



THEDISTRICT

2017 Annual Report

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Frederick Douglass once said, “It is easier to build strong children than to repair broken men” – a profound perspective that drives our work in 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 2017 in realizing our vision for all children in our district. This vision is firmly anchored to three precise goals recently reaffirmed by our Board of Trustees and articulated in our Vision 2020 Strategic Action Plan.

Since our last annual report, we are delighted to report student achievement has increased in several content areas, and in most grade levels. Again, the district and all schools have met state standards on state-mandated assessments for the fourth consecutive year. Perhaps more impressive are the continued and dramatic improvements realized by our English Learner and Special Education students, who outperformed all neighboring school districts in the region and state averages.

Additionally, our district is receiving national attention for our performance in Algebra I courses – among the top 10 performing high schools in the region, five YISD high schools occupy the top seven slots. In fact, Del Valle High School is in the No. 1 spot with 43% mastery, while Ysleta High School came in at No. 2 with 39% mastery. We remain extremely proud of our comprehensive high schools that outperformed all area high schools in their End of Course (EOC) exams, and resulted in Ysleta High School earning state distinction designations in all seven categories. Finally, we are delighted to share with you that Valle Verde Early College High School received a 2017 National Blue Ribbon Award from the U.S. Department of Education.

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.

The planning and successful execution of the first single-gender, public college-preparatory school in El Paso continues to be a source of pride in the Ysleta Independent School District. The Young Women's Leadership Academy (YWLA) has emerged as the premier public school program for girls in El Paso County. YWLA has taken the region by storm, prompting the El Paso Independent School District to consider a similar program. Also, two new Early College High School programs at Parkland and Ysleta high schools successfully opened this fall, bringing the total number of YISD early college high schools to three. Dual-credit program enrollment continues to increase, demonstrating our commitment to college readiness.

Fiscally, the district's fund balance has grown by more than \$10 million to \$92 million at the close of the 2016-17 school year. This was accomplished after giving employees a modest increase in compensation during each of the past

four years, including a first-ever, one-time \$450 payment during the holiday season. This collaboration between labor and management has improved relationships across the district, resulting in better performance on behalf of the nearly 42,000 students we serve.

The Bond 2015 Program has proceeded exactly as planned and presented to our community. New school designs are supporting the academic goals of educators – and in some cases, pushing the boundaries of K-12 architecture. Flexible learning spaces, enhanced technology, environmentally friendly features, and co-location are all characteristics being incorporated into innovative new school buildings and projects. Two years into our bond program, we have completed a middle school renovation and expansion; two kitchen/cafeteria facilities; two state-of-the-art gymnasiums; and a middle school fine-arts facility. Currently under construction is the new Eastwood High School project; the new Bel Air Middle School project; the new Thomas Manor Elementary School project; and two kitchen/cafeteria projects at LeBarron Park Elementary School and Lancaster Elementary School. Projects in the design phase include the new Bel Air High School Sports Complex and the new Ysleta High School Fine Arts Center. Each project remains anchored to four pillars: It must be within budget, delivered on time, reflect the gold standard in quality, and – all things being equal – designed and constructed by local firms and companies.

As part of the Ysleta Independent School District, we have set an ambitious path for ourselves and for our students – and we intend to stay the course, regardless of the challenges that lay ahead. As Superintendent of Schools, I thank you for taking the time to review our annual report and learn more about the exciting, resourceful, and innovative initiatives happening in our district.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Xavier De La Torre', with a large, stylized loop at the end.

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

WE DELIVER EXCELLENCE

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

Accountability

We will hold ourselves and one another responsible for our actions and behaviors.

“SERVICE EXCELLENCE is by DESIGN – not by default”



2017 BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Bottom row, left to right: Sotero G. Ramirez III, Vice President; Connie Woodruff, President; Mike Rosales, Secretary.

Top row, left to right: Dr. Xavier De La Torre, Superintendent; Kathryn Lucero, Trustee; Carlos Bustillos, Trustee; Richard Couder, Trustee; Cruz A. Ochoa, Trustee.



2017 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



The 102-year-old Ysleta Independent School District is the third-largest school district in El Paso, serving nearly 42,000 students in a diverse, family-friendly, and tight-knit community. In 2017, YISD schools maintained or increased student achievement in several content areas and most grade levels during state testing. In fact, the scores of our Special Education and English-learner students outperformed comparable programs in the region, while End Of Course (EOC) exam scores in English, Algebra I, biology, and history at our comprehensive high schools surpassed all area high schools in neighboring districts!

WE DELIVER EXCELLENCE



OUR DEMOGRAPHICS



61 SCHOOLS

3 EARLY COLLEGE HIGH SCHOOLS
3 INTERNATIONAL SCHOOLS

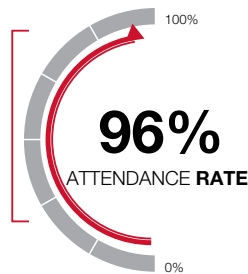
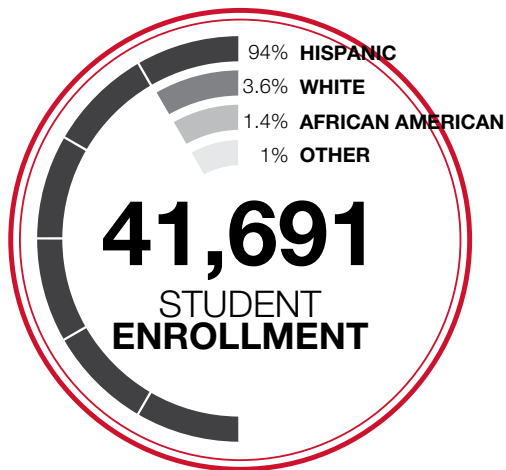
2 PRE-KINDERGARTEN CENTERS
1 ALL-GIRL COLLEGE-PREP SCHOOL

