

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 114

WHEREAS, Proud community members are gathering in Austin on February 10, 2015, to celebrate South Texas Independent School District Day at the State Capitol; and

WHEREAS, Originally known as the Rio Grande Rehabilitation District, the South Texas Independent School District was established in 1964 to create further educational opportunities for area youths with disabilities; in 1973, legislators broadened the district's purpose to allow it to operate vocational magnet schools, and as a result, the district opened South Texas High School for Health Professions in 1984 and the Science Academy of South Texas five years later; the district established the Teacher Academy of South Texas in 1993, subsequently renaming the school South Texas Business, Education and Technology Academy to better reflect its focus; over the following years, the magnet program continued to expand with the addition of South Texas Academy for Medical Professions and South Texas Preparatory Academy; and

WHEREAS, Currently encompassing five magnet schools in Edinburg, San Benito, and Mercedes, South Texas Independent School District is the only all-magnet district in the state; it serves more than 3,300 junior high and high school students and maintains an open enrollment policy that attracts interested and hardworking pupils from 28 school districts in Cameron, Hidalgo, and Willacy Counties, and it continues to provide educational and occupational training for students with special needs through its career and technology program; and

WHEREAS, The district's superintendent, Dr. Marla M. Guerra, ably guides a staff of accomplished teachers, administrators, and support personnel who are deeply committed to the success of young people in the tri-county area; in 2014, their work was recognized when the Texas Education Agency gave every campus in the district the highest accountability rating and maximum number of distinction designations available; and

WHEREAS, The faculty and staff of South Texas Independent School District continue to look for new ways to help students achieve, lead, and contribute to a changing world; to that end, the district's second middle school, South Texas Academy of Rising Scholars, will open in the fall of 2015; and

WHEREAS, For more than half a century, the South Texas Independent School District has dedicated itself to offering students the best educational opportunities possible, and in so doing, it has equipped several generations of Texans with the knowledge and skills necessary to build a brighter future; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the Senate of the State of Texas, 84th Legislature, hereby recognize February 10, 2015, as South Texas Independent School District Day at the State Capitol and extend to all those in attendance sincere best wishes for an enjoyable visit to Austin; and, be it further

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RESOLVED, That an official copy of this Resolution be prepared for the district as an expression of high regard from the Texas Senate.

Hinojosa, Lucio

President of the Senate

I hereby certify that the above Resolution was adopted by the Senate on February 9, 2015.

Secretary of the Senate

Member, Texas Senate

Member, Texas Senate