



THE DISTRICT

A NEW GENERATION
2018 ANNUAL REPORT

TABLE OF CONTENTS

01	Inspiration Superintendent's Message
03	Leadership Our Trustees & Executive Cabinet
08	Accountability Our Academics
14	Triumph Our Graduates & Achievements
30	Service Our People & Partnerships
40	Investment Our Bond & Finances
47	Education Our Schools

A professional portrait of Dr. Xavier De La Torre, a middle-aged man with graying hair, wearing a gray plaid suit jacket, a white shirt, and a dark tie. A patterned pocket square is visible in his jacket. He is looking directly at the camera with a slight smile.

DR. XAVIER

D E L A T O R R E

Benjamin Franklin once said, “The only thing more expensive than education is ignorance.” This is a profound perspective that reflects the importance, strength, and influence of our work at the Ysleta Independent School District.

Dedicated to a bold, high-energy, and innovative brand of leadership that refuses to be confined to conventional thought, YISD is again pleased to report progress in 2018 in realizing our vision for all children in our district. This vision is firmly anchored to three precise goals reaffirmed by our Board of Trustees and articulated in our Vision 2020 Strategic Action Plan.

A blue ink signature of Xavier De La Torre, Ed.D., written in a cursive style.

Xavier De La Torre, Ed.D.
YISD Superintendent of Schools

Since our last annual report, we are delighted to report The District and all schools met academic standards on state-mandated assessments. In 2018, student achievement increased in several content areas, and in most grade levels. But perhaps most impressive was the continued and dramatic improvement realized by our English Learner and Special Education (SPED) students! English Learners scored the best in the “Meets Grade Level” category in every content area and grade level on the STAAR and End Of Course exams in the El Paso region, while SPED students hit this mark in all but one grade level. It is not surprising, therefore, that we are making a name for ourselves as a school district that has “cracked the code.” We have set up a successful blueprint and instructional framework that works, thanks in no small part to the persistent efforts of administration and teachers within the four corners of the classroom.

Notwithstanding, state standardized assessments are only one measure of our effectiveness as a school system. Another arguably more important measure is one that focuses on program and performance indicators. Programs and courses to increase performance on PSAT, TSI, SAT, and AP examinations are thriving at all of our middle schools and high schools. More than ever before, our eighth-grade students are enrolling and successfully completing Algebra I – a strong indicator of college readiness. Dual-credit program enrollment continues to increase, demonstrating another facet of our commitment to college readiness.

Fiscally, the district's fund balance grew to \$99 million at the close of the 2017-18 school year. This was accomplished after giving employees a modest increase in compensation during each of the past five years, including a one-time \$450 payment for the second consecutive year during the holiday season. This collaboration between labor and management has improved relationships across the district, resulting in better performance on behalf of the 41,000 students we serve.

The District has also proceeded exactly as we pledged during the YISD Bond 2015 campaign. Our new school designs not only support the academic goals of educators, but push the boundaries of K-12 architecture. Our newest schools feature flexible learning spaces, enhanced technology, environmentally friendly features, and co-location, to the delight of our students, staff, parents, and community. In a mere three years, we have renovated, upgraded, expanded, or constructed new schools in every learning community. In 2018, we celebrated the opening of the new Bel Air Middle School, and the Thomas Manor Elementary School. We are also nearing completion on four major projects: the extensive renovation of our most populous Eastwood High School; and the construction of a K-8 combination Mission Valley Elementary/Del Valle Middle School, the Bel Air High School Sports Complex, and the Ysleta High School Fine Arts Center.

We have set an ambitious path for ourselves and for our students, and we intend to stay the course. As Superintendent of Schools, I thank you for taking the time to review our annual report and learn more about the innovative, transformative, and creative initiatives happening in our district.



2018 Regional Honor Board

In honor of its demonstrated excellence, dedication, and ethics in their service to public education, the seven-member YISD Board of Trustees was named the 2017-18 Regional Honor School Board by the Region 19 Education Service Center. In particular, our cohesive school board was admired for its support for educational performance; educational improvement projects and school transformation initiatives; commitment to a code of ethics; and placing student welfare above other motives.

Not only do our board members have trust and respect for each other, but we also genuinely want the best for every student, teacher, administrator, and staff member at YISD.

-Board President Connie Woodruff

Sotero G. Ramirez III
Vice President

Connie Woodruff
President

Mike Rosales
Secretary

Dr. Xavier De La Torre
Superintendent of Schools

Kathryn R. Lucero
Trustee

Carlos Bustillos
Trustee

Richard Couder
Trustee

Cruz A. Ochoa
Trustee



2018 EXECUTIVE CABINET



Patrick O'Neill, M.A.
Associate Superintendent,
Operations
With YISD since 2014

Oversees:
Facilities and construction;
custodial services;
technology information
systems; transportation;
child nutrition; grounds;
athletics; and environmental
services



Brenda Chacon, M.A.
Associate Superintendent,
Elementary Schools
With YISD since 2014

Oversees:
Elementary schools in
Del Valle, Riverside, and
Ysleta learning communities



Robert Basurto, M.A.
Associate Superintendent,
High Schools
With YISD since 2015

Oversees:
All high schools



Catherine Kennedy, Ed.D.
Associate Superintendent,
Middle Schools
With YISD since 1989

Oversees:
All middle schools



Rebecca O'Neill, M.A.
Associate Superintendent,
Elementary Schools
With YISD since 2014

Oversees:
Elementary schools in Bel Air,
Eastwood, Parkland, and Hanks
learning communities



Patricia Ayala, M.A.
Chief Communications
Officer
With YISD since 2005

Oversees:
Media relations, district
protocol, special events/
projects, social media,
internal and external
community relations



Lynly Leeper, C.P.A.
Chief Financial Officer
With YISD since 2016

Oversees:
Budget, accounting,
payroll, purchasing,
as well as the Risk
Management and
Records Management
departments



Bobbi Russell-Garcia, M.S.
Chief Human Resources
Officer
With YISD since 2002

Oversees:
Hiring, recruitment,
retention, investigations, and
separations from the district



Abigail Tarango, M.S.
Director of Special
Projects and Strategic
Initiatives
With YISD since 2016

Oversees:
Project management
and support for the
implementation of key
district initiatives



Susan Austin, J.D.
Chief Counsel
With YISD since 2010

Provides:
Legal services to
support the goals and
objectives of the district;
coordinates with outside
counsel, primarily in
business operations and
governance



Rosa M. Menchaca, M.A.
Academic Compliance
Officer
With YISD since 2017

Oversees:
Schools and departments
to ensure state and
federal program
compliance; also serves
as school improvement
officer



Service Excellence standards include four components: **Safety, Courtesy, Innovation, and Accountability.** Together, these four components provide a solid foundation for YISD to accomplish its mission:

“We deliver excellence through innovative educational experiences in a safe and nurturing environment.”