1 COMMUNITY LEARNING CENTER

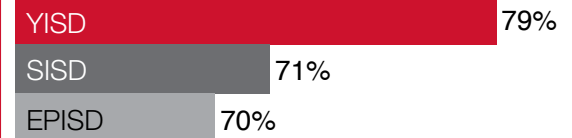
34 ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS

10 MIDDLE SCHOOLS

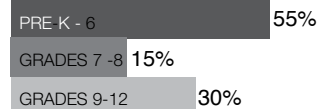
7 HIGH SCHOOLS



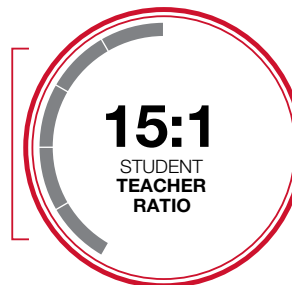
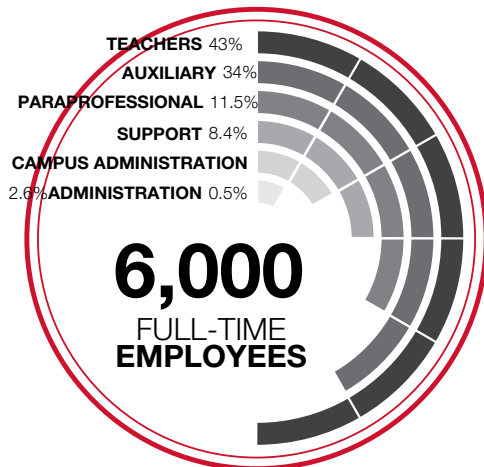
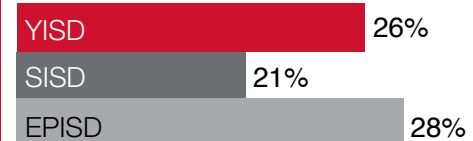
ECONOMICALLY DISADVANTAGED



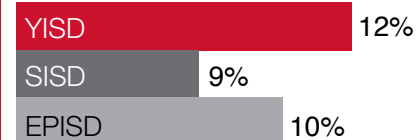
ENROLLMENT BY GRADES



ENGLISH LANGUAGE LEARNERS



SPECIAL EDUCATION



OUR GRADUATES

\$80M

SCHOLARSHIPS & FINANCIAL AID
CLASS OF 2017

1,387

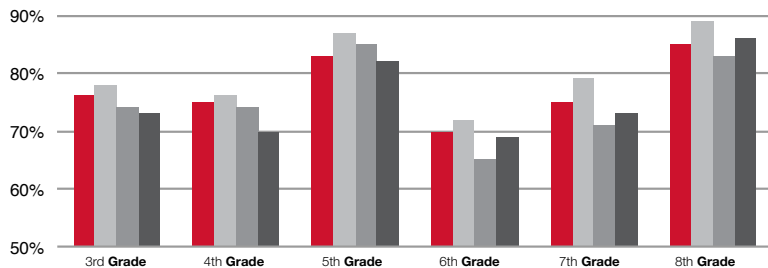
GRADUATES AWARDED
COLLEGE FUNDING

89.8%

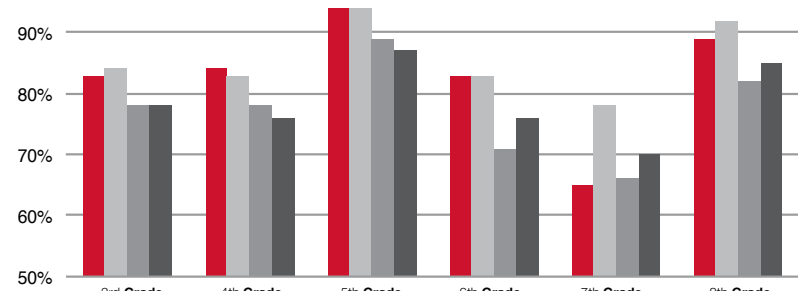
OF HIGH SCHOOL SENIORS
GRADUATED IN 2016



