



CONTIGO

2019 Annual Report



RGV FOCUS
a COLLABORATION with EDUCATE TEXAS

RGV FOCUS WORKS CONTIGO TO UNITE LEADERS TO CHANGE LIVES

Working side by side with community partners to serve as connector, organizer and supporter, the RGV FOCUS staff, known as the Backbone, creates equitable ideas and actions to achieve our shared goals:



COLLEGE READINESS

All students will graduate from high school college-ready



TIMELY TRANSITION

All high-school graduates will transition to higher education within one year



ACHIEVEMENT

All higher-education graduates will achieve a degree or credential



EMPLOYMENT

All higher-education graduates will be employed within six months of graduation

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.

WITH GRATITUDE TO OUR FUNDERS WHO WORK SIDE BY SIDE WITH US TO SUPPORT OUR WORK AND HELP US ACHIEVE OUR GOALS



RGV FOCUS is honored to have received ongoing support from our valued funding partners, including:

- Backbone support from the Greater Texas Foundation and the W.W. Caruth, Jr. Foundation
- Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation's P-16 Community Investment initiative and Civil Rights and Equity Organizations (CREO) initiative
- Lumina Foundation's Talent Hub initiative

2019-2020 LEADERSHIP TEAM

The RGV FOCUS Leadership Team works side by side with the RGV FOCUS Backbone staff and other community partners. Many thanks to the leaders who represent the organizations below for their dedication to the vision and mission of RGV FOCUS.

PRE-K THROUGH 12



HIGHER EDUCATION



COMMUNITY-BASED



BUSINESS



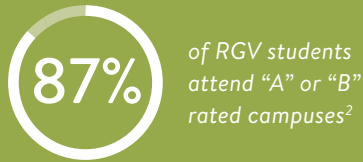
RGV BY THE NUMBERS



The median age in the Rio Grande Valley¹



of the population in the Rio Grande Valley is Latino¹



of RGV students attend "A" or "B" rated campuses²

In the RGV, **31%** of the population lives below the poverty threshold, compared to **16%** in the state¹



Of RGV residents 25 years old and older, **17%** have bachelor's degrees or higher, compared to **29%** in that age group in the state and **32%** in the United States¹

37

Public Independent School Districts³

and

363k

Students in public pre-K-12 (97% Latino)³



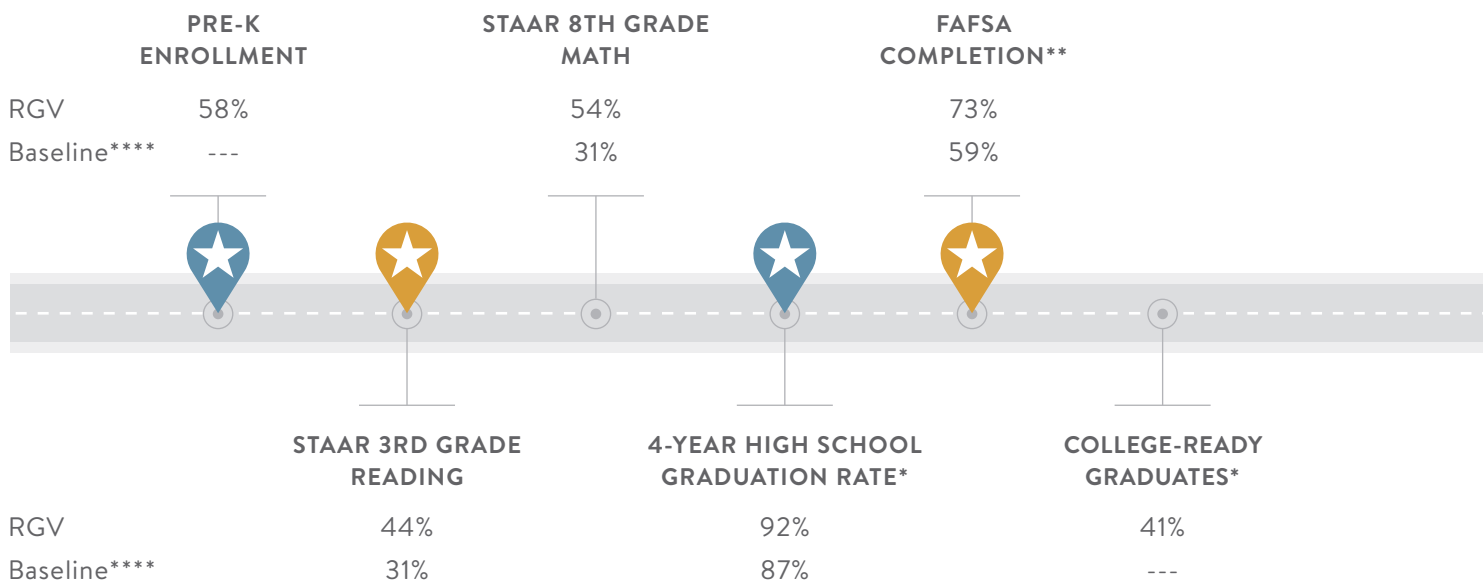
Public and Private Institutions of Higher Education across the RGV¹

including

74k

Public Higher Education Students (92% Latino)⁴

MAKING A DIFFERENCE ALONG THE CRADLE-TO-CAREER EDUCATIONAL PATHWAY



*RGV Data is for Graduating Class of 2018 | **RGV Data is for Graduating Class of 2019 | ***Due to the consolidation of 4-year institutions of higher education in the RGV, a 4-year standard baseline is not applicable | ****2015 Baseline for Higher Ed. Graduates Employed/Enrolled 4-year, 2011-2012 Baseline for all other indicators