Safety
Safety

We will provide an environment that supports the physical, emotional, and intellectual well-being of our stakeholders.

Courtesy
Courtesy

We will engage and interact with others in a way that exceeds expectations.

Innovation
Innovation

We will provide real-world experiences through current and relevant approaches that enrich students' lives.

Accountability

Accountability

responsible for our actions and behaviors.

We will hold ourselves and one another

“SERVICE EXCELLENCE is by DESIGN – not by default”



RYAN JAMES

Eastwood High School senior Ryan Solis, among the top three in his class, used his high school years to have a unique impact on El Paso's border community! His work with the Greater El Paso Chamber of Commerce, State Sen. Cesar Blanco's office, and the "Safety in Cognizance" program he co-founded allowed him to provide input on issues involving international trade, U.S.-Mexico relations, state legislation, and human trafficking.

ACCOUNTABILITY

The 103-year-old Ysleta Independent School District is the third-largest school district in El Paso, serving more than 41,000 students in a diverse, family-friendly, and tight-knit community. In 2018, the vast majority of YISD schools successfully increased student achievement in both content areas and grade levels on the state's STAAR tests and End Of Course (EOC) exams. The best results, however, were seen among Special Education and English Language Learner (ELL) students, who outperformed their peers in comparable programs in the region. In particular, YISD saw the highest percentages of ELL students who approached, met, or mastered grade-level skills on the STAAR or EOC in nearly every grade level and content area.

DISTRICT DEMOGRAPHICS

60 SCHOOLS

34 Elementary Schools

09 Middle Schools

07 High Schools

10 Specialized Campuses,

including Early College High Schools

International Schools

Pre-K Centers

Adult Learning Center

All-Girl College-Preparatory

Academy Alternative Education

43% | TEACHERS

34% | AUXILIARY

11% | PARAPROFESSIONAL

8.4% | SUPPORT

3.1% | ADMINISTRATION

6,034
FULL-TIME
EMPLOYEES

94% | HISPANIC

3.1% | WHITE

1.4% | AFRICAN AMERICAN

1.5% | OTHER

41,064
STUDENT
ENROLLMENT

ECONOMICALLY DISADVANTAGED

YISD 78%
SISD 71%
EPISD 70%

ENGLISH LANGUAGE LEARNERS

YISD 25%
SISD 21%
EPISD 28%

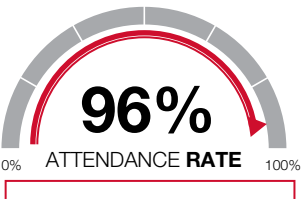
SPECIAL EDUCATION

YISD 12%
SISD 9%
EPISD 10%



ENROLLMENT BY GRADES

PRE-K - 6 53%
GRADES 7 - 8 15%
GRADES 9-12 31%





TEXAS EDUCATION AGENCY

A-F ACCOUNTABILITY

As part of the state's new A-F accountability system, all Texas districts and charter districts were given letter grades in 2018 to reflect how well they are doing in three areas: Student Achievement, Student Progress, and Closing The Gaps.

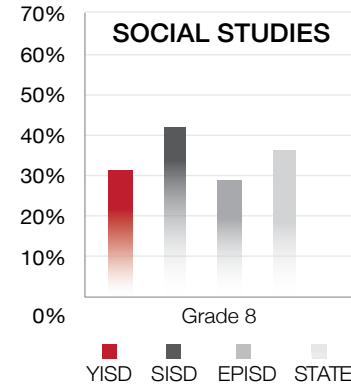
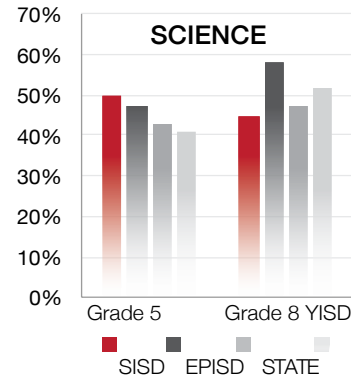
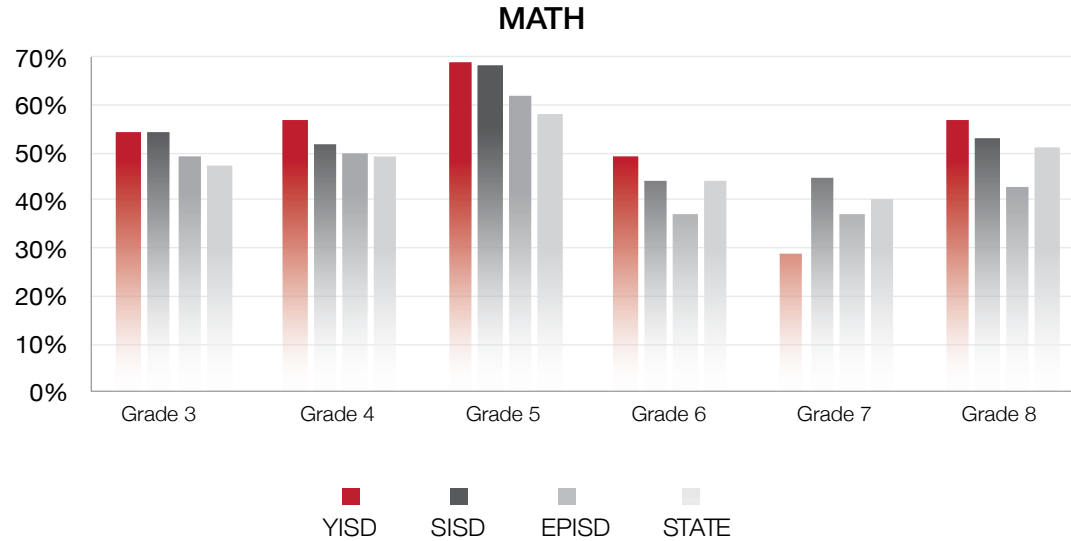
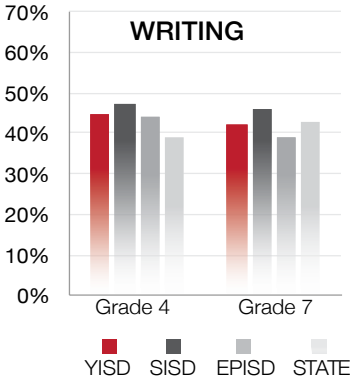
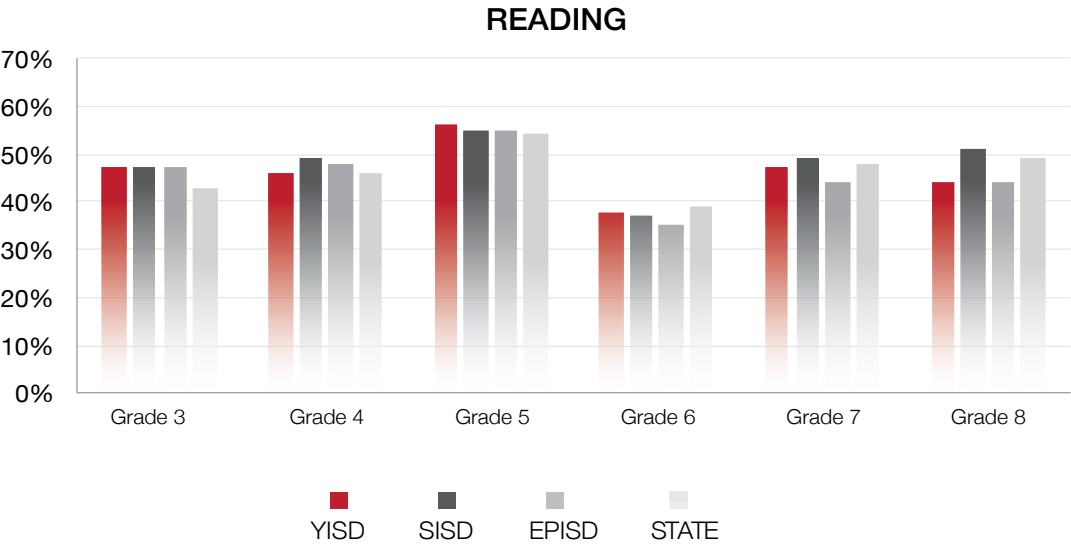
- **Student Achievement:** Measures how well students know and can apply their grade-level knowledge and skills, based on factors such as state test results, Advanced Placement and ACT results, and graduation rates
- **School Progress:** Measures year-to-year student improvement on the STAAR test and how this improvement compares to schools with similar demographics
- **Closing the Gaps:** Looks at performance among student groups, including racial/ethnic groups, socioeconomic backgrounds, etc.