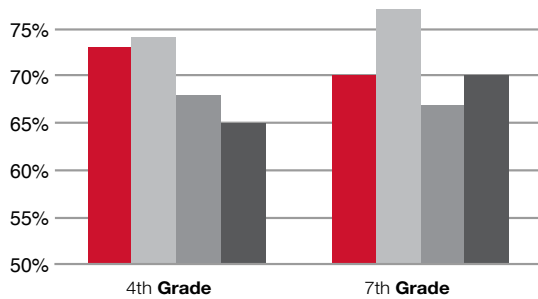
OUR ACADEMIC PERFORMANCE



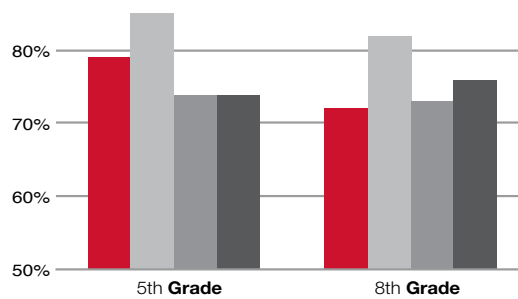
READING



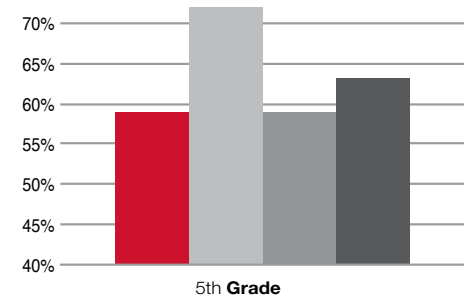
MATH



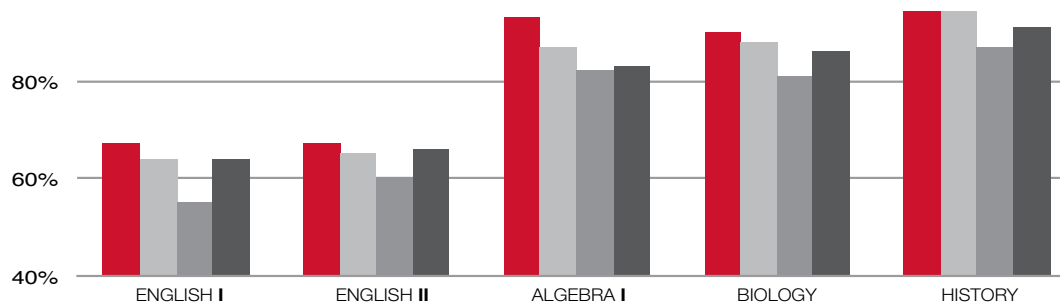
WRITING



SCIENCE



SOCIAL STUDIES



END OF COURSE

■ YISD

■ SISD

■ EPISD

■ STATE



Since its founding in 1915, YISD has grown from a small, rural district to an innovative leader in local education, featuring 61 campuses that include an all-girl college-preparatory school for grades 6-12, three international schools, and three early college high schools. Our diverse and rigorous educational programs not only lead the way in the El Paso area, but across the state and nation! As 2017 drew to a close, our campuses had received national acclaim for their innovation and academic excellence, while others made the grade with special statewide distinctions and a spot on the Texas Honor Roll.

WE DELIVER PRESTIGE

TEA DISTINCTION DESIGNATIONS

Once again, YISD high schools were at the proverbial tip of the spear in the El Paso area in 2017, earning the most distinctions from the Texas Education Agency (TEA) for their state test results when compared to surrounding districts.

All YISD schools earned the state rating of “Met Standard,” making them eligible to receive Distinction Designations from TEA for achievement in English/reading, math, science, and/or social studies; or for student progress, closing performance gaps, and postsecondary readiness.

Our high schools earned a combined 42 Distinction Designations. By comparison, El Paso ISD high schools received 38, and Socorro ISD high schools received 15.

YISD **42**
DISTINCTIONS

EPISD **38**
DISTINCTIONS

SISD **15**
DISTINCTIONS

Overall, six YISD campuses won every distinction available for their school type. **Lancaster**, **Vista Hills**, and **Ysleta** elementary schools earned the maximum six distinctions for primary grades, while **Camino Real Middle School**, **Eastwood Knolls International School**, and **Ysleta High School** won all seven distinctions available for secondary grades.

Ysleta High School was one of only two comprehensive high schools in the El Paso region to earn Distinction Designations in all seven areas. **Bel Air**, **Del Valle**, and **Riverside** high schools each earned six Distinction Designations, while **Eastwood** and **Hanks** high schools earned five.

Only about 4% of public schools in Texas – or about 400 – earned all distinctions available to their school type in 2017.



“Amazing work takes place in classrooms across our state every school day, but especially on these campuses where every possible distinction has been earned.”

- TEA Commissioner of Education Mike Morath

The honor of being designated a National Blue Ribbon School by the U.S. Department of Education is considered the pinnacle of success – an annual feat achieved by only a few hundred public and private schools out of more than 130,000 nationwide.

In 2017, that spectacular honor became a reality for the 400-student **Valle Verde Early College High School**, which is the 11th YISD campus to earn the National Blue Ribbon School title for academic excellence and/or notable improvement in closing achievement gaps.

“This most prestigious award could not go to a more deserving faculty and student body,” Valle Verde Principal Paul Covey said. “This school community has committed itself to ensuring all students excel, both inside and outside the classroom.”

At Valle Verde, all students commit to a rigorous, four-year curriculum in order to simultaneously earn a diploma and associate’s degree from El Paso Community College. The school is committed to serving the whole student by mentally and emotionally preparing students to handle all of life’s challenges.

With great opportunity comes great responsibility, school leaders say – and students live up to that responsibility every day by valuing the importance of education and working to the best of their ability. As a result, 93% of seniors have gone on to attend four-year colleges and universities, including some of the nation’s most prestigious colleges and universities.

“There isn’t a group of students and teachers anywhere that works harder than ours,” Covey said. “And I am so proud our U.S. Department of Education has recognized them for their outstanding efforts and achievements.”



In recognition of
Valle Verde Early College High School
El Paso, Texas
Exemplary High Performing
National Blue Ribbon School
2017



Betsy DeVos
Betsy DeVos
Secretary

THE JOURNEY TO RETHINK HIGH SCHOOL

XQ: The Super School Project

It was USA Today's open call for America to reimagine high school in 2017 with meaningful, measurable solutions. Thousands put forth their most innovative ideas – in the end, El Paso was one of 11 U.S. cities highlighted for exploring new models of learning, including YISD's pioneering STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math) programs and Early College High Schools!

According to USA Today, **nearly 70%** of high school students feel the classroom experience isn't relevant to their daily lives.

About **3 out of 4** students admit to “mentally checking out” during the school day.



The organizers of the XQ Project took a remodeled school bus and toured 30 cities to hear from those who are rethinking high school: educators, parents, business leaders and – most importantly – students themselves.

In El Paso, the XQ Project extensively interviewed **Valle Verde Early College High School** Principal Paul Covey for the way his campus is preparing students for the future. It also highlighted efforts by the El Paso STEM Foundation, which has aided YISD in establishing STEM programs at many

schools, such as the **Young Women's Leadership Academy**. Several YISD high schools also have certified T-STEM programs authorized by the Texas Education Agency, as well as career academies and programs on solar energy, environmental science, engineering, architecture, among others.



TEXAS HONOR ROLL SCHOOLS

Ramona and **Eastwood Heights** elementary schools, as well as **Valle Verde Early College High School**, were among 727 in the state to be named to the Texas Honor Roll in April 2017 for high levels of academic achievement and successfully closing achievement gaps in state test results.

