The Brownsville Independent School District (BISD) has 46,000+ students and approximately 7,000 employees at 54 schools, encompassing 95 square miles of Brownsville. BISD is the largest employer in the Rio Grande Valley and recognizes and addresses the unique cultural lifestyle of South Texas with a broad selection of academic activities and programs for all students.

These programs range from Early College High Schools to support programs for students with special needs. Limited English speaking students are served through the bilingual or English as a second language program. There is the pride in the progress BISD has made in recent years with regard to state-mandated testing. Better scores have translated into more seniors fulfilling degree requirements and graduating career-ready and college-connected. Academically, both the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools and the Texas Education Agency have accredited Brownsville public schools.

BISD is committed not only to working with students, but also with the community as well. The district supports Campus Care Centers to serve the unmet medical needs of school age children and adolescents. Because no student deserves to go through the school day hungry, BISD features Universal Feeding, Provision Two. This plan provides breakfast, lunch, and supper, free of charge, to all students, regardless of income or ability to pay. BISD uses these elements, and many more, to achieve its mission. Quality education cannot be a vague statement. It must be the challenge that encourages students and educators to be the very best that they can be every day.

BISD will graduate students who are prepared to excel in higher education and successfully pursue career opportunities in a changing global society by maximizing resources to ensure equitable opportunities for all students.

This school year (2019-2020) BISD has more winners of the America’s Best Urban Schools Award than any other district in the nation. Over $95 million in scholarship offers for our 2020 BISD Graduates awarded by local, state, and national entities that generously offered our graduates scholarships to pursue their postsecondary education. A total of 33 BISD 2020 graduates earned an associate degree from Texas Southmost College thru the dual enrollment program.
BISD has 7 schools that were ranked in the 2020 U.S. News & World Report Best High Schools in America: Brownsville Early College High School, Veterans Memorial Early College High School, Pace Early College High School, Hanna Early College High School, Lopez Early College High School, Rivera Early College High School, Porter Early College High School.

Dr. René Gutiérrez is the superintendent of schools of BISD. As superintendent he has implemented strategies and initiated programs aimed at strengthening all academic components of a school district. Among these was a Vision Academy of Excellence as well as an Educator Technology Conference. Many of the steps taken have focused on addressing the scholastic needs of those economically disadvantaged as well as students for whom English is a second language.

Dr. Gutiérrez has also overseen $112 million worth of school district construction which resulted from a bond initiative. He was named the South Texas - Region One Superintendent of the Year for 2012 and was recognized as one of the top five superintendents in Texas for 2012. He is a recipient of the Educational Leadership Award from the University Council for Educational Administration and is a member of the Executive Committee of the Equity Center of Texas.

Dr. René Gutiérrez attended schools in Mexico at an early age then immigrated to McAllen, Texas, where he graduated from McAllen High School in 1983. He has an Associate’s Degree in Applied Science from Texas Southmost College at Brownsville; a Bachelor’s in Business Administration from Pan American University at Brownsville; and a Master’s of Education Degree from the University of Texas-Pan American. He received a Doctoral Degree in Educational Leadership from the University of Texas-Pan American. His doctoral dissertation is entitled: "Factors Contributing to the Academic Achievement of Mexican-Origin Immigrant High School Students".