

**Hidalgo Independent School District**  
*“Treasure on the Border”*

**College Attainment For All Students  
through Quality  
Educators, Programs, and Partnerships**

*Summit on Education Reform and  
Hispanic Education Attainment*

*White House Initiative on Educational Excellence for Hispanic Americans*

*U.S. Department of Education - September 11, 2008*

# Our Motivation



# Hidalgo ISD

- Student Demographics:
  - 99.7% Hispanic, 0.2% White, and 0.1% Asian/Pacific Islander
  - 90.2% Economically Disadvantaged
  - 54.9% Limited English Proficient
- Hidalgo ISD is located in South Texas and has a southern boundary that parallels the Rio Grande River.



# Recent Recognitions

- 2006-2007: Hidalgo ISD earned the distinction as the #1 School District in Texas through the HEB Excellence in Education Award.
- 2007-2008: US News and World Report analyzed more than 18,000 high schools and rated Hidalgo ECHS #11 of the top 100 high schools in the Nation and #1 in Texas in terms of College Readiness for all students.
- 2007-2008: Hidalgo ISD and every campus met Adequate Yearly Progress.

# *Quality Educators*

# Hidalgo ISD Core Beliefs

- Culture
  - “Total Team Effort”
  - “No Excuses Philosophy”
  - “Beyond Exemplary: One Student at a Time”
- Support
  - Indoctrination Process
  - Three-year training for New Teachers
  - Leaders of Learning



# *Quality Programs*

# Hidalgo ISD System of Support

- **Hidalgo Early College High School**: College Readiness for Every Student!
- **Career Pathways Program**: Provide Every student with counseling based on selected career pathway!
- **Hidalgo Parental Academies**: Providing cohorts of parents with a Language Academy, Workforce Academy, and College Readiness Academy.
- **Summer Educator Internships**: Provide cohorts of teachers with summer internships based on core area.
- **Early Childhood Education**: All day Pre-Kinder for Every 3 & 4 year old!
- **Dual Language Program**: Bi-literacy for Every Graduate!



# Hidalgo Early College High School

- According to the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, Hidalgo ECHS is the only open enrollment high school in the nation to serve all students through an Early College High School program.



