Curriculum & Instruction Updates
January 19, 2021

C&I Updates

Accountability Updates

1. A - F Accountability Ratings and STAAR Information

C&I Updates

1. Elementary Updates
2. Middle School Updates
3. High School Updates
4. CIT & Technology Updates
5. Suicide Prevention Efforts

Accountability Updates

By: Emma Leza

Executive Director of Instructional Accountability

A- F Accountability Ratings & State Assessment

A - F Accountability Ratings:

- TEA suspended accountability ratings but they will provide reports on STAAR/End of Course (EOC) participation and results for all students taking the assessments.

STAAR & TELPAS Testing:

- STAAR and TELPAS testing is still scheduled for the Spring. Testing window for online testing has been extended to 5 weeks and the student assessment department will work with campuses to determine an optimal schedule for testing.
- Paper - Pencil testing will be subject to a specific testing date in early April and May.
- Results for spring testing will be available by June 25, 2021 for paper and online results will be available within 24 hours of testing.

Excerpt from TEA's Letter to School Administrators

TEA will process and report **all available data** from the 2020–2021 school year but will not calculate accountability scores or assign A–F ratings. The underlying student achievement data can then be used by **legislative leadership**, **TEA, and school systems to inform changes moving forward and otherwise target resources to schools and students that need the greatest support.** Parents and educators can use this important information to gain a deeper understanding of individual student strengths and needs.

December End of Course Testing Summary

Course Assessment	Number Projected	Number Tested	Percent Tested
English I	1,645	1,310	80%
English II	1,806	1,388	77%
Algebra I	528	383	73%
Biology	1,757	1,289	73%
US History	2,073	1,687	81%

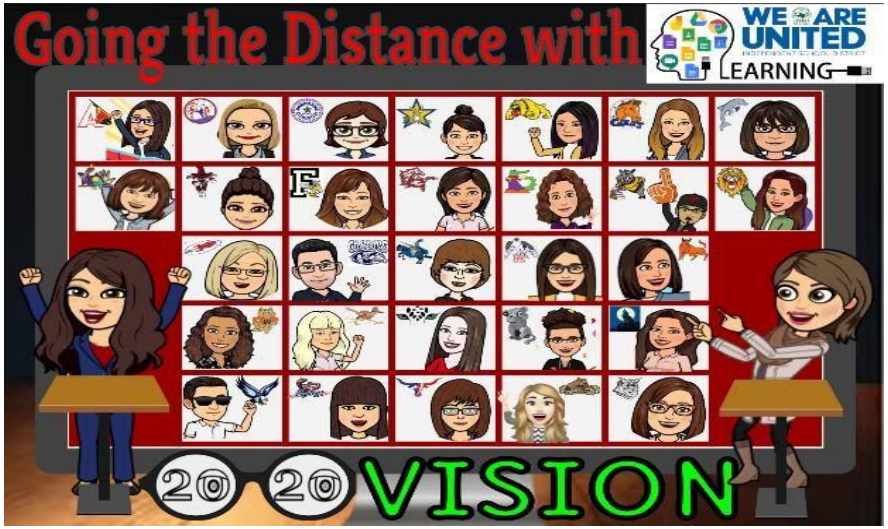
Campus	UHS	USHS	AHS	LBJHS
Number of Projected Tests	2,588	1,563	1,719	2,024
Percent of Tests Taken	80%	76%	71%	77%

December EOC results will be available by January 15, 2021 for the district and on the Texas Assessment Portal for students by January 18,2021.
TEA has not yet responded on our request for EOC waivers for First Time Testers and seniors.

Elementary School Updates

By: Cindy Rodriguez

Executive Director of Elementary Instruction



Curriculum (11 Coordinators):

- Scope & Sequence in English and Spanish
- Daily Schedules
- Daily slides with lesson activities and time allotments for teacher
- Daily PLCs-training for teachers
- Weekly Teacher surveys
- Scope submissions every six weeks
- Google Classrooms with all teachers and administrators
- Provide Checkpoints & Benchmarks
- Tutorial walkthroughs
- Campus RTI

