Instruction Partnership Agreement**

This Pilot Apprenticeship Pathway Related Technical Instruction (“RTI”) Partnership Agreement (“Agreement”) is effective as of the date of the last signature below between Western Governors University (“WGU” or “RTI Provider”), a Utah nonprofit corporation located at 4001 South 700 East, Suite 700, Salt Lake City, UT 84107, and edwell, Inc. (“Sponsor” or “edwell”), a nonprofit corporation doing business in Texas with a Federal Department of Labor Registered Apprenticeship Program. Employer Partners may be added to this Agreement by executing an Appendix (“Employer Partners”). Each entity is a “Party” and collectively the “Parties”.

WHEREAS the Parties desire to establish a partnership that will ensure the provision of high-quality pathways to develop K-12 teacher talent pipelines designed to support employers and candidates participating in the Registered Apprenticeship Program (“Apprentices”), as registered with the Department of Labor’s Office of Apprenticeship (the “Program”);

WHEREAS the Parties consider the Program to be a pilot to test the long-term sustainability of this funding model for teacher apprenticeships at scale, with the shared goal of little to no cost to the Apprentice; and

WHEREAS the Parties are dedicated to elevating the demand for high-quality talent and are committed to sustaining employer-led partnerships that focus on the holistic development of the Apprentices.

NOW, THEREFORE, in recognition of our mutual commitments and the shared vision to foster a transformative educational experience, the Parties hereby agree as follows:

**I. Addition of Employer Partners**

- a. Employer Partner Appendix.** Employer Partners may join this Agreement by executing an Employer Partner Appendix (each, an “Appendix”), the form of which is attached as Exhibit 1, becoming a Party to the Agreement and committing to its terms and conditions. For the avoidance of doubt, Employer Partners are in privity of contract with Sponsor and RTI Provider only. Individual Employer Partners are not in privity of contract with any other Employer Partners. Further, obligations under this Agreement apply only to individual Employer Partners, and do not apply to Employer Partners collectively as a group.
- b. Integration.** Upon signing an Appendix, the Employer Partner agrees to collaborate with the RTI Provider and Sponsor, contributing to the shared purpose and commitments outlined in this Agreement.

**II. Purpose**

- a.** This Agreement's main purpose is to test the long-term sustainability of the Program’s funding model for teacher apprenticeships at scale, with the shared goal of little low to no cost to the Apprentice, and to affirm the Parties’ commitment to the advancement of teacher Registered Apprenticeship Programs that reflect the core values and structure inherent in the following five pillars of successful apprenticeship models. The Parties’ collaborative efforts are designed to provide:
  - 1. Collaborative Financial Stewardship: Financial stewardship is paramount to the Program's sustainability and efficacy. To achieve this, Parties will engage collectively in proactively seeking and applying for grants, scholarships, and other funding opportunities that align with the Program's goals. Parties will also collaborate on grant proposals, leveraging combined expertise to secure funding, establish effective utilization strategies to maximize educational impact, and engage in

regular financial reviews. Additionally, sharing resources and maintaining open communication will be explored to foster innovation and prudent management. Grants awarded to the Sponsor, and Employer Consortium members (as defined below) as beneficiaries or their apprentices, may require action and accountability of Employer Consortium members as outlined in the grant deliverables.

2. Structured Learning: Deliver a comprehensive curriculum that combines theoretical knowledge with practical skills, aimed at fostering a robust understanding of effective teaching practices.
  3. On-the-Job Training (“OJT”): Ensure that Apprentices receive hands-on, experiential learning under the mentorship of experienced educators within real-world educational settings, as part of their required RTI.
  4. Reward for Skill Gains: Recognize and compensate Apprentice advancements in both knowledge and skill application, aligning incentives with each stage of professional development.
  5. A National Occupational Credential: Culminate in the achievement of a recognized teaching credential that validates the Apprentice’s capability and readiness to excel in the education field.
- b. By embracing these pillars, the Parties aim to create a supportive, structured pathway that empowers aspiring teachers, enriches the educational landscape, and upholds the integrity and quality of the teaching profession.

Collaboration is founded on mutual respect and a shared vision for the professional growth of Apprentices. The Parties are committed to fostering an environment that is both nurturing and rigorous, equipping future educators with the skills and knowledge necessary to excel in their teaching careers. The Parties commit to working together to enhance innovation for the Program, aim to consistently enrich the educational journey and achievements of Apprentices, and seek to discover resource-sharing opportunities that can streamline Program delivery. This collaboration sets a benchmark for apprenticeship strategies that effectively integrate OJT with academic credit.

### III. Term and Termination

- a. This Agreement shall be effective on the date the last signature is executed and will remain in effect for a period of three (3) years. It will automatically renew for successive three-year terms unless the RTI Provider or Sponsor provides thirty (30) days prior written notice to all other Parties terminate or amend the Agreement.
- b. RTI Provider or Sponsor may terminate this Agreement, without penalty, for any reason on thirty (30) days’ prior written notice to all other Parties.
- c. Employer Partners may terminate at any time, provided that Employer Partner termination is only effective as to that individual Employer Partner.
- d. In the event of early termination, the RTI Provider agrees to ensure that each Apprentice currently receiving an educational benefit under this Agreement will continue to receive the full value of that benefit towards their studies at the RTI Provider, provided the Apprentice remains in good academic and financial standing. Sponsor shall pay WGU any outstanding financial obligation of remaining enrolled Apprentices that remain in good academic and financial standing.
- e. Each Appendix shall terminate upon termination or expiration of this Agreement.

### IV. Roles and Responsibilities of the Parties

The success of the Program hinges on clear communication, well-defined expectations, and the strong collaboration of all Parties involved. This section lays out the specific roles and responsibilities that each Party—

the Sponsor, the Employer Partner, and the RTI Provider—will uphold. By explicitly delineating these duties, the Parties aim to foster a transparent and effective working relationship that facilitates the growth and development of our Apprentices.

**a. Sponsor Role and Responsibilities**

1. General Obligations. Serves as the Sponsor for each Employer Partner listed in an Appendix. Sponsor represents the interest of employers through an employer consortium (“Employer Consortium”). The Employer Consortium creates a more robust, efficient, and impactful Program that supports the development of a highly trained and prepared workforce.
2. Program Standards. Oversee the Program and facilitate a Program steering committee and apprentice committee, within the Employer Consortium to ensure all Program standards and components reflect employer-driven strategies and training goals to establish high-quality talent pipelines for K-12 teacher preparation and development.
3. Registration and Compliance. Ensure the Program is registered with the appropriate state or federal apprenticeship agencies and complies with all applicable regulations and standards. This includes adherence to any federal and/or state reporting and compliance requirements, and accurate maintenance of program records to uphold the Program's integrity. Sponsor will ensure access to data tracking software and Registered Apprenticeship Partners Information Database System (“RAPIDS”) for monitoring and managing all necessary information, including competency-based training requirements as required by the Department of Labor (“DOL”) and applicable local workforce board. All data sharing by Sponsor will comply with FERPA regulations to maintain the confidentiality and security of Apprentice information.
4. OJT. The Sponsor serves as a provider of OJT-related training and, accordingly, will collaborate with Employer Partners for OJT implementation and facilitation. The Sponsor ensures that OJT microcredential training resources are readily accessible and aligned to competency program standards and can be effectively implemented by the Employer Partner.
5. Funding Eligibility Maintenance. Facilitate and coordinate the eligibility and maintenance process for Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (“WIOA”) funding and communicate timelines, resources, and technical assistance to support completion of this process for each Apprentice. This includes providing and paying for training, tuition, and related expenses on behalf of eligible Apprentices to RTI Provider and Employer Partners to implement and facilitate OJT requirements with funds allocated per Apprentice within their training award from applicable workforce development boards.
6. Talent Acquisition. Sponsor will collaborate with Employer Partner to facilitate Employer Partner’s selection of Apprentices, as described in Section IV(b)(2) below, to enroll in a licensure or degree program provided by RTI Provider, provided, however, that RTI Provider has ultimate discretion on Apprentice enrollment in its licensure or degree programs. As part of this collaboration, Sponsor will provide resources and information to support Employer Partner-initiated recruitment strategies to support localized program goals. Specific licensure or degree programs available may vary by state and RTI Provider will communicate available licensure or degree programs in accordance with Section IV(c)(1) below.

7. Advocacy and Public Relations. Engage in legislative advocacy efforts related to teacher certifications and apprenticeship programs and engage in public relation efforts to elevate the teaching profession and share Program success.