Honor Roll schools share a common set of success factors, including:

- Clear, specific learning objectives aligned to college and career readiness, along with evidence-based instructional practices;
- A system-wide mission of college and career readiness for all students;
- Investment in human capital;
- Maintenance of data and assessment systems to monitor school and student performance; and
- Deployment of resources and guidance to support schools' efforts to prepare all students for college and career.

The Texas Honor Roll, compiled by a national campaign of business and education leaders, analyzes state testing data to identify its schools. All three 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.

Honor Roll schools are awarded special banners and featured online so other educators and policymakers may seek them out to replicate their success.

“The Honor Roll proves that all schools, no matter what zip code they are in, can achieve this kind of success.”

—Jim Lanich, President and Chief Executive Officer of Educational Results Partnership



YISD consists of seven Learning Communities – **Bel Air, Del Valle, Eastwood, Hanks, Parkland, Riverside,** and **Ysleta** – and several specialized campuses. Every year, YISD produces exceptional, competitive, and college-ready high school graduates. In fact, our Class of 2017 valedictorians had an average GPA of 103! But the accolades our students received in 2017 stretched far beyond the four corners of the classroom, as they won several state and national championships in everything from athletics to fine arts to technology. Pictured left is Parkland High School football player Deion Hankins, who made Class 5A All-State running back in 2017.

WE DELIVER HONORS

Jose Sanchez

Valedictorian



- GPA: 103.167
- AP Scholar with Distinction
- National Hispanic Merit Scholar
- National Honor Society
- \$148,000 total in scholarship awards; including St. Mary's University (\$96K); UTEP (\$32K); Boston University (\$13K)
- Attending UTEP and studying microbiology, then plans to attend medical school

Christian Hernandez

Bel Air High School student Christian Hernandez brought home the gold in the 5A division at the 2017 UIL Texas State Wrestling Championships in Cypress. He defeated Lorenzo Mays of Humble High School by a score of 5-3.



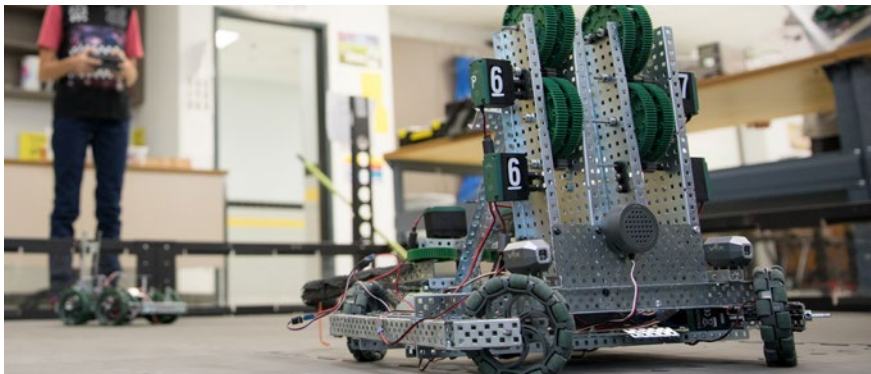
Emily Gonzalez

The stunning artistry of **Bel Air High School** student Emily Gonzalez is on display in the hallways of the U.S. Capitol in Washington D.C. after she was named the winner of the 2017 Congressional Art Competition for District 16! She was flown to Washington D.C. to witness the installation of her original artwork, "Cubanito," which will reside there until mid-2018.



IDME APP

Del Valle High School students Emmanuel Oyevides and Lorenzo Holguin were honored in Washington D.C. in 2017 for winning the U.S. Congressional App Challenge in the 23rd Congressional District. The contest required participants to create an app that is useful for society. Emmanuel and Lorenzo's app requires students to scan their school ID upon entering class, and the app immediately records which students are present, tardy, or absent.



DISCOVERBOTS

The award-winning "Discoverbots" Robotics Team at **Del Valle Elementary School** was the only El Paso school team to qualify for the 2017 Vex Robotics World Championships in Louisville, Kentucky, where teams from more than 30 nations brought their most innovative STEM projects. The Del Valle Elementary robotics team overcame competition from local teams in the Vex IQ competition at Eastwood Middle School, qualifying them for the world championships.

Enriko Chavez Valedictorian



- GPA: 101.4
- NASA High School Aerospace Scholar
- STEM Engineering Academy
- Took and passed 14 AP tests, scoring a 4 or better on nine AP tests
- \$164,102 in scholarship awards
- Attending Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT)

Michael Perez

Valedictorian



- GPA: 105.109
- President, Robotics Team, 3-time VEX World Championship team
- National Honor Society
- National Hispanic Merit Scholar
- AP College Board Scholar with Distinction
- Over \$1 million in scholarship awards from Harvard, Duke, Purdue, Vanderbilt, and Baylor universities, among others
- Attending University of Notre Dame to study mechanical engineering with focus on bioengineering

Daniel Bernal

Runner of the Year

Eastwood High School senior Daniel Bernal's athleticism, hard work, and dedication resulted in several honors in 2017. He won the bronze medal in the 3,200-meter run for the 6A division at the UIL Texas Track and Field Championships in Austin, and was also named the 2017 High School Cross Country Runner of the Year by the El Paso Times.



The **Eastwood High School** chapter of the Future Business Leaders of America (FBLA) enjoyed a banner year in 2017! Student Christopher Hulburt was elected president of the Texas FBLA for 2017-18, while Eastwood's FBLA advisor, Shawn Trousdale, received Texas FBLA Advisor of the Year for guiding his students in leadership, service, and competition.

Michaela Orrantia-Kotowski



Eastwood High School senior Michaela Orrantia-Kotowski was among an elite group of students chosen as National Merit Scholar finalists in 2017-18! Michaela qualified for this honor as a junior by earning one of the highest PSAT scores in the country. As a National Merit Scholar finalist, she became eligible for more than \$32 million in prestigious college- and corporate-funded scholarships.



