



# BROWNSVILLE

## INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT



Winner of the 2008 Broad Prize for Urban Education

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The Brownsville Independent School District (BISD), encompassing 95 square miles, is the largest employer in the Rio Grande Valley. Approximately 7,300 employees have accepted the challenge of serving a population of almost 50,000 students. BISD recognizes and addresses the unique cultural lifestyle of South Texas with a broad selection of activities and programs for all students. These programs range from the GALAXY program for gifted and talented students to support programs for students with special needs. Special Services offers a multitude of educational programs to ensure that all students have an opportunity to succeed. Limited English speaking students are served through the Bilingual or English as a Second Language program.

Brownsville ISD has targeted six vital areas of interest to match the needs of the 21st Century. The district is proud to have developed a magnet program for each discipline from within the district's five high school campuses. The magnet programs all feature a "school within a school concept." This allows for specialization, as well as, a fully rounded high school experience. Gladys Porter High School is home to the High School for Engineering Professions. The school for Medical and Health Professions is located at Homer Hanna High School. Lopez High School houses the district's Fine Arts and Teaching Academies and James Pace High School has a Criminal Justice Magnet. The International Business Program is located at Rivera High School.

There is pride in the progress BISD has made in recent years with regard to state-mandated testing. The district has shown a steady rate of improvement in the mastery percentage of the Texas Assessment of Knowledge and Skills (TAKS). Better scores have

translated into more seniors fulfilling degree requirements and completing their basic education with a high school diploma. The efforts of our fine teachers and campus personnel have resulted in the Texas Education Agency awarding Exemplary and Recognized honors to 41 schools in 2009. In fact, 84% of all BISD schools are now rated either *Exemplary or Recognized*.

Academically, both the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools and the Texas Education Agency have accredited Brownsville public schools.

Brownsville ISD is committed not only to working with students, but also with the community as well. The district supports Campus Care Centers to serve the unmet needs of school age children and adolescents. Because no student deserves to go through the school day hungry, BISD features Universal Feeding, Provision Two. This plan provides breakfast and lunch, free of charge, to all students, regardless of income or ability to pay.

The Brownsville Independent School District uses these elements, and many more, to achieve its mission. Quality education can't be a vague statement. It must be the challenge that encourages students and educators to be the best that they can be.

### District Highlights

- ★Brownsville ISD is the winner of the 2008 Broad Prize for Urban Education, an annual \$1 million award that honors school districts across the U.S. making the greatest progress in raising student achievement.
- ★The district offers six high school magnet programs in criminal justice, education, engineering, health professions, international business, and fine arts.
- ★All secondary schools are accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools.
- ★District K-12 chess teams have won numerous state and national titles.
- ★BISD's secondary fine arts programs consistently dominate state competition.
- ★The entire community utilizes the district's state-of-the-art aquatic center.
- ★The USDA Provision 2 Program allows all students to enjoy a healthy breakfast and lunch daily.
- ★Over 150 Brownsville area businesses and organizations participate in the district's adopt-a-school program.
- ★KBSD, the district's instructional TV channel, airs programming 24 hours a day, 365 days a year.
- ★Brownsville voters approved a \$135 million school bond package in 2006 allowing the district to use State Instructional Facilities Allotment (IFA) funds to construct 2 elementary schools, 1 middle school, 1 high school, and several building additions, renovations, and upgrades.