Four Counties…One Community: Leaders United to Change Lives

June 14, 2016

RGV FOCUS
a collaboration with Educate Texas

Getting to Know Each Other

RGV FOCUS
a collaboration with Educate Texas

Interview a person next two you (2 min each)

- What is one thing that makes you a wonderful member of your family or friend?
- What is one things that makes you a wonderful employee/ colleague at work?
- What is one thing that you do that you can get lost in for hours?

Introduce the person you interviewed to the table (1 min each)

© RGV FOCUS 2016

Presenter Background

RGV FOCUS
a collaboration with Educate Texas

- Over 27 years in Higher Education
- 10 Years at University
- 15 Years at South Texas College (STC)
- 2 Years at Lone Star College System
- 3 Year Educate Texas/Communities Foundation of Texas
- STC Achieving the Dream Lead 2004 to 2011
- STC Completion by Design Lead
- Talent Dividend Liaison for South Texas Region
- Achieving the Dream Data Coach 2009 to Present
- Student Success by the Numbers Consultant 2011to 2013

© RGV FOCUS 2016

About the RGV

RGV FOCUS
a collaboration with Educate Texas

Young and Latino

Population

- 1.3 Million
- 90% Latino

Median Age

- 29 years (RGV)
- 34 years (Texas)
- 37 years (US)

Area

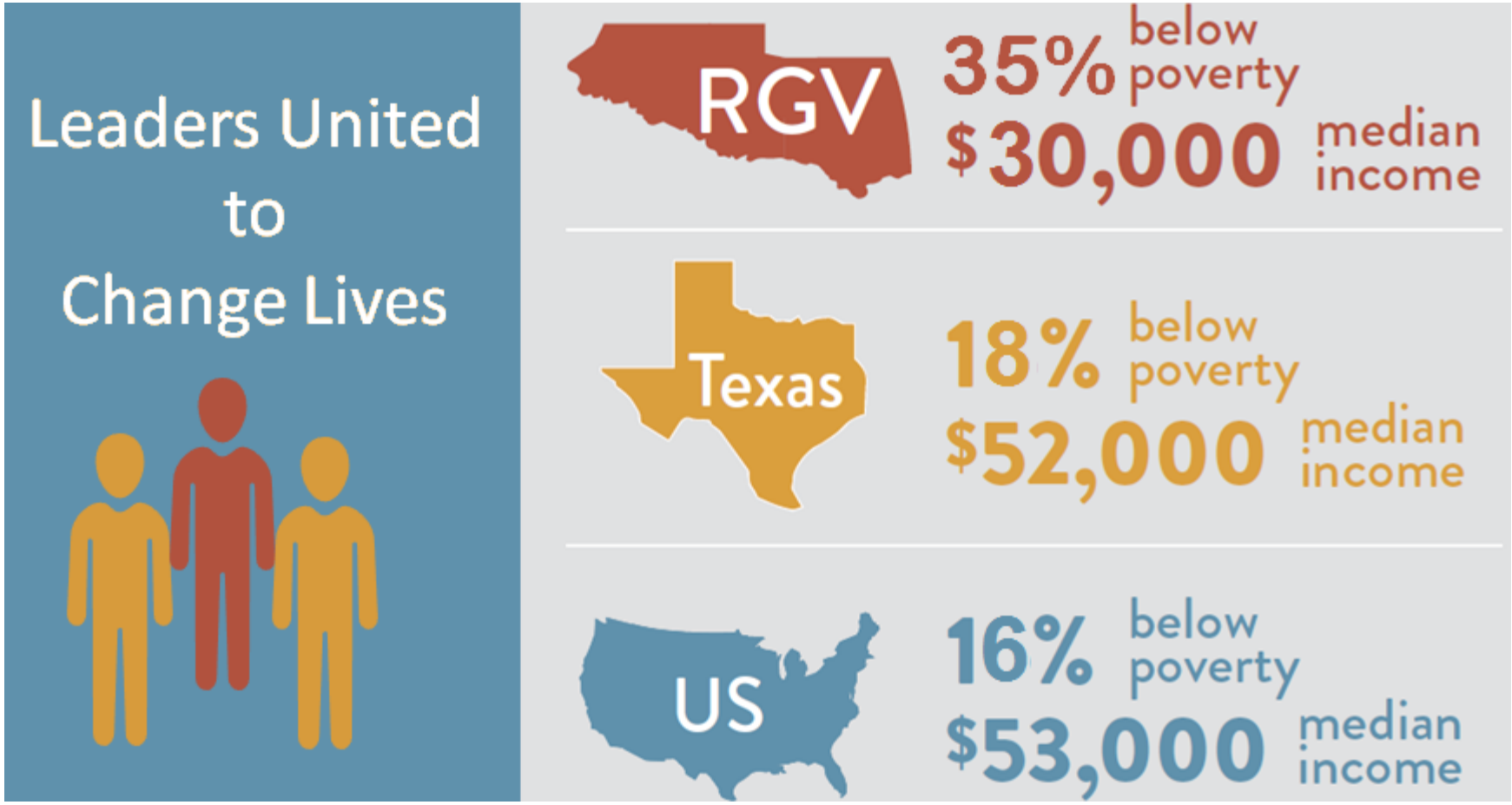
- 4,316 square miles

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2010-2014 American Community Survey

© RGV FOCUS 2016

Double the National Poverty Rate

RGV FOCUS
a collaboration with Educate Texas



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, U.S. Census Bureau, 2010-2014 American Community Survey

© RGV FOCUS 2016

Large Educational Disparities

RGV FOCUS
a collaboration with Educate Texas

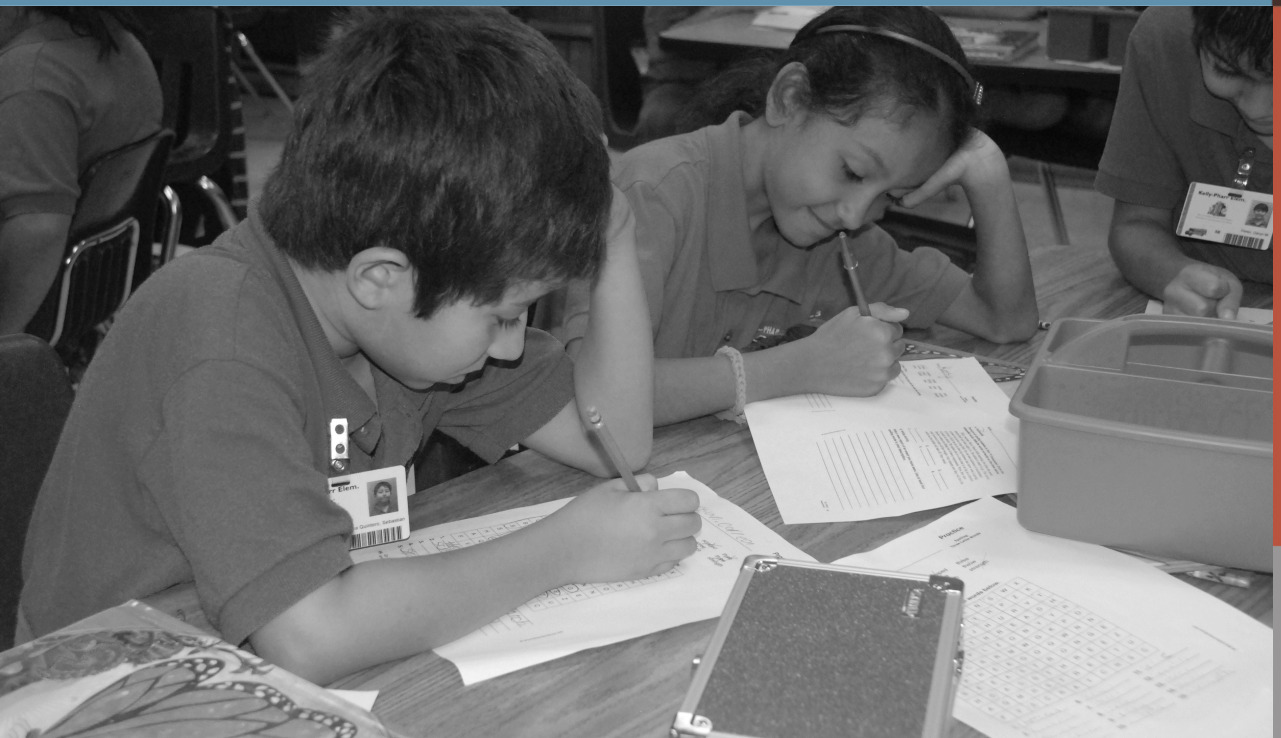
Educational Attainment: Adults 25 and Older

	RGV	Texas	US
Less than 9th grade	24%	9%	6%
9th to 12th Grade, No Diploma	14%	9%	8%
High School Graduate	24%	25%	28%
Some College, No Diploma	18%	23%	21%
Associate's Degree	5%	7%	8%
Bachelor's Degree	11%	18%	18%
Graduate or Professional Degree	5%	9%	11%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2010-2014 American Community Survey

© RGV FOCUS 2016

Moving Towards Collective Impact



RGV FOCUS

a collaboration with Educate Texas

Exploring Partnerships

RGV FOCUS
a collaboration with Educate Texas

- What are key elements of strong partnerships?
- What are some challenges to sustaining partnerships?