**b. Employer Partner Role and Responsibilities**

1. Program Standards. Maintain compliance with Program standards and competencies to ensure Apprentices meet Program requirements and earn increased compensation for skill gains.
2. Talent Acquisition. Sponsor will collaborate with Employer Partner, as described in Section IV(a)(6) above, and Employer Partner will identify and select Apprentices to enroll in a licensure or degree program provided by RTI Provider, provided, however, that RTI Provider has ultimate discretion on Apprentice enrollment in its licensure or degree programs. Specific licensure or degree programs available may vary by state and RTI Provider will communicate available licensure or degree programs in accordance with Section IV(c)(1) below. Employer Partner will initiate and engage in recruiting and hiring Apprentices for employment and placement based on campus vacancies, ensuring a qualified pool of candidates for the Program that meets the Employer Partner's needs. The Sponsor will follow up with additional guidance regarding the talent acquisition process for subsequent years if applicable.
3. OJT, Placement & Mentorship. Collaborate with Sponsor to provide Apprentices with OJT aligned with the Program standards and competencies. OJT is tailored to the Apprentice's current role and complements the RTI Provider's courses. OJT is required on a monthly basis and proficiency must be demonstrated using a defined rubric. Each Apprentice will be assigned an on-ramp OJT level based on previously earned credit and college experience. There are a total of four (4) on-ramps that have OJT resources aligned to the Program standards. If an Apprentice accelerates the RTI requirements related to their degree program with RTI Provider, their on-ramp placement will only adjust at the start of each semester as defined by the Employer Partner and aligned to the Employer Partner's school year calendar. Employer Partner must provide each Apprentice with a mentor or success coach during on-ramps 1-3, with a recommended ratio of 50:1 to support continuous development and the implementation of the OJT microcredential training. During on-ramp 4, the Employer Partner will nominate a qualified mentor teacher to support the Apprentice. The assigned mentor teacher may additionally meet the definition of a Clinical Mentor Teacher, pursuant to the Appendix. For more information regarding Placement & Clinical Mentors, please see the Appendix.
4. Performance Evaluation & Program Progression. Evaluate Apprentice performance in the workplace and provide feedback to both the Apprentice and the Sponsor on progression within the Program to foster continuous improvement and development as necessary.
5. Communication: Maintain open communication with the Sponsor and RTI Provider regarding any Apprentice changes within 5 (five) days to ensure transparency and effective management of the Program.
6. Program Records & Compliance: Adherence to state and federal reporting and compliance requirements and accurate maintenance of Program records to uphold the Program's integrity. Data management and training will be conducted in the designated software application provided by Sponsor and RAPIDS to track metrics required by the DOL and applicable workforce

board. All data sharing by Employer Partner will comply with FERPA regulations to maintain the confidentiality and security of Apprentice information.

7. Sustainability & Economic Mobility. Ensure the sustainability of the Program by managing internal budgets and internal funding strategies that meet the talent acquisition needs of the Employer Partner, including low-cost/no-cost pathways for teacher certification. Support Apprentices in achieving economic mobility by providing opportunities for career advancement and increased earning potential through the Program.
8. Safety and Compliance. Maintain a safe working environment and adhere to all occupational safety and health laws and regulations, ensuring the well-being of all Apprentices.

### **c. RTI Provider Role and Responsibilities**

1. Program Standards. Maintain sole responsibility for all aspects of any WGU program, degree, certification, curriculum, and applicable accreditations, and retain sole discretion in admission decisions. Specific program offerings are subject to state regulation. In a reasonably timely manner, RTI Provider shall communicate to Sponsor and Employer Partner available program offerings and changes to available programs based on Apprentice's state of residence. RTI Provider shall retain sole discretion on availability and sole responsibility for all aspects of any program, certification, curriculum, and applicable accreditations for any degree or licensure program made available to Apprentices via this Agreement.
2. Admissions. While RTI Provider retains sole discretion in admission decisions, RTI Provider agrees to reasonably collaborate with the Sponsor and the Employer Partner to ensure Apprentices identified meet RTI Provider's eligibility requirements and demonstrate readiness to successfully complete the relevant certification program requirements. In accordance with its transfer credit policies, RTI Provider will review and approve applicable transfer credits as part of the admissions process in a timely manner. Apprentices who do not meet WGU's admission requirements will be provided the opportunity to start with WGU's Introductory Term prior to the commencement of the Program. All Apprentices will begin their Introductory Term or first Academic Term (as defined in Section V(a) below) with RTI Provider by May 1, 2026, unless otherwise mutually agreed upon in writing by the Parties
3. Communication. Identification of a single point of contact for both Sponsor and the Employer Partner to manage all aspects related to admissions, enrollment, advising, and billing. This designated point of contact will coordinate internally to ensure appropriate support and assistance. Keeping parties informed of the certification progress of Apprentices.
4. Program Evaluation & Progression. The RTI Provider will ensure curriculum alignment with the Program standards. RTI Provider assigns faculty to assist in navigating coursework, content exams, and any applicable field experience to all Apprentices. Additionally, the RTI provider assesses Apprentices' progress and, upon request, communicates this to the Employer Partner and the Sponsor. RTI Provider will work closely with Employer Partners and Sponsor to support Program progression and completion.
5. Program Records & Compliance. The RTI Provider ensures accurate maintenance of Program records, compliance with legal and regulatory requirements, proper data management, and ensure all data sharing complies with FERPA regulations, safeguarding Apprentice information.

**V. Tuition, Billing and Payment Terms**

The Parties agree to the following payment and billing terms:

- a. Billing and Payment.** Sponsor agrees to pay RTI Provider for each six (6)-month academic term (each, an “Academic Term”) for all enrolled Apprentice. RTI Provider will invoice Sponsor for each enrolled Apprentice after the completion of each Academic Term and within thirty (30) days of commencement of a subsequent Academic Term. Each invoice will include two (2) Academic Terms: the completed Academic Term and the current Academic Term. Sponsor shall remit payment for both Academic Terms in full within 30 days of invoice receipt. For the final Academic Term, RTI Provider will invoice Sponsor the final amount due within 30 days of the start of the final term and Sponsor will remit payment in full within thirty (30) days of invoice receipt. All Parties share the mutual objective of achieving low to no cost for Apprentices and are committed to working in good faith towards that goal. Notwithstanding these efforts, any outstanding tuition balance for the second and third academic years of the Program following the payments outlined in Section V(c) below shall be the responsibility of the Employer Partner. For the sake of clarity, Employer Partner is not responsible for such outstanding balances in the first academic year (two (2) Academic Terms) of the Program.

  1. The Parties agree and are committed to seeking philanthropic partners to support the expansion and scaling of teacher apprenticeships in this pilot. The Parties further agree that eligible financial aid (excluding loans) shall be applied first toward the Apprentice’s program-related costs. Thereafter, available WIOA funds, Employer Contributions (as defined below), philanthropic contributions, and Sponsor scholarship opportunities may be applied to meet any financial need for approved program costs. All such funding shall be coordinated in alignment with program sustainability goals and applicable regulatory and compliance requirements, and shall be fully applied prior to any additional funding obligations on behalf of the Employer Partner as outlined in Section V(c)(3)(1) below.
- b. Billing.** Sponsor agrees to abide by the direct billing guidelines attached as Exhibit 2 with respect to invoices and payments of tuition and fees under this Agreement.
- c. Payments by the Parties.** The Parties agree to collaborate on payment as follows:

  1. Master of Arts in Teaching (“MAT”) programs will be charged at standard tuition. For all other eligible RTI Provider programs, RTI Provider will offer a tuition discount amounting to approximately 35% off its standard tuition for the first academic year (two (2) Academic Terms) for each Apprentice enrolled in the Program and submit an estimated annual Apprentice tuition statement for each Apprentice to Sponsor upon Apprentice enrollment. RTI Provider will provide an estimated annual Apprentice tuition statement to Sponsor and Employer Partner as necessary.
  2. The Sponsor agrees to pay for each enrolled Apprentice eligible for Workforce Innovation Opportunity Act (“WIOA”) funding up to the allowable amount based on the applicable workforce board partners where Sponsor is approved as an Education & Training Provider, payable upon receipt of funding. Any WIOA funding received by the Sponsor by the end of May 2026 will be applied to the eligible Apprentice’s tuition or fees. Any WIOA funding received by the Sponsor after May 2026 will be applied to the eligible Apprentice’s tuition or fees as soon as practicable.
  3. **For MAT programs:** The Parties agree that the Employer Contribution amount shall be \$6,000.00 per Apprentice for the first academic year of the Program. The Parties further agree

that the Employer Contribution amount may be adjusted or increased for subsequent academic years of the Program. No later than March 1 of each year during the term of this Agreement, RTI Provider and Sponsor shall mutually notify Employer Partner of the Employer Contribution amount for an upcoming academic year.