AVID DEMONSTRATION SCHOOL

In January 2017, **Desert View Middle School** celebrated its revalidation as a National Demonstration School for Advancement Via Individual Determination (AVID). This designation recognizes the school's success in implementing AVID strategies schoolwide while serving as a model to other schools. AVID helps provide educators with strategies to accelerate the performance of underrepresented students.



LadyKnights

Another year, another state championship for the girls wrestling team at **Hanks High School!** For the fourth year in a row, the Lady Knights were named state champions in their 5A division at the 2017 UIL state competition in Cypress. In addition, Gianna Morales, Cassidy Chacon, Adrienne Holguin, and Shania Villalba all earned individual gold and silver medals.

Michael Abeyta

Hanks High School freshman

Michael Abeyta captured the gold in the boys 5A 1,600-meter run at the 2017 Texas Track and Field Championships in Austin.



Christina Luna

Valedictorian



- GPA: 104.2
- President, National Honor Society
- Robotics Club
- \$329,000 in scholarship awards from New York University (\$102K), St. Mary's University (\$84K), Arizona State University (\$52K), The King's College (\$48K), and UTEP (\$32K), among others
- Attending Arizona State University, majoring in mechanical engineering

J.M. HANKS

Sharie Campbell Valedictorian



- GPA: 101.46
- National Honor Society; officer in Student Council, FBLA/DECA, senior class officer
- Awarded “Miss Parkland” and the Matador Award
- More than \$150,000 in scholarship awards from Baylor University (\$52K), UTEP (\$32K), University of Texas at Austin (\$20K), among others
- Attending Texas A&M University, majoring in biochemistry, then plans to attend medical school to study internal medicine

PARKLAND

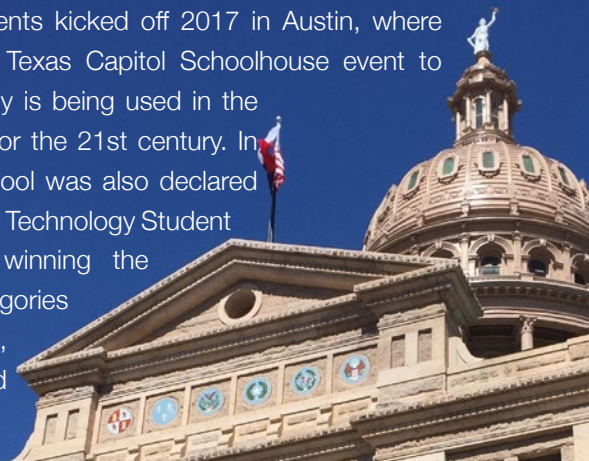
PARKLAND



EARLY COLLEGE HIGH SCHOOL

Parkland High School was one of two YISD campuses to launch a new early college high school in the 2017-18 school year, in cooperation with El Paso Community College. Nearly 100 students made up the inaugural ninth-grade class at Parkland Early College High School (ECHS), which provides them with the opportunity to earn an associate's degree while also fulfilling their high-school diploma requirements.

Parkland Middle School students kicked off 2017 in Austin, where they participated in the annual Texas Capitol Schoolhouse event to show lawmakers how technology is being used in the classroom to prepare students for the 21st century. In the spring, Parkland Middle School was also declared the State Champion at the annual Technology Student Association competition after winning the most first-place awards in categories like environmental engineering, inventions and innovations, and technical design.



AP Capstone™

Research, Academic Rigor, Distinction

In 2017, **Parkland High School** was among approximately 1,000 schools worldwide to implement the Advanced Placement (AP) Capstone diploma program, which allows students to develop college-level skills of research, collaboration, and communication while still in high school! The program consists of two courses: AP Seminar and AP Research. These classes not only focus on topics of choice in great depth, but provide students with experience in writing and presenting their work effectively, individually, and in groups.



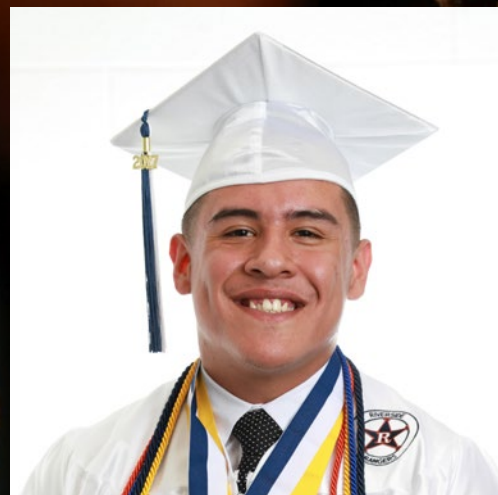
Solar Certification

In 2017, **Riverside High School** celebrated the launch of its new Solar Technologies program, making it the first and only public high school in the nation to offer solar electric certification to students! This certification is valid nationwide, which means graduates would be qualified to seek employment in the solar industry anywhere in the country. With the growing interest in alternative energies, this new program uniquely positions students for success in the global workforce.



A team of nine **Riverside High School** students won first place at the 2017 InSPIRESS event, a national design competition sponsored by NASA that aims to increase the number of engineers in today's society by developing STEM skills of high-school students. The Rangers competed against teams from several states, successfully creating a scientific payload for a spacecraft designed by college students to explore Neptune. The team won its division and an all-expense-paid trip to Washington D.C. to present its proposal and poster to NASA leaders!