© RGV FOCUS 2016

Partnership to Collaboration

RGV FOCUS
a collaboration with Educate Texas

© RGV FOCUS 2016

Collaboration to Collective Impact

RGV FOCUS
a collaboration with Educate Texas

© RGV FOCUS 2016

What is Collective Impact?

RGV FOCUS
a collaboration with Educate Texas

Collective impact is a framework that focuses on bringing members from different sectors within a community together to drive large scale social change.

In order for the framework to be effective, the following conditions must be met.

1. **Common Agenda**
   - Aligns the mission and purpose of partnering organizations
2. **Common Progress Measures**
   - Aligns the level of success across collaborating organizations
3. **Mutually Reinforcing Activities**
   - Each partnership level of expertise is a contributing asset
4. **Communications**
   - A central point that connects collaborating organizations
5. **Backbone Organizations**
   - A lead organization that manages collaborations

© RGV FOCUS 2016

Individual Action to Collaborative Action

RGV FOCUS
a collaboration with Educate Texas

Collaborative Action

- A group working towards the same outcome,
- Using disaggregated student level data
- To continuously improve practices over time

=

Coordinated Action

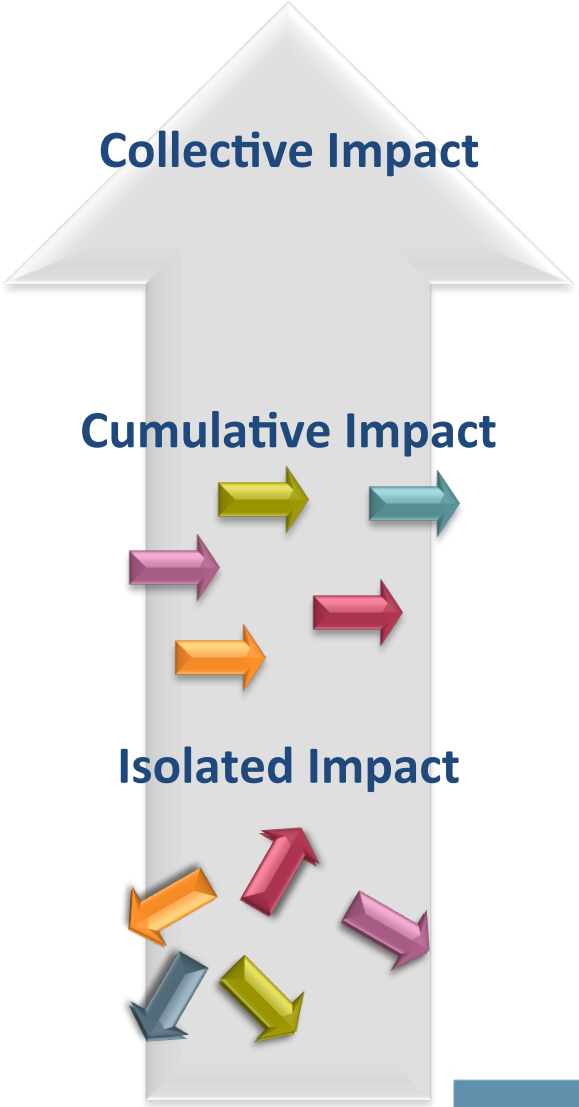
- A group working on the same issue,
- Sharing program information/design,
- Align efforts around a similar issue or population

=

Individual Action

- Individual practioners working on specific issues,
- Collecting qualitative and quantitative data for their individual programs,
- Demonstrate impact with individual students

=



© RGV FOCUS 2016
© Strive 2012

Three phases of Collective Impact

Phase I: *Initiate Action*

- Understanding of the landscape of key players and the existing work underway
- Baseline data on the social problem to develop the case for change
- An initial governance structure that includes strong and credible champions.

Phase II: *Organize for Impact*

- Stakeholders work together to establish common goals and shared measures
- Create a supporting backbone infrastructure
- Start aligning the many organizations involved in the shared goals and measures.

Phase III: *Sustain Action and Impact*

- Stakeholders pursue prioritized areas for action in a coordinated way
- Systematically collect data
- Put in place sustainable processes that enable active learning and course correcting as they track progress toward their common goals.

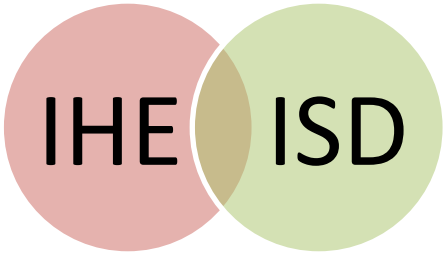
John Kania - FSG

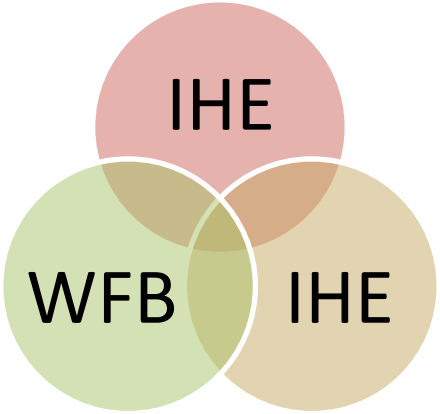
Collective Impact In the RGV

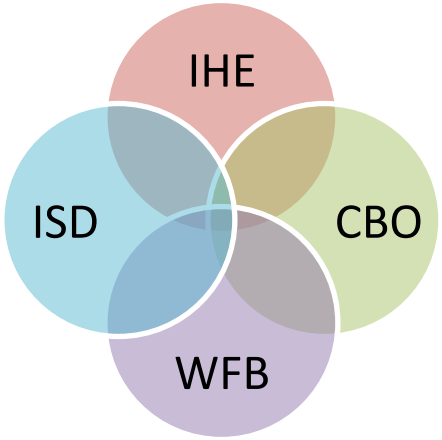
RGV FOCUS 15
a collaboration with Educate Texas

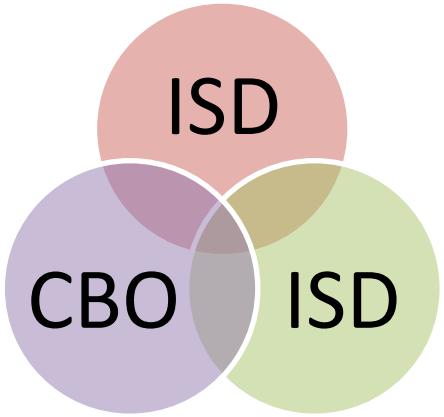
History of Partnerships

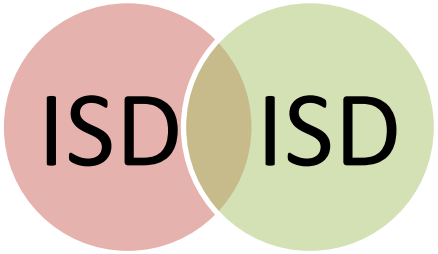
RGV FOCUS
a collaboration with Educate Texas