4. **For all other RTI Provider programs:** The Parties agree that the Employer Contribution amount shall be \$3,500.00 per Apprentice for the first academic year of the Program. The Parties further agree that the Employer Contribution amount may be adjusted or increased for subsequent academic years of the Program. No later than March 1 of each year during the term of this Agreement, RTI Provider and Sponsor shall mutually notify Employer Partner of the Employer Contribution amount for an upcoming academic year.
  - i. The Employer Partner agrees to pay Program related costs to the Sponsor on an annual basis, with no more than \$75.00 of that amount deducted directly from the Apprentice's paycheck on a monthly basis at Employer Partner's option ("Employer Contribution"). An additional Employer Contribution of up to \$2,500.00 per Apprentice may be payable in the event that the Employer Partner and/or the Apprentice do not complete all available funding opportunities presented by the Sponsor. If the Apprentice is not in compliance with these Sponsor requirements, this amount may be assigned to the Apprentice. This additional contribution is a requirement of the Sponsor, established to support long-term sustainability for Employer Partners and is not a requirement of WGU.
5. Any excess WIOA funding received by the Sponsor, after full application to the applicable eligible Apprentice fees, will be sent to the Employer Partner as reimbursement for Employer Partner contributions paid to the Sponsor per Section V(c)(3), as part of the approved Program cost for each eligible Apprentice. The RTI Provider agrees that any funds collected and not applied to eligible program training costs will be sent back to the Sponsor for submission to the applicable workforce development board.
6. Scholarships may be awarded to Apprentices, if applicable, at RTI Provider's sole discretion.
- d. **WGU Introductory Term Fees:** Apprentices who do not meet WGU's admission requirements will be provided the opportunity to start with WGU's Introductory Term prior to the commencement of the Program. WGU's Introductory Term offers pre-requisite courses to prepare Apprentices for success in their Program. The Sponsor will assume responsibility for all Introductory Term fees so long as the Apprentice completes their Introductory Term courses and enrolls in a WGU program upon completion. If the Apprentice enrolls in an Introductory Term but fails to complete the courses and/or chooses not to enroll in a WGU program upon completion of the Introductory Term courses, the Sponsor shall be reimbursed by the Employer Partner for the Apprentice's Introductory Term fee.
- e. **Refund of Tuition and Fees.** If an Apprentice withdraws from their Program at any point, WGU shall provide a refund in accordance with WGU's Institutional Withdrawal Refund Policy located at <https://cm.wgu.edu/t5/WGU-Student-Policy-Handbook/Institutional-Withdrawal-Refund-Policy/ta-p/87>.
- f. **Apprentice Withdrawal.** The Employer Partner must provide communication to both RTI Provider and Sponsor for a withdrawn Apprentice within five (5) days of withdrawal from the Program. If an Apprentice withdraws at any point, Sponsor shall pay WGU any outstanding financial obligation of such Apprentice within sixty (60) days of the Apprentice's withdrawal. The RTI Provider agrees to apply any

unused tuition funds against future Apprentice tuition and fees. Any portion that was paid with WIOA funding will be submitted back to the local workforce development board by the Sponsor.

- g. Apprentice Change of Program.** If an Apprentice switches to a program that is not within the scope of Sponsor's agreed financial responsibility, then the Apprentice will be billed personally for tuition and fees.

## **VI. Logo Use and Branding**

Each Party reserves the right to control the use of its name, logo, trademarks, and any other identifying marks ("Marks") in every respect. Each Party agrees to obtain prior express written permission from the other before such usage, except as otherwise permitted under this Agreement. The use of Marks shall be consistent with any communicated guidelines or directions. In the event of termination or expiration of this Agreement, each Party shall remove the other Party's information from its website and cease use of the other Party's marks.

## **VII. Data Sharing**

- a.** The Parties agree to share Apprentice information and data as necessary for the administration of the Program and for fulfilling reporting requirements to the Department of Labor or other regulatory bodies ("Apprentice Data"). Apprentice Data sharing shall be conducted in full compliance with applicable privacy laws.
- b.** The Parties acknowledge that Apprentice Data may include student education records protected by the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA). For the purposes of this Agreement, Sponsor and Employer Partner may each be considered a "school official" with "legitimate educational interests" (as those terms have been defined under FERPA and its implementing regulations) in such education records as applicable. This designation is limited to the extent necessary for the Parties to fulfill their obligations under this Agreement.
- c.** Each Party agrees to implement and maintain appropriate and industry-standard safeguards to prevent unauthorized access to or use of Apprentice Data.
- d.** Each Party agrees to ensure that access to Apprentice Data is limited to individuals authorized by this Agreement and who require such information to perform their Program duties.
- e.** Each Party agrees to notify each other promptly of any breach or suspected breach of confidentiality or data security concerning Apprentice Data.
- f.** Each Party agrees to execute any additional agreements or documents as may be necessary to facilitate the lawful sharing of Apprentice Data in accordance with this Agreement.

## **VIII. Non-discrimination**

The Parties will not discriminate against any individual based on race, religion, creed, color, gender, sexual orientation, age, disability, veteran status, national origin, or other protected status or characteristic.

## **IX. Confidentiality**

All Parties agree to maintain the confidentiality of any proprietary or confidential information received from the other party during the term of this Agreement or in connection with the Program. Confidential information shall not be disclosed to any third parties without prior written consent, except as required by law.

## **X. Amendments**

This Agreement may be amended only by a written agreement duly executed by authorized representatives of all Parties.

**XI. Miscellaneous**

- a. Licensing Jurisdiction.** WGU programs leading to professional licenses will continue to meet the applicable requirements of the licensing authorities in the State of Utah. To the extent applicable, WGU's certification officers will work with Apprentices to obtain a license outside the State of Utah.
- b. Governing Law.** This Agreement will be governed by the laws of the State of Utah, without regard to its conflict of laws rules.
- c. No Relationship.** Sponsor, RTI Provider, and Employer Partner are independent contractors and nothing in this Agreement shall be construed to create an agency, employer/employee, partnership, joint venture, or any other relationship between the Parties.
- d. Entire Agreement.** This Agreement supersedes any prior agreements, whether oral or written, between the Employer Partner, Sponsor, and RTI Provider relating to the subject matter of this Agreement. This Agreement may only be modified by a written amendment signed by all Parties.
- e. Assignment, Waiver and Severability.** The Parties may not assign this Agreement or any of its rights or obligations without each other Party's written consent. Neglect by a Party to enforce any rights under this Agreement shall not be deemed a waiver of that Party's rights. If any part of this Agreement is declared unenforceable or invalid, the remainder shall continue to be valid and enforceable.
- f. Force Majeure.** The Parties shall not be liable for performance delays nor for non-performance due to causes beyond its reasonable control, except for payment obligations.
- g. Dispute Resolution.** In the event a dispute arises respecting this Agreement which cannot be resolved in the normal course of business, then upon written notice each Party agrees to promptly respond and make a good-faith effort to resolve the dispute via informal means. Each Party shall appoint a designated senior official to meet virtually for the purpose of resolving such dispute. No legal proceedings for the resolution of such disputes may be commenced until a Party reasonably concludes and notifies the other Party in writing that an acceptable resolution through continued discussion does not appear likely.
- h. Notices.** Any and all notices required or permitted in connection with this Agreement shall be in writing and shall be delivered by a nationally recognized express delivery service that provides a receipt, sent via certified or registered mail, return receipt requested, or sent via email to the designated representative of a Party with confirmation of receipt to the addresses set forth below or to such other address as either party may from time to time designate in writing.

For notice purposes:

Western Governors University  
Attn: Office of General Counsel  
Address: 4001 South 700 East, Suite 700  
Salt Lake City, UT 84107-2533  
Email: legal@wgu.edu

For notice purposes:

Edwell, Inc.  
Attn: Kristi Kirschner  
Address:  
Email:

- i. Counterparts.** This Agreement may be signed by electronic means and in any number of counterparts, each of which shall be deemed to be an original and all of which constitute one instrument.

The parties have executed this Apprentice Related Training and Instruction Partnership Agreement as of the date of latest signature below.

---

**Name:** Jeff Borden  
**Role:** Senior Vice President, School of Education  
**Date:**  
Western Governors University

---

**Name:** Kristi Kirschner  
**Role:** President  
**Date:**  
edwell, Inc.

**Designated Primary Contact – RTI Provider**

**Program Contact – Sponsor**

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Name

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Name

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Title

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Title

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Email

---

Email

**Exhibit 1**  
**EMPLOYER PARTNER APPENDIX**

This Appendix (“Appendix”) is incorporated into and forms a part of the Apprenticeship Pathway Related Technical Instruction Partnership Agreement (“Agreement”) and is effective as of the date of the signature below between Western Governors University (“RTI Provider”), a Utah nonprofit corporation, located 4001 South 700 East, Suite 700, Salt Lake City, UT 84107 and edwell, Inc. (“Sponsor”), a nonprofit corporation doing business in Texas with a Federal Department of Labor Registered Apprenticeship Program and McAllen ISD, a Public School District in Texas (“Employer Partner”). Capitalized terms not otherwise defined shall have the meanings ascribed in the Agreement. In the event of any conflict or inconsistency between the terms of this Appendix and the terms set forth in the Agreement, the terms of this Appendix shall control and govern.

