



# We're IDEA

America's Fastest Growing, Highest Achieving Charter School Network

**50% OF IDEA PUBLIC SCHOOLS' ALUMNI  
COMPLETE COLLEGE, COMPARED TO  
17% OF PERMIAN BASIN\* STUDENTS.**

\*TEA Region 18



**AT IDEA, 100% OF  
OUR STUDENTS HAVE BEEN  
ACCEPTED TO COLLEGE  
FOR THE PAST 13 YEARS.**



**79 FREE  
PUBLIC SCHOOLS**



**44,000  
STUDENTS**



**GRADES  
PRE-K TO 12**



**100%  
COLLEGE BOUND**

To join the IDEA community, learn about our development in Permian Basin, make a donation, or get involved in other ways, please contact Bethany Solis, Executive Director, at 956-373-3259 or [Bethany.Solis@ideapublicschools.org](mailto:Bethany.Solis@ideapublicschools.org).

**[ideapublicschools.org](http://ideapublicschools.org)**

## ABOUT IDEA

During their stints as Teach For America corps members, Tom Torkelson and JoAnn Gama founded the IDEA Academy as an after school program in Donna, TX in 1998. It was created as a way to help combat some of the major educational deficiencies they saw in their students, focusing the program on student achievement and college readiness. The after-school program took off and in 2000 became a school serving 150 students. Today, IDEA serves 44,000 students at 79 schools across Texas and southern Louisiana.

### EXTRA LEARNING DAYS

IDEA Public Schools was named as one of the highest performing public school networks in the country, delivering the equivalent of 80 extra days in math and 74 days in reading instruction per year on Stanford University's CREDO Study.

### AP RESULTS

In total, IDEA scholars took more than 10,000 AP tests during the 2016-17 school year, and 24% of the class of 2017 became AP scholars. That means they passed three or more AP exams. All IDEA students take 11 AP courses before graduation.

### DEMAND

Currently, more than 40,600 families are sitting on waitlists across our regions. This year, we received over 55,000 unique applications representing over 70,000 students.

### GOING TO COLLEGE

For the 12<sup>th</sup> consecutive year, 100% of our students applied to and gained admission into college. Currently, 100% of our 2018 senior class, 850 students, are on-track to set foot on campus this Fall.

### PRE-K RESULTS

100% of students who participate in IDEA's Pre-K program end the year beginning Kinder level math and reading.

### NATIONAL RECOGNITION

In the *U.S. News & World Report's* Best High Schools Rankings 2018, four IDEA College Preparatory high schools eligible for this year's rankings were among the top 500 high schools nationwide and in the top 60 in Texas.

## OUR SCHOOLS

Charter schools, such as IDEA, are tuition-free public schools with the freedom to be more innovative, while being held accountable for improved student achievement. They are open to all students and held to the same academic standards as traditional public schools.

IDEA focuses on college acceptance and matriculation because we believe education is the single most effective anti-poverty strategy we possess as a nation.



Data above is reflective of 2017-18 student population.



- |                                    |   |
|------------------------------------|---|
| <b>1 LOWER VALLEY</b><br>est. 2000 | <b>6 SOUTHERN LOUISIANA</b><br>est. 2018      |
| <b>2 UPPER VALLEY</b><br>est. 2006 | <b>7 TARRANT COUNTY</b><br>OPENING 2019       |
| <b>3 SAN ANTONIO</b><br>est. 2012  | <b>8 GREATER HOUSTON AREA</b><br>OPENING 2020 |
| <b>4 AUSTIN</b><br>est. 2012       | <b>9 PERMIAN BASIN</b><br>OPENING 2020        |
| <b>5 EL PASO</b><br>est. 2018      | <b>10 TAMPA BAY</b><br>OPENING 2021           |



### BETHANY SOLIS, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR IDEA PERMIAN BASIN

Bethany Solis has over 15 years of experience as a teacher, principal, and district leader. She most recently served as IDEA's Vice President of Leader Development. In this role she launched and led the nationally renowned Principal in Residence program that has trained over 100 principals to date. As Executive Director of IDEA Permian Basin, Bethany will oversee the launch and continued high academic performance of 14 schools across the region.

## NATIONAL BOARD OF DIRECTORS:

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