Overall, Ysleta ISD was among 45% of Texas school districts to receive a letter grade of B for recognized performance. This means YISD serves many students well by encouraging high academic achievement and appropriate academic growth. In addition, all YISD schools received a state rating of "Met Standard."



OUR ACADEMIC PERFORMANCE

2018 STAAR : PERCENT RATED “MEETS GRADE LEVEL”





ZAK & TYLER

Pebble Hills Elementary School (PHES) students Zak and Tyler Hernandez were a rallying force in 2018 for the school's new "Caught Being Kind" program. Almost every day, these compassionate brothers served as campus leaders and role models by taking extra time to highlight and nominate the kind acts of their fellow students so others would know about their "general awesomeness!"

TRIUMPH

Since its founding in 1915, YISD has grown from a small, rural district to an innovative leader in local education, featuring 60 campuses in seven Learning Communities: Bel Air, Del Valle, Eastwood, Hanks, Parkland, Riverside, and Ysleta. Each Learning Community consists of its namesake high school and the elementary/middle schools that feed into it. We also offer specialty campuses, such as a college-preparatory academy for girls in grades 6-12; three international schools; and three early college high schools. Every year, YISD produces exceptional, competitive, and college-ready high school graduates – in fact, our Class of 2018 valedictorians achieved an average GPA of 103.6! Many students also realized triumphs far beyond the four corners of the classroom in 2018, earning local, state, and national recognition in athletics, fine arts, JROTC, and community service.

CLASS OF 2018

\$80M

FINANCIAL AID &
SCHOLARSHIPS

1,450

GRADUATES AWARDED
COLLEGE FUNDING

90.3%

OF HIGH SCHOOL SENIORS
GRADUATED IN 2017



2018 VALEDICTORIANS





Autumn Russell

GPA: **103.13**

- Health Professions Magnet student
- National Hispanic Merit Scholar
- National Honor Society
- AP College Board Scholar with Distinction
- Marching Band Drum Major
- Founder/president of Bel Air Book Club
- President of Youth for Christ, Bel Air Chapter

Over \$250,000 in scholarships
Science major at Cornell University

“We are influential, and valuable, and intelligent. But we’d never be anything without the people in our lives – and that is a beautiful thing.”



Bel Air High School

“Always remember that you are loved; that you should be kind and love others. But above all: Learn to love yourself.”



Janeth Sandoval

GPA: **102.97**

- National Honor Society
- National English Honor Society
- National Spanish Honor Society
- Engineering Academy, Business Academy
- Future Business Leaders of America
- Silver Ink Creative Writing Club
- Who's Who in Math, Science and Language Arts

Over \$630,000 in scholarships and grants
Neuroscience major at Washington & Lee University

Del Valle High School

CONQUISTADORES



Andrew Lowrance

GPA: **105.10**

- National Advanced Placement Scholar
- National Merit Commended Scholar
- National Hispanic Recognition Scholar
- Ronald Reagan National Student Leader Award

\$1.2 million in scholarships
Physics/Behavioral Economics major at the
University of Pennsylvania

"Our inner passion for the things we care most about - coupled with the great nourishment of those who care about our goals and dreams - lead us to amazing accomplishments."

Eastwood High School



Nicole Melendez

GPA: **103.97**

- National Honor Society
- Silver Knights Marching Band drum major
- Hanks Knight Players secretary

Over \$32,000 in scholarships
Radio/Film/Television major at the
University of Texas at Austin

"You probably won't remember this particular day in 10 years. But what we will all remember are the little moments that have made the journey worthwhile."