WHEREAS the Employer Partner acknowledges receipt of the Agreement and agrees to be bound by its terms and conditions, as if Employer Partner were an original party to the Agreement.

WHEREAS the Employer Partner further acknowledges and agrees to comply with the requirements of the Clinical Experience as outlined below for each Apprentice attending RTI Provider. RTI Provider is nationally accredited by the Northwest Commission on Colleges and Universities (“NWCCU”). RTI Provider Educator Preparation programs are further accredited by the Council for the Accreditation of Educator Preparation (“CAEP”) and the Association for Advancing Quality in Educator Preparation (“AAQEP”). RTI Provider represents that each Apprentice assigned to Employer Partner for Early Clinical, Advanced Clinical, Student Teaching One, and Student Teaching Two is validly enrolled in a current RTI Provider educator preparation program and meets Employer Partner’s background requirements.

A. **Definitions.** For the purposes of this Appendix, capitalized terms not otherwise defined in the Agreement shall have the following meanings:

1. **“Clinical Experience”** means the active participation by an Apprentice in a wide range of virtual and in-classroom experiences to develop the skills and confidence necessary to be an effective teacher and prepare for Early Clinical, Advanced Clinical, Student Teaching One, and Student Teaching Two, as may be required for an Initial Licensure Program or Advanced Program:
2. **“Early Clinical”** means an Apprentice’s first supervised opportunity to observe a classroom setting
3. **“Advanced Clinical”** means supervised classroom-based activities in a classroom setting where Apprentices observe, collaborate, and reflect with a Clinical Mentor Teacher.
4. **“Student Teaching One”** and **“Student Teaching Two”** (collectively **“Student Teaching”**) means the active participation by an Apprentice in the duties and functions of classroom teaching under the direct supervision and instruction of a Clinical Mentor Teacher and a Clinical Supervisor.
5. **“Clinical Mentor Teacher”** means an Employer Partner employee who is the teacher presiding in the classroom to which the Apprentice is assigned for Clinical Experience. Standards for Clinical Mentor Teachers are explained in Section E of this Appendix.
6. **“Clinical Supervisor”** means a qualified individual who is an employee or independent contractor of RTI Provider. The individual will supervise the Apprentice in their Clinical Experience. Standards for Clinical Supervisors are explained in Section F of this Appendix.
7. **“Initial Licensure Program”** means a program that results in a professional license.
8. **“Advanced Program”** means an advanced licensure program that may result in an additional license.
9. **“Embedded Work Based Learning”** means a series of courses preceding Advanced Clinical, Student Teaching One and Student Teaching Two, where Apprentices perform coursework tasks in a classroom setting and are evaluated by an individual (i.e., qualified teacher or other school administrator) identified by either the apprenticeship Sponsor or the Employer Partner.
10. **“Practicum”** means the RTI Provider Clinical Experience requirements for advanced licensure programs.
11. **“Professional Dispositions and Ethics”** means standards of behavior expected of Apprentices and RTI Provider faculty and staff, as follows:
  - a. All Individuals Can Lean

- b. Communication
- c. Belonging
- d. Integrity
- e. Empathy
- f. Professionalism
- g. Growth Mindset
- h. Intellectual Courage

12. “LEA” means Local Education Agency.

13. “SEA” means State Education Agency.

B. **Mutual Expectations.** The Clinical Experience with the Clinical Mentor Teacher will align with the Apprentice’s licensure area with an aim to co-construct a mutually beneficial arrangement for clinical preparation and the continuous improvement of Apprentices, and to share accountability for Apprentice outcomes. A Clinical Supervisor will be assigned to observe and provide support to the Apprentice. The Employer Partner and Clinical Mentor Teacher will have the opportunity to provide critical feedback to inform program improvement through surveys at the end of each experience.

C. **Mutually Beneficial Activities.** The Parties agree to participate, to the extent feasible, in the activities outlined below:

1. When available, RTI Provider staff may participate in Employer Partner employee events and conferences, as appropriate, and Employer Partner agrees to inform RTI Provider of such opportunities.
2. RTI Provider will provide Employer Partner with recruitment and talent acquisition planning and support from RTI Provider’s Career & Professional Development service(s) team, based on Employer Partner compliance with RTI Provider’s [Employer Recruiting & Guidelines](#).
  - a. Whenever possible, Employer Partner will respond to quarterly survey requests from RTI Provider’s Career & Professional Development team about hiring plans and new hires from RTI Provider.
3. RTI Provider and Employer Partner employees will co-select Clinical Mentor Teachers and Clinical Supervisors based on RTI Provider requirements.
4. RTI Provider will notify Employer Partner of learning opportunities where RTI Provider will provide optional professional development to Employer Partner’s employees for their career and skill enrichment.
5. RTI Provider may invite Employer Partner employees to participate in a focus group to:
  - a. Provide feedback for improvement and continuous development of observation and evaluation instruments of Apprentices, Clinical Mentor Teachers, and Clinical Supervisors, criteria for selection of Clinical Mentor Teachers and Clinical Supervisors, and curriculum development;
  - b. Review data on Clinical Experiences and Apprentice success to potentially modify selection criteria, determine future assignments of Apprentices, and make changes in Clinical Experiences;
  - c. Review how the depth, breadth, diversity, coherence, and duration data on Clinical Experiences are linked to Apprentice outcomes and Apprentice performance.

D. **Recordings.** Employer Partner recognizes that RTI Provider requires the utilization of video recordings for both observations and teacher performance assessments. Employer Partner also recognizes that video recordings may be utilized for Educative Teacher Performance Assessment (“edTPA”) in states where required. Employer Partner agrees to allow video recording and/or live streaming for completion of observations and teacher performance assessments for all RTI Provider programs consistent with the conditions set forth in **Exhibit 1.A** (“Video Recording”).

E. **RTI Provider Responsibilities.** RTI Provider shall:

1. At RTI's discretion, Provide Clinical Mentor Teacher with an honorarium for participation in Clinical Experience as described in this Appendix. The Clinical Mentor Teacher may also receive professional development hours connected to the successful completion of RTI Provider, and any state required Clinical Mentor Teacher training.
2. Be responsible for the selection, assignment, training, and compensation of Clinical Supervisors.
3. Require Apprentices to have a current, fully cleared background check.
4. Where required by state regulation or Employer Partner policy, ensure Apprentices have a current tuberculosis ("TB") risk assessment and/or examination. Upon request, Apprentices will be required to provide documentation to Employer Partner prior to participating in a Clinical Experience.
5. Provide opportunities for feedback regarding improvement of RTI Provider Apprentice preparation.
6. Provide professional development training to Clinical Mentor Teachers regarding RTI Provider processes and procedures.
7. Maintain an online site for support, resources, and training for Clinical Mentor Teachers and Clinical Supervisor.
8. Facilitate course instruction and support for the Apprentices during their Clinical Experience. Including, the final performance assessment, specific task requirements and peer interactions in a weekly cohort seminar.
9. Maintain general responsibility for instruction, academic evaluation, and related academic matters concerning Apprentice participation in the Clinical Experience, including evaluation and grading.

**F. Employer Partner Responsibilities.** Employer Partner shall:

1. Nominate one or more qualified Clinical Mentor Teacher(s) by providing a completed copy of the Mentor Teacher Nomination Form to RTI Provider's Clinical Placement Team.
2. Allow the Clinical Supervisor access to the host school and classroom, including virtual settings, for the specific purpose of observing Apprentices.
3. Where applicable and where an Apprentice will serve as a contracted teacher, Employer Partner agrees to provide a Clinical Mentor Teacher during Clinical Experience.
4. Employer Partner must notify RTI Provider and Sponsor about any changes to the Apprentice's assigned Clinical Mentor Teacher or classroom placement.
5. Through the involvement of the Clinical Mentor Teacher, participate with the Clinical Supervisor and Apprentice in two evaluations pursuant to RTI Provider's grading rubric for Clinical Experience. RTI Provider shall be responsible for the format of evaluations.
  - a. See Advanced Programs Practicum section below for evaluation requirements for Educational Leadership.
6. Provide Apprentices opportunities to observe, assist, tutor, instruct, implement effective teaching strategies, and conduct research, as appropriate, during the Clinical Experience.
7. Placement must align with the Candidates' Program. Employer Partner must notify RTI about any changes to the Candidate's assigned Clinical Mentor Teacher or classroom placement.
8. Provide Apprentices with any Employer Partner policies and procedures to which Candidates are expected to adhere during the Clinical Experience and while on Employer Partner premises.
9. Provide opportunities, when possible and appropriate, for Apprentices to use technology to enhance student learning and monitor student progress and growth.
10. Provide opportunities, when possible and appropriate, for Apprentices to experience working with diverse student populations, including English language learners and students with exceptional learning needs.
11. Encourage Clinical Mentor Teachers to participate in RTI Provider's training to understand RTI Provider policies, processes, procedures, and how to effectively mentor adult learners.
12. Encourage administrators and Clinical Mentor Teachers to participate in RTI Provider feedback surveys (offered at the end of the Clinical Experience) to report on Apprentice quality and preparation and to provide program feedback to RTI Provider for continuous improvement.

