



# IDEA COLLEGE PREPARATORY MISSION

## T-STEM Renewal Application

### 2019-2020

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# Background

## District Affiliation

IDEA PUBLIC SCHOOLS

CD #: 108807

Region: 01

Mailing Address (Line 1): 2115 W PIKE BLVD

Mailing Address (Line 2):

City, State, Zip: WESLACO, TX 78596

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## School Affiliation

IDEA COLLEGE PREPARATORY MISSION

CDC #: 108-807-004

Region:

Mailing Address (Line 1): 1600 S SCHUERBACH RD

Mailing Address (Line 2):

City, State, Zip: MISSION, TX 78572

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## Academy Information

**T-STEM Academy Name:**

IDEA COLLEGE PREPARATORY MISSION

**Are you currently in the 2018-2019 planning year or are a 2018-2019 planning grantee?**

No

**What grade level range will your academy serve in the 2019-2020 school year?**

6-12

| Grade Level | Number of Students | School / CDC # Where Students are Enrolled   |
|-------------|--------------------|----------------------------------------------|
| 6           | 125                | IDEA COLLEGE PREPARATORY MISSION (108807004) |
| 7           | 131                | IDEA COLLEGE PREPARATORY MISSION (108807004) |
| 8           | 119                | IDEA COLLEGE PREPARATORY MISSION (108807004) |
| 9           | 126                | IDEA COLLEGE PREPARATORY MISSION (108807004) |
| 10          | 113                | IDEA COLLEGE PREPARATORY MISSION (108807004) |
| 11          | 113                | IDEA COLLEGE PREPARATORY MISSION (108807004) |
| 12          | 102                | IDEA COLLEGE PREPARATORY MISSION (108807004) |

# Contacts

## Business Partner

**Affiliation:** Rodeo Dental  
**Job Title:** Rodeo Dental Community Outreach Coordinator  
**Full Name:** Mr. Mike Saucedo  
**Email:** m.sauceda@rodeodental.com  
**Phone Number:** 956-332-9386

## Superintendent

**Job Title:** Superintendent  
**Full Name:** Mrs. Jo Ann Gama  
**Email:** JoAnn.Gama@ideapublicschools.org  
**Phone Number:** 956-377-8000

## Applicant

**Job Title:** Assistant Principal of Instruction  
**Full Name:** Ms. Eunice Canales  
**Email:** Eunice.Canales@ideapublicschools.org  
**Phone Number:** 956-583-8315

## IHE Liaison

**Affiliation:** The University of Texas - Rio Grande Valley  
**Job Title:** EVP, Academic Affairs  
**Full Name:** Dr. Patricia McHatton  
**Email:** Patricia.McHatton@utrgv.edu  
**Phone Number:** 956-665-2111

# Narratives

## Model Implementation

**Which T-STEM model does the district intend to implement at this time? Within these models, there are variations. For this purpose campus is defined as a CDC number not a physical location.**

Stand Alone Academy - All students on the campus are enrolled in the T-STEM academy

## Endorsements

**Identify the current endorsements that are offered:**

- Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM)
- Arts and Humanities
- Multi-disciplinary Studies

## Certificates

**Does this academy offer Associate Degrees to students?**

No



## TSIA

Does this academy administer the TSIA exam?

Yes

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What ID number do students use when taking the TSIA exam?

Local District Assigned ID

## Key Elements for Success

**Provide a link to the job description, roles of design team, leadership team, and advisory board.**

<http://ideapublicschools.org/our-schools/idea-mission/tstem>

**Provide a link to the final, signed, and executed MOU.**

<http://ideapublicschools.org/our-schools/idea-mission/tstem>

**Provide a link to the academy's master schedules.**

<http://ideapublicschools.org/our-schools/idea-mission/tstem>

**Provide a link to the academy's written admission policy and enrollment application.**

<http://ideapublicschools.org/our-schools/idea-mission/tstem>

**Provide a link to the academy's written recruitment plan including a timeline of recruitment and enrollment events, and recruitment materials for distribution at feeder schools and other appropriate locations in the community**

