

# Hidalgo Early College District Toolkit

## Hidalgo Early College School District Partner Profiles



### The Communities Foundation of Texas

5500 Caruth Haven Lane

Dallas, TX 75225-8146

(214) 750-4222

[www.cftexas.org](http://www.cftexas.org)

“Bringing visionary philanthropists and worthy causes together.”

In 1953, several well-known Dallas business leaders created the Communities Foundation of Texas as the Dallas Community Chest Trust Fund, a safety net for social-service agencies in Dallas. In 1981, the Dallas Community Chest Trust Fund changed its name to the Communities Foundation of Texas to reflect the broader scope of the foundation’s impact. Today, CFT is now one of the largest community foundations in the nation in terms of assets, gifts received, and grants awarded. For over half a century, CFT has taken on some of the greater Dallas area’s more challenging needs by understanding its donors’ charitable interests and connecting them with organizations making a positive difference.

The approach continues to work today with grants that have provided protective gear for Dallas Police officers, significant financial support for the new Dallas Center for the Performing Arts, mental health services in West Dallas and master planning funds for a new Museum of Nature and Science in downtown Dallas. The foundation's evolution over the last half century has been dramatic, but its commitment to know its donors and make good grants remains the same.

Today, CFT professionally manages more than 800 component funds, with combined assets of more than \$750 million; it has distributed more than \$1 billion in charitable grants since its inception. Grants from these funds benefit programs, charitable organizations and initiatives that improve education, health care, social services and the arts. Twice a year, trustees review competitive grants from discretionary funds. These grants, totaling close to \$84 million in 2009 principally serve charitable organizations throughout North Texas.

Source: The Communities Foundation of Texas Web site, [www.cftexas.org](http://www.cftexas.org)

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## **Texas High School Project**

5500 Caruth Haven Lane  
Dallas, TX 75225-8146  
(214) 750-4222  
<http://www.thsp.org/>



A unique public-private alliance, the Texas High School Project (THSP) was created in 2003 to ensure that all Texas students graduate high school ready for college and career success and prepared to be contributing members of the community. The THSP focuses its efforts on high-need schools and districts statewide, with an emphasis on urban areas and the Texas-Mexico border. Public and private organizations in the THSP include the Texas Education Agency, the Governor's Office, the Texas Legislature, the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, the Michael & Susan Dell Foundation, Communities Foundation of Texas and National Instruments. THSP's private philanthropic investments are managed by the Communities Foundation of Texas and its State and federal investments in Texas schools are managed by the Texas Education Agency.

### **Vision**

All Texas students will graduate high school ready for college and career success and be prepared to be contributing members of the community.

### **Mission**

All Texas high school students will have the opportunity to achieve their highest educational potential and promote state competitiveness in the 21st century.

### **Our Work**

Recognizing the need for accelerated change in Texas high schools, the Texas High School Project - a public-private partnership - was created to boost graduation rates and increase the number of Texas high school students prepared for the full range of postsecondary opportunities. Whether a student chooses to pursue certification from a community college, a four-year degree, or a military career, the student should graduate from high school ready for college, work, and citizenship.

- Increasing high school graduation rates
- Promoting a college-going culture and increase college readiness
- Building statewide capacity for supporting high school redesign and reform
- Creating systemic changes that ensure long-term sustainable high school improvement

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## Texas High School Project, cont.

### Our Strategy

THSP focuses resources on the following areas that are critical for building new high school experiences from the ground up:

New models for high schools	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Redesign approaches for low-performing schools</li><li>• Early college high schools</li><li>• New and charter schools</li><li>• T-STEM academies</li></ul>
STEM Education	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• T-STEM academies</li><li>• T-STEM regional centers</li><li>• T-STEM network for successful practices</li><li>• Teacher education</li></ul>
Capacity-building for education service centers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Technical assistance for redesign schools</li><li>• Leadership Training</li></ul>
District engagement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Pilot new approaches to principal and teacher recruitment, development, and compensation</li><li>• School board leadership</li></ul>
Classroom programs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Student support through AVID, AP strategies, etc.</li></ul>
Leadership innovations & professional development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Principal certification</li><li>• AP teacher training</li><li>• Teacher leadership</li></ul>

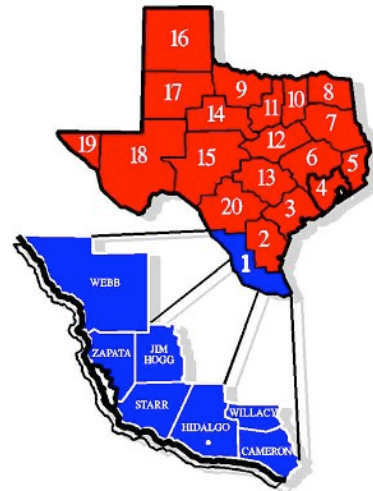
Source: Texas High School Project Web site, [www.thsp.org](http://www.thsp.org)

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## Region One Education Service Center

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Edinburg, TX 78541  
(956) 984-6000  
www.esc1.net

The Region One Education Service Center is part of a statewide system of 20 regional education service centers created by the 59th Texas Legislature to assist school districts across the state. Originally slated to work with school districts as a media center, the role of the education service center has expanded to work alongside school districts to carry out the three main objectives as stipulated in the TEC §8.002: to assist school districts to improve student performance, to assist school districts to operate efficiently and effectively, and to carry out the mandates of the Texas Education Agency and the Texas Legislature.



Located in South Texas on the United States/Mexico border, Region One ESC serves 37 school districts and 24 charter school campuses in the seven county areas of Cameron County, Hidalgo County, Jim Hogg County, Starr County, Webb County, Willacy County, and Zapata County. Region One ESC is committed to enhancing student success by providing quality services, adequate training of its employees, adherence to proven procedures, total commitment to meeting and exceeding customer requirements, and maintaining an organizational culture that fosters continual improvement. Through the Strategic Planning Process, goals and objectives are developed and reviewed to ensure continual improvement.

## Goals

- All Region One ESC campuses will exceed the state average performance for every indicator of the Academic Excellence Indicator System (AEIS) for all student groups.
- All Region One ESC school district personnel will be highly qualified.
- All Region One ESC district programs will meet state and federal compliance requirements.
- All Region One ESC school districts will earn a Superior Achievement rating on the Financial Accountability Resource System.
- All Region One ESC programs will establish public/private partnerships to increase parent and community support and engagement in regional teaching/learning initiatives.
- The number of adults completing their GED and becoming employed will increase annually.

Source: Region One Education Service Center Web site, [www.esc1.net](http://www.esc1.net)