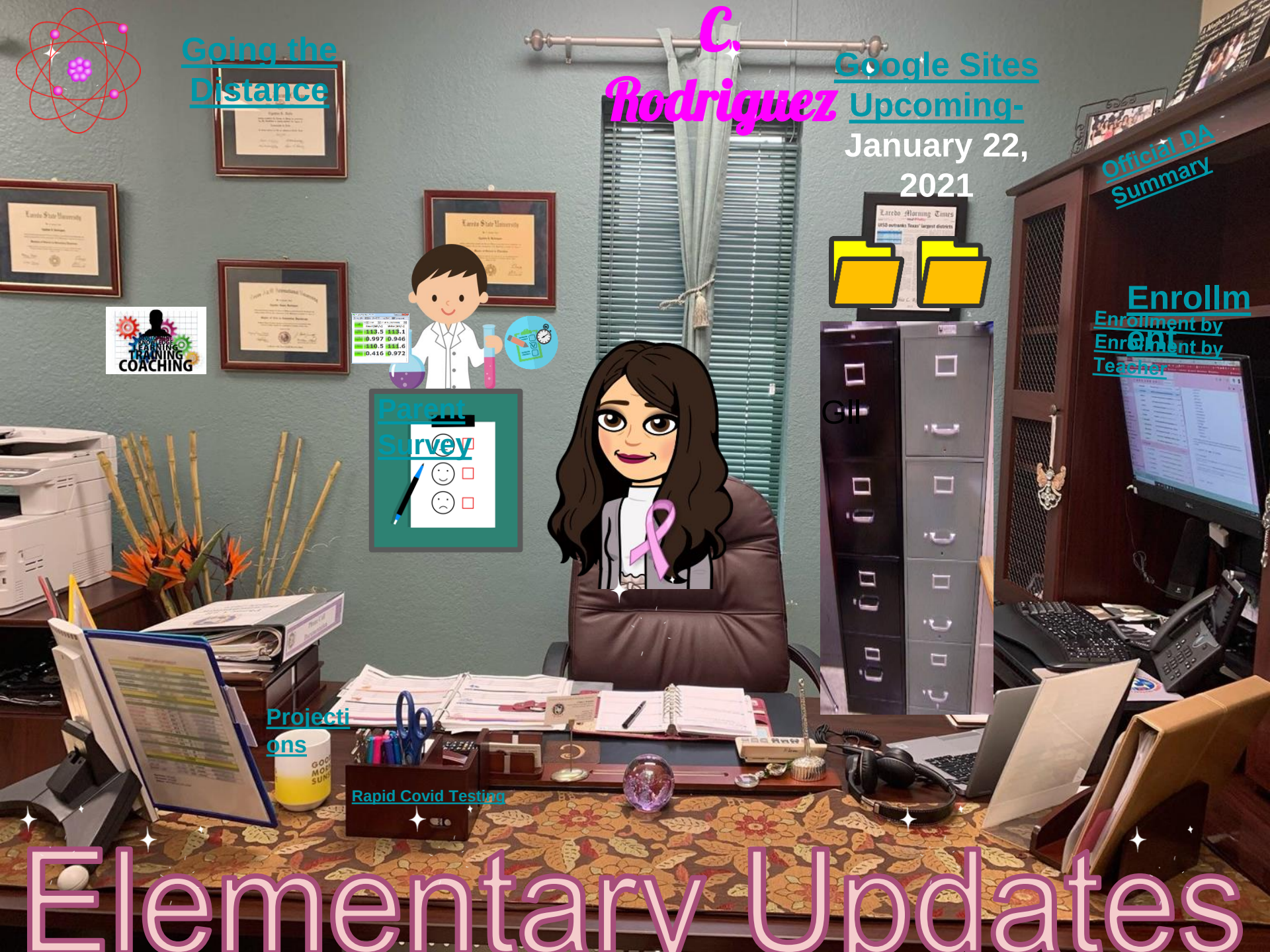
Campus Operations (29 Campuses):

- Enrollment counts
- Daily attendance
- Tyler Grade checks
- Daily virtual walkthroughs (TTESS)
- Principal Meetings
- TPESS Evaluations for each principal
- Rapid test counts/Face Shield, masks, and desk shield counts
- Materials and equipment distribution and collection scheduling
- Spelling Bee, AR, SOS, Program use

Elementary Updates

Teachers and Parents (952 Teachers & 18,589 Students):

- Parent surveys every grading period
- Parent phone calls/emails
- Focus Videos
- Textbooks, workbooks, PDFs of assignments/activities by six weeks
- Class Dojo
- Parent Summit sessions