<http://ideapublicschools.org/our-schools/idea-mission/tstem>

**Provide a link to the academy's internship and externship opportunities.**

<http://ideapublicschools.org/our-schools/idea-mission/tstem>

## Free-Response

### **Describe how the Academy will recruit, support, and retain highly qualified teachers.**

IDEA Public Schools actively seeks qualified applicants for teaching positions and are open to receive applications online at the district website. Applicants are typically initially interviewed and reviewed by our Human Assets team and then matched to a campus based on individual school needs/openings. At IDEA, prospective teachers can expect to enjoy a rewarding career and one that will honor the achievements of successful teachers both financially and non-financially. Candidates are discovered through advertising/applications, career fairs, university partnerships and referral campaigns.

What we believe in: -Hard Work: Closing the Achievement Gap requires that everyone give 100 percent. Every Day. -Drive: Our goals are ambitious, but we are, too. -Positive Change: Together, we know our vision of College For All Children is possible.

What we're looking for: -Passion: We believe passionate, compassionate teachers make all the difference in the success of our students. - Trailblazers: At IDEA, we want to invest in you. Our professional development and career pathway will allow you to chart your own path. - Diversity: We're looking for teachers from all backgrounds and experience levels. Varied perspectives will allow us to stay innovative and push us to become even better.

At IDEA, we want you to grow professionally. Excellent teachers are the key to realizing our promise to students. The Teacher Career Pathway was created to make IDEA a place where teachers feel valued for their invaluable role in our movement to send all students to and through college. As teachers are promoted up the pathway, they receive increased professional development, influence, recognition, and compensation. Further information can be found at:  
<https://www.ideapublicschools.org/careers/teachers>

Compensation is also provided through NMSI and AP. Teachers also have the opportunity to become course leaders and also receive a stipend. This year, we partnered with UTRGV's College of Education & P16 Integration Clinical Teaching Program which serves as a teacher mentoring program for potential educators.

**Describe the current STEM pathways available at the academy.**

The endorsements offered at IDEA Mission College Preparatory are STEM, Arts & Humanities, and Multi-Disciplinary Studies.

The current STEM pathways include having our middle school students receive the opportunity to begin their studies with Math by earning credit in Algebra I in the 8th grade. This allows students to better prepare for an all AP curriculum in the high school levels, where they would then be able to take Pre-AP classes like Pre-AP Calculus, and ultimately AP Calculus, AP Statistics, and AP Physics. Taking math consistently for 5 years, instead of the traditional 4 years, also reinforces their backgrounds for electives like AP Computer Science and Pre-AP Computer Science.

**Describe how strategic alliances with industry partners and IHEs will support the Academy. The description should include details regarding the role of each IHE, business, and/or community partnership; along with parent/family partnerships and communication conventions with the Academy.**

The strategic alliances with our Institution of Higher Education with University of Texas - Rio Grande Valley have been beneficial in providing speakers for our College and Career and Career Fair, presenters for our STEM Community Night, like the Elliot Chemical Society, and our students attended HESTEC Robotics Day and, Latina Day. Some of our STEM teachers also attended Educator's day where they had a chance to learn about STEM initiatives and network. Senior students were given the opportunity to attend Discover UTRGV to learn about UTRGV's department, programs, and offices. Later this year, the Department of Physics will bring in the Portable Planetarium where our middle school students will learn about space and black holes. We will continue all these strategic alliances for the upcoming 2019-2020 school year. We also have an alliance with Duke University through the Duke University Talent Identification Program (Duke TIP) that worked with 7th grade students to take the ACT or SAT and provide a variety of support services to gain access to research and other information about using their academic abilities more effectively. For our field lessons, students were able to tour campuses and learn about the college experience. This past year, 6th grade attended UTRGV-Brownsville and Edinburg, Texas A&M Corpus Christi and Kingsville; 7th grade attended Rice University and UTSA; 8th grade attended Southwestern, UT Austin, and Our Lady of the Lake University; 9th grade attended UNT, Trinity University, University of North Texas, and University of Oklahoma and Oklahoma State University; and 10th and 11th grades attended University of Chicago, Notre Dame University, and Northwestern University.