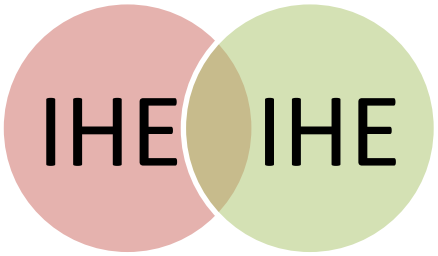












© RGV FOCUS 2016

Historical Isolated Impact

RGV FOCUS
a collaboration with Educate Texas

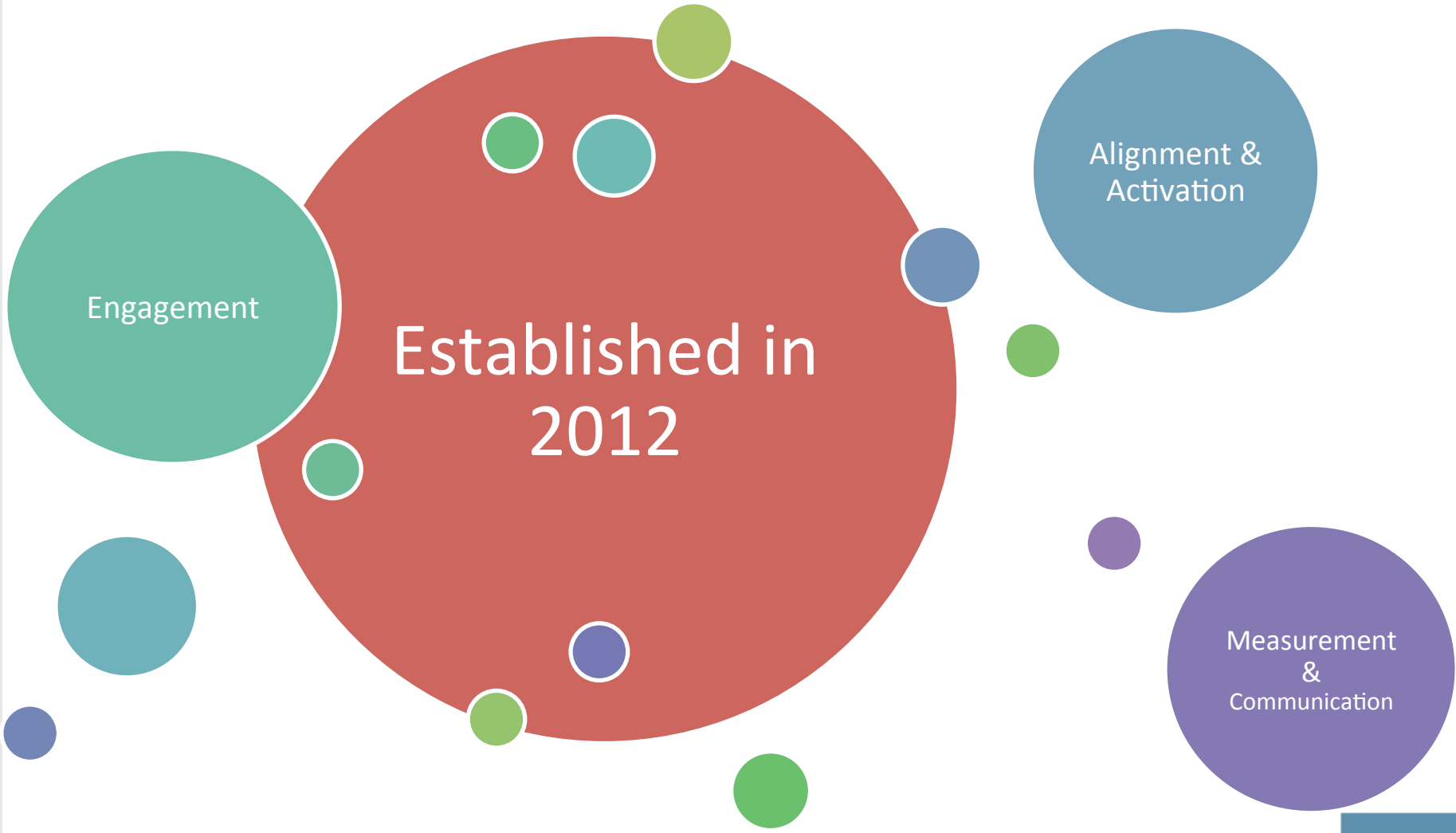
- Strong results for few students/organizations
- Innovation/Strategies Seldom Scaled or Institutionalized
- Equity Issues Emerge
  - Access to Programs/Services
  - Capacity to Scale Across Organizations
  - Maintain Pilot Status
  - Resource Allocation

What are some examples?

© RGV FOCUS 2016

Collective Impact in the RGV

RGV FOCUS
a collaboration with Educate Texas



© RGV FOCUS 2016

RGV FOCUS Leadership Team

RGV FOCUS
a collaboration with Educate Texas

Esperanza Zendejas
Brownsville ISD

Traci Wickett
United Way of Southern Cameron County

Wynn Rosser
Greater Texas Foundation

Arturo Cavazos
Harlingen CISD

Tom Torkelson
IDEA Public Schools

Alda Benavides
La Joya ISD

Vacant
La Villa ISD

Gonzalo Salazar
Los Fresnos CISD

Juanita Valdez-Cox
La Union del Pueblo Entero

Eduardo Infante
Lyford CISD

Jose A. Gonzalez
McAllen ISD

Daniel King
PSJA ISD

Cornelio Gonzlez
Region One ESC

Mike Seifert
Equal Voice Network

Shirley Reed
South Texas College

Lily Tercero
Texas Southmost College

Stella Garcia
Texas State Technical College Harlingen

Guy Bailey
UT Rio Grande Valley

Frank Almaraz
Workforce Solutions

Pat Hobbs
Workforce Solutions Cameron County

© RGV FOCUS 2016

RGV ISDs 7th Grade Cohort Data

RGV FOCUS
a collaboration with Educate Texas

Entering 7th Graders	
51,063	100%

Graduate HS within 6 Years	
38,985	76%

Enroll in Postsecondary Immediately	
21,899	43%

© RGV FOCUS 2016

RGV ISDs 7th Grade Cohort Data

RGV FOCUS
a collaboration with Educate Texas

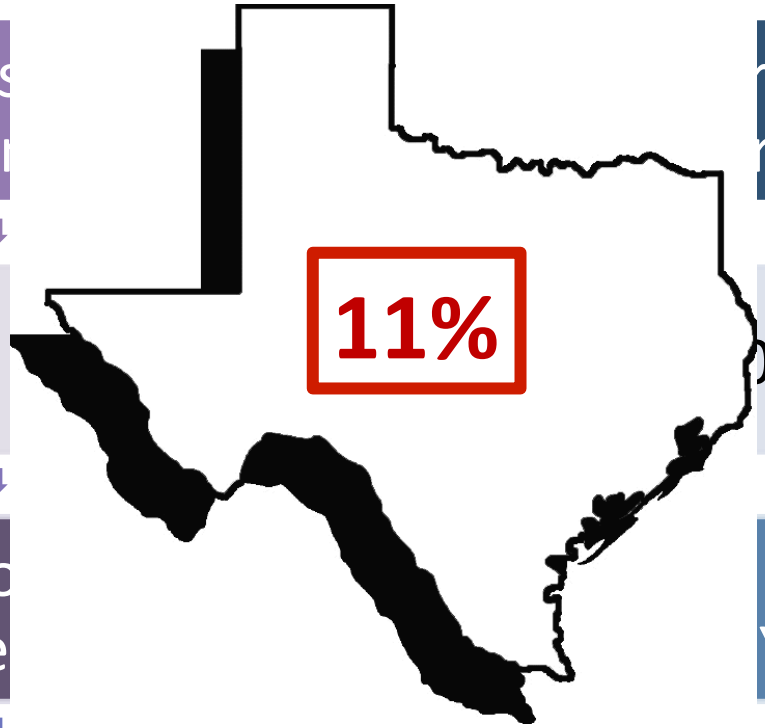
Enroll in Postsecondary Immediately
21,899 (43%)

2 Year Ins
Enrolll

10,892

Credential Co
6 Ye

3,834 (7.5%)



18.5%

r Institution
rollment

007 (22%)

Credential in 6
Years

5,624 (11%)