13. Promptly report any concerns related to the Apprentice's performance, conduct, or attendance to RTI Provider. RTI Provider will then ensure timely communication of these concerns to Sponsor.
  14. Adhere to any then-applicable state requirements related to training/professional development.
  15. *For California Employer Partners Only:* Require Cooperating Teachers to complete and document training/professional development equivalent to ten (10) hours that includes: a two (2)-hour orientation to the program curriculum, and eight (8) hours of training in effective supervision approaches such as cognitive coaching, adult learning theory, and current content-specific pedagogy and instructional practices (as required by the CTC).
- G. **Clinical Mentor Teacher Standards.** Employer Partner, in collaboration with RTI Provider, shall provide the Apprentice with an assignment for the Clinical Experience under the direct supervision and instruction of a Clinical Mentor Teacher who meets the following minimum requirements:
1. Holds a teaching credential or license: (i) for the subject area and/or grade level being taught; and (ii) in the state where the Clinical Experience occurs.
  2. Has: (i) a minimum of three (3) years of content area teaching experience, with (ii) two (2) or more years teaching in the placement school and/or Employer Partner, and (iii) demonstrated record of strong performance.
  3. Documented evidence of positive impact on student learning in the classroom as demonstrated by ratings at or above effective (or equivalent) when a state, Employer Partner, or school provides such ratings.
  4. Has positively impacted and mentored student teachers, colleagues, and/or other adults.
  5. Competently uses technology for communicating via email and completing online evaluation forms.
  6. Demonstrates and models Professional Dispositions and Ethics.
  7. Completes RTI Provider and Sponsor training to understand policies, processes, procedures, and how to mentor adult learners, and completes any required State training.
  8. *For California Employer Partners Only:* As required by the California Commission on Teacher Credentialing ("CTC") Program Sponsor Alert ("PSA") 19-05, Clinical Mentor Teacher has documented completion of training/professional development equivalent to ten (10) hours that includes: a two (2)-hour orientation to program curriculum, and eight (8) hours training in effective supervision approaches such as cognitive coaching, adult learning theory, and current content-specific pedagogy and instructional practices.
- H. **Clinical Supervisor Standards.** The RTI Provider, in collaboration with Employer Partner, shall select a Clinical Supervisor who provides guidance, support, on-site and/or virtual assistance, assessment, and feedback to an Apprentice throughout Advanced Clinical, Student Teaching One and Student Teaching Two of the Clinical Experience. To act in this role, a Clinical Supervisor must have:
1. A minimum of three (3) years teaching experience in K-12.
  2. A master's degree in education or related field.
  3. A current teaching license in the content area of supervision.
  4. Experience teaching in the content area of supervision.
  5. Successfully completed a background clearance.
  6. Ability to consistently demonstrate and model Professional Dispositions and Ethics.
- I. **Insurance.**
1. RTI Provider Insurance. RTI Provider represents and warrants that it provides and maintains general liability insurance with limits of at least \$1,000,000 per occurrence and \$2,000,000 annual aggregate and, upon Employer Partner's request, shall provide a certificate of insurance as evidence of coverage. RTI Provider shall maintain, at its sole expense, workers' compensation insurance as required by law.
  2. Professional Liability Insurance. Apprentices will be responsible for procuring and maintaining, at their own expense, professional liability insurance for the duration of the Clinical Experience with minimum limits of either: (i) \$1,000,000 per occurrence and \$3,000,000 annual aggregate, or (ii) \$2,000,000 per occurrence and \$2,000,000 annual aggregate.

[Signature page follows.]



MISD 2026-235

NOW, THEREFORE, in recognition of our mutual commitments and the shared vision to foster a transformative educational experience, the Parties hereby agree that McAllen ISD will become an Employer partner under this Agreement as of the date of latest signature below.

RTI PROVIDER  
Western Governors University

EMPLOYER PARTNER  
McAllen ISD

\_\_\_\_\_  
Name: Tully Lale  
Role: Director of School District Partnerships  
Date:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Name: Dr. Rene Gutierrez  
Role: Superintendent  
Date

SPONSOR  
Edwell Inc.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Name: Kristi Kirschner  
Role: President  
Date:

Designated Primary Contact – Employer Partner

\_\_\_\_\_  
Name

Director of Purchasing Services  
Title

Laura.williams@mcallenisd.net  
Email

Approved as to form:

by: \_\_\_\_\_  
Johnathan Ball, Staff Attorney

**Exhibit 1.A**  
**Video Recording**

1. Teacher Performance Assessment. Employer Partner acknowledges that Apprentices must complete a teacher performance assessment, which includes the submission of real artifacts (such as lesson plans and student work samples). Employer Partner also recognizes that in states where the edTPA is required, video recordings of the Apprentice teaching in the classroom will be utilized and included in the submission.
2. Clinical Observation / Evaluation. RTI Provider utilizes a secure, interactive, online, cloud-based platform to accommodate for the changing classroom environment and protect the health and safety of participants. Apprentices upload recorded video submissions or participate in livestreams for feedback, scoring, and critiquing of video assignments, and Clinical Supervisors leave time-stamped feedback.
3. Guidelines. The following guidelines are provided to Apprentices. Employer Partner understands that Apprentices are not employees or agents of RTI Provider and that any further precautions regarding the privacy of Employer Partner students should be agreed directly between the Employer Partner and Apprentices.

*Teacher Apprentice Guidelines for Video Recordings:*

- a. Secure appropriate permission from the parents/guardians of your students and from adults who appear in the video recording.
- b. To protect confidentiality, remove your name and use pseudonyms or general references (e.g., "the Employer Partner") for your state, school, Employer Partner, and Clinical Mentor Teacher. Mask or remove all names on any typed or written material (e.g., commentaries, lesson plans, student work samples) that could identify individuals or educator preparation programs. During video recording, use only the first names of students.
- c. You must follow appropriate protocol to submit recordings to RTI Provider.
- d. You may not display the video publicly (i.e., personal websites, YouTube, Facebook).
- e. You may not use any part of the recordings for any personal or professional purposes outside of performance evaluation.
- f. You must destroy all video recordings once the evaluation is complete.

**Exhibit 2**  
**Direct Billing Guidelines**

**1. Initial Requirements**

- a. A valid and correctly formatted Letter of Credit (LOC) must be provided, please refer to sample LOC below.
- b. WGU must have permission to share the student's protected information (FERPA).
- c. The student must officially accept their course registration (set term enrollment).D
  - i. Please be aware that the soonest this can occur is the first of the month in which the student's term begins.
- d. Once these requirements have been completed, the student's documentation will be placed into a queue for invoicing.
  - i. For students who complete all requirements within the first month of their term, the invoice will be provided before the end of that month.
  - ii. The invoice will always come from WGU and not the student.

**2. Letter of Credit**

- a. The Letter of Credit **must include** the following:
  - i. Student's name
  - ii. Student's WGU ID number
  - iii. Third-party sponsor's name, contact phone number, contact person, billing address, and defined invoicing guidelines and destination (email address or fax number).
    1. If there are any changes, the third-party sponsor must provide an updated Letter of Credit with any new sponsor details.
  - iv. Tuition amounts and academic terms covered by the Letter of Credit/Billing Authorization
  - v. **IMPORTANT:** Third-party billing authorizations must unconditionally guarantee the corresponding third-party tuition payment and said payment cannot be contingent upon student grades.
- b. A sample is provided on the next page.
- c. Letters of Credit must be submitted to [thirdparty@wgu.edu](mailto:thirdparty@wgu.edu) for review.

**3. Family Education Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA)**

- a. FERPA guidelines are set by the [Code of Federal Regulations](#).

**4. Invoicing Options**

- a. Individual and Itemized Student Tuition Invoice - A detailed document including the courses for which the student is registered and a breakdown of the cost per course based on Competency Units (CUs).
- b. E-Invoice - An option to utilize third-party sponsor online payment systems to generate electronic student tuition invoices and payment requests.

**5. Payment**

- a. Contact [thirdparty@wgu.edu](mailto:thirdparty@wgu.edu) for more information about our current payment options or to request WGU's Form W-9.

