



Brownsville Independent School District

Agenda Category: General Function Board of Education Meeting: 12/10/2024

Item Title: Acceptance of the 2024-2025 RGV X Action
FOCUS CCMR Enhancement Grant Information
Discussion

BACKGROUND:

The BISD Career and Technical Education Department successfully submitted and received the 2024-2025 RGV FOCUS CCMR Enhancement Grant for \$7,000.00. These grant funds will support capacity building for district staff to collaborate in improving CCMR outcomes, strategically expand CCMR access and opportunities for BISD students, use data to ensure equitable access to CCMR resources and foster peer-learning opportunities among RGV CCMR PLC participants.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS:

There is no cost to the district.

RECOMMENDATION:


Recommend approval to accept the 2024-2025 RGV FOCUS CCMR Enhancement Grant in the amount of \$7,000.00 at no cost to the district.

Adrian Dorsett 
Submitted by: Principal/Program Director

Recommended by: Asst. Supt./Exec. Dir.

Beatriz Hernandez 
Approved by: Chief Officer

Approved for Submission to Board of Education:


Dr. Jesus H. Chavez, Superintendent



RGV FOCUS

a COLLABORATION with EDUCATE TEXAS

Request for Applications
RGV FOCUS CCMR Enhancement Grant
Application Deadline: Wednesday, May 8, 2024

Overview

[RGV FOCUS](#), an initiative of [Educate Texas](#), works through the tenets of collective impact to improve educational outcomes across the Rio Grande Valley. Our vision is for all RGV learners to achieve a degree or credential that leads to a meaningful career. Over the past year, RGV FOCUS has been leading an RGV College, Career, and Military Readiness Professional Learning Community (CCMR PLC), through which district professionals across the Valley are able to meet, collaborate, and share best practices towards improving CCMR opportunities for their students, as well as increasing Texas House Bill 3 Outcomes Bonus Funding for their districts.

Educate Texas is inviting current RGV CCMR PLC participants to submit an application under the RGV FOCUS CCMR Enhancement Grant program to support CCMR efforts in RGV districts. Funds awarded under this request for applications are to be used strategically to improve CCMR strategy and opportunities.

The goals of the RGV FOCUS CCMR Enhancement Grant program include:

- Build capacity for district and campus staff to work collaboratively to improve CCMR outcomes.
- Strategically expand CCMR access and opportunities for students in RGV school districts.
- Utilize data to drive equitable access to CCMR opportunities.
- Encourage peer-learning opportunities among RGV CCMR PLC participants.

The RGV FOCUS CCMR Enhancement Grant program aligns to the [Educate Texas 2025 Strategic Plan](#), specifically the goal to contribute 85,000 new higher education degrees and certificates to the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board's "Building A Talent-Strong Texas" goal by 2025, primarily focusing on African American, Latino, and economically-disadvantaged students.

CCMR Enhancement Grant Timeline

Following is the tentative timeline for the 2024 RGV FOCUS CCMR Enhancement Grant cycle:

- RFA Released: Wednesday, April 10, 2024
- Applications Due: Wednesday, May 8, 2024 by 5:00 pm CT
- Grant Awards Announced: Wednesday, May 15, 2024

CCMR Enhancement Grant Summary

The following table outlines general parameters of the RGV FOCUS CCMR Program Enhancement Grant:

Eligible Organizations	RGV School Districts participating in the RGV CCMR PLC
Grant Award Amounts per District	\$3,000 to \$7,000
Grant Performance Period	August 1, 2024 to May 31, 2025
Reporting Deadline	Progress Report due January 31, 2025; Final Report due June 30, 2025

Use of Grant Funds

RGV FOCUS CCMR PLC districts must adhere to the following guidelines when developing their grant application.

Allowable Costs:

- Grant funds may be used for materials, supplies, travel, outreach, and other necessary costs for program development or enhancement.
- Grant funds should cover expenses in a gap area; grant funds should not supplant current funding.
- Grant funds should directly impact district CCMR strategy or outcomes.