© RGV FOCUS 2016

Vision and Goals

RGV FOCUS
a collaboration with Educate Texas

All RGV learners will achieve a degree or credential that leads to a meaningful career

All RGV students graduate high school college ready

↓

All high school graduates transition to postsecondary within a year

↓

All postsecondary students can achieve a degree or credential on time

↓

All postsecondary graduates can be employed within 6 months

© RGV FOCUS 2016

Strategic Priorities

RGV FOCUS
a collaboration with Educate Texas

- 2013 College & Career Readiness
- 2013 Culture of Attending College
- 2015 Dropout Prevention & Recovery
- 2016 Excellent Teaching
- College Supports
- Career Connections

© RGV FOCUS 2016

RGV Cradle to Career Metrics

RGV FOCUS
a collaboration with Educate Texas

Kinder Readiness

3rd Grade Reading

8th Grade Math

4 Year HS Completion Rate

% College Ready Graduates% AP/ Dual Credit Completion

%Immediate Postsecondary Enrollment

% Students Graduating in 6 Years (4 year institution)

% Students Graduating in 3 Years (2 year institution)

% Postsecondary Graduates Employed/Enrolled

© RGV FOCUS 2016

RGV Educational Profile

RGV FOCUS
a collaboration with Educate Texas

K-12 System

- 39 School Districts
- 347,337 Students
- 20,383 HS Graduates
- 97.3% Latino
- 86.7% Economically Disadvantaged
- 33.5% English Language Learners

Source: TEA, TAPR Reports, 2013-2014

Higher Education

- 1 University*
- 2 Community Colleges
- 1 Technical College
- 68,993 Students
- 91% Latino

Source: THECB, Higher Ed. Accountability System (2015)

Awards

- Doctorates 20
- Masters 1,016
- Baccalaureates 3,999
- Associates 3,796
- Certificates/ Completers 2,432

* Starting in fall 2015, The University of Texas Rio Grande Valley was created, brining together the resources and assets of The University of Texas at Brownsville and The University of Texas-Pan American.

© RGV FOCUS 2016

High Levels of Engagement

RGV FOCUS
a collaboration with Educate Texas

- **Leadership Team:** Represents 11 school districts and 55% of students
- **Action Groups:** Represent 14 school districts and 71% of students
- **Regional Strategies:** Worked with 26 ISDs representing 88% of students through regional strategies
- **Higher Ed Institutions:** Represent all four and 100% of students
- **Community-based Organizations:** In three of four counties
- **Workforce Boards:** Representing 100% of counties

© RGV FOCUS 2016

Super Saturday 2016

RGV FOCUS

a collaboration with Educate Texas

Goal/Purpose of Super Saturday

RGV FOCUS
a collaboration with Educate Texas

Create greater regional awareness around Financial Aid process

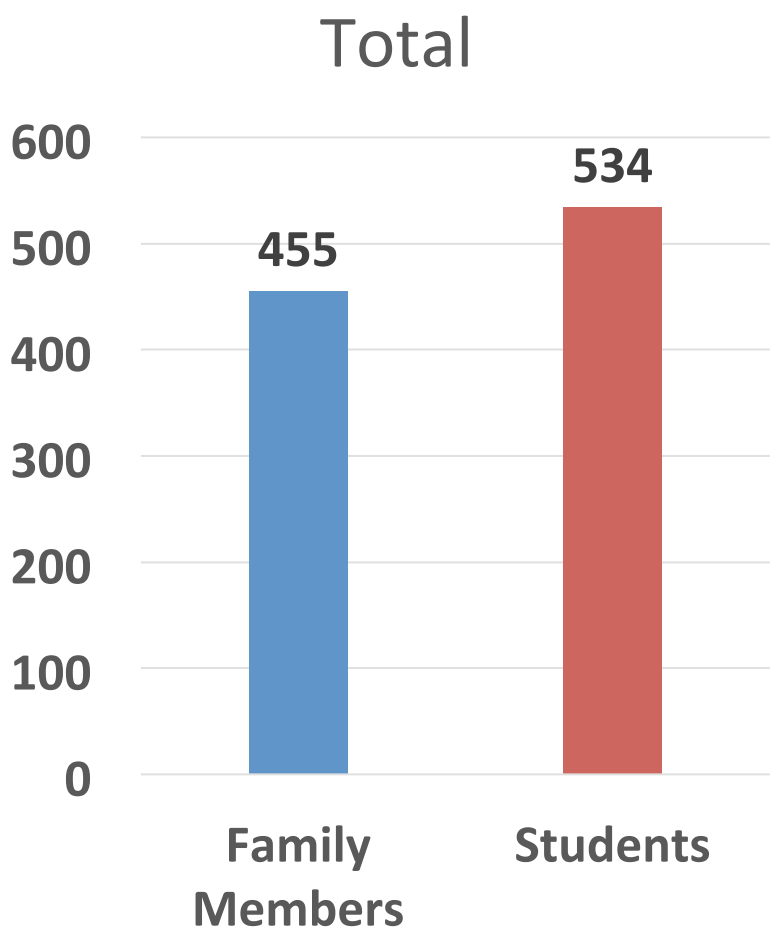
Strengthen partnership among IHEs, ISDs, and CBOs