**6. Questions**

- a. Contact [sandra.rojas@wgu.edu](mailto:sandra.rojas@wgu.edu) and [cj.sneddon@wgu.edu](mailto:cj.sneddon@wgu.edu) if you have additional questions or would like to schedule a meeting to discuss the direct billing process in more detail.

Sample Corporation Letterhead

Dear Western Governors University Account Partnerships Department:

This letter authorizes Western Governors University to bill the following third-party sponsor on behalf of the student:

Sample Corporation

This letter acknowledges that funds are unconditionally guaranteed to Western Governors University. This is a one-time-use document. Any changes require a new Letter of Credit. Payment will be made upon receipt of the invoice. Specific details for this billing are as follows:

Name: Sample Student

WGU ID: 000000000

Term month and year: January 2025

Approved Amount: \$4025

Refunds (if applicable) should be returned to:

Sample Corporation

1 Sample Drive

Sample, UT 00000

You may invoice us as follows:

accountspayable@samplecorporation.com

Sincerely,

*Sample Sponsor*

Sample Sponsor

**BOARD AGENDA REPORT  
MCALLEN INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT**

**MEETING DATE:** February 24, 2026

**SUBJECT:** Discussion and Possible Action on Nomination of Candidate for Hidalgo County Appraisal District Board of Directors for the 2026-2027 Term and Approval of Resolution

**REFERENCE:** N/A

**BACKGROUND INFORMATION/REASON FOR BOARD CONSIDERATION:**

The District must nominate candidate(s) for the Hidalgo County Appraisal District Board of Directors.

**ADMINISTRATIVE CONSIDERATIONS/FACTS AND ANALYSIS:**

Hidalgo County Appraisal District is asking McAllen ISD to approve a resolution nominating a candidate or candidates for the Board of Directors of the Hidalgo County Appraisal District for the 2026-2027 term.

**LEGAL REVIEW:**

None

**BUDGETARY CONSIDERATIONS:**

None

**RECOMMENDED BOARD ACTION:**


That the Board of Trustees nominate candidate(s) for the Hidalgo County Appraisal District Board of Directors for the 2026-2027 Term and Approve the Resolution.

**SUBMITTED BY:** \_\_\_\_\_

For further information contact:  
Name: Norma Ramirez  
Office: 956-688-5418  
Email: norma.ramirez@mcallenisd.net

**SUPERVISOR:**  \_\_\_\_\_

**Approved for presentation to the Board of Education:**

  
RENE GUTIERREZ (Feb 4, 2026 08:51:32 CST)

# HIDALGO COUNTY APPRAISAL DISTRICT

Joe D. Olivarez Chairman  
Veronica "Ronnie" Ontiveros Vice-Chairperson  
Amador Requenez Secretary  
Richard A. Garza Member  
Albert D. Cardenas Member



Pablo "Paul" Villarreal, Jr. Member  
Erica E. Canales Member  
Karina Cardoza Member  
Rolando Garza Chief Appraiser

PO Box 208  
Edinburg, TX 78540-0208  
(956) 381-8466 (956) 565-2461  
[www.hidalgoad.org](http://www.hidalgoad.org)



January 16, 2026

Dr. Rene Gutierrez  
McAllen ISD Superintendent  
2000 N. 23<sup>rd</sup> St.  
McAllen, TX 78501

Re: 2026 Board of Directors Vacancy

Dear Dr. Gutierrez:

It is with profound sorrow and heavy hearts that we inform you of the passing of our esteemed colleague and friend, Eddy Betancourt, Board of Directors Vice Chairman, who died on December 27, 2025.

Eddie has been a dedicated and valued member of the Board of Directors since 2020. His wisdom, kindness, and commitment have left an indelible mark on our organization, and he will be greatly missed by all who had the privilege of knowing him.

In accordance with the Texas Property Tax Code, Section 6.03 and Section 6.031, a vacancy in the Board of Directors has been declared following this unfortunate event. The existing Board of Directors must fill the vacancy in the manner as follows:

1. Participating taxing units must nominate candidates via resolution for a vacant appointed director seat.
2. Resolutions must be submitted by March 2, 2026.
3. The Chief Appraiser will compile the list of nominees and submit it to the current Board of Directors.
4. The Board will select a nominee from the list by majority vote to fill the vacancy at the March 11, 2026, Board of Directors meeting.

For your convenience, a sample resolution form is included; you are welcome to use it, or you may submit one prepared by your office. If you require additional information, please don't hesitate to contact me at (956) 381-8466.

Sincerely,

*Rolando Garza*

Rolando Garza, RPA  
Chief Appraiser

RG: plg

Attachment

**A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES FOR  
MCALLEN ISD  
EXPRESSING ITS NOMINATION FOR APPRAISAL DISTRICT DIRECTORS  
FOR 2026-2027 TERM OF THE HIDALGO COUNTY APPRAISAL DISTRICT  
BOARD OF DIRECTORS:**

**WHEREAS**, the Board of Trustees for MCALLEN ISD is authorized to make nominations for the position to be filled in the Hidalgo County Appraisal District Board of Directors; and

**WHEREAS**, these directors shall serve the unexpired term ending December 31, 2027, and that all taxing entities associated with the Hidalgo County Appraisal District are authorized to nominate one (1) person for said position; and

**WHEREAS**, the Board of Trustees for McAllen ISD must submit the name of the nominee by written resolution to the Chief Appraiser by **March 2, 2026**.

**NOW, THEREFORE**, BE IT RESOLVED BY **THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF MCALLEN ISD**, that the name of:

\_\_\_\_\_

is hereby nominated to the Hidalgo County Appraisal District Board of Directors.

**FUTHERMORE**, the Board of Trustees for **McAllen ISD** directs the Chief Appraiser to submit said nomination for consideration by the Board of Directors to fill the vacancy.

**PASSED AND APPROVED** this   24   day of   February  , 2026.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Aaron D. Rivera, President, Board of Trustees

ATTEST:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Dr. Elizabeth Kittleman, Secretary, Board of Trustees

NOMINATION FOR APPRAISAL DISTRICT DIRECTORS  
FOR 2026-2027 TERM OF THE HIDALGO COUNTY APPRAISAL DISTRICT  
BOARD OF DIRECTORS:

Mario Reyna Sr.

Oscar Castaneda

Other (write in name)

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**BOARD AGENDA REPORT  
MCALLEN INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT**

**MEETING DATE:** February 24, 2026

**Attachment:**

**SUBMITTED BY:** Norma Ramirez

**SUPERVISOR:** Ann D. Kim

**Approved for presentation to the Board of Education:**

René Gutierrez  
[RENE GUTIERREZ \(Feb 17, 2026 09:05:16 CST\)](#)



## Regular Meeting

Tuesday, February 10, 2026 5:30 PM

Dr. Ricardo Chapa Board Room/Administration Building of the McAllen Independent School District, 2000 North 23rd Street, McAllen, TX 78501

Attendance Taken at 5:20 PM.

Robert Carreon:	Present
Erica de la Garza-Lopez:	Present
Roberto Haddad:	Present
Lizzie Kittleman:	Present
Sofia Peña:	Present
Lucia Regalado:	Present
Aaron Rivera:	Present

NOTE: Trustee Sofia M. Pena attended via TEAMS, connection dropped at 5:40 p.m.

### 1. CALL MEETING TO ORDER

Meeting was called to order at 5:30 p.m.

### 2. MOMENT OF SILENCE

### 3. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

### 4. PUBLIC COMMENT(S)

The following community members addressed the Board:

1. Hershel Patel – Child Nutrition
2. Sebastian Cuevas – ER visits relating Kids in our Community
3. Liliana Rios – Importance of Early Nutrition

### 5. CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS

A) Discussion and Possible Action on Request for Proposal No. 2024-1023 Catering, Entertainment, Field Trips, Fundraising, Food, Restaurants, and Rentals (Round 12 Revised)

Item Submitted: Lorena Garcia, Deputy Superintendent for Business and Operations  
Dr. René Gutiérrez, Superintendent

Motion to approve Request for Proposal No. 2024-1023 Catering, Entertainment, Field Trips, Fundraising, Food, Restaurants, and Rentals (Round 12 Revised), and award the revised vendor, Little Caesars (Sizzling Platter, LLC) for a coterminous term through June 30, 2027. This motion, made by Trustee Lucia Regalado and

seconded by Trustee Roberto Haddad, Passed.