Hanks High School



CassandraDeLaCruz


GPA: **102.406**

- Student Council
 - FBLA President
 - Senior Class Officer
 - Lead the Way Pre-Engineering Program
 - National Hispanic Institute graduate
 - Caperettes Dance Team
- Over \$49,000 in scholarship awards Psychology major at UTEP

“Don’t forget to live in the moment because you are only able to live each moment once.”



Parkland High School



“I believe that by nature, people are intelligent and creative and capable of doing great things. I’ve seen it in all of you.”

LizbethCarmona

GPA: **103.92**

- National Honor Society
- Choir; Debate
- Student Council
- High Q; Academic Decathlon

Over \$300,000 in scholarship awards
Biochemistry major at UTEP



Riverside High School

Pedro Amaya-Mendoza

GPA: **104**

- High Q
- Academic Decathlon
- Principal's Advisory Committee

More than \$1.2 million in scholarships
Attending Dartmouth College

“Maybe the key to success for this world isn't having the brightest or most adventurous people in our lives; but instead, having people who don't hate on each other because of the color of their skin or political affiliation.”

Ysleta High School

YSLETA HIGH

“Kindness, education, and humility are some of the most important tools you can use to create change.”

Cynthia Bautista

GPA: **103.97**

- Math Club President
- National Honor Society
- Questbridge Scholar

Nearly \$400,000 in scholarships
Biochemistry major at UTEP

Valle Verde Early College

3 YISD SENIORS HONORED



THE GATES
SCHOLARSHIP

300 AWARDED

NATIONWIDE

28,000+ SCHOLARSHIP APPLICANTS



TOP OF THEIR CLASS

Three Eastwood High School seniors – Andrew Lowrance, Leonardo Moraveg, and Ryan James Solis – were among only 300 in the nation to win the first-ever Gates Scholarship from the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation in 2018!

All three are now attending Ivy League schools and will have the full cost of their undergraduate studies covered at any accredited college or university of their choosing. This includes tuition, fees, room, board, books, and transportation, and possibly other personal costs that the school or other scholarships don't pay, over and above what the students' parents can afford to pay.

More than 28,000 students applied for the Gates Scholarship. This prestigious scholarship program is based on evidence that by eliminating the financial barriers to college, an all-expenses-paid scholarship can enable high-potential, low-income minority students to excel in their course work, graduate college, and continue to be leaders throughout their lives.



Army inspectors said Bel Air High School JROTC earned the highest score in Texas! Inspection scores were as follows:

- 01** Bel Air High School
99.28%
- 02** Parkland High School
97.50%
- 03** Del Valle High School
97.15%
- 04** Ysleta High School
96.50%
- 05** Hanks High School
95.30%
- 06** Eastwood High School
95.25%
- 07** Riverside High School
95.20%

In 2018, our Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps (JROTC) program was hailed as one of the best in the country by the Department of the Army!

All seven of our high-school JROTC programs earned the highest inspection rating of Honor Unit with Distinction (HUD) – a rarity for a school district of our size. In fact, YISD is the only school district to have achieved this goal twice over two consecutive inspection cycles in its Army region, which stretches from Arkansas to the California border and north to Wyoming.

To achieve HUD status, a school must score 95% or above in every area: a cadet continuous improvement plan briefing, service learning project briefing, interview and portfolio; a uniform and cadet knowledge inspection; color guard presentation; physical fitness participation; community service record review; and more.

JROTC: Motivating Young People to be Better Citizens

JROTC is a character and leadership development program for high school students. It serves about 314,000 cadets at more than 1,700 U.S. high schools and is led by 4,000 retired Army Instructors.





12 YISD SCHOOLS RECOGNIZED AS **LEADERS** IN THE REGION

Twelve YISD schools were recognized in 2018 for being clear leaders in getting students to grade level and beyond when they were named to the Texas Honor Roll!

The 2017-18 Honor Roll schools were Eastwood Heights, Edgemere, Mesa Vista, North Star, Ramona, Scotsdale, Vista Hills, and Ysleta elementary schools; Alicia Chacon and Eastwood Knolls international schools; the Young Women's Leadership Academy; and Valle Verde Early College High School.

YISD had more Honor Roll schools in 2018 than any other district in the El Paso region, thanks to its focus on high academic achievement, student improvement over time, reducing achievement gaps, and college readiness.

The 2017-18 Texas Honor Roll was developed by Educational Results Partnership (ERP), a nonprofit organization that applies data science to help improve student outcomes and career readiness. Nearly 730 schools in the state were named Honor Roll schools, which share a common set of success factors that include:

- **Clear, specific learning objectives aligned to college and career readiness, and evidence-based instructional practices**
- **A systemwide mission of college and career readiness for all students;**
- **Investment in human capital**
- **Maintenance of data/assessment systems to monitor school and student performance**
- **Using resources and guidance to support school efforts to prepare all students for college/career**

All 12 YISD schools were recognized as Star Schools that have significant populations of socioeconomically disadvantaged students, but have shown a significant increase in grade-level proficiency over time.

TEA DISTINCTION DESIGNATIONS

Six YISD campuses proved to be among the state's best-performing schools in 2018, earning every distinction available from the Texas Education Agency (TEA) for outstanding state test results! All YISD schools earned the state rating of "Met Standard," making them eligible to receive TEA Distinction Designations for achievement in the following seven areas:

Academic achievement in:

- English/reading
- Math
- Science
- Social Studies

Placing in the top 25% in:

- Academic Growth
- Closing Performance Gaps
- Postsecondary Readiness

Earning all six distinctions available to primary grades were Vista Hills Elementary School and Ysleta Elementary School, while Alicia Chacon International School, Eastwood Knolls International School, Camino Real Middle School, and the Young Women's Leadership Academy earned all seven distinctions available to secondary grades.

Only about 400 campuses – or 4% of public schools in Texas – earned every distinction available to their school type in 2018. Distinction Designations are awarded based on achievement in certain areas when compared to campuses of similar type, size, and student demographics.



PRIMARY GRADES

Vista Hills Elementary School

6 DISTINCTIONS

Ysleta Elementary School

6 DISTINCTIONS

SECONDARY GRADES

Alicia Chacon International School

7 DISTINCTIONS

Eastwood Knolls International School

7 DISTINCTIONS

Camino Real Middle School

7 DISTINCTIONS

Young Women's Leadership Academy

7 DISTINCTIONS



Ivan Arenivas - GLARE



“He is a talented artist ... so impressed by his striking piece.”