Required Activity for Grant:

- Grantees must convene a district CCMR Leadership or Steering Committee, including district/campus administrators, counselors, CTE staff, and instructional staff to align existing CCMR work, identify CCMR goals, monitor CCMR progress, and collaborate to identify barriers and troubleshoot solutions. Funding for convening(s) can be included in grant budget. Convening(s) must occur during the grant period.

Disbursement of Grant Funds

Educate Texas will disburse grant funds in one equal payment to grantees according to the requirement and approximate date below.

Requirement to Receive Payment	Approximate Payment Processing Date
Upon notification of grant award and acceptance of the terms in the Educate Texas Grant Agreement by grantee.	August 1, 2024

CCMR Enhancement Grant Conditions

In addition to the terms and conditions outlined in the Educate Texas Grant Agreement, organizations receiving funds under the RGV FOCUS CCMR Enhancement Grant program agree to:

- Actively participate in at least two RGV CCMR PLC sessions during the 2024-2025 school year.
- Present data and/or best practices at an RGV CCMR PLC session during the 2024-2025 school year.
- Commit to convening District CCMR Leadership/Steering Committee. Identify CCMR goals; track and report local data to advance CCMR goals.
- Submit progress report on or by January 31, 2025; submit final project report on or by June 30, 2025.

Submission Instructions Procedures

Organizations should submit a complete grant application that includes the application cover page, questions, and proposed budget by Wednesday, May 8, 2024, at 5:00 pm via email to rlopez@cftexas.org. The templates for these documents are included in this request for applications.

Organizations are encouraged to review the following checklist before submitting an application.

- ✓ All requested information is included on the cover page.
- ✓ Cover page is signed by the appropriate authorized representative (digital signatures are allowed).
- ✓ All application questions are answered.
- ✓ Proposed budget includes details related to costs.
- ✓ Proposed budget adheres to requirements for use of grant funds.

NOTE: If selected as grant recipient, ACH information will be required within one week of award notification.

Questions

Questions may be directed to Rebeca Lopez (rlopez@cftexas.org).



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RGV FOCUS CCMR Enhancement Grant Application Cover Page

School District	Brownsville Independent School District
Mailing Address (include city and ZIP)	1900 Price Road Brownsville, Texas 78521
Authorized Representative Name & Title	Dr. Jesus Chavez, BISD Superintendent
Authorized Representative Email	jhchavez@bisd.us
Authorized Representative Phone Number	956.698.0014

As the authorized representative for the school district listed above, I confirm that our organization will meet the following conditions should we be awarded a CCMR Enhancement Grant from Educate Texas:

- Actively participate in at least two RGV CCMR PLC sessions during the 2024-2025 school year.
- Present data and/or best practices at an RGV CCMR PLC session during the 2024-2025 school year.
- Commit to tracking and reporting local data to advance CCMR goals.
- Submit progress report on or by January 31, 2025. Submit final report on or by June 30, 2025.

Authorized Representative Signature		Date	5/9/24
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RGV FOCUS CCMR Enhancement Grant Application Questions
Please be succinct with answers and use only the space provided.

Identify the CCMR opportunity and/or outcome that will be enhanced through this project. Please be specific regarding the strategy used to identify the need to enhance this opportunity/outcome.

The CCMR Connect project emphasizes increasing college enrollment rates, especially among at-risk students and those from low socioeconomic backgrounds in the Brownsville Independent School District. With 87.7% of students facing economic disadvantages and 72% considered at-risk, our targeted efforts are crucial. Recent data indicates that only 28% of 2023 graduates met TSI ELAR and Math criteria, and just 18% met AP criteria.

In response, we have planned CCMR Student Connect and CCMR Community Connect events across all six comprehensive high schools to discuss the benefits of PTECH/ECHS and Advanced Placement (AP) programs. The CCMR Student Connect events will provide middle school students and counselors with orientation sessions during school hours, focusing on higher education readiness and support systems.