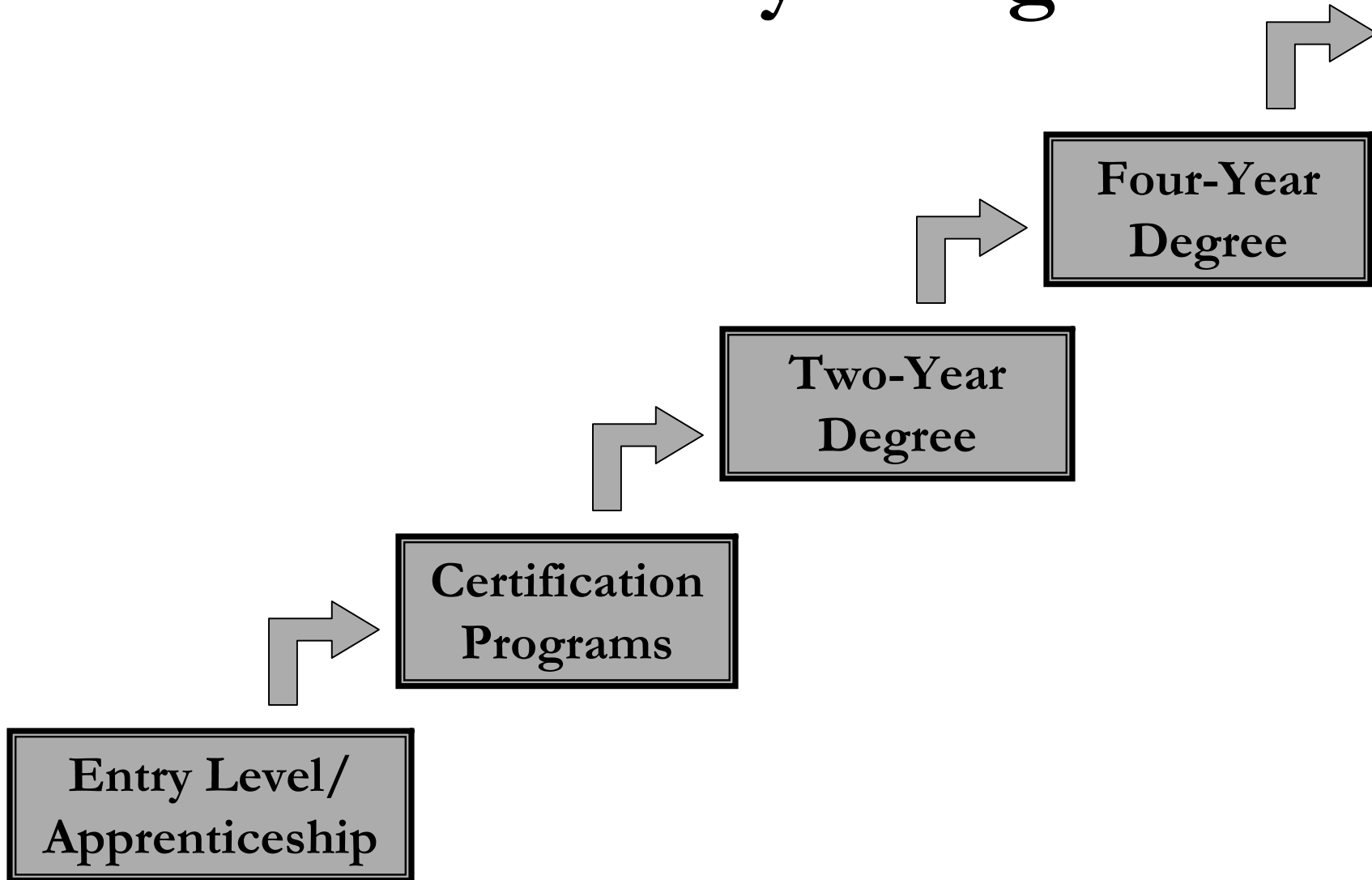
# Hidalgo Early College High School

- Hidalgo ECHS Organization:
  - ECHS is organized into two Academies:
    - Academy of Health, Science, and Technology
    - Academy of Human Services
- Hidalgo ECHS Course Matrix:
  - Freshman and Sophomore year is comprised of traditional, AP, and college courses where students can earn up to 21 college hours.
  - Junior and Senior year is comprised of college coursework where every student will have the opportunity to earn up to 60 college hours upon graduation.

# Early College School District

- Early College Readiness Facilitator:
  - Centralized at the middle school level
  - Coordinates activities with high school administrators, counselors, teachers, and students
  - Coordinates activities with elementary administrators counselors, and teachers.
- Middle School and Elementary Level:
  - Adopt a College Program
  - Career and Opportunities Fair
  - Hidalgo Early College School District Theme

# Career Pathways Program

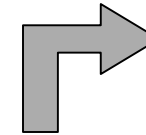


# Career Pathways Program

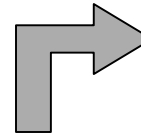
- Counseling Services:
  - Assign students to counselors based on selected career pathway and not grade level or alpha designations.
  - Develop an environment where students are encouraged to explore their interests, skills, and career goals.
  - Enhance counseling services at Elem, MS, and HS levels to develop early awareness of Future Opportunities
- Career Pathways:
  - Business and Marketing Careers
  - Health Science Technology Careers
  - Human Development, Management, and Service Careers
  - Industrial and Engineering Technology Careers
  - Personal and Protective Services Careers

# Parental Academies

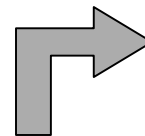
Certification  
or Degree



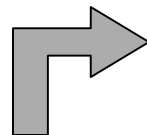
THEA  
Academy



GED/Occupational  
Skills Academy



Language  
Academy II



Language  
Academy I

**HISD Parental Involvement Program: Adult Literacy, Life Skills, Career Pathways, Technology Skills, Money Management, Accountability**

# Parental Academy Program

- Language Academy
  - LA I: Pre-Beginning and Beginning Literacy
  - LA II: Intermediate and Advanced Literacy
- Workforce Academy
  - GED Training
  - Occupational Skills Training
- THEA College Entrance Exam Academy
- Certification, Associate, Four-Year Degree

# Summer Educator Internships

- Summer Educator Internship
  - Partnership of Business and Education
  - Mentoring Opportunities with Business Sector
  - Business Work Experience to Enhance Relevance and Rigor in the Classroom





# Early Childhood Education

- Full Day PreKindergarten for Every 3 and 4 year old.
  - Pre-K 3
  - Pre-K 4
- Support Early Skills Development
  - Emergent Literacy Development
  - Social/Emotional Development
  - Language/Cognitive Development

# Dual Language Program

- Focus on Biliteracy for all students
- District-Wide Implementation
- Elementary Level
  - Pre-K 4 through fifth grade
- Middle School Level Cohort
  - Sixth through seventh grade in World History and Texas History

# *Quality Partnerships*

# Partners in Education

- Institutions of Higher Ed
  - University of Texas – Pan American
  - South Texas College
  - Texas State Technical College
  - University of Texas –Austin
- Organizations
  - Education Service Center - Region One
  - Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation
  - Texas High School Project
  - Communities Foundation of Texas
  - Jobs For the Future

# Partners in Education

- Community and Business
  - Parents and City of Hidalgo
  - McAllen Economic Development Corporation
  - Workforce Solutions
  - Tech Prep of the Rio Grande Valley
- Benefits
  - Authentic Collaboration
  - Networking Opportunities
  - Technical Assistance
  - Availability of Facilities/Resources
  - Relevant Curriculum
  - Teacher Enhancement

# Partners in Education



*Quality Support:*

*School Board Members  
Making a Difference*

# School Board Honors

- 2007-2008: Hidalgo ISD School Board was honored at the National School Board Association Annual Conference with the American School Board Journal Magna Awards Honorable Mention.
- 2006-2007: Hidalgo ISD School Board was one of only five school boards in Texas to receive the TASA/TASB Honor Board Award.