Ricardo Soto Valedictorian



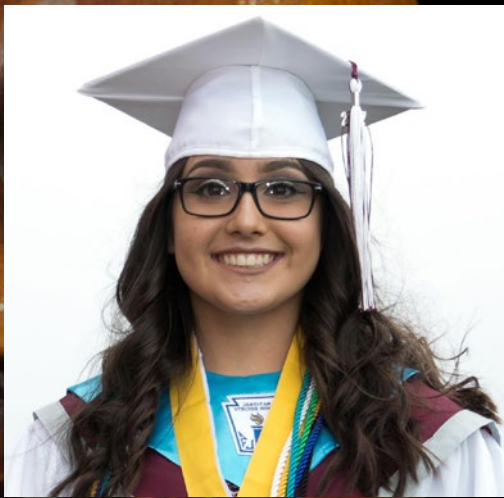
- GPA: 102.64
- AP Scholar with Distinction, QuestBridge Prep Scholar, National Hispanic Merit Scholar, Commended National Merit Scholar
- Ambassador on the Federal Reserve Student Board of Directors, varsity/junior varsity football captain
- Nearly \$270,000 in scholarship awards; offered admittance to Yale, Brown, Princeton, and Boston universities
- Attending Yale University, majoring in chemical engineering

RIVERSIDE

YSLETA

Serina Batson

Valedictorian



- GPA: 101.806
- Senior Class President; National Honor Society
- Participated in volleyball, basketball, and softball
- Over \$320,000 in scholarship awards from St. Mary's University (\$84K); Our Lady of the Lake University (\$68K); Hawaii Pacific University (\$56K); UTEP (\$32K); Texas Tech University (\$20K), among others
- Currently attending UTEP and majoring in biological sciences



YSLETA

EARLY COLLEGE ACADEMY

In partnership with El Paso Community College, Ysleta High School opened the doors in 2017-18 to its new Early College Academy, where students can simultaneously earn a diploma and an associate's degree by the time they graduate from high school. The **YHS Early College Academy** is based on a "school within a school" model, which means students can participate in traditional high school activities such as athletics, fine arts, and JROTC while taking dual-credit courses. The YHS Early College Academy accepted 103 students for its inaugural ninth-grade class in 2017.

Erica Villanueva



Ysleta High School teacher Erica Villanueva was named the 2017 Teacher of the Year by Texas Teachers, the state's largest Alternative Certification Program. Villanueva, a special-education teacher, was selected from a pool of more than 7,500 candidates and received \$5,000 as part of her award.

TEXAS
TEACHERS



For the fifth time in six years, **Valle Verde Early College High School** students won the regional championship for the National Science Bowl, qualifying them for national competition in Washington D.C. The National

Science Bowl, sponsored by the U.S. Department of Energy, tests students' knowledge in biology, chemistry, Earth science, physics, energy, and math in a fast-paced question-and-answer format.



Distinguished School

In 2017, **Valle Verde Early College High School** was among only 11 campuses in Texas – and the only public high school in West Texas – to be named an Apple Distinguished School through 2019 for continuous innovation in learning, teaching, and the school environment. This is the third consecutive time Valle Verde has won this designation, which was awarded to 400 schools in 26 countries.

Mar Medina Valedictorian



- GPA: 103.4
- Volunteered for four years at the El Paso Animal Shelter; currently volunteers at a local hospital
- UTEP Presidential Excellence Scholarship
- About \$45,000 in scholarship awards; offered admittance to UTEP, University of Texas at Austin, Texas A&M University, and Texas Tech University
- Attending UTEP, majoring in biomedical sciences with plans to pursue a career in medicine

VALLE VERDE

All-State Musicians

Eleven YISD students qualified for the UIL all-state band and choir ensembles in 2017, and were given the opportunity to perform with the best musicians in the state at the Texas Music Educators Association convention in San Antonio in February.

YISD takes great pride in its musically gifted students – in fact, the number of all-state musicians we sent to San Antonio increased by nearly double from 2016 to 2017! YISD also had nearly twice as many students qualify for all-state band and choir than the El Paso and Socorro school districts.



FINE ARTS

Making History

YISD made history in 2017 when three high-school marching bands – **Bel Air**, **Del Valle**, and **Hanks** – successfully qualified for the 5A UIL state marching band competition in San Antonio! By comparison, only one other El Paso-area marching band was able to qualify for the state championships.

The impressive showing by our bands at the November state championships prompted a renewed sense of pride and excitement throughout YISD and El Paso. The Silver Knights Marching Band from Hanks High School placed 15th; the Big Red Pride Marching Band from Bel Air High School followed closely at 19th; and the Conquistador Marching Band from Del Valle High School placed 34th.

Big Red Pride Marching Band: “Out Of The Shadows”


Led by drum majors Sarina Cundiff, Autumn Russell, and Belanna Castillo; directed by Manny Talamantes, James Cordova, Sarah Candelaria, Ben Perez, Sabastian Granados, Melina Banuelos, Lucy Banuelos, and Elizabeth Cenicerros.

Del Valle Conquistador Marching Band: “The Search for Paradise”

Led by drum majors Lyndsey Marquez, Ashley Campos, and Carlos Gonzalez; directed by Armando Martinez, Keith Morales, Robert Hayden, Matthew Fernandez, and Brandon Gamboa.

Silver Knights Marching Band: “SOL”

Led by drum majors Nikki Melendez, Sachell Valenzuela, and Vivian Rodriguez; directed by Horacio Gomez, Doug Brown, Cassie Cardenas, Calvin Edwards, Nick Flood, and Colin McCallister.



Sarina
Cundiff

Nicole
Melendez

Lyndsey
Marquez

Marching to **Victory**



Every YISD employee plays a valuable role in providing a quality education and innovative learning environments for our students. Whether they operate school buses, teach in classrooms, serve meals, or keep our facilities clean, our exceptional employees are wholeheartedly dedicated to students, and we deeply value their professional and passionate spirit! In 2017, YISD launched several new campaigns to emphasize kindness, responsibility, and safety districtwide, and we continue to rely on the support and involvement of parents, businesses, and community organizations to help students succeed.

WE DELIVER INTEGRITY

Outstanding School Leaders

Valle Verde Early College High School Principal Paul Covey was named among the top school leaders in the nation in 2017 when he was selected to receive the prestigious Terrel H. Bell Award from the U.S. Department of Education! Covey, who has led Valle Verde ECHS since 2009, was the only Texas principal to win the Bell Award, which is given to principals of National Blue Ribbon Schools. Under Covey's leadership, Valle Verde ECHS has been recognized multiple times as an Apple Distinguished School, a Texas Early College High School Demonstration School, and is consistently among the top-ranked public high schools in El Paso region.