-Former U.S. Congressman Beto O’Rourke

For the seventh year in a row, a YISD student won the annual Congressional Art Contest for District 16! Bel Air High School student Ivan Arenivas was selected as the winner in May 2018 by former U.S. Rep. Beto O’Rourke, who had nothing but admiration and praise for Ivan’s stunning work in a series of tweets announcing the award. “His amazing artwork is titled, ‘Glare,’ and he used charcoal as his medium.” O’Rourke tweeted. “He is a talented artist ... so impressed by his striking piece. Congrats Ivan!”



Ivan was flown to Washington D.C. in June 2018 for an awards ceremony and to watch the installation of “Glare” in the hallways of the U.S. Capitol, where it will be on display for one year. Ivan said his piece was inspired by a photo of his friend, which he sprayed with a water

bottle: “I really like the concept of making things shiny – a lot of people compliment me on my ability to make things look like they’re wet.”

In 2017, Ivan was among the top three finalists for the Congressional Art Award, but the award went to fellow schoolmate Emily Gonzalez. It made him even more determined to win in 2018, and he was beyond thrilled to learn Congressman O’Rourke had chosen his artwork.

“It feels good to represent El Paso and The District at a national level.”

For the fifth consecutive year, the Hanks High School Lady
ning tradition in 2018 by capturing the gold and bringing
Knights completely dominated their statewide competitors,

producing an overall final score of 155.5 points – nearly twice as many points as the second-place team, and far surpassing their
championship score from 2017! Under the direction of Coach Anthony Carter, the 2018 winning Lady Knights wrestling team included Abigail
Anaya, Angelina Baltazar, Annette Enciso, Hannah Fierro, Isabella Gonzalez, Victoria Hinojo, Sarah Martinez, Victoria Nunez, and Jaydn
Sayre-Adona.

Knights girls' wrestling team continued their win
home the 5A Division state championship! The
Lady with every wrestler winning at least one
match and



DEION

HANKINS

"I just want to leave a mark on my teammates as they remember my leadership, and how I spoke to them about God. Everything paid off, all the hard work. I'm proud of my team. I feel like it's an undeserved privilege for me to be here. It's God's grace that keeps me here. "

-Deion Hankins



[78]
RUSHING TDs

[7,491]
RUSHING YARDS

[668]
RECEIVING YARDS

In 2018, Parkland High School running back and senior Deion Hankins broke a 14-year city record to become El Paso's all-time leading rusher! Deion racked up 7,491 career rushing yards, making him one of the greatest running backs in city history and leading to the Matadors' bi-district championship and District 1-5A Division II title.

Overall, Deion's career stats at Parkland High School have been just as impressive, with 78 rushing touchdowns, 668 yards receiving, and 5 receiving touchdowns. Over the past four years, Hankins has helped Parkland High School win three bi-district championships and an area round championship.

Deion's athleticism made him a stand-out on campus, but he is also known for his community service and leadership through the Fellowship of Christian Athletes and Youth For Christ. Deion was also at the top of his academic game in 2018, ranking in the top 10 of his class while taking Advanced Placement and dual-credit classes!



EASTWOOD HIGH SCHOOL UIL 5A STATE CHAMPIONS

2018 will be known for its record-breaking boys cross-country season at Eastwood High School! For the first time ever, the Troopers boys cross-country team decisively captured the gold and brought home the UIL 5A state championship! The team, which is under the direction of Coach Mike McLain, earned a total of 62 points to win their coveted gold medals, easily surpassing the second-place finisher by 25 points. The previous year, the Eastwood team won the bronze in the UIL Class 6A state cross-country meet. The Troopers boys cross-country team included Sergio Cuartas, Eddie Gallegos, Nathan Hernandez, Juan Olmos, Aaron Perez, Elias Perez, and Kayn Quinones.





SERVICE

Every YISD employee plays a pivotal role in providing a quality education and innovative learning environments for our 41,000 students. Whether they oversee principals, teach in classrooms, or serve meals, our employees are wholeheartedly dedicated to students, and we deeply value their professional and passionate spirit! In 2018, several YISD employees – including our Superintendent of Schools, Dr. Xavier De La Torre – were highlighted statewide for their superior leadership! We also continued to rely on the support and involvement of parents, businesses, and organizations to help realize the dreams we all hold for our children and community.



LEADING THE WAY IN TEXAS EDUCATION

Superintendent Dr. Xavier De La Torre is not only leading Ysleta ISD and the El Paso area toward a new, innovative, and modern era of education, but will soon serve in a similar capacity statewide!

In February 2018, Dr. De La Torre was unanimously elected as the 2019 chair of the Texas Urban Council (TUC) of Superintendents, a network of the state's top school leaders that discusses governance, leadership, management, governmental relations, and other topics relevant to traditional urban public schools.

TUC members, which consist of school districts in large urban areas like Corpus Christi, Dallas, Austin, and Houston, represent nearly 800,000 students and 50,000 teachers. TUC members routinely serve larger percentages of children living in poverty who are less likely to have parents with high levels of education, and are constantly balancing different barriers.

De La Torre, who joined YISD in 2014, has a 30-year history of dedicated service to large, diverse student populations, and a career chronicled by recognized achievements and awards, including an El Pasoan of the Year nomination; two Broad Prize Award finalist nominations; and the Edgar L. Morphet Award for the nation's most outstanding dissertation aimed at the educational issues.

During his tenure at YISD, the district's most vulnerable student groups have seen increased achievement under the state of Texas' accountability system. In particular, English Language Learners and Special Education students have routinely outperformed their peers in the region and across the state.

Coupled with the introduction of El Paso's first all-girl college-preparatory academy; two new Early College High School programs; new STEM programs; and the passage of a \$430.5 million facilities bond, De La Torre has emerged as a regional authority in El Paso relative to the American public school system.

“I am eager to lead the discussion on the areas of greatest opportunity and challenge in our school districts, and give El Paso and Ysleta ISD a much-needed voice at both the state and national levels.”

Xavier De La Torre, Ed.D.
Superintendent





BRUCE REICHMAN

The Making of a Record-Breaking Career

Bruce Reichman's winning legacy at Del Valle High School was cemented back in 1987 when the school first opened its doors and appointed him to serve as the boys soccer coach.