Going the Distance
C. Rodriguez
Google Sites
Upcoming-
January 22, 2021
Official DA Summary
Enrollm ent
Enrollment by
Enrollment by Teacher
Parent Survey
GII
Projecti ons
Rapid Covid Testing
Elementary Updates

Middle School Updates

By: David R. Canales

Executive Director of Middle School Instruction

Instructional Update

- Principals are meeting with their teachers regularly to determine needs
- PLC meetings continue as planned
- Utilizing Brain Research and Trauma Awareness Models
- Technology and Student Engagement Professional Development is ongoing
- Monitoring student engagement via
- Smart Learning Suite (SLS) Online Software Program
- Nearpod Online Software
- Some schools have purchased Class Kick and PearDeck Online Software Programs as well.
- Teachers have also purchased other programs on their own.
- Total Face to Face Middle School Count (350-470àbetween 3.5%-4.7% of total population)

Assessment Update

- Schools continue with regular testing
- Schools continue with regular spiral testing
- The district's last CBA test will take place the week of December 14th-18th.
- Recently, the district provided a fall online reading benchmark for all 6th-8th graders (12/1-12/11).
- February 10th and 11th will continue with in-person benchmarking for 8th grade Reading, 8th grade Math, and 7th grade Writing.
- March 10th and 11th we will finish in-person benchmarking for 6th & 7th grade Reading and Math, 8th grade Social Studies and Science.
- NOTE: TEA did not cancel in-person STAAR testing in May

Conclusion

Commitment

- District and Campus administrators are working closely with teachers.
- Campus administrators are doing their best to keep the quality of instruction at district level expectations.
- Teachers and students are doing their best interacting using the online platform.
- Some teachers are purchasing incentives to motivate students to stay engage with pizza, donuts, etc…

Failure Concern

- Principals and teachers are constantly reaching out to students and parents daily about class participation, grades, and attendance.
- Principals have invited students who are having attendance, grade, or behavioral issues to in-campus instruction. (Some Parents Refuse to Send Their Child(ren) to School Because of the Pandemic)
- Principals have developed their own response to failure plan. -- i.e. Review Failure Reports, Parent Conferences, Counselor Sessions, Content Packets, Consistently Working with Students (Unfortunately, Some Students are Not Doing their Part)

Conclusion

What we have learned with remote teaching?

- We had to re-image how to deliver instruction
- Stretch our technology skills
- Get even more creative with instructional sessions
- Develop more patience and empathy
- Understand that not everything is going to fit in a perfect box like it did before
- The idea that teachers are in complete control of the learning environment is a fallacy (We need parents' help)

Steps after the pandemic

- Possibly offer summer review learning packets
- Continue to incorporate technology with instructional lessons

High School Updates

By: Dolores W. Barrera

Executive Director of High School Instruction

High School Curriculum & Instruction

A Tradition of Excellence

Face to Face to Virtual Instruction

April - December 2020 Training and Continued Support of Teachers and Administrators

- Google Workplace Applications for High School remote teaching and learning
- Over 1200 Skill and Curriculum Integration training opportunities
- To increase usage for teachers, administrators and build student engagement
- 200+ Skill Training sessions for Students and Parents
- Assist with transition skills on the Google Virtual /Collaborative Environment

Face to Face to Virtual Instruction

August to Date **Campus/On-Site Teacher Rotations**

- Core area teachers rotate every 3 weeks
- Elective teachers rotate based on their specialization and report as needed

Instructional Meetings and Support from Campus Administration

- Bi Monthly Faculty and Department Meetings
  - Remote Learning Strategies
  - Department Virtual Instructional Delivery
  - Attendance
  - Communication with Parents and Students
  - Student Grades and Documentation
  - Pass-Failure Rates
  - Ongoing Technology, Integration and Engagement Trainings
  - Assessment Updates - Campus and District Level
  - Walk-throughs - Campus and C & I Staff

Enrollment

Campus Totals

- As of December 11, 2020
  - Total High School Enrollment: 13,417
  - Virtual Participation: 13,184
  - On-Site Participation: 233

Boost and Maintain Daily Attendance

- Campuses are using the following strategies
  - Parent Calls and Virtual Conferences
    - Teachers and Principals and Campus Administrators
    - Campus Truancy Staff
  - Home Visits
    - Principals, Campus Administrators and Truancy Staff