“Through their work, these principals show that when effective leadership is coupled with high expectations, we can expect great results for all of our nation’s students.”

-U.S. Secretary of Education Betsy DeVos





East Point Elementary School Principal Dana Boyd made national news in 2017 when she was appointed to serve on the nonpartisan National Assessment Governing Board by U.S. Secretary of Education Betsy DeVos! Her new board duties include helping set policy for The Nation's Report Card, which provides student performance data to the public and policymakers. She'll be joined on this distinguished board by U.S. governors, state legislators, state school officials, educators, and researchers. This board appointment is only the latest in a series of accolades for Boyd, who was also named 2016 Texas National Distinguished Principal, 2007 Texas Teacher of the Year, and inducted into the El Paso Commission for Women's Hall of Fame in 2017.

It's a privilege to have an accomplished educator such as Dana Boyd to oversee NAEP. Her perspective will be critical as we work to close the achievement gap and ensure all students have equal access to a great education.

-U.S. Secretary of Education Betsy DeVos



Yale University Educator Award

Riverside High School teacher Sergio Estrada was among only 58 teachers worldwide to win the prestigious 2017 Yale Educator Award, which honors his outstanding leadership in shaping the future of his students and encouraging them to pursue their goals! The award is given by the admissions office at Yale University, which asks incoming freshmen to nominate an outstanding teacher who has deeply impacted their lives. The university's Admissions Office credits the excellent quality of its student body to educators like Estrada, who shape their students long before they attend Yale.





Teacher 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. **Pebble Hills Elementary School teacher Heather Holmes** and **Ysleta High School teacher Allen Haynes** were honored in May after winning YISD's top 2017-18 Elementary and Secondary Teachers of the Year.

Holmes, a second-grade teacher, has taught pre-K and elementary school students for six years throughout Texas. Growing up, she said there were few opportunities and resources available to her, and it motivated her to become an educator.

Allen, a JROTC teacher, believes teaching is not only a gift, but a daily objective. Every day, he seeks to teach at least one thing to someone – and that goal works in perfectly with the career in education he decided to pursue into after serving as a high-school volunteer.

PARENT **VOLUNTEERS**

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.



Make a **Difference!**

RANDOM ACTS OF KINDNESS®

Several years ago, the nonprofit Random Acts of Kindness (RAK) foundation began building a free, school-based K-12 curriculum to teach kindness and infuse social/emotional competence in children. Two years later, this curriculum was recognized as a top instructional resource, and came to YISD for the first time in the 2017-18 school year.

The RAK curriculum was inspired by the idea that everyone has the capacity for kindness, and all of us can inspire and empower each other to change the world through our actions. At YISD, we believe the lessons children learn in our classrooms matter wherever they go.

Just three months after being introduced in our district, students in campus RAK clubs had already raised money for breast cancer; collected items for donation to the Humane Society of El Paso, El Paso Children's Hospital, El Paso Homeless Coalition, and El Paso Battered Women's Shelter; and conducted fundraisers to comfort vulnerable children entering the foster system, among others.

Anonymous Alerts

As part of continuous efforts to increase safety and security at schools, YISD introduced a new communications system in 2017 called "Anonymous Alerts," which makes it easier for students and parents to quickly and confidentially report bullying and other sensitive incidents to school administrators. Users need only download the Anonymous Alerts app on their iPhone or Android device in order to send anonymous and encrypted private messages on urgent or sensitive topics to school administrators. As a result, YISD parents and students now have an effective method of reporting harmful behavior at our schools without fear of retribution.





Ysleta Independent School District
**PARTNERS
IN EDUCATION**
INSPIRE • ENGAGE • CONNECT

Our Partners in Education (PIE) program is made up of about 600 businesses, military, nonprofit groups and individuals who provide funding and support for YISD schools.

Every year, our generous Partners In Education (PIE) make it possible for YISD to hold its annual 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 2017 included Costco and the law firm of Delgado, Acosta, Spencer, Linebarger & Perez.

Our Partners also actively participate in the education of our students, particularly those in our career academies! In 2017, more than 135 students in the Bel Air Center for Health Professions participated in an interprofessional simulated hospital program under the direction of UTEP Simulator Lab Director Ronnie Stout. It allowed YISD students to develop competency in safely managing priority care, and train in “real-life” scenarios.





In keeping with the promises made to the community, YISD continued to proceed smoothly in 2017 with its bond program to ensure projects were within budget, on time, high-quality, and – where possible – performed by local labor. By the end of 2017, several bond projects were successfully completed or smoothly under way in all seven Learning Communities, including renovations/additions to cafeterias and fine arts classes, and the construction of new schools. YISD also maintained its longtime responsible financial stewardship, earning top ratings from the state and positive comments from auditors.

WE DELIVER TRUST



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 a fine arts wing.

2017 BOND PROGRAM **UPDATE**

Thanks to the community's support for the \$430.5 million facilities bond approved by voters in November 2015, YISD made tremendous strides toward significantly improving its infrastructure and buildings in 2017. In addition, the district realized more than \$18 million in savings in 2017 when favorable market conditions and our strong financial management resulted in a lower interest rate for the issuance of \$168.35 million of school building bonds.



By the end of 2017, several bond projects had come to completion – all within or under budget. These projects included infrastructure upgrades or replacements at numerous campuses; new cafeterias at **Tierra Del Sol** and **Desertaire** elementary schools; renovation of the fine-arts space at **Ysleta Middle School**; significant renovations and additions to **Parkland Middle School**; a new gymnasium at **Rio Bravo Middle School**; and a new gymnasium, locker room, and fine-arts addition at **Eastwood Knolls International School**. Athletic enhancements were also completed in 2017 at all seven comprehensive high schools.