No one could have imagined that 31 years later, Reichman would still be the school's first and only boys soccer coach, and nowhere close to slowing down a phenomenal professional career that includes:

28 Championship Titles in 155

appearances 25 District Championships

26 Bi-District Championships

20 Area Championships

17 Sectional Championships

16 Quarterfinal Championships

12 Sweet Sixteen Championships

5 Elite Eight Championships

5 Final Four Appearances 2

State Championship Titles

But in January 2018, Reichman reached yet another pinnacle of his coaching career: He earned a record-breaking 600th win of his coaching career – the first such feat recorded in El Paso, making him the active leader in wins among Texas boys' varsity soccer coaches!

As 2018 drew to a close, Coach Reichman had increased his record to a total of 615 wins, and Del Valle High School launched preparations to officially name the soccer field in his honor in 2019.

"The goal for this has always been – and always will be – to win a state championship," Reichman said. "We work hard to win and it's exciting, but there's still work to be done."

Reichman is also a member of the El Paso Athletic Hall of Fame. In 2013, not only was he named State and National Coach of the Year by the National Soccer Coaches Association, but the city proclaimed every Aug. 13 be recognized as "Coach Bruce A. Reichman Day."

33 • 2018 Annual Report





CHARLIE GARCIA

Leadership Marked by Grit

For Bel Air High School Principal Charlie Garcia, “grit” isn’t just a word anymore – it’s a philosophy he encourages wherever and with whomever he works.

“The ‘grit’ philosophy can very easily be something that’s contagious,” Garcia says. “There is true value in not just educating academically, but educating our children and adults about persistence and consistency in developing goals, setting your heart to goals, and following through with those goals.”

It’s a philosophy that has served him well in his nearly three years at Bel Air High School – and it’s one of the reasons he was named the 2017-18 Regional High School Principal of the Year by the Texas Association of Secondary School Principals (TASSP)!

In particular, Garcia was chosen as Regional High School Principal of the Year for demonstrating excellence in four specific areas: Personal Excellence; Collaborative Leadership; Curriculum, Instruction & Assessment; and Personalization.

Every year, TASSP recognizes outstanding school leaders who have succeeded in providing high-quality learning opportunities for students. As a regional winner, Garcia enjoyed recognition for his achievement during TASSP’s awards dinner during the 2018 Summer Workshop.



Carol Love



Stephen Solis



Sundra Strickland

TEACHER AND SUPPORT EMPLOYEE OF THE YEAR

YISD employees are the driving force behind the district's success. Day in and day out, administrators, teachers, and support employees make a lasting impact in our schools and community with their expertise, knowledge, and willingness to do whatever it takes to help students achieve and succeed. This is why we honor the best of the best at our annual Teacher and Support Employee of the Year gala. Loma Terrace Elementary School teacher Carol Love and Riverside High School teacher Stephen Solis were named the 2018-19 Elementary and Secondary Teachers of the Year, respectively, while Sundra Strickland from Dolphin Terrace Elementary School was named Support Employee of the Year.

Love, a second-grade teacher has spent her entire 41-year career in education at Loma Terrace Elementary School! It was her fourth-grade teacher and high-school band director who moved her to pursue a career in education.

"It was evident that both of these teachers loved their profession," said Love, adding that she has maintained high expectations for her young students, whom she loves and values. "I want them to shine like little stars!"

35 • 2018 Annual Report

Solis, a theater arts and computer science teacher and coach, grew up in Corpus Christi. When speaking about his decision to become a teacher, he recalled how his father took night classes and went from working as a middle-school janitor to becoming a P.E. teacher and coach.

"He never let anything stop him from pursuing his dream," Solis said. "I was inspired to make him proud and lead a life where I could make a difference in the lives of others, just like he did."

Strickland, a 32-year YISD employee, served as a P.E. paraprofessional aide at Dolphin Terrace Elementary School. This position afforded Strickland the opportunity to know every student and build relationships with them and their families.

Outside of her job duties, she says it is important for her to make herself available for school events, professional development, district initiatives, and parent conferences, even though she is not required to do so.



Inspiring the Generations with a love of Texas History

For 13 years, Mireya Perez has taken a storytelling approach when it comes to teaching seventh-grade Texas history at Eastwood Middle School.

“My objective is to change the perception that history is boring by allowing students to experience engaging and real-life activities,” said Perez, who earned praise statewide when she was named the 2018 Outstanding Seventh-Grade Texas History Teacher by one of the the oldest patriotic women’s organization in Texas and the nation.

“I encourage my students to think like historians,” Perez wrote in her winning application for the contest sponsored by The Daughters of the Republic of Texas (DRT). “As they uncover the advancements made in the United States, I encourage them to apply (this) to their personal lives by understanding that even through defeat, personal victories can be achieved.”

To be considered for the award, candidates were asked to submit letters of recommendation; teaching philosophy and instructional method; curriculum vitae/résumé; innovations conceived and executed for seventh-graders; and the response of the students.

DRT officials said they chose Perez after learning how she uses creative ideas and manipulatives to enhance student interest in the early history of Texas. As the winner, Perez’s school was awarded \$1,000, and she received a \$750 award and a special plaque at the 2018 DRT Convention in Dallas.

Founded in 1891, the DRT’s mission is to perpetuate the memory and spirit of those who achieved and maintained the independence of Texas; and provide educational programs in coordination with school districts and the Texas Education Agency, among others.



Working Tirelessly for Student Health

School nurse administrators often labor tirelessly to improve working conditions for the campus nurses they oversee – they have learned to keep a pulse on district administration and the daily clinic routines at our campuses, according to the Texas School Nurses Organization (TSNO).

This is why TSNO turned to Ysleta ISD in 2018 to honor one of our best: YISD Student Health Services Director Carey Raymond-Holden, who won 2018 Regional School Nurse Administrator of the Year!

“Working late hours, often going unnoticed, (school nurse administrators) don’t require anything they are not willing to do themselves,” TSNO officials said. “As a leader, they are able to inspire others to give more.”

As part of her award, Raymond-Holden received a special plaque and recognition during the TSNO annual conference in November in Dallas to celebrate her excellence in school nursing and her leadership in school health.



VOLUNTEER PROGRAM

Parents and community members are encouraged to participate in our Volunteer Program, which helps build strong partnerships between parents, teachers, administrators, and community members. We offer numerous ways for volunteers to help at our campuses, such as assisting in the volunteer room; monitoring the cafeteria or playground; and serving as mentors, tutors, and crossing guards, among others. We have an annual Recognition Awards Luncheon to thank all our district volunteers for all they do for our students, faculty and staff.

