

Ysleta ISD

The Ysleta Independent School District (YISD), located in El Paso, has origins dating back to the early 1900s. With a focus on quality and engaging instruction, YISD is a consistent leader in student achievement and employee satisfaction. It is the third largest school district in the city with more than 41,700 students, and 6,000 full-time employees at our 61 campuses and Central Office.

YISD has a long tradition of excellence. It was the first urban school district in the state to be "Recognized" for academic performance by the Texas Education Agency. It was also a finalist for the prestigious Broad Prize in 2010 and 2011, making YISD one of the top urban school districts in the United States. In 2013, all of the district's schools met the state's academic standards, while two-thirds received special distinctions in at least one of three categories: language arts, mathematics, or overall student improvement.

The district's focus on high-quality programs for students, parents and employees ensures success from every aspect of the district. YISD has dual-language programs at more than half of its schools, which help fulfill the goal of graduating students who are fluent in two or more languages. In addition, YISD creates tailor-made programs and systems designed to meet the needs of our students, including a new academic curriculum that was launched in classrooms in the 2013-14 school year.

Dr. Xavier De La Torre is a well-known figure in the El Paso community. Prior to joining the Ysleta Independent School District (YISD) in March 2014, he served as the Superintendent of Schools in the neighboring Socorro Independent School District (SISD) before relocating to California in 2012 to serve as the County Superintendent of Schools at the Santa Clara County Office of Education.

During his tenure at YISD, Dr. De La Torre has ushered in a new era of innovative thinking, with an ambitious agenda for all students and staff. He was instrumental in passing a \$430.5 million bond in November 2015 that is providing funds for various campus projects, including safety and security updates; new athletics and fine arts facilities; school renovations and additions; technology upgrades; and the construction of several new campuses.

Dr. De La Torre helped plan and launch the 2016 opening of the Young Women's Leadership Academy, El Paso's only single-gender, college-preparatory public school for grades 6-12. An expansion of YISD's highly acclaimed international schools, increased business-community partnerships, an emphasis on STEM (science, technology, math, and engineering), additional programs to help students earn college credit while in high school, and a new technology-driven initiative – "Engage Me! One Vision, Infinite Possibilities." – have been the hallmarks of Dr. De La Torre's time at YISD.

A statement from Dr. De La Torre regarding the Texas Urban Council:

"With high percentages of both English Language Learners and economically disadvantaged students, I believe the Texas Urban Council's advocacy in these areas has a significant and beneficial impact on the Ysleta Independent School District. My own parents emigrated from Mexico with ambitious dreams of college for their young children – and they made it happen, setting us on a path toward success through the pursuit of education. With nearly 40% of YISD students entering school as English learners, it is my job as Superintendent of Schools to ensure that fluency in their native language becomes a true asset – not a liability – for them and our district, community, and state."