Robert Carreon: Yea  
 Erica de la Garza-Lopez: Yea  
 Roberto Haddad: Yea  
 Lizzie Kittleman: Yea  
 Sofia Peña: Yea  
 Lucia Regalado: Yea  
 Aaron Rivera: Yea  
 Yea: 7, Nay: 0

**RECOMMENDED VENDORS**  
 Request for Proposal No. 2024-1023  
 Catering, Entertainment, Field Trips, Fundraising, Food, Restaurants, and Rentals (Round 12) Revised

No.	Vendor Name	City	State	Recommendation
1	Malfitany Pasta Company (Wingman Restaurants Inc)	McAllen	TX	Qualified
2	<del>Cracker-Red-Robin-Little-Cesars-Dunkin-Wingstop-Torrey-Mikes-(Sizzling-Platter-LLC)</del> Little Caesars (Sizzling Platter, LLC)	Murray	UT	Qualified

B) Discussion and Possible Action on Request for Proposal No. 2024-1021 Apparel, Awards, Incentives, Printing, and Related Products and Services (Round 18)  
 Item Submitted: Lorena Garcia, Deputy Superintendent for Business and Operations  
 Dr. René Gutiérrez, Superintendent

Motion to approve Request for Proposal No. 2024-1021 Apparel, Awards, Incentives, Printing, and Related Products and Services (Round 18), and approve the companies on the attached list as qualified vendors, for a coterminous term through June 30, 2027. This motion, made by Trustee Lucia Regalado and seconded by Trustee Roberto Haddad, Passed.

Robert Carreon: Yea  
 Erica de la Garza-Lopez: Yea  
 Roberto Haddad: Yea  
 Lizzie Kittleman: Yea  
 Sofia Peña: Yea  
 Lucia Regalado: Yea  
 Aaron Rivera: Yea  
 Yea: 7, Nay: 0

**Recommended Vendors**  
**Request for Proposal No. 2024-1021**  
**Apparel, Awards, Incentives, Printing, and Related Products and Services (Round 18)**

No.	Vendor Name	City	State	Recommendation
1	Diadem Sports LLC	Pompano Beach	FL	Qualified
2	Ohiopyle Prints, Inc	Ohiopyle	PA	Qualified
3	Orange Lab Media (The Olab Group LLC)	Fort Lauderdale	FL	Qualified
4	Quill LLC (Staples, Inc.)	Lincolnshire	IL	Qualified
5	School Basics, LLC	Jamaica	NY	Qualified

C) Discussion and Possible Action on First Amendment to Interlocal Cooperation Agreement & Business Associate Agreement No. 2026-224 Public Health Preparedness and Response Grant with Hidalgo County  
 Item Submitted: Jonathan Ball, Staff Attorney

Dr. René Gutiérrez, Superintendent

Motion to Approval the First Amendment to the Interlocal Cooperation Agreement & Business Associate Agreement No. 2026-224 with Hidalgo County as presented. This motion, made by Lucia Regalado and seconded by Roberto Haddad, Passed.

Robert Carreon: Yea

Erica de la Garza-Lopez: Yea

Roberto Haddad: Yea

Lizzie Kittleman: Yea

Sofia Peña: Yea

Lucia Regalado: Yea

Aaron Rivera: Yea

Yea: 7, Nay: 0

D) Report Regarding Purchase of Qualtrics Cloud-Native Software Platform

Item Submitted: Dr. Albert Canales, Chief Human Resources Officer

Dr. René Gutiérrez, Superintendent

For information purposes only.

Motion to reorganize the agenda to place items 6C5, 6A1 and 6C1 at this point of the agenda. A motion made by Trustee Roberto Haddad and seconded by Trustee Dr. Lizzie Kittleman. Motion passed.

At this time, Trustee Sofia M. Pena connection was dropped; therefore, she didn't cast votes from here on.

**6. INSTRUCTIONAL SERVICES/ INSTRUCTIONAL LEADERSHIP, HUMAN RESOURCES, BUSINESS AND OPERATIONS, AND BOARD OF TRUSTEES ITEMS**

A) **Instructional Services/ Instructional Leadership Item(s)** (Dr. Rosalba De Hoyos and/or Jeanette Nino)

1. Report Regarding Digital Learning and Library Services Department

Item submitted: Dr. Rosalba De Hoyos, Associate Superintendent for Instructional Services and Jeanette Nino, Associate Superintendent for Instructional Leadership  
Dr. René Gutiérrez, Superintendent

[For information purposes only.](#)

2. Discussion and Possible Action on Approval of Memorandum of Understanding No. 2026-198 College Preparatory Mathematics & English Language Arts with Region One Education Service Center

Item Submitted: Dr. Rosalba De Hoyos, Associate Superintendent for Instructional Services

Dr. René Gutiérrez, Superintendent

[Motion\(s\) to: a\) approve the Memorandum of Understanding No. 2026-198 College Preparatory Mathematics & English Language Arts with Region One Education Service Center; and. This motion, made by Trustee Roberto Haddad and seconded by Trustee Erica de la Garza-Lopez, Passed.](#)

Robert Carreon:	Yea
Erica de la Garza-Lopez:	Yea
Roberto Haddad:	Yea
Lizzie Kittleman:	Yea
Sofia Peña:	Absent
Lucia Regalado:	Yea
Aaron Rivera:	Yea

Yea: 6, Nay: 0, Absent: 1

[b\) authorize the Superintendent to execute the MOU. This motion, made by Trustee Robert Carreon and seconded by Trustee Lucia Regalado, Passed.](#)

Robert Carreon:	Yea
Erica de la Garza-Lopez:	Yea
Roberto Haddad:	Yea
Lizzie Kittleman:	Yea
Sofia Peña:	Absent
Lucia Regalado:	Yea
Aaron Rivera:	Yea

Yea: 7, Nay: 0, Absent: 1

3. Discussion and Possible Action of the 2026-2027 School Calendar

Item Submitted: Dr. Rosalba De Hoyos, Associate Superintendent for Instructional Services and Jeanette C. Nino, Associate Superintendent for Instructional Leadership

Dr. René Gutiérrez, Superintendent

[Motion to approve the 2026-2027 School Calendar. This motion, made by Trustee Robert Carreon and seconded by Trustee Erica de la Garza-Lopez, Passed.](#)

Robert Carreon:	Yea
Erica de la Garza-Lopez:	Yea

Roberto Haddad: Yea  
 Lizzie Kittleman: Yea  
 Sofia Peña: Absent  
 Lucia Regalado: Yea  
 Aaron Rivera: Yea  
 Yea: 6, Nay: 0, Absent: 1

**McALLEN 2026-2027 CALENDAR OVERVIEW**  
 FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL: August 17, 2026

**REPORTING PERIODS**

From	To	Days
August 17, 2026	September 14, 2026	29 Days
September 14, 2026	October 12, 2026	29 Days
October 12, 2026	November 9, 2026	28 Days
November 9, 2026	December 6, 2026	28 Days
December 6, 2026	January 3, 2027	29 Days
January 3, 2027	February 10, 2027	27 Days
February 10, 2027	March 9, 2027	27 Days
March 9, 2027	April 7, 2027	27 Days
April 7, 2027	May 5, 2027	29 Days
May 5, 2027	June 2, 2027	29 Days
June 2, 2027	June 23, 2027	22 Days

**LEGEND**

- PROFESSIONAL LEARNING DAY
- HOLIDAY
- STATE ASSESSMENT DAY
- WEDNESDAY
- STUDENT EARLY RELEASE DAY
- WED-SAT WEEKS
- WED-SUN WEEKS
- WED-THURSDAY
- WED-FRIDAY
- WED-FRIDAY
- STUDENT EARLY RELEASE/TEACHER PLANNING DAY

**B) Human Resources Item(s) (Dr. Albert Canales)**

- Report Regarding Marketing and Communications Department  
 Item Submitted: Dr. Albert Canales, Chief Human Resources Officer
- Report Regarding 2026-208 Registered Apprenticeship Program Agreement  
 Item Submitted: Dr. Albert Canales, Chief Human Resources Officer  
 Dr. René Gutiérrez, Superintendent  
[For information purposes only.](#)

**C) Business and Operations Item(s) (Lorena Garcia)**

- Report Regarding the Delinquent Tax Collections for the Period of October 1, 2025 to December 31, 2025  
 Item Submitted: Lorena Garcia, Deputy Superintendent for Business and Operations  
 Dr. René Gutiérrez, Superintendent  
[For information purposes only.](#)

- Report Regarding Taxes Collected for October through December 2025  
 Item Submitted: Lorena Garcia, Deputy Superintendent for Business and Operations  
 Dr. René Gutiérrez, Superintendent  
[For information purposes only.](#)
- Report Regarding the Monthly Financial and Quarterly Investment Report for December 2025  
 Item Submitted: Lorena Garcia, Deputy Superintendent for Business and Operations  
 Dr. René Gutiérrez, Superintendent

For information purposes only.

4. Discussion and Possible Action of the McAllen Independent School District January Budget Amendment for Fiscal Year Beginning July 1, 2025 and Ending June 30, 2026

Item Submitted: Lorena Garcia, Deputy Superintendent for Business and Operations

Dr. René Gutiérrez, Superintendent

Motion to approve the McAllen Independent School District December Budget Amendment for the General Fund and Capital Projects Fund for Fiscal Year Beginning July 1, 2025 and Ending June 30, 2026. This motion, made by Trustee Roberto Haddad and seconded by Trustee Erica de la Garza-Lopez, Passed.

