

By: Guerra

H.R. No. 179

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, Proud community members are gathering in Austin on
2 February 9, 2017, to celebrate South Texas Independent School
3 District Day at the State Capitol; and

4 WHEREAS, Originally known as the Rio Grande Rehabilitation
5 District, the South Texas Independent School District was
6 established in 1964 to create further educational opportunities for
7 area youths with disabilities; in 1983, legislators broadened the
8 district's purpose to allow it to operate vocational magnet
9 schools, and as a result, STISD opened South Texas High School for
10 Health Professions in 1984 and The Science Academy of South Texas
11 five years later; the district established the Teacher Academy of
12 South Texas in 1993, subsequently renaming the school South Texas
13 Business, Education & Technology Academy to reflect an expanded
14 focus; over the following years, the magnet program continued to
15 grow with the addition of South Texas Academy for Medical
16 Professions, South Texas Preparatory Academy, and Rising Scholars
17 Academy of South Texas; and

18 WHEREAS, Currently encompassing six college-preparatory
19 magnet schools in Edinburg, San Benito, Mercedes, and Olmito, STISD
20 is the only all-magnet district in the state; it serves more than
21 3,800 junior high and high school students and maintains an open
22 enrollment policy that attracts interested and hardworking pupils
23 from 28 school districts in Cameron, Hidalgo, and Willacy Counties;
24 in addition, it continues to provide educational and occupational

1 training for students with special needs through its career and
2 technology half-day program; and

3 WHEREAS, The district's superintendent, Dr. Marla M. Guerra,
4 ably guides a staff of accomplished teachers, administrators, and
5 support personnel who are deeply committed to the success of young
6 people in the tri-county area; in 2016, for the third year in a row,
7 the Texas Education Agency awarded the district a "met standard"
8 rating and the postsecondary readiness distinction designation,
9 the only one available for districts; furthermore, all campuses in
10 the South Texas ISD received a "met standard" rating, with three of
11 the campuses earning all distinctions for which they were eligible;
12 and

13 WHEREAS, The faculty and staff of South Texas ISD continue to
14 look for new ways to help students achieve, lead, and contribute to
15 a changing world; to that end, the district is completing its third
16 round of collaborative strategic planning to develop a framework to
17 guide its efforts over the next five years; and

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

24 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 85th Texas
25 Legislature hereby recognize February 9, 2017, as South Texas
26 Independent School District Day at the State Capitol and extend to
27 all those in attendance sincere best wishes for an enjoyable visit

1 to Austin; and, be it further

2 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be
3 prepared for the district as an expression of high regard by the
4 Texas House of Representatives.