



2021 Annual Report  
**WHAT MATTERS  
— MOST —**  
*Lo que más importa*



**RGV FOCUS**  
a COLLABORATION with EDUCATE TEXAS

## CELEBRATING 10 YEARS & MOVING FORWARD TOGETHER

Since 2012, RGV FOCUS has partnered with education, business, and community leaders to help Rio Grande Valley students receive the education they need to achieve meaningful careers and lives. We recognize that many students, as well as their schools, family, and friends, are facing major challenges due to the pandemic.

This Annual Report shares new data and stories about our work from across our multi-cultural and multi-talented community. What matters most is the education and support of all students so they can succeed in school, in the workforce, and in life. Together, we must help build a stronger Rio Grande Valley.

RGV FOCUS is committed to supporting Educate Texas' statewide 2025 Strategic Plan by achieving **two essential goals in our region:**

①

Adding **27,000** new postsecondary degrees and certificates to Texas' higher education goal by 2025  
*(32% of Educate Texas' statewide goal of 85,000 degrees and certificates)*

②

Enabling schools to better attract, prepare, develop, and retain more high quality and diverse teachers to improve our state's effective teaching workforce

### OUR MISSION:

Our mission is to transform college readiness, access, and success in the four counties of the Rio Grande Valley: Cameron, Hidalgo, Starr, and Willacy.

### OUR VISION:

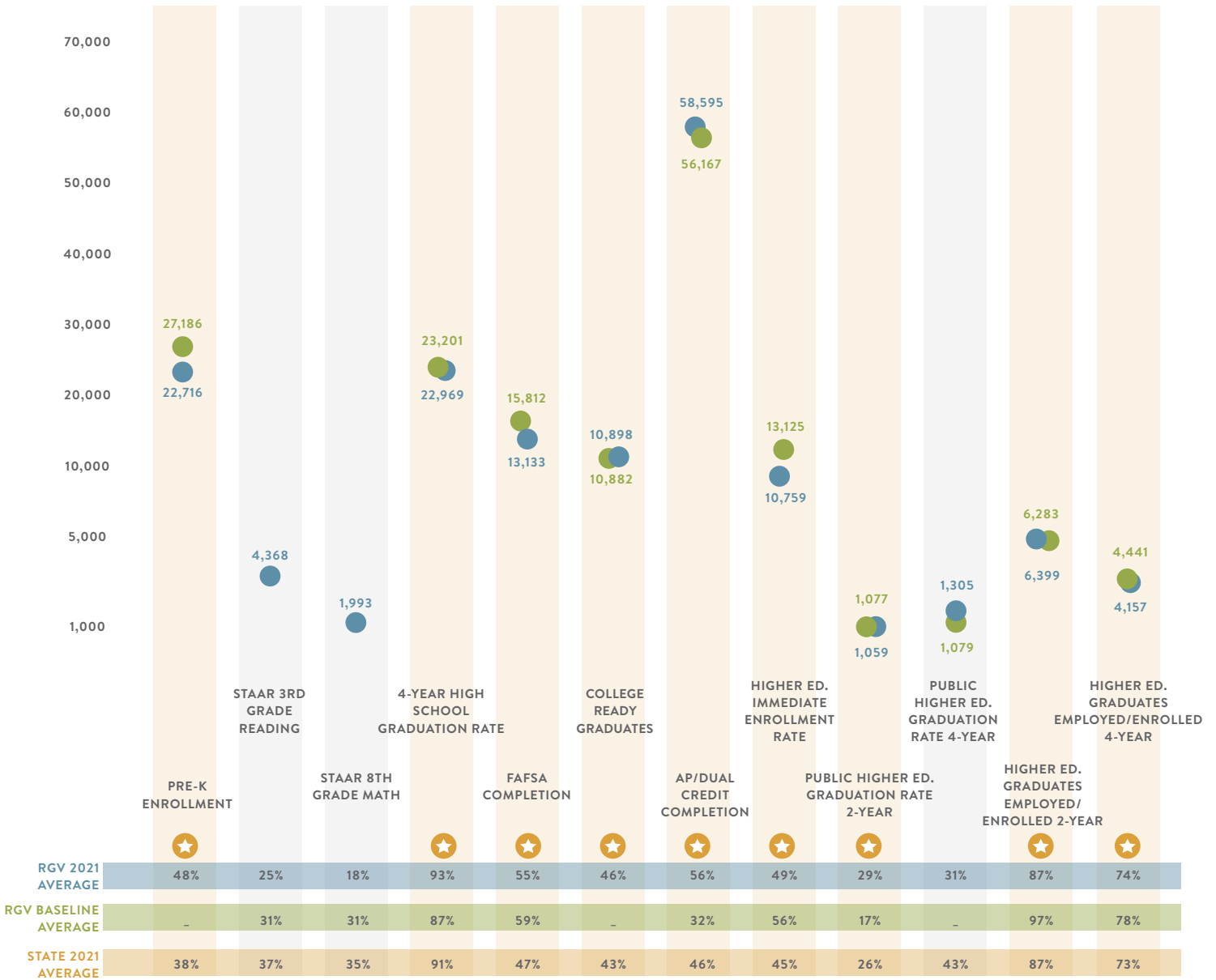
Our vision is for all RGV learners to achieve a degree or credential that leads to a meaningful career.