STRATEGIC PRIORITIES

EARLY CHILDHOOD THROUGH ELEMENTARY

Improve quality of education through grade-level literacy in reading and math, pre-K through third grade

SECONDARY THROUGH POSTSECONDARY

Decrease remediation/developmental education

Re-engage individuals with significant college credits to complete a degree or credential

Increase immediate enrollment to postsecondary after graduation from high school

Increase accessibility of resources about college for parents and families

MIDDLE SCHOOL TO HIGH SCHOOL

Ensure successful completion of four years of an intentional and rigorous math pathway with emphasis on 8th Grade Math

TEACHING EXCELLENCE

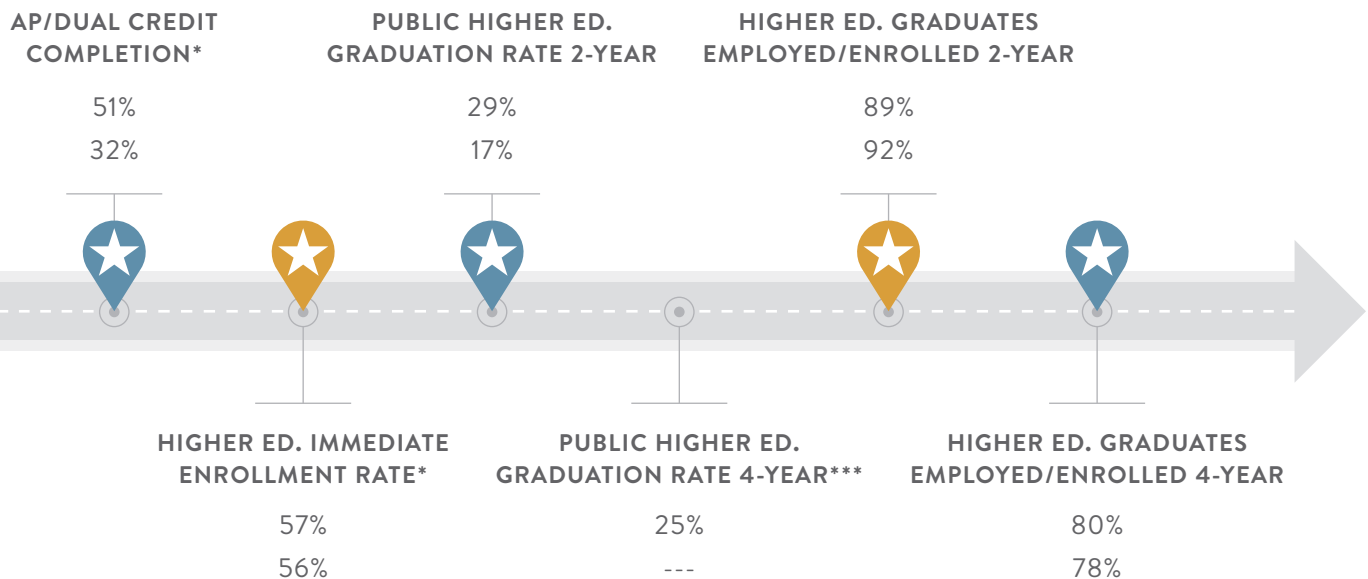
Improve educator preparation through coordinated efforts between the University of Texas Rio Grande Valley College of Education, Rio Grande Valley school districts and charter schools

WORKFORCE

Create regional youth workplace-based experience and models

Support employer-led educational partnership models in IT, health care and education

 For additional data, sources and information on our Equity Framework visit [RGVFOCUS.ORG/SCORECARD](https://rgvfocus.org/scorecard)



 Matches or exceeds state performance

To view our sources, please visit edtx.org/documentsources.

CONTIGO

The Rio Grande Valley is a place where language and culture are celebrated in our communities, in our homes, in our schools, and on college and university campuses.

Here, community and business leaders are working side by side with education leaders and parents to give our children the academic foundation they need to succeed in the classroom, in their careers and in life.

In Spanish, this idea of working “side by side” is expressed by the word *contigo* – with you. Contigo is what RGV FOCUS is all about.



To learn more and read stories about our work with our partners, visit RGVFOCUS.ORG

THREE STEPS YOU CAN TAKE TO BE A PART OF THIS WORK

1

TALENT

Join our collective impact team

2

TIME

Engage in an action network
through RGV FOCUS

3

TREASURE

Support regional collaboration



RGV FOCUS BACKBONE TEAM

DR. RODNEY H. RODRIGUEZ, SENIOR DIRECTOR

KATHERINE DÍAZ, DEPUTY DIRECTOR

GERALD GONZALES, JR., DEPUTY DIRECTOR

VANESSA ALFARO, PROGRAM ASSISTANT

ABOUT EDUCATE TEXAS AND 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.



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