BEL AIR MIDDLE SCHOOL

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

Expected completion date: **Fall 2018**



THOMAS MANOR ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

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

Expected completion date: **Fall 2018**





BEL AIR HIGH SCHOOL SPORTS COMPLEX

IN **PROGRESS**

VALLEY VIEW/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.

LANCASTER ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

New kitchen and cafeteria; separate activity room from cafeteria for P.E. programs; infrastructure and restroom upgrades, and HVAC replacement.

LEBARRON PARK ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

New kitchen and cafeteria; separate activity room from cafeteria for P.E. programs; infrastructure and restroom upgrades; HVAC, roofing, plumbing, and electrical replacements.

HANKS HIGH SCHOOL

New bleachers and retractable backboards, and infrastructure upgrades/replacements for roofing, restrooms, and HVAC systems.

IN **DESIGN**

BEL AIR HIGH SCHOOL

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

PARKLAND HIGH SCHOOL

Classroom renovations for T-STEM and Early College High School areas.

YSLETA HIGH SCHOOL

New fine arts addition; athletic enhancements; infrastructure upgrades/replacements for roofing, restrooms, and HVAC systems.



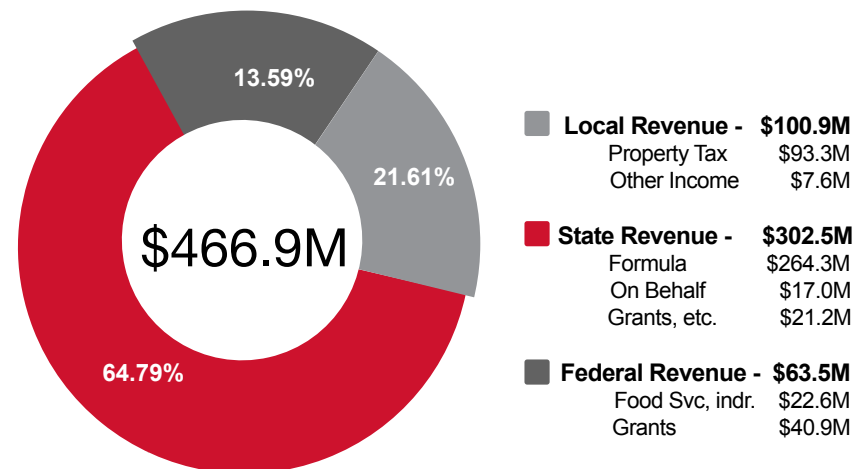
SUPERIOR **ACHIEVEMENT**

For the 13th 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 2017 rating is based on the district's annual audit of the 2015-16 financial information.

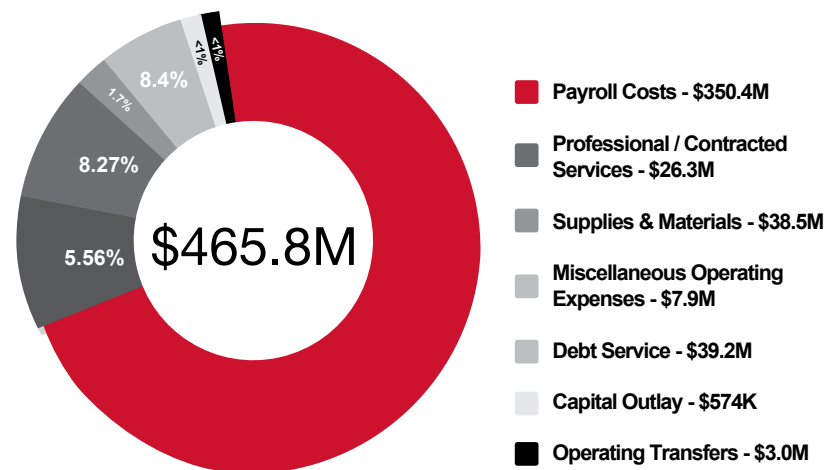
FINANCIAL **REPORTING**

The district received an unqualified opinion from independent external auditors on the 2016-2017 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, 2017

The General Fund pays for items such as salaries and benefits, classroom resources, student transportation and administrative support – all the things schools and support centers need to operate on a daily basis.

The Food Service Fund pays for the operation of the district’s food service program. The Food Service budget encompasses year-round meal and snack services to students.

The Debt Service Fund pays the debt on bonds previously approved by district voters for building construction and renovation. The Debt Service Fund includes the annual payments for the fixed-rate debt.

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STATEMENT OF POSITION AT JUNE 30 (GENERAL FUND ONLY)

ASSETS			LIABILITIES		
	2017	2016		2017	2016
Cash and cash equivalents	\$110,249,331	\$86,225,112	Accounts payable	\$8,873,120	\$8,660,507
Due from Other Funds	0	0	Due to Other Funds	16,834,247	9,698,863
Receivables	28,675,541	32,391,393	Accrued Wages Payable	18,049,129	18,661,789
Inventories	1,214,120	1,381,460	Unavailable Revenue - Prop. Tax	11,103,133	10,359,050
Property taxes, delinquent	11,826,978	10,887,977			
Long Term Investments	1,984,000	8,118,000			
Total Assets	\$153,949,970	\$139,003,942	Total Liabilities	\$54,859,629	\$47,380,209
			NET POSITION		
			Total Fund Balance	\$99,090,341	\$91,623,743
			Total Liabilities and Assets	\$99,090,341	\$91,623,733

OUR SCHOOLS

Bel Air Learning Community

Bel Air High.....	434-2000
Bel Air Middle	434-2200
Del Norte Heights Elementary.....	434-2400
Hacienda Heights Elementary.....	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
Camino Real Middle.....	434-8300
Valley View 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

THE**ONLY**CHOICE.

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PREPARED BY THE PUBLIC RELATIONS DEPARTMENT

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