

By: Guerra

H.R. No. 1926

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, The McAllen Independent School District was
2 recognized as a 2013 Best Community for Music Education by the
3 National Association of Music Merchants' Foundation; and

4 WHEREAS, The judges who award the Best Community for Music
5 Education designation closely examine districts' music
6 departments, noting the levels of participation and achievement,
7 the range of programs offered, and the qualifications of their
8 teachers; and

9 WHEREAS, Under the leadership of Dr. James Ponce,
10 superintendent, and Karen Herrera, director of the district's Fine
11 Arts Department, music programs are thriving in McAllen ISD;
12 approximately 11,000 elementary school students and 5,000
13 secondary students participate in one of the district's many
14 offerings, including such specialty programs as jazz band, show
15 choir, orchestra, and mariachi; and

16 WHEREAS, NAMM noted a number of criteria that earned McAllen
17 this honor, including the support of the administration and school
18 board for fine arts and the success of students at the state level
19 in band, choir, and orchestra; the organization also applauded the
20 quality music instruction that students receive, a result due in
21 part to the district's adoption of the team teaching concept, which
22 allows music teachers to travel between schools; and

23 WHEREAS, While many districts have struggled to secure
24 funding for arts programs, McAllen has made supporting music

1 education a priority, and each year students showcase their talents
2 at hundreds of performances; the orchestra program has been offered
3 throughout the district since 1978, and more than 900 secondary
4 students currently participate; at the elementary school level,
5 over 400 students perform at the annual Fourth Grade Choral
6 Festival, and each school offers special ensembles, including
7 guitar, melodic percussion, and drum line; in a partnership with
8 the Valley Symphony Orchestra, the Success through Strings program
9 pairs 20 children with a professional violinist who teaches them
10 using the Suzuki method, incorporating string instruments resized
11 for their small hands but engineered to carry the same sound; and

12 WHEREAS, McAllen ISD believes that quality arts instruction
13 plays an integral role in children's education, enriching their
14 lives, enhancing their cognitive thinking skills, improving their
15 self-esteem, and giving them a sense of belonging, and the district
16 is indeed deserving of this prestigious honor; now, therefore, be
17 it

18 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 83rd Texas
19 Legislature hereby congratulate the McAllen Independent School
20 District on its designation as a 2013 Best Community for Music
21 Education by the National Association of Music Merchants'
22 Foundation and extend to the district's students and teachers
23 sincere best wishes for continued success; and, be it further

24 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be
25 prepared for McAllen ISD as an expression of high regard by the
26 Texas House of Representatives.