Positive Results to Changes in Teaching and Learning

- As a result of ongoing training and support from High School Coordinators and CIT Staff, teachers and administrators are embracing the new virtual environment
    - Building technology skills increases comfort levels of teachers and administrators
    - Updates to Scope & Sequence to reflect additional student-centered technology-based teaching and learning
    - Improve technology skills and curriculum integration as they relate to student curriculum/Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills (TEKS) mastery and the integrated use of technology to enhance student engagement
- Professional Development for Teachers and Administrators
    - Google Workplace Applications
    - Curriculum Technology Integration Skills
    - Online Applications, Extensions and Programs
- Evidence of Teacher use of virtual content and use of technology
    - Improved student mastery levels and attendance
    - Weekly walk-throughs clearly indicate the increased levels of teacher technology integration and enhanced student engagement for mastery of TEKS

Odysseyware - Credit Recovery Program

2020 - 2021 Fall Enrollment

	DISTRICT	UHS	USHS	AHS	LBJHS	PASS	STEP	CERH	YRH	YVDC	JJAEP	PLACEMENT
TOTAL NUMBER OF COURSES REQUESTED	429	49	54	33	131	10	0	11	39	34	59	9

NON DUPLICATE STUDENTS ENROLLED IN CREDIT RECOVERY	DISTRICT	UHS	USHS	AHS	LBJHS	PASS	STEP	CERH	YRH	YVDC	JJAEP	PLACEMENT
CLASS OF 2024 JJAEP	18	1	0	1	2	0	0	4	6	3	1	0
CLASS OF 2023 JJAP/ RESIDENTIAL FACILITIES	46	1	1	4	9	0	0	4	8	16	2	1
CLASS OF 2022 JUNIORS	79	5	9	1	43	1	0	3	2	12	2	1
CLASS OF 2021 SENIORS	83	10	18	15	28	1	0	3	1	0	5	2
CLASS OF 2020	17	4	6	2	1	4	0	0	0	0	0	0
CLASS OF 2019	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

STAAR - End of Course (Fall 2020)

- Fall EOC Testing - 78% Overall Participation
- If a student was not present for the fall EOC test, the school will offer tutorials for that particular test(s) starting January 2021
- If a student took the EOC test and masters it but fails the course, the student will have the opportunity for credit recovery.

Information Technology and Curriculum Instructional Technology (CIT) Departments

By: Hector Perez
Executive Director Information Technology
and
Judith M. Garcia
CIT Director

Transition in Online-Cloud-Based Platforms for Virtual Teaching and Learning

- April 2020, Instructional staff, students and parents were transitioned into internet-based teaching and learning
  - Over 2600 Teachers
  - 200+ Administrators
  - 300 Campus Support
  - C & I Instructional Support Staff

- **Google Classroom -Asynchronous Platform**
  - a student-centered teaching method widely used in online learning that allows educators to set up a learning path for students to access learning materials and engage in learning at their own pace.
- **Google Meet -Synchronous Platform**
  - Allows teachers to provide students with access to online real time teaching for student learning to take place. This includes live classes for whole group instruction and smaller in-person classes, live online meetings when the whole class or smaller groups get together.

Transition and Continued Support Training

Training Opportunities April - October

- UISD Teachers & Instructional Staff
  - April to August - Over 1000 Sessions
  - September to November - 200+ Sessions
- Parents and Students
  - August - Over 200 Sessions
- District Departments
  - April to November - Over 150 Staff Sessions
- UISD Substitute Teachers
  - September to October - Over 400 Attendees

Continuous Training Support

Teacher Learning Hub

- 30,669 Hits April - November
  - Technology Training Schedules
  - Technology Videos and Presentations
  - Google Classroom & Google Meet Updates
  - Mobile Learning Devices Procedures

Parent & Student Technology Learning Hub

- 16,044 Total Hits August - November
- Technology Training Materials - English & Spanish
  - Videos
  - Presentation Recordings
  - Step by Step Instructions
- Technology Support Form
- All Presentations have contact information for CIT Department

NEW

TECH TUESDAYS

TECH TUESDAYS

- A series of 30 - minute virtual learning sessions focused on technology and integration skills to increase the effectiveness of online engagement as support for teachers, staff and administration.