# MAKING A DIFFERENCE: CRADLE TO CAREER PATHWAY

★ = RGV 2021 Average Meets or Exceeds the State 2021 Average

● RGV 2021

● RGV 2020



\*The information presented in this scorecard is the last reported data. Visit our website below for information on dates used for this year's scorecard data.

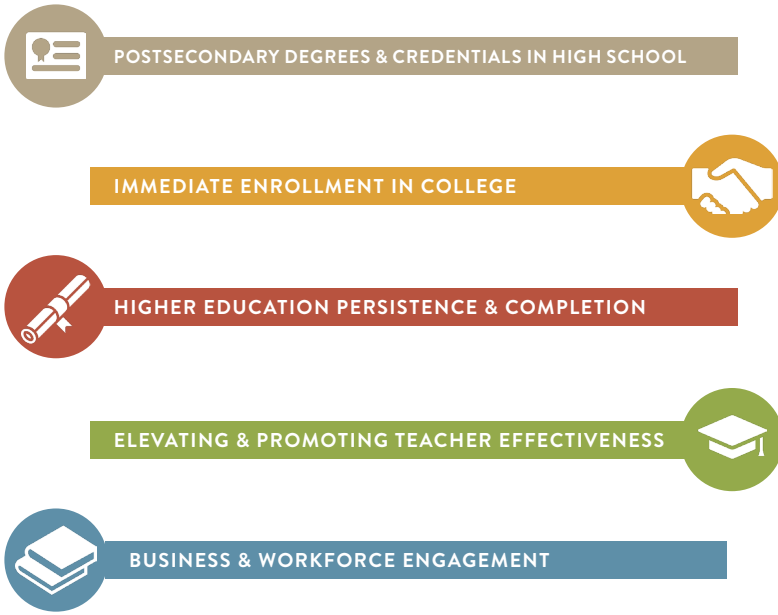
\*Due to disruptions caused by COVID-19 in the 2019-2020 school year, STAAR testing indicators were not tracked by the Texas Education Agency.

\*Due to the consolidation of 4-year institutions of higher education in the RGV, a 4-year standard baseline is not applicable.



Visit [EdTx.org/RGVscorecard](https://EdTx.org/RGVscorecard) for additional information about our scorecard data and sources.