Parents in our district are encouraged to attend state, regional and district parental engagement conferences at no cost to them. In addition, parents are provided with enrichment community presentations at each of our campuses that cover topics like literacy, GED, and parenting skills.



Our Partners in Education (PIE) program is made up of about 700 businesses, military, nonprofit groups and individuals who provide funding and support for YISD schools. Our Partners contribute to the success of our schools by donating money or supplies, as well as mentoring students, providing internships, and offering incentives to reward students.

Every year, our generous Partners In Education make it possible for YISD to hold a Back to School Rally, where thousands of school-age children in grades K-12 receive free backpacks filled with school supplies to help prepare them for the new school year. Major PIE contributors in 2018 included El Paso Electric Company; the law firm of Delgado, Acosta, Spencer, Linebarger & Perez; and the El Paso Chihuahuas.

Our Partners in Education always contribute significantly to the improvement of our schools and Ysleta ISD. The 2018 “Power of One” award, which honors the most outstanding individual partner, was Dr. Christopher Kazanjian with Kidz ‘n Coaches. Working with Ramona Elementary School, Dr. Kazanjian’s program aims to help students grow through promoting relationships with peers and mentor coaches. Earning the 2018 “Spirit of Ysleta” award was Border Therapy Services, which has provided mentoring, clinical instructors, and internships for students in the Health Professions Magnet program at Bel Air High School.

Partnering for the **Future**

As part of its mission to enhance STEM instruction in schools in order to fill expected shortages of qualified workers in the future, YISD’s valued PIE member Marathon Petroleum Corp. awarded more than \$167,000 in grants in 2018 to five YISD campuses!

The grants were used to purchase high-quality STEM equipment at all five campuses – Ascarate and Ramona elementary schools, Camino Real Middle School, and Del Valle and Riverside high schools – that included Lego Mindstorm robots; Sphero robots; 3D printers; laptop computers; and a laser-cutter, among others.

Camino Real Middle School teacher Yvette Garcia said the grant funding has already served as “a catalyst to improve just our basic STEM program. But as these kids get more excited about it, the teachers get more excited about it, and the program grows exponentially.”





MARIANA

Riverside High School senior Mariana Ramirez, YISD's highest-ranking 2018-19 JROTC Senior Cadet, has volunteered more than 300 hours in the community. In 2018, she took it one step further and organized her own fundraiser: a Community Breast Cancer Awareness Walk at Shawver Park that brought out about 100 participants!

INVESTMENT

In keeping with the promises made to the community during the 2015 bond campaign, YISD continued to proceed smoothly in its mission to address aging campuses and school improvements and renovate/build new schools. More than 2,000 students welcomed the 2018-19 school year at two brand new, spacious, and modern facilities, featuring flexible design environments that pushed the boundaries of school architecture! By the end of the year, several of the bond's largest projects had been completed or were racing toward the finish line in all seven Learning Communities. YISD also maintained its longtime responsible financial stewardship, earning top ratings from the state and positive comments from auditors.

THOMAS MANOR ELEMENTARY

2018

WE PROMISED. WE DELIVERED.

YISD BOND 2015





EDUCATION REDESIGNED

In the shadow of YISD's centennial celebration in 2015, we asked voters to support our ambitious promise to transform The District into a beacon of 21st-century learning and innovation by 2020 through the passage of a \$430.5 million facilities bond.

Voters agreed – and within weeks, our work began in earnest to upgrade, renovate, expand, or construct modern schools and facilities in each of our seven Learning Communities.

Three years later, the YISD Bond 2015 Program was 85% under construction and more than half of the bond projects were completed, including new athletics and fine-arts facilities, technology and security upgrades, school renovations, and kitchen/cafeterias and gymnasiums.

Most impressively, however, was the grand opening of two new schools in some of the city's oldest neighborhoods: Thomas Manor Elementary and Bel Air Middle! Both are spacious, with flexible walls and furniture, open lounges for project collaboration, and modern classrooms equipped with smart technology.

In 2019, we will see the opening of a new K-8 combination school in the Del Valle community, as well as an extensively renovated Eastwood High School. In 2020, final bond projects scheduled for completion include the Ysleta High School Fine Arts Center and the Bel Air High School Sports Complex.

We promised ... and we have delivered under these four pillars of performance: To be on time, under budget, of superior quality, and – where possible – performed by local labor.

We want every school to be a modern learning environment and hub for the community, created with an eye toward the knowledge every student needs to prepare for the future in a rapidly changing economic and technological environment.

Revitalizing a 103-year-old landlocked district in fewer than five years hasn't been easy, but Ysleta ISD successfully paved the way with the support of its community, Board of Trustees, and its Vision 2020 Strategic Action Plan.



BEL AIR MIDDLE SCHOOL

New multi-story facility with a 1,200-student capacity that includes STEM labs, fine arts classes, and support spaces for athletics.



THOMAS MANOR ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

New state-of-the-art school will accommodate 900 students and house students from Thomas Manor and Cadwallader elementary schools.



IN PROGRESS

EASTWOOD HIGH SCHOOL

The renovation of Eastwood High School is the largest project of the 2015 bond program. The \$93 million project will reconstruct approximately 90 percent of the campus, and feature state-of-the-art technology spaces. More specifically, the renovation will include the construction of new two- and three-story wings to replace the oldest portions of campus that date back more than 50 years, plus new classrooms, upgraded athletic facilities, and fine arts wing.



DEL VALLE/MISSION VALLEY COMBO SCHOOL

Will house about 2,300 students in grades K-8 from the existing Camino Real and Valley View middle schools, and Mission Valley ES; and share core spaces like a kitchen, library, fine arts spaces, and STEM classes.

YSLETA HIGH SCHOOL FINE ARTS CENTER

New 25,000-square-foot fine arts building with new band, percussion, ensemble, piano, and guitar classrooms equipped with associated practice rooms, as well as a dance classroom and studio.



BEL AIR HIGH SCHOOL SPORTS COMPLEX

New facility featuring competition and auxiliary gym with multiple basketball/volleyball courts, and wrestling and gymnastics areas.