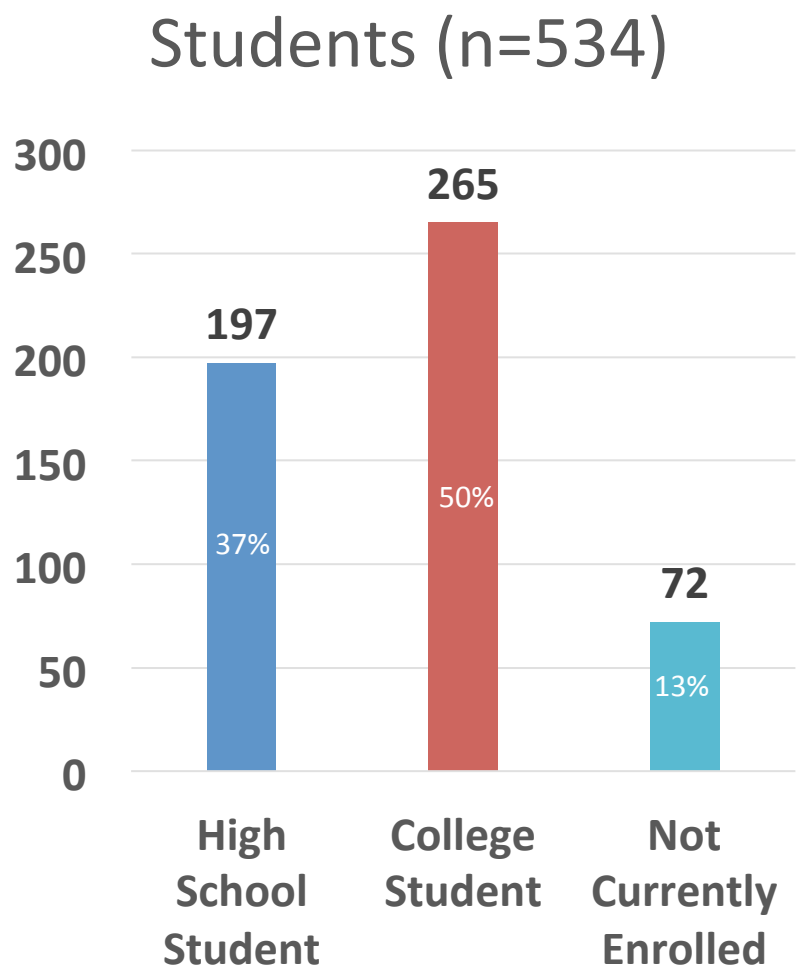
Increase FAFSA/TASFA completions

© RGV FOCUS 2016

Attendee Type

RGV FOCUS
a collaboration with Educate Texas

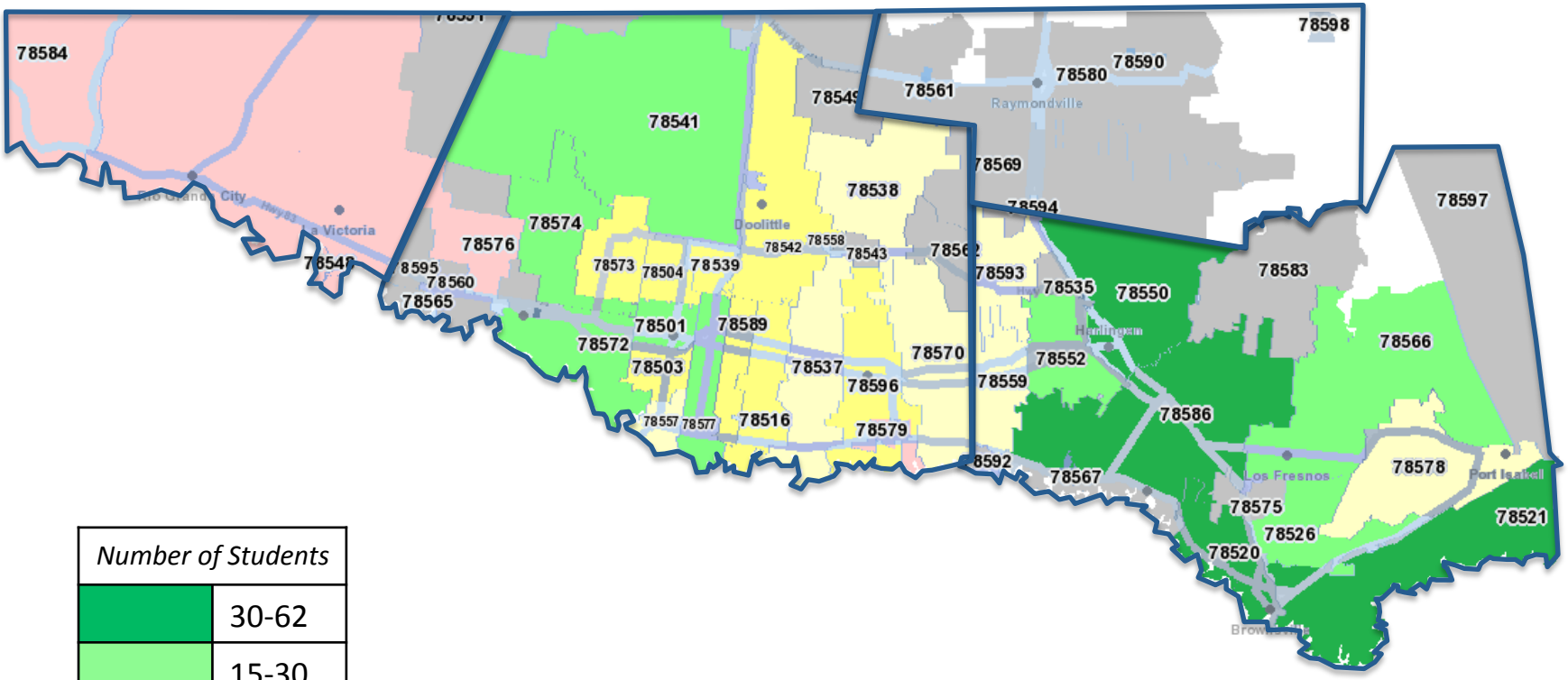




© RGV FOCUS 2016

Zip Code Map

RGV FOCUS
a collaboration with Educate Texas

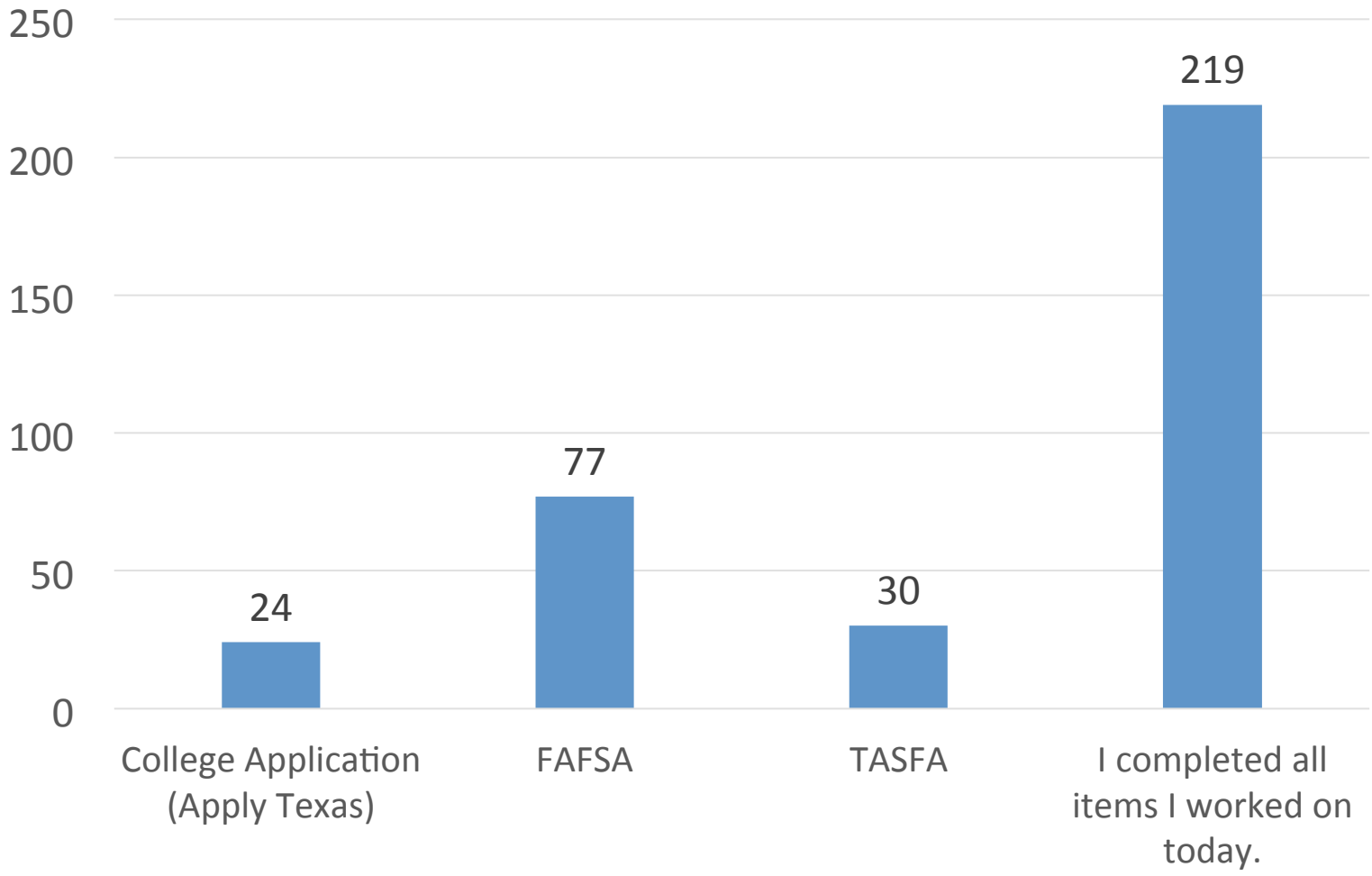


Number of Students	
	30-62
	15-30
	8-14
	4-7
	1-3
	0

© RGV FOCUS 2016

What items are you still working on?

RGV FOCUS
a collaboration with Educate Texas



© RGV FOCUS 2016

Responding to Legislative Mandate

RGV FOCUS
a collaboration with Educate Texas

Regional Response to HB5 College Prep

RGV FOCUS
a collaboration with Educate Texas

RGV FOCUS
a collaboration with Educate Texas

© RGV FOCUS 2016

Large Scale Regional Collaboration

RGV FOCUS
a collaboration with Educate Texas

- The **Rio Grande Valley joins together in response to the House Bill 5 mandate** requiring school districts to partner with at least one institution of higher education.
- The House Bill 5 mandate also notes that through this partnership, the collaborators must develop and provide courses in English and mathematics designed for students at the 12th grade level to meet college readiness requirements allowing them to enroll in college credit courses immediately upon high school graduation.
- **The five higher education institutions and thirty-nine school districts** in the Rio Grande Valley convened from January 2014 to July 2014 and **have developed two courses** that include the identification of learning outcomes, homework, and final exams/assessments.
- **All thirty-nine school districts have agreed to implement the same courses**, and **successful completion** of these courses with a C or better **will be accepted by all five institutions of higher education** as evidence of college readiness in the math and/or English.