# RGV FOCUS ACTION NETWORKS



## RIO GRANDE VALLEY BY THE NUMBERS



**368K**

Public Pre-K-12  
Students (96% Latino)

**72K**

Public Higher Education  
Students (92% Latino)



**13%** of Hidalgo and Cameron County residents **25-34 years old** are earning at least a **\$50,000** annual living wage.

In the RGV, **28%** of the population lives below the poverty threshold, compared to **14%** in the state.



**69%** of RGV residents have internet access, compared to **85%** in the state.



**90%** of RGV teachers are Latino, compared to **28%** in the state.

**9%** RGV teacher turnover rate, compared to **14%** in the state.



RGV teachers have an average **12.4 years** of experience, compared to **11.2 years** in the state.

Of RGV residents 25 years old and older:



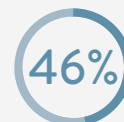
**6%** have associate degrees, compared to **7%** in that age group in the state.



**18%** have bachelor's degrees or higher, compared to **31%** in that age group in the state.



of RGV Latino residents live in poverty, compared to **20%** in the state.



of RGV high school graduates are college-ready, compared to **37%** in the state.

# STORIES FROM OUR COMMUNITY

The Rio Grande Valley is a multi-cultural community where language and talent are celebrated in our homes, in our schools, and on college and university campuses. Here, business and community leaders work side by side with parents and education leaders to give our children the academic foundation they need to succeed in the classroom, in their careers, and in life.



“ We have a multi-pronged approach to increasing college readiness and immediate enrollment, including identifying seniors who are not likely to pursue education after high school and helping them to overcome challenges and to plan paths to higher education that are best for them. We have also partnered with school districts and colleges across the region to help students who have dropped out of school to complete a GED and begin earning stackable workforce credentials. ”

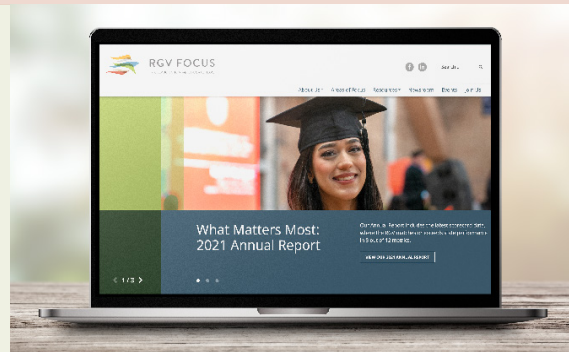
**TERI CAPISTRAN**

*Point Isabel ISD Superintendent and RGV FOCUS Leadership Team Chair*

## READ THE FULL STORY ONLINE

*Read the latest stories about our work to address the digital divide, improve teacher quality and retention, and increase associate degrees earned in high school.*

[RGVFOCUS.ORG](http://RGVFOCUS.ORG)



## OUR DESIGNATIONS AND NETWORKS



[EDTX.ORG/RGVDESIGNATIONS](http://EDTX.ORG/RGVDESIGNATIONS)

## WITH HEARTFELT THANKS TO OUR FUNDERS WHO SUPPORT OUR WORK

**BILL & MELINDA GATES foundation**

**DELL Technologies**

**GREATER TEXAS FOUNDATION**

**TexasMutual**  
WORKERS' COMPENSATION INSURANCE

**The Meadows Foundation**  
*Serving the People of Texas*

**W.W. CARUTH, JR. FUND**  
of COMMUNITIES FOUNDATION of TEXAS

## ABOUT EDUCATE TEXAS & COMMUNITIES FOUNDATION OF TEXAS

In 2012, Educate Texas and Communities Foundation of Texas (CFT) partnered with Valley-based leaders to establish RGV FOCUS. Educate Texas is proud to be an initiative of Communities Foundation of Texas and, together, we are building thriving communities and a thriving education system for all Texas students. Trusted as a change agent in Texas education, Educate Texas works side by side with partners through programs and policies to empower students to realize their dreams and fuel a thriving Texas.

RGVFOCUS.org | EdTx.org | CFTexas.org