October and November Sessions Number of Sessions: 42

*Managing Organizing Your Google Classroom for Online Instruction

* Using Google Meet Features to Enhance Virtual Instruction

* Super App GOOGLE Extensions

* How To Maximize the Use of GOOGLE Extensions

* Texthelp - Read & Write To Support Teaching, Learning and Assessments

New Calendar & Support Opportunities will be posted January 2021

- Tech Tuesdays moving to Mondays
- NEW Open Mic Fridays
- Start Date: Week of January 25, 2021

NEW

Prep Support for Upcoming Online Testing

- In preparation for 2022 Online STAAR & EOC Testing, a new Google Extension is being offered for use by all students.
- All C & I Staff & Campus Instructional Technology Trainers have been trained.
- Campuses received Turn Around Training through ITT's & C & I Staff
- Students are using Toolbar daily and for CBA & Benchmark Testing.

TEXTHELP - Read & Write

texthelp®

The Toolbar Extension has a similar appearance to the online testing tools. Students will be able to use when taking their district CBA and Benchmark Assessments.

TEXTHELP - WriQ

A writing tool extension to motivate and assess student writing.

It allows for tracking of progress over time using a similar grading rubric to the STAAR/EOC scoring.

Student Mobile Learning Device Updates

Existing Chromebook Inventory

- Over 25,000 Units: Checked-Out by Students
  - Grades 2nd - 12th

New iPads

- 7000+ MLD's
  - Elementary Distribution Completed September 2020
  - Grades PK - 1st Grade

New Lenovo Chromebooks

- Estimated Arrival Dates:
  - Last week of December & First week of January.
- Distribution Window - January 25-29, 2021
  - Grades 2nd, 3rd, 4th - New MLD will be issued in 8th Grade
  - Grades 8th - New MLD for use through 12th grade

Improved Google Meet Access & Features

- Google Meet - Over 230,000 participant sessions on a daily basis.
- Google email daily average of 520,000 messages between Teachers, Students, and Parents
- GMeet Daily Google Attendance Reports
- GMeet Recordings of Live Sessions
- Extended Moderator Session Management Controls for Teachers
- User Privacy Background Settings
- Background Noise Reduction
- Live Streaming for up to 100,000 viewers

Improved Bandwidth Connectivity

United South High School

All network switches upgraded at USHS to increase the video broadcast capability.

Curriculum & Instruction Department

Network switches upgraded at C & I in order to allow Directors and Coordinators to broadcast training sessions district wide.

Central Office

Upgraded

- Core Network Switches at Central Office
- Core Firewall to Next Generation Firewalls at Central Office

District Internet Bandwidth Upgrade

- From 10GB's to 20 GB’s

TEA Operation Connectivity & MiFi Project

Operation Connectivity

- Prepare and Bid technical specifications
- Review and evaluate bids
- Coordinate with vendor for delivery and logistics
- Worked with TEA for Operation Connectivity to secure 3000 MIFI's for students

Bus MiFi Project

- District installed 2 WiFi Routers (per bus) on 40 school buses.
- Buses were deployed throughout the city and into the rural areas including "colonias", Rio Bravo and El Cenizo.
- This allowed students connectivity the Internet and access online school applications.

Mobile Internet Access for Students

Goal: To provide students in need with Internet access to support virtual home instruction.

Phase 1 - UISD MIFI Family Plan

- District Survey Results identified 1,645 families
- District Purchased 2500 MiFi's
- Mobile Internet Access Units checked out to the oldest sibling enrolled in a UISD school.

Phase 2 - Operation Connectivity for All At Risk Students

- District Student Information System (SIS) identified 4,038 students eligible to receive a MiFi.
- 3000 additional MiFi's made available for students EC-12th Grade

Access Points and Web Cameras

Outdoor Access Points

- A total of 129 Outdoor Access Points were installed throughout 49 campuses.
- To allow students to access the Internet for virtual instruction while stationed within proximity of campus grounds and/or school parking lots.

Remote Learning Web Cameras

- To support live daily video broadcasts for teaching and learning.
- Provided a webcam for PC's without integrated cameras on teacher desktop computers.
- IT installed 1,150 remote learning cameras in classrooms across the district.