For our business and community partnerships, they provide support by providing internship and job shadowing opportunities. They also serve as College and Career Fair speakers, Science Fair judges, STEM Community Night presenters, Capstone Project panelists, and serve on our advisory board. We currently have MOUs for Rodeo Dental, McAllen Nature Center, Rio Grande Regional Hospital, Texas State Troopers, Khit Chiropractic, and the American Society of Civil Engineers - Pharr Branch and Texas Workforce Commission. For our alliance with Gear Up and Sylvan Learning, in the Spring Junior students participated in Service Learning and Reflection at the Holly Beach/Bay Clean Up and the RGV Food Bank in Pharr and provide 4 hours each of community service. There are a total of six Saturdays, one being a day of reflection as to how they have impacted the community. Through these same alliances, Junior students attended three Personal Statement workshops and received their assistance in improving their writing. Finally, they also received help to improve their ACT through Sylvan teachers who provided test-taking strategies and techniques for another additional three Saturdays.

We currently have parent partnerships through our Lifeskills unit and parents also reach out other design team members. They volunteer at our school during STEM Community Night, serve as Science Fair judges, assist with cafeteria monitoring, and chaperone for field trips and field lessons. We plan on strengthening our PTO by using our field lesson chaperones next year.

**Describe the Academy's work-based and contextual learning in the curriculum.**

In the past, our students have received their work-based and contextual learning through the service learning or volunteer services opportunities required by IDEA Public Schools in order to graduate. Our service learning or volunteer services opportunities take place after school or in the summer. Service learning engages students to learn and develop through thoughtfully organized community service

In the summer of 2019, we will specifically be offering a summer work based opportunity with one of our Business Partnerships, Khit Chiropractic and hope to include a new partnership, South Texas Health Systems. Students may be accepted three times per year for fall, spring or summer semester placement and serve about 48 hours per semester or 4 hours per week. We will continue to strengthen this during the 2019-2020 school year by focusing on freshmen and sophomores since our juniors participate in IDEA's CSAP (College Summer Away Program.)

**Describe the STEM-focused extracurricular activities (field experiences, clubs, and competitions) offered to students.**

Our students receive many opportunities for field experiences through visits to IDEA's Camp Rio, field lessons, and community service. In 11th grade, IDEA students take part in a special program-- the IDEA Collegiate Summer Away Program (CSAP). CSAP helps IDEA junior attend summer programs at colleges and universities across the country before they start their senior year. Through this program, students get to "try-on" the college experience and help them get acclimated to transitioning to a college campus near or far from home. Also, this year our students participated in HESTEC Robotics and Latina Day. For our alliance with Gear Up and Sylvan Learning, Junior students participated in Service Learning and Reflection at the Holly Beach/Bay Clean Up and the RGV Food Bank in Pharr and provide 4 hours each of community service. There are a total of six Saturdays, one being a day of reflection as to how they have impacted the community. Through these same alliances, Junior students attended three Personal Statement workshops and received their assistance in improving their writing. Finally, they also received help to improve their ACT through Sylvan teachers who provided test-taking strategies and techniques for another additional three Saturdays.

As for the clubs offered in our academy, we currently have Robotics club in the middle school, Engineering Club, and Yearbook Club. We intend to add more STEM related clubs for the 2019-2020 school year by joining forces with Nerdvana and creating our very own STEM club, Future Medical, Computer Science Professionals, Business Clubs, and a math club. Our academy students currently complete in the Science Fair (campus, district, and state level),

Finally, our juniors participate in CSAP. In 11th grade, IDEA students take part in a special program-- the IDEA Collegiate Summer Away Program (CSAP). CSAP helps IDEA junior attend summer programs at colleges and universities across the country before they start their senior year. Through this program, students get to "try-on" the college experience and help them get acclimated to transitioning to a college campus near or far from home.