© RGV FOCUS 2016

ELA/Math Instructional Resources

RGV FOCUS
a collaboration with Educate Texas

UTPA WeBWorK

Department of Mathematics

MAA MATHEMATICAL ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA

https://itunes.apple.com/us/book/college-transitions/id906939850?mt=11

https://webwork.utpa.edu/CollegPrep-fall2014.html

© RGV FOCUS 2016

Focus on Equity

RGV FOCUS

a collaboration with Educate Texas

Identified Need

RGV FOCUS
a collaboration with Educate Texas

Some undocumented students don't know they qualify for in-state tuition and state financial aid

DREAMers are unaware how to approach the college application and financial aid processes

DACAmented students erroneously fill out FAFSA instead of TASFA, delaying the process

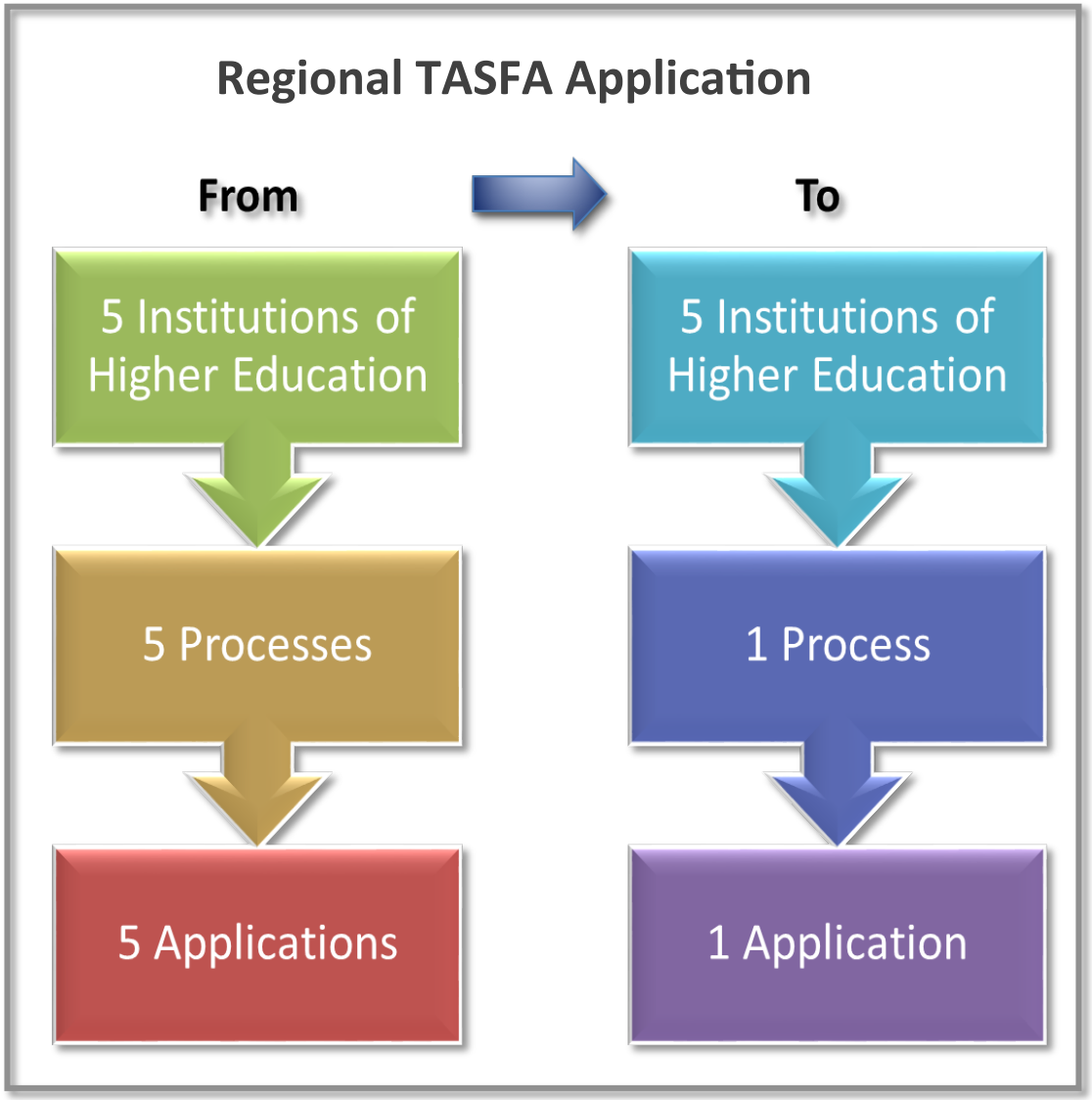
Confusion exists among some college access professionals on how to counsel undocumented students

IHEs are given discretion over TASFA process and accompanying documentation

© RGV FOCUS 2016

Cross-institution Alignment

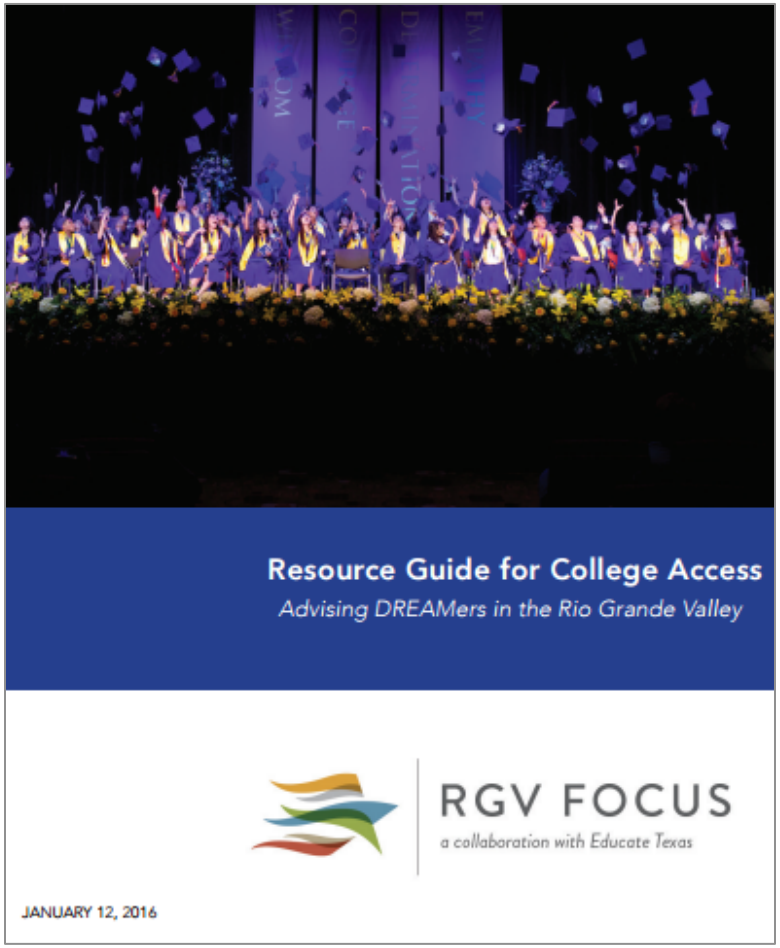
RGV FOCUS
a collaboration with Educate Texas



