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

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

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 nosotras en our committee.

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

STORIES FROM OUR COMMUNITY

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

WITH HEARTFELT THANKS TO OUR FUNDERS WHO SUPPORT OUR WORK

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.

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

READ THE FULL STORY ONLINE

NOW, MORE THAN EVER

2020 Annual Report

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 ALONG THE CRADLE-TO-CAREER EDUCATIONAL PATHWAY

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Measure</th>
<th>RGV 2019</th>
<th>Baseline****</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>PRE-K Enrollment</td>
<td>59%</td>
<td>...</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>STAAR 8TH GRADE Math**</td>
<td>68%</td>
<td>59%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FAFSA Completion**</td>
<td>54%</td>
<td>32%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>STAAR 3RD GRADE READING***</td>
<td>93%</td>
<td>87%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4-YEAR HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION RATE*</td>
<td>95%</td>
<td>87%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>COLLEGE-READY GRADUATES*</td>
<td>45%</td>
<td>...</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HIGHER ED. IMMEDIATE ENROLLMENT RATE*</td>
<td>58%</td>
<td>56%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PUBLIC HIGHER ED. GRADUATION RATE 2-YEAR</td>
<td>29%</td>
<td>17%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HIGHER EDUC. GRADUATES EMPLOYED/ENROLLED 2-YEAR</td>
<td>90%</td>
<td>92%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PUBLIC HIGHER ED. GRADUATION RATE 4-YEAR***</td>
<td>30%</td>
<td>...</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HIGHER EDUC. GRADUATES EMPLOYED/ENROLLED 4-YEAR</td>
<td>80%</td>
<td>78%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*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.

**Matches or exceeds state performance**

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### 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

**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

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### RGV BY THE NUMBERS

- **1.36MM** people call the Rio Grande Valley home¹
- **92%** Latino Population¹
- **1.36MM** students in public pre-K–12 (96% Latino)²
- **74K** Public Higher Education Students (92% Latino)³
- **366K** Public Higher Education Students (92% Latino)³
- **37** Public Independent School Districts²
- **30** Median Age

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

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**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 States³**

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**30%** of the population lives below the poverty threshold, compared to **15%** in the state. **92%** of the population is Latino. **37** Public Independent School Districts serve students in 366,000 public pre-K–12 students (96% Latino). 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 States. **30** is the median age in the RGV. **74,000** students in public and private institutions of higher education across the RGV are enrolled.