



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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San Felipe Del Rio CISD Selected Statewide Semi-Finalist in the 2019 H-E-B Excellence in Education District Award



Created in 2002, the H-E-B Excellence in Education Awards are designed to honor outstanding public school professionals and to thank them for their dedication and commitment. Through this program, H-E-B seeks to pay tribute to those educators who go the extra mile each and every day to serve their students and their communities and who inspire others to do the same.

San Felipe Del Rio CISD and the leadership of Dr. Carlos H. Rios was recently recognized as a Semi-Finalist in the 2019 H-E-B Excellence in Education District Awards. This honor is designed to recognize school districts and is based on the following criteria:

- Commitment to student achievement through innovative programs
- Parent/Community involvement
- Professional development opportunities for teachers and administrators

H-E-B received more than 1500 applications from educators all over Texas. Of those applications, 150 teachers, 50 principals, 25 school districts and 25 school boards were selected as Semi-Finalists and went on to compete in the Regional judging process. H-E-B Public Affairs Manager Jill Reynolds explained that their "readers were very impressed by the written comments and the Superintendent's extensive professional accomplishments". Among the areas Districts were measured, San Felipe Del Rio CISD was specifically recognized for leadership in the District, and how it impacts opportunities for leadership development for students, parents, teachers, community leaders, administrators, and board members; for providing evidence of a strong written curriculum demonstrated through classroom instruction; for defining student success and the structures and processes that are designed to help students achieve it.

SFDR CISD was recognized for the implementation for the systems implementation of the Planning Protocol, the Curriculum Dashboard, the development and implementation of Bilingual academies, and the major steps it took in transforming the traditional high school concept into the development of "smaller learning opportunities" for bright young minds to reach their highest potential. The application explained the implementation and development of The Blended Academy, a non-traditional school for students in grades 8-12; the reconstruction of the old North Heights building into a state-of-the-art career and technical

education center (The Gerardo J. Maldonado C.T.E. Center), the commissioning of the SFDRCSISD Early College High School, and the creation of an elementary STEM-focused campus at Laughlin Air Force Base. San Felipe Del Rio CISD was thanked for their innovative contribution to education, and the dedication for all that is done every day to inspire and enlighten young minds.