



2020 Annual Report

NOW, MORE THAN EVER



RGV FOCUS

a COLLABORATION with EDUCATE TEXAS

UNITING LEADERS TO CHANGE LIVES

Now, more than ever, RGV FOCUS is committed to working with public and higher education leaders, community-based organizations, and businesses to serve as a connector, facilitator, and capacity builder to impact student outcomes. Our Collective Impact approach focuses on creating equitable ideas and actions to achieve our Leadership Team's **shared goals**:

1

COLLEGE READINESS

All students will graduate from high school college ready

2

TIMELY TRANSITION

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

3

ACHIEVEMENT

All higher education graduates will achieve a degree or credential

4

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.

RGV FOCUS 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 for students and families to make informed decisions about postsecondary options leading to a career

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

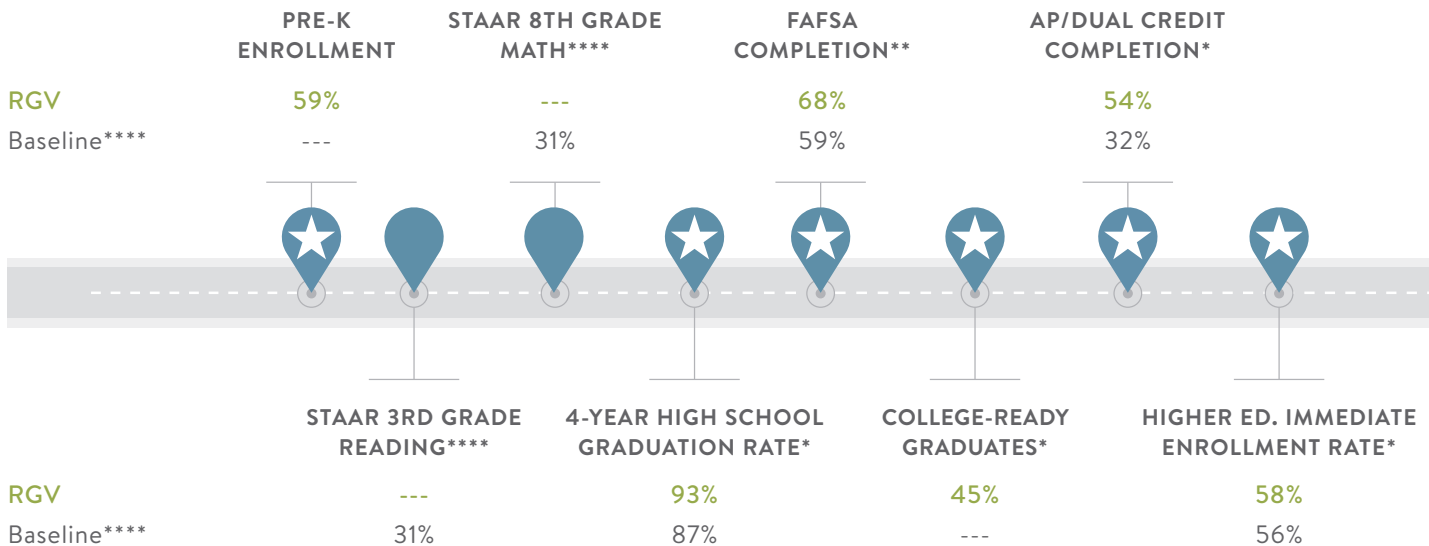
Improve educator preparation through coordinated regional efforts

WORKFORCE

Create regional youth workplace-based experience and models

Support educational alignment with high-demand occupations for the region to meet the needs of industry

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



*Data is for Graduating Class of 2019 | **Data is for Graduating Class of 2020 | *** Due to the consolidation of 4-year institutions of higher education in the RGV, a 4-year standard baseline is not applicable | ****Due to disruptions caused by COVID-19 in the 2019-2020 school year with STAAR testing, these indicators were not tracked by the Texas Education Agency.



RGV BY THE NUMBERS



1.36MM

people call the Rio Grande Valley Home¹

Median Age



Latino Population¹

In the RGV, **30%** of the population lives below the poverty threshold, compared to **15%** in the state¹



Of RGV residents 25 years old and older, **18%** have bachelor's degrees or higher, compared to **30%** in that age group in the state and **32%** in the United States¹

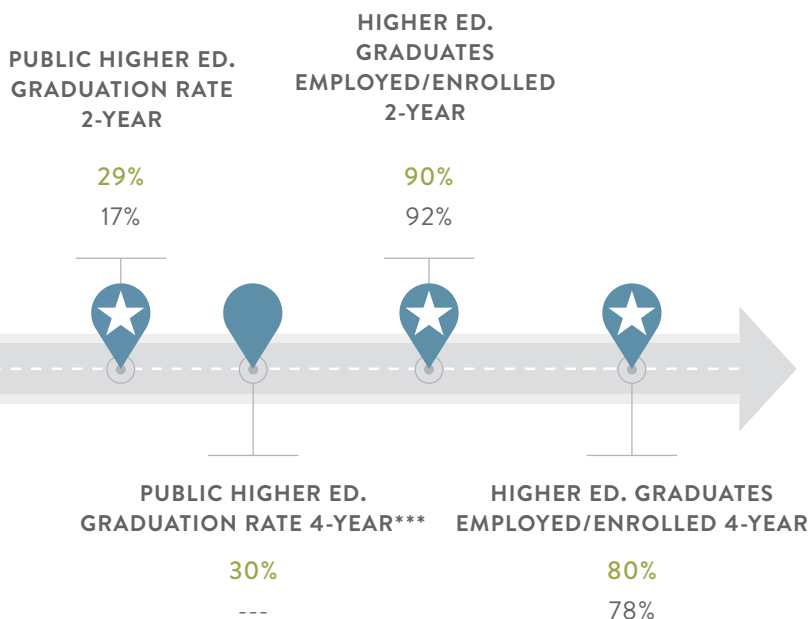
37 Public Independent School Districts²

366K Students in Public pre-K-12 (96% Latino)²



Public and Private Institutions of Higher Education across the RGV

74K Public Higher Education Students (92% Latino)³



★ Matches or exceeds state performance

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

STORIES FROM OUR COMMUNITY

The Rio Grande Valley is a place where English and Spanish are beautifully blended, and where language and culture are celebrated in our communities, in our homes, in our schools, and on college and university campuses. Here, businesses and leaders of community-based organizations 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.



“ Each one of the parents who are sitting with us at the table and are talking about education – it’s coming from the heart. It is coming from this *hambre*, this hunger that we have as parents for our kids’ success and for our own education as well....

RGV FOCUS became a teacher to our leaders and our parents which was a gift, *un regalo de Dios para nosotros* in our committee. ”

LOURDES FLORES

ARISE President and Chair of the Equal Voice Network Education Working Group

WITH HEARTFELT THANKS TO OUR FUNDERS WHO SUPPORT OUR WORK



W.W. CARUTH, JR.
FOUNDATION
at Communities Foundation of Texas



BILL & MELINDA
GATES foundation



GREATER TEXAS
FOUNDATION



The Meadows
Foundation
Serving the People of Texas



READ THE FULL STORY ONLINE

Learn more about our expanded annual scorecard, and read the latest stories about our work with partners to impact student outcomes at

 **RGVFOCUS.ORG**



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.

RGVFOCUS.org | EdTx.org | CFTexas.org