© RGV FOCUS 2016

Advising Dreamers

RGV FOCUS
a collaboration with Educate Texas



Apply Texas

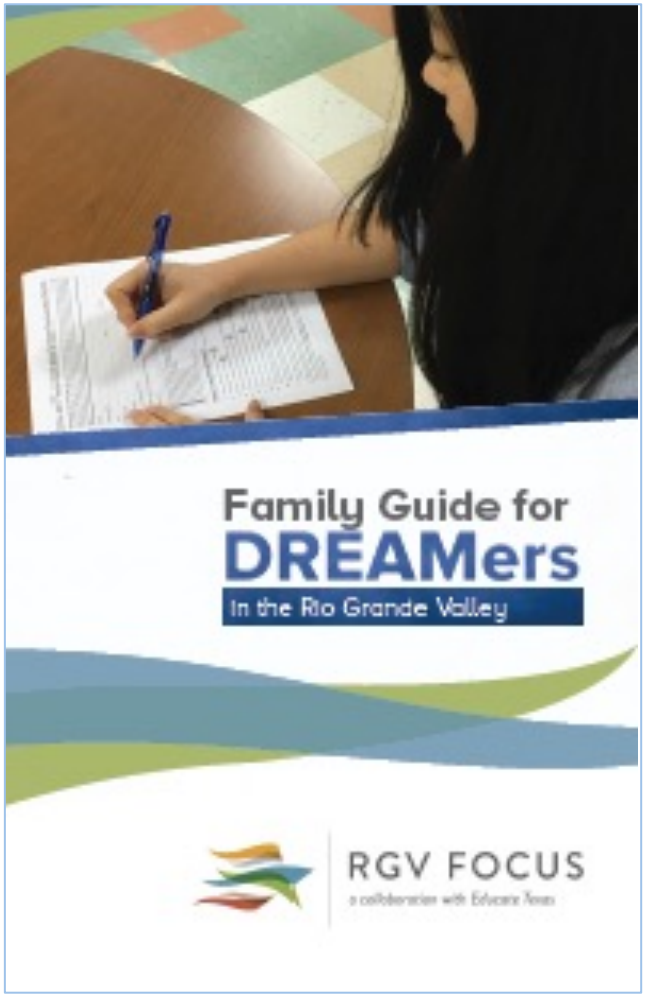
TASFA

Additional Resources

http://rgvfocus.org/resources/toolkits/resource-guide-for-college-access/

Communicating with Families

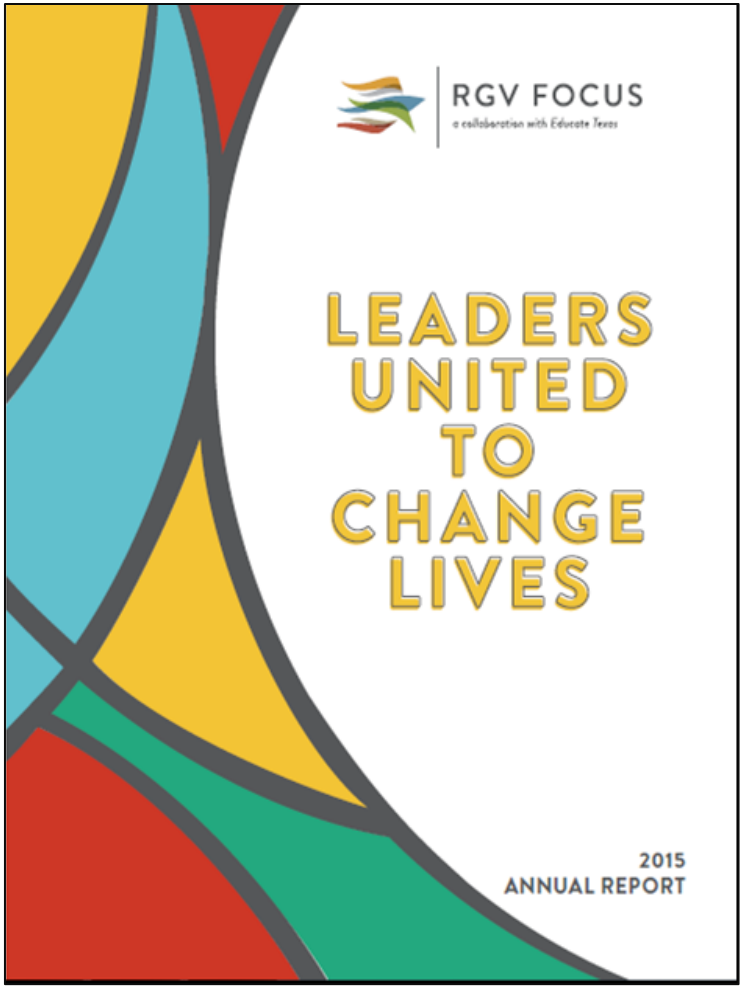
RGV FOCUS
a collaboration with Educate Texas



http://rgvfocus.org/resources/toolkits/

Measuring Progress Across the Region

Annual Report 2015



Released April 22nd

Available at http://rgvfocus.org/annual-reports/

Trending Above State: 7 out of 9

RGV FOCUS
a collaboration with Educate Texas

2015 RGV FOCUS SCORECARD

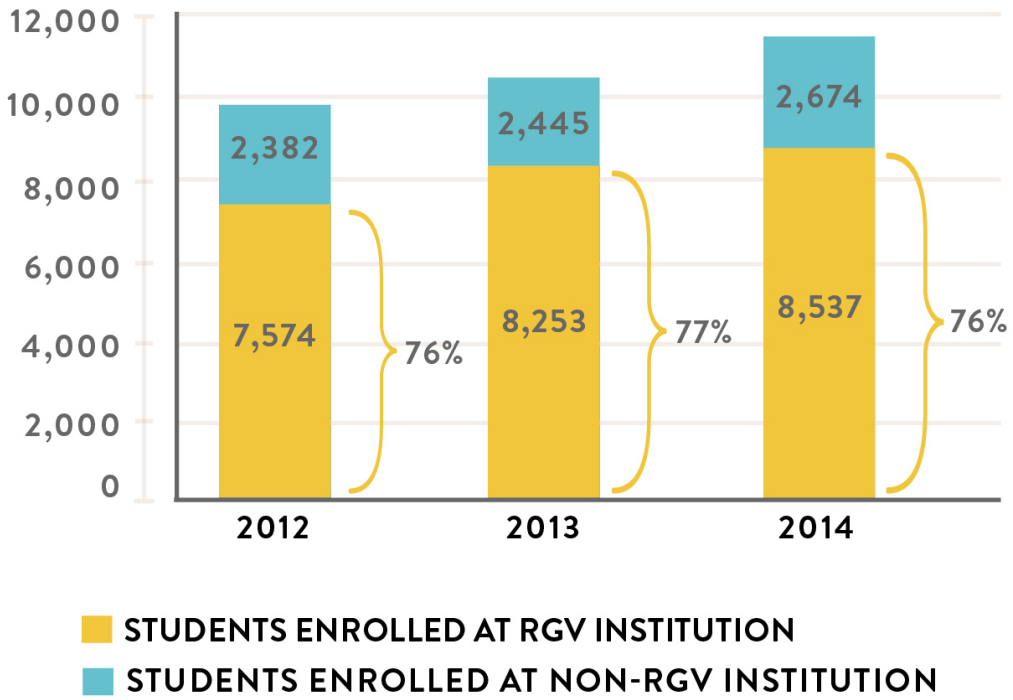
	4-Year HS Graduation Rate	% FAFSA Completion	% College Ready Graduates	% AP / Dual Credit Completion	Higher Ed Immediate Enrollment Rate	Higher Ed Graduation Rate		Higher Ed Graduates Employed or Enrolled	
						2-Year IHE	4-Year IHE	2-Year IHE	4-Year IHE
2013-2014 (Difference with Baseline)	89% (↑2%)	59% (no change)	47% (no change)	38% (↑6%)	59% (↑3%)	16% (↓1%)	49% (↑5%)		
2012-2013 (Difference with Baseline)	88% (↑1%)	62% (↑3%)	48% (↑1%)	34% (↑2%)	57% (↑1%)	16% (↓1%)	45% (↑1%)	89% (↓3%)	79% (↑1%)
2011-2012 Baseline	87%	59%	47%	32%	56%	17%	44%	92%	78%
Texas Data (Most Recent Year Available)	88%	53%	54%	33%	54%	15%	60%	88%	78%
RGV Comparison against Texas	(↑1%)	(↑6%)	(↓7%)	(↑5%)	(↑5%)	(↑1%)	(↓11%)	(↑1%)	(↑1%)
Match or Exceed the State	★	★	☆	★	★	★	☆	★	★