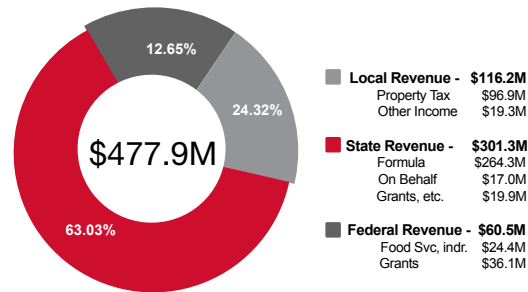
SUPERIOR **ACHIEVEMENT**

For the 14th year in a row, YISD earned a Superior Achievement designation – the highest rating available – on SchoolFIRST (Financial Integrity Rating System of Texas), the accountability system developed by the Texas Education Association (TEA). The 2018 rating is based on the district's annual audit of the 2016-17 financial information.

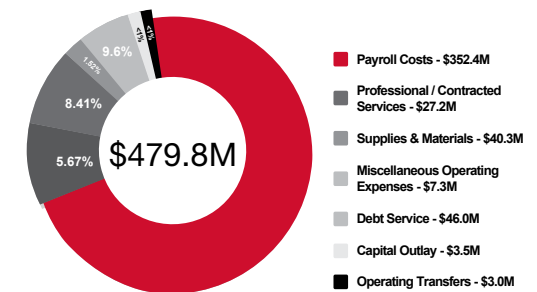
FINANCIAL **REPORTING**

The district received an unqualified opinion from independent external auditors on the 2017-2018 Annual Financial Report. This indicates the report fairly represents the financial position of the district. Additionally, the audit found NO instances of major weaknesses in internal controls.

FUNDS REVENUES



FUNDS APPROPRIATIONS



STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES FOR YEAR ENDING JUNE 30, 2018

	General Fund	Food Service	Debt Service	Total
REVENUES AND OTHER SUPPORT:				
Local Taxes, etc.	\$84,443,466	\$1,777,980	\$19,041,099	\$105,262,545
State Foundation Support	284,892,945	118,204	18,596,050	303,607,199
Federal Programs	14,930,312	21,717,647	175,915	36,823,874
Other Income	0	0	1,368,992	1,368,992
Total Revenues and Other Support	\$384,266,723	\$23,613,831	\$39,182,056	\$447,062,610
EXPENSES:				
Instructional	\$240,441,273			\$240,441,273
Student Support	90,842,263	23,490,524		114,332,787
Leadership	43,168,382			43,168,382
Debt Service	6,829,226		34,724,631	41,553,857
Capital/Intergov.	2,967,256			2,967,256
Total Expenses	\$384,248,400	\$23,490,524	\$34,724,631	\$442,463,555
NET ASSETS AT BEGINNING OF YEAR	\$99,090,341	\$2,429,692	\$39,925,559	\$141,445,592
NET ASSETS AT END OF YEAR	\$99,108,664	\$2,552,999	\$44,382,984	\$146,044,647

STATEMENT OF POSITION AT JUNE 30 (GENERAL FUND ONLY)

ASSETS	2018	2017	LIABILITIES	2018	2017
Cash and cash equivalents	\$104,768,271	\$110,249,331	Accounts payable	\$10,147,944	\$8,873,120
Due from Other Funds	0	0	Due to Other Funds	7,075,781	16,834,247
Receivables	27,777,719	28,675,541	Accrued Wages Payable	17,964,485	18,049,129
Inventories	1,286,650	1,214,120	Unavailable Revenue - Prop. Tax	11,735,690	11,103,133
Property taxes, delinquent	12,199,924	11,826,978			
Long Term Investments	0	1,984,000			
Total Assets	\$146,032,564	\$153,949,970	Total Liabilities	\$46,923,900	\$54,859,629
			NET POSITION		
			Total Fund Balance	\$99,108,664	\$99,090,341
			Total Liabilities and Assets	\$99,108,664	\$99,090,341

OUR SCHOOLS

Bel Air Learning Community

Bel Air High.....	434-2000
Bel Air Middle	434-2200
Del Norte Heights Elementary.....	434-2400
Hacienda Heights International	434-2500
Loma Terrace Elementary	434-2600
Mesa Vista Elementary	434-2700
North Loop Elementary	434-2800
Sageland Elementary.....	434-2900

Del Valle Learning Community

Del Valle High.....	434-3000
Del Valle Middle.....	434-3300
Del Valle Elementary	434-9300
Lancaster Elementary	434-3400
LeBarron Park Elementary.....	434-3500
Mission Valley Elementary	434-3700
Presa Elementary.....	434-8700

Eastwood Learning Community

Eastwood High	434-4000
Eastwood Middle	434-4300
East Point Elementary.....	434-4500
Eastwood Heights Elementary	434-4600
Eastwood Knolls International.....	434-4400
Edgemere Elementary.....	434-4700
Scotsdale Elementary	434-4800

Hanks Learning Community

J.M. Hanks High	434-5000
Desert View Middle	434-5300
Indian Ridge Middle.....	434-5400
Glen Cove Elementary	434-5500
Pebble Hills Elementary	434-5600
REL Washington Elementary	434-5900
Tierra Del Sol Elementary	434-5800
Vista Hills Elementary	434-5700

Parkland Learning Community

Parkland High.....	434-6000
Parkland Middle.....	434-6300
Desertaire Elementary.....	434-6400
Dolphin Terrace Elementary	434-6500
North Star Elementary.....	434-6700
Parkland Elementary	434-6600

Riverside Learning Community

Riverside High.....	434-7000
Riverside Middle.....	434-7300
Ascarate Elementary	434-7400
Cedar Grove Elementary.....	434-7600
Constance Hulbert Elementary	434-6900
Ramona Elementary.....	434-7700
Thomas Manor Elementary	434-7500

Ysleta Learning Community

Ysleta High	434-8000
Rio Bravo Middle	434-8400
Ysleta Middle.....	434-8200
Alicia R. Chacon International	434-9200
Capistrano Elementary.....	434-8600
Marian Manor Elementary	434-3600
Pasodale Elementary	434-8500
South Loop Elementary.....	434-8800
Ysleta Elementary	434-8900

Specialized Campuses

Cesar Chavez Academy.....	434-9600
Parkland Pre-K.....	435-7800
Plato Academy	434-9000
Tejas School of Choice.....	434-9900
Valle Verde Early College High	434-1500
Ysleta Community Learning Ctr.....	434-9400
Ysleta Pre-K Center	434-9500
Young Women's Leadership Academy...	434-1300



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