Technical Support for Parents, Teachers & Students

The Information Technology technical support line received 21,574 requests for IT support assistance from Parents, Teachers, and Students with issues related to:

- Connectivity issues at home
- User login and password resets
- Issues with video cameras and microphones
- Bus MiFi locations
- Google classroom and issues with classes using Google Meet

Suicide Prevention Efforts

By: David H. Gonzalez

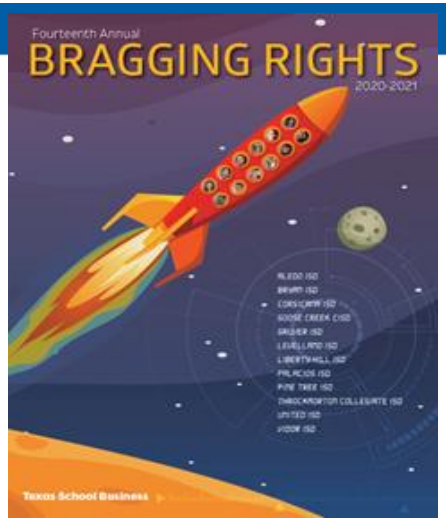
Associate Superintendent for Curriculum & Instruction

Texas School Business:

Suicide Prevention

Texas School Business:
14th Edition Bragging Rights

- United ISD 1 out of 12 School Districts recognized for the innovative program: **Suicide Prevention**
- Suicide Prevention:
  - Collaborative effort between the Licensed Specialists in School Psychology & Guidance & Counseling Department.
- UISD has always addressed suicide prevention, but since 2009, the program has gradually grown to what it is today.



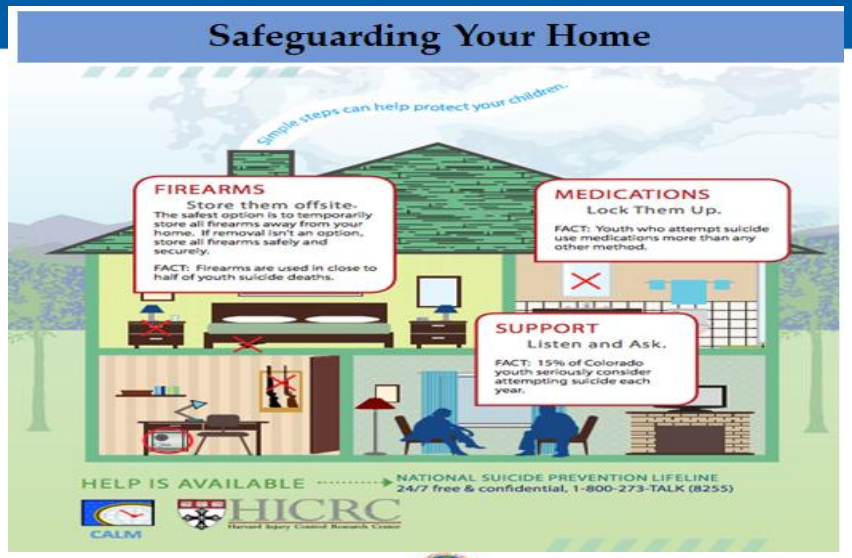
WE ARE UNITED INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT

U BELONG EVOLVE ACHIEVE

Multifaceted Suicide Prevention

- Suicide Prevention District Manual
- Professional Development
  - Dr. Scott Poland: nationally recognized expert on school crisis, youth violence, suicide intervention, self-injury, school safety and threat assessment.
    - 2018: School Counselors & Principals, Assistant Principals, C&I Executive Directors and Directors
    - 2019: High School Teachers
    - Pending: Elementary and Middle Schools
- UISD LSSPs:
  - Training sessions for counselors on SOS implementation-every August/September
- Parent Training
  - LSSPs:
    - Annual Parent Festival presentations since 2009
    - Ongoing campus parent training sessions (during & after school)
    - December 2020 - Federal Programs UCOP Meeting

United ISD Resources



SOS® Signs of Suicide

- Only suicide prevention program in the USA that is scientifically proven to increase self-help skills and reduce actual suicide attempts.
- In Texas, only 9 school districts implement SOS, UISD is one of them.
- Since 2018: One annual lesson for Middle and High Schools
- School Counselors have been at the forefront providing these services
  - LSSPs provide program training
  - Director of Guidance and Counseling & LSSPs monitor program fidelity and provide support to counselors
- Program uses a simple and easy to remember acronym ACT®
  - **Acknowledge** that you are seeing signs of depression or suicide in yourself or a friend and that it is serious.
  - **Care** - Let your friend know how much you care about them and that you are concerned that they need help.
  - **Tell** a trusted adult that you are worried about yourself or a friend

As we celebrate Board Appreciation Month, we would like to thank you for your continuous support.