© RGV FOCUS 2016

Students Stay in the RGV

RGV FOCUS
a collaboration with Educate Texas

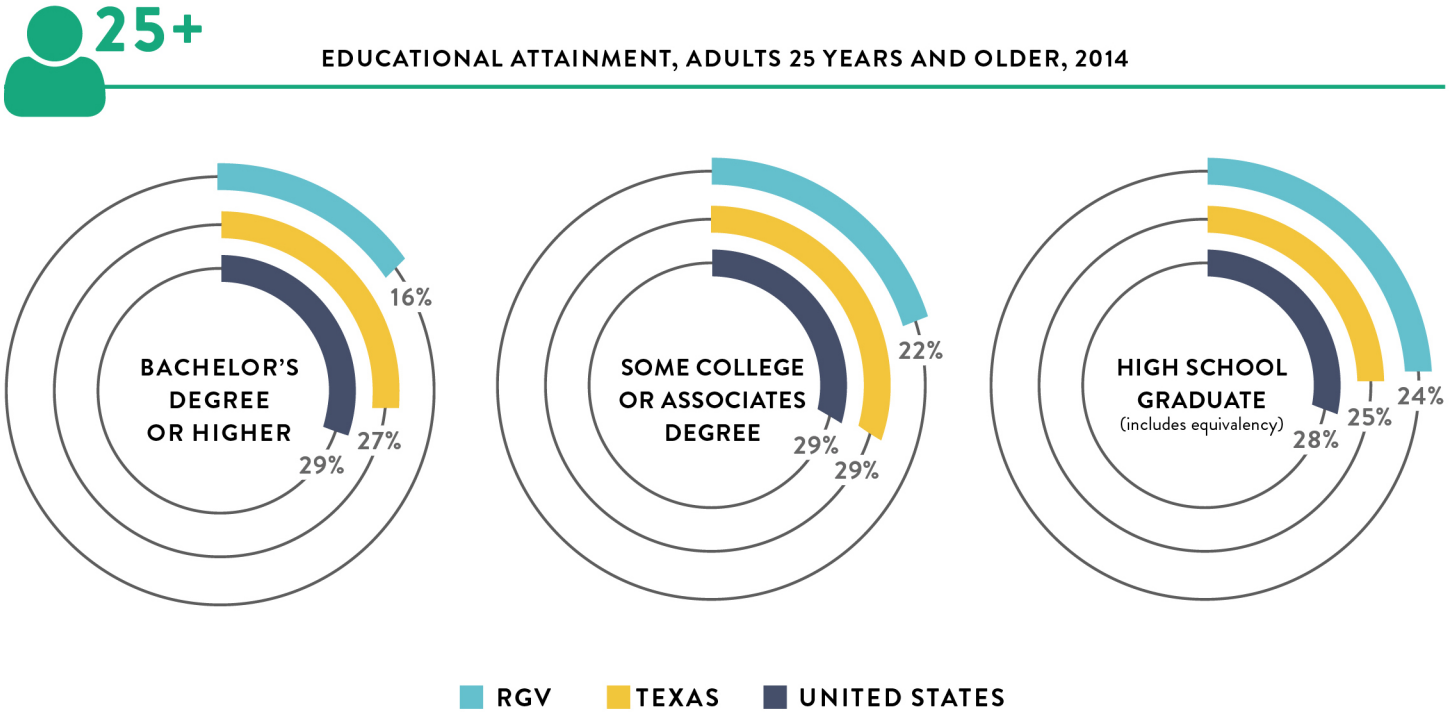
OF THOSE WHO ENROLLED AT A TEXAS COLLEGE OR UNIVERSITY, 76% CHOSE TO STAY IN THE RGV

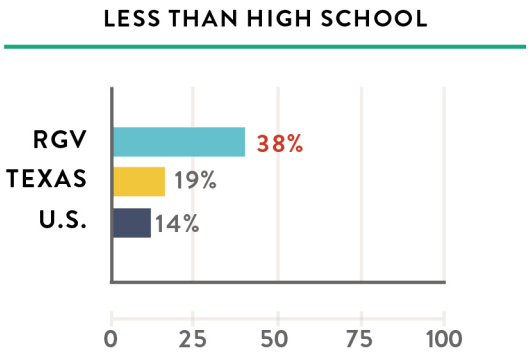


© RGV FOCUS 2016

Generational Shift

RGV FOCUS
a collaboration with Educate Texas





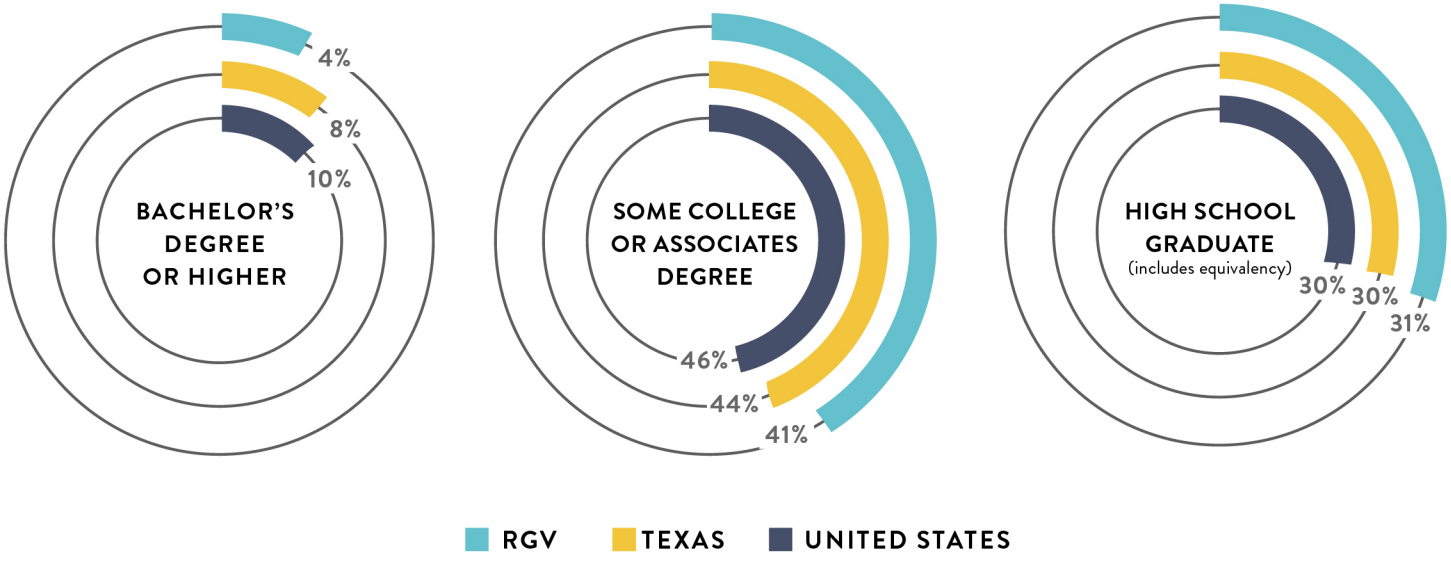
© RGV FOCUS 2016

Generational Shift

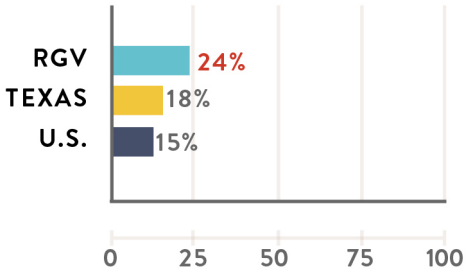
RGV FOCUS
a collaboration with Educate Texas

18-24

EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT, ADULTS 18-24 YEARS, 2014



LESS THAN HIGH SCHOOL



© RGV FOCUS 2016

Insights & Questions

RGV FOCUS
a collaboration with Educate Texas

© RGV FOCUS 2016

Progress moves at the speed of trust.

~Collective Impact Practitioner

© RGV FOCUS 2016

Contact Information

RGV FOCUS
a collaboration with Educate Texas

Luzelma Canales, Executive Director
956-225-5535 | lcanales@cftexas.org

Eugenio Longoria Sáenz, Director of Knowledge and Capacity
814-321-3515 | esaenz@cftexas.org

María Esther Rodríguez, Project Manager
956-802-2142 | erodriguez@cftexas.org

Lisa Gomi, Data Analyst
626-589-2777 | lgomi@cftexas.org

Melba D. Garcia, Team Assistant
830-591-3380 | mgarcia@cftexas.org

http://rgvfocus.org

© RGV FOCUS 2016