

By: Guerra

H.R. No. 142

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, Proud community members are gathering in Austin on
2 February 12, 2019, 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, Mercedes, Olmito, and San Benito, STISD
20 is the only all-magnet district in the state; it serves more than
21 4,100 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 attained a high level of success under
4 the leadership of Dr. Marla M. Guerra, who recently retired from
5 her position as superintendent after 17 years; in 2018, the
6 inaugural year of letter ratings, the Texas Education Agency
7 awarded the district an "A" rating, and for the fifth year in a row,
8 STISD received the postsecondary readiness distinction
9 designation, the only one available to districts; furthermore, all
10 campuses in the district received a "met standard" rating, with
11 three of the campuses earning all distinctions for which they were
12 eligible; and

13 WHEREAS, The district's new superintendent, Dr. Marco
14 Antonio Lara Jr., is committed to working alongside a staff of
15 accomplished teachers, administrators, and support personnel to
16 ensure the success of young people in the tri-county area and to
17 make a positive difference in the life of each student; and

18 WHEREAS, The faculty and staff of South Texas ISD continue to
19 look for new ways to help students achieve, lead, and contribute to
20 a changing world; to that end, the district has adopted a new
21 strategic plan, which includes the following call to action: "Each
22 student thrives in real world challenges as a visionary in a global
23 society"; and

24 WHEREAS, For more than half a century, the South Texas
25 Independent School District has dedicated itself to offering
26 students the best educational opportunities possible, and in so
27 doing, it has equipped several generations of Texans with the

1 knowledge and skills necessary to build a brighter future; now,
2 therefore, be it

3 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 86th Texas
4 Legislature hereby recognize February 12, 2019, as South Texas
5 Independent School District Day at the State Capitol and extend to
6 all those in attendance sincere best wishes for an enjoyable visit
7 to Austin.