Robert Carreon:	Yea
Erica de la Garza-Lopez:	Yea
Roberto Haddad:	Yea
Lizzie Kittleman:	Yea
Sofia Peña:	Absent
Lucia Regalado:	Yea
Aaron Rivera:	Yea

Yea: 6, Nay: 0, Absent: 1

5. Discussion and Possible Action on Order Calling a Bond Election to be Held by the McAllen Independent School District, Making Provision for the Conduct of a Joint Election, and Resolving Other Matters Incident and Related to Such Election

Item Submitted: Lorena Garcia, Deputy Superintendent for Business and Operations

Dr. René Gutiérrez, Superintendent

Motion to adopt an Order calling a bond election. This motion, made by Trustee Roberto Haddad and seconded by Trustee Dr. Lizzie Kittleman, Passed.

Robert Carreon:	Yea
Erica de la Garza-Lopez:	Yea
Roberto Haddad:	Yea
Lizzie Kittleman:	Yea
Sofia Peña:	Absent
Lucia Regalado:	Yea
Aaron Rivera:	Yea

Yea: 6, Nay: 0, Absent: 1

6. Discussion and Possible Action of Memorandum of Understanding 2026-223 Standard Response Protocol, and Standard Reunification Method with I Love U Guys' Foundation

Item Submitted: Johnthan Ball, Staff Attorney

Dr. René Gutiérrez, Superintendent

Motion to approve Memorandum of Understanding 2026-223 Standard Response Protocol, and Standard Reunification Method with I Love You Guys' Foundation for a term of two (2) years from the effective date. The District and the I Love

You Guys' Foundation may agree to extend this Agreement upon mutual written consent. This motion, made by Trustee Lucia Regalado and seconded by Trustee Roberto Haddad, Passed.

Robert Carreon: Yea  
Erica de la Garza-Lopez: Yea  
Roberto Haddad: Yea  
Lizzie Kittleman: Yea  
Sofia Peña: Absent  
Lucia Regalado: Yea  
Aaron Rivera: Yea

Yea: 6, Nay: 0, Absent: 1

**D) Board of Trustees Item(s)**

1. Discussion and Possible Action on Nomination of Candidate for Hidalgo County Appraisal District Board of Directors for the 2026-2027 Term and Approval of Resolution

Motion to table the nomination of a candidate(s) for the Hidalgo County Appraisal District Board of Directors for the 2026-2027 Term and Approve the Resolution. Two names were discussed: Mario Reyna Sr. and Oscar Castaneda. This motion, made by Trustee Robert Carreon and seconded by Trustee Roberto Haddad, Passed.

Robert Carreon: Yea  
Erica de la Garza-Lopez: Yea  
Roberto Haddad: Yea  
Lizzie Kittleman: Yea  
Sofia Peña: Absent  
Lucia Regalado: Yea  
Aaron Rivera: Yea

Yea: 6, Nay: 0, Absent: 1

2. Discussion and Possible Action to Approve Board of Education Meeting Minutes

Special Board Meeting-January 29, 2026

Regular Board Meeting-January 29, 2026

Motion to approve Board of Education meeting minutes as listed. This motion, made by Trustee Roberto Haddad and seconded by Trustee Dr. Lizzie Kittleman, Passed.

Robert Carreon: Yea  
Erica de la Garza-Lopez: Yea  
Roberto Haddad: Yea  
Lizzie Kittleman: Yea  
Sofia Peña: Absent  
Lucia Regalado: Yea  
Aaron Rivera: Yea

Yea: 7, Nay: 0, Absent: 1

**7. RECESS TO CLOSED SESSION: Board of Trustees may go into Closed Session pursuant to Section(s) 551.071, 551.072, 551.074, 551.076, and 551.089 Texas Government Code, to discuss the following:**

Meeting recessed to closed session at 6:49 pm.

- A) Human Resources Recommendation(s) for School Year 2025-2026
- B) Discussion of Human Resources Employee Resignation(s) and Retirees for School Year 2025-2026
- C) Discussion Regarding School Safety and Security
- D) Pending and/or Potential Litigation
- E) Possible Real Estate Acquisition

**8. RECONVENE IN OPEN SESSION**

Meeting reconvened at 7.35 pm.

**9. ACTION ON ITEM(S) IN CLOSED SESSION**

- A) Discussion and Possible Action on Human Resources Recommendation(s) for School Year 2025-2026

Item Submitted: Dr. Albert Canales, Chief Human Resources Officer  
Dr. René Gutiérrez, Superintendent

Motion to approve Human Resources Recommendation(s) for School Year 2025-2026. This motion, made by Trustee Lucia Regalado and seconded by Trustee Erica de la Garza-Lopez, Passed.

Robert Carreon:	Yea
Erica de la Garza-Lopez:	Yea
Roberto Haddad:	Yea
Lizzie Kittleman:	Yea
Sofía Peña:	Absent
Lucia Regalado:	Yea
Aaron Rivera:	Yea

Yea: 6, Nay: 0, Absent: 1

- B) Discussion of Human Resources Employee Resignation(s) and Retirees for School Year 2025-2026

Item Submitted: Dr. Albert Canales, Chief Human Resources Officer  
Dr. René Gutiérrez, Superintendent

For information purposes only.

- C) Discussion Regarding School Safety and Security
- D) Pending and/or Potential Litigation
- E) Possible Real Estate Acquisition

**10. SCHEDULED MEETINGS**

Board Workshop (Budget Workshop #1) February 17, 2026-5:30 PM Dr. Ricardo Chapa  
Board Room/Administration Building

Regular Board Meeting-February 24, 2026-5:30 pm-Administration Building/Dr.  
Ricardo Chapa Board Room

**11. ADJOURNMENT**

Motion to approve adjournment. Meeting was adjourn at 7:36 pm. This motion, made by Trustee Roberto Haddad and seconded by Trustee Erica de la Garza-Lopez, Passed.

Robert Carreon: Yea  
Erica de la Garza-Lopez: Yea  
Roberto Haddad: Yea  
Lizzie Kittleman: Yea  
Sofia Peña: Absent  
Lucia Regalado: Yea  
Aaron Rivera: Yea  
Yea: 6, Nay: 0, Absent: 1

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Board President

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Board Secretary



## Board Workshop

Tuesday, February 17, 2026 5:30 PM

Board Room/Administration Building of the McAllen Independent School District, 2000 North 23rd Street, McAllen, TX 78501

Attendance Taken at 5:25 PM.

Robert Carreon:	Present
Erica de la Garza-Lopez:	Present
Roberto Haddad:	Present
Lizzie Kittleman:	Present
Sofia Peña:	Present
Lucia Regalado:	Present
Aaron Rivera:	Present

### 1. CALL MEETING TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 5:31 pm.

### 2. PUBLIC COMMENT(S)

The following community member(s) address the Board: None

### 3. DISCUSSION OF 2026–2027 BUDGET:

- 2024-2025 Prior Year Overview
- 2025-2026 Current Year Update
- 2026-2027 Budget Outlook and Planning

Item Submitted: Lorena Garcia, Deputy Superintendent for Business and Operations

Dr. René Gutiérrez, Superintendent

For information purposes only.

### 4. ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn. This motion, made by Trustee Roberto Haddad and seconded by Trustee Sofia Peña, Passed.

Robert Carreon:	Yea
Erica de la Garza-Lopez:	Yea
Roberto Haddad:	Yea
Lizzie Kittleman:	Yea
Sofia Peña:	Yea

Lucia Regalado:  
Aaron Rivera:  
Yea: 7, Nay: 0

Yea  
Yea

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Board President

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Board Secretary

**BOARD AGENDA REPORT  
MCALLEN INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT**


**MEETING DATE:** February 24, 2026

**Attachment:**

**SUBMITTED BY:**   
Alberto Canales (Feb 13, 2026 10:53:15 CST)

**SUPERVISOR:** Lorena Garcia  
Lorena Garcia (Feb 13, 2026 11:13:55 CST)

**Approved for presentation to the Board of Education:**

  
RENE GUTIERREZ (Feb 13, 2026 11:27:12 CST)

**BOARD AGENDA REPORT  
MCALLEN INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT**

**MEETING DATE:** February 24, 2026

**Attachment:**

**SUBMITTED BY:** *Alberto Canales*  
Alberto Canales (Feb 13, 2026 10:53:50 CST)

**SUPERVISOR:** *Lorena Garcia*  
Lorena Garcia (Feb 13, 2026 11:14:32 CST)

**Approved for presentation to the Board of Education:**

*Rene Gutierrez*  
RENE GUTIERREZ (Feb 13, 2026 11:26:54 CST)