Meanwhile, the CCMR Community Connect events will gather parents, higher education representatives, and industry partners to tackle college enrollment barriers and enhance educational equity. These events will also feature military recruiters and JROTC departments to present on military service opportunities and preparation initiatives.

Our third initiative, CCMR Industry Connect, will enable students and staff to collaborate with Workforce Solutions Cameron and local industry leaders to examine job market trends and regional career pathways. These interactions, including visits to our facilities and student-led panels, will focus on salaries, certifications, and degrees in high-demand fields. Through advisory boards and curriculum development sessions, we aim to refine our instruction and prepare students for high-demand, well-paying regional careers.

Describe the data sources the district will utilize to guide program enhancement. Explain to what degree these data sources enable equity-informed practices that can drive equitable access to CCMR outcomes.

Local CCMR Tracker Summary:

- This provides monthly data on key college readiness metrics such as the percentage of students meeting TSI (Texas Success Initiative) ELAR and Math criteria, and AP (Advanced Placement) enrollment. The district uses this data to assess college and career readiness among student subpopulations and identify areas for improvement. Monthly campus meetings between counselors and administration are held to review this progress data and create action plans to meet campus targets.

Local PEIMS Reports:

- These reports offer official demographic and academic accountability records, helping to inform the district about progress toward CCMR outcomes and validate data from the local CCMR tracker.

TAPR Report:

- Provides summative demographic and academic performance data, which is used to set district goals.

National Student Clearinghouse

- Provides access to student success reports, so district leaders can identify trends and make decisions about higher education.

CCMR Connect Engagement Data:

- Includes data related to student and family engagement in proposed CCMR events, such as attendance rates and feedback from surveys or focus groups. This information provides insights into the effectiveness of outreach efforts and the level of community involvement.

Detail the plan for the CCMR Leadership/Steering Committee. Include participants, proposed convening timeline, data sources for tracking and reporting, etc.

The CCMR Leadership/Steering Committee is structured to ensure effective coordination, communication, and decision-making for the CCMR Connect project. Comprising key stakeholders—including CTE and curriculum administrators, campus leaders, counselors, teachers, industry partners, and student representatives from all six comprehensive high schools—the committee aims to drive the success of the initiative.

Meeting Schedule and Agenda:

Monthly Meetings: To discuss project timelines, stakeholder responsibilities, and progress.

Agenda Items:

- **Goal Setting:** Establish measurable goals and benchmarks to track progress and evaluate the impact of interventions.
- **Calendar Review:** Finalize the schedule for CCMR Connect events, aligning with school calendars and facility availability.
- **Data Review:** Analyze CCMR outcome data, including AP and dual enrollment figures, persistence rates, industry certifications, TSIA testing results, and event feedback.
- **Action Planning:** Develop and review strategies to address challenges, improve outcomes, and ensure equitable access to CCMR opportunities.
- **Reflection:** Assess the effectiveness of initiatives, discuss lessons learned, and identify areas for improvement.
- **Planning Next Steps:** Outline future actions to keep the project on track and integrate insights from past meetings.

Through regular engagement and data-driven decision-making, the committee will guide the implementation, monitoring, and continuous improvement of the CCMR Connect project, fostering equitable access to college, career, and military readiness opportunities for all district students.



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RGV FOCUS CCMR Enhancement Grant Application Proposed Budget

Category	Explanation of Costs	Amount Requested
Staff Costs		
Materials and Supplies	Expenses for overhead costs such as supplies for Awards and Recognitions for industry; English/Spanish informational materials in Special Education, Bilingual Education, Dual Enrollment, Early College High School Programs, and Certifications; materials to promote programs to attract students, industry partners and other stakeholders.	\$1,500
Other Costs for Program Enhancement (if needed, be specific)		
Travel		

Outreach		
Convening Costs	Convening costs encompass hospitality expenses for participants at the six high schools holding CCMR Community Connect and Student Connect events; luncheon expenses for the Industry Connect events, accommodating teachers, student ambassadors, and industry panelists at each of our districts ECHS campuses.	\$ 5,500
	Total	\$7,000