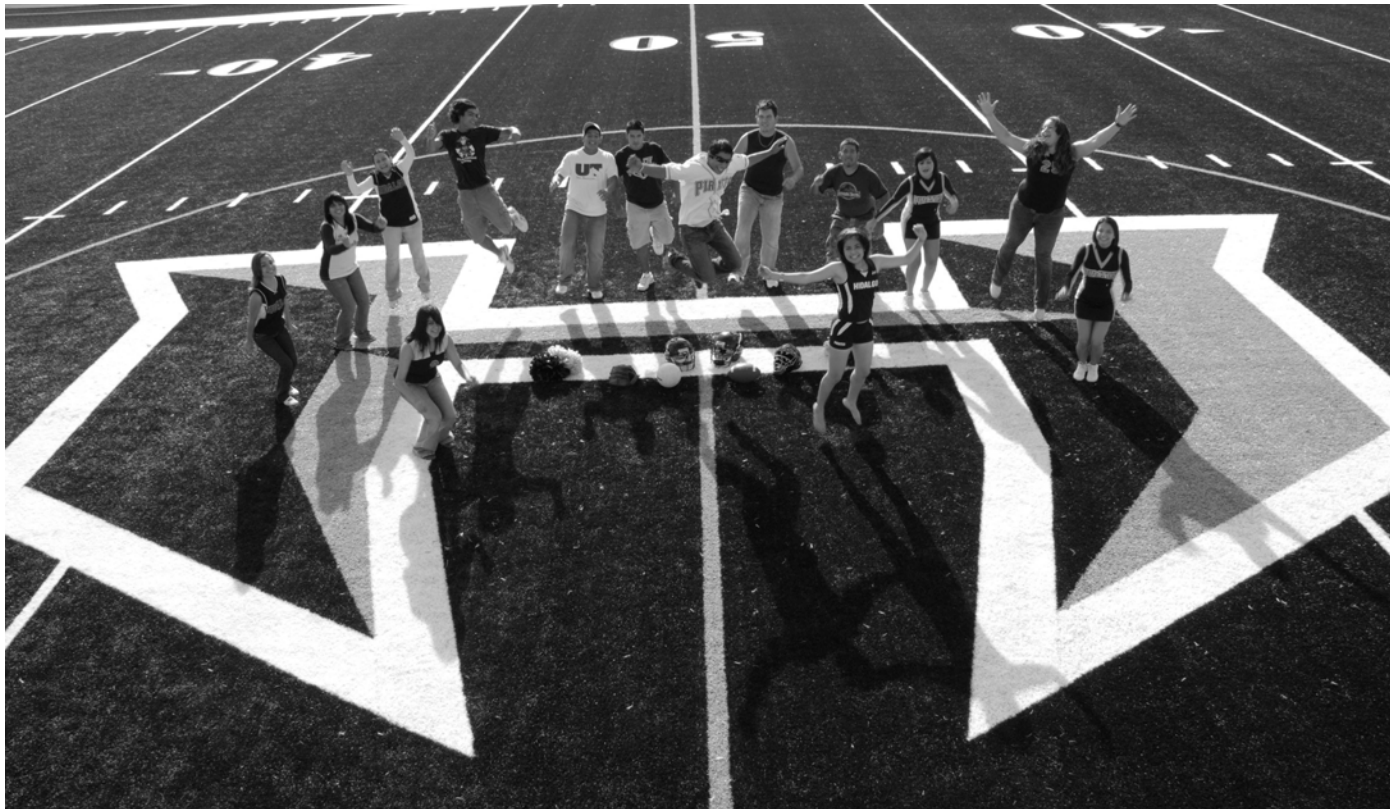


# School Board Support

- Implementation of two Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation Early College High School Grants to serve every high school student.
- Renovation of entire Hidalgo High School facilities to reflect a college campus environment.
- Master's degree professional development incentive (\$500 per first six hours and \$100 per addtl. 3 hours)
- College course teaching stipend (\$500 per each college course taught)
- ....

# School Board's Keys to Success

- Focus on the Students
- Demand Excellence
- Focus on the Big Picture
- Hold staff accountable for results
- Focus on Performance



# School Board's Keys to Success

- Focus on Lasting Excellence in All Areas
- Focus on Solutions
- No Micromanagement
- Provide Resources and Support
- Create Vision, Goals, Expectations, Policies....
- Then let Superintendent & Staff do their jobs.



# What do we hope to gain?

- Connect every student to post-secondary education prior to graduation from HS.
- Strengthen partnerships where every level of the community is involved in the educational process.
- Attain higher levels of student academic performance through high quality instruction.
- Ensure economic prosperity and a better way of life for our students.