

NEWS RELEASE

Media Contact: Rashena Flagg, 713.301.4577

CHILDREN AT RISK Announces RGV's Most Resilient Schools *PANDEMIC EDITION II*

Rio Grande Valley, Texas (November 10, 2021) – Research and advocacy think tank CHILDREN AT RISK reviewed and analyzed data from the 2020-2021 school year for all public schools in Texas. The organization evaluated 583 schools in the Rio Grande Valley area to identify Pandemic Resilient Schools, those that were most resistant during the Pandemic, as well as Red Flag schools, those schools that were most impacted by the pandemic.

Due to the pandemic, thousands of Texas schools and nearly 5.5 million students faced a school year like never before. This year's rankings focused on analysis comparing Academic Performance during the 2020-21 school year with the 2018-19 school year to identify the impact of the pandemic on children in the Rio Grande Valley. Overall, 583 schools were evaluated in RGV, of those, 233 were Pandemic Resilient Schools and 56 were Red Flag Schools.

Compiling and Analyzing the Data

This year's School Rankings examines the Pandemic Impact on schools through raw STAAR score change. This analysis is the foundation for determining this year's indices:

- **Analysis.** Weighted aggregate STAAR scores were calculated for both 2018-19 and 2020-21 with reading or English scores being 50% of the campus score and math or algebra the other 50% of the score. The change in score between these years in academic performance was calculated to determine Pandemic Impact.
- **New indicator: *Pandemic Resilient Schools*.** This sub-list honors schools that have maintained or improved academic performance between the 2018-19 and 2020-21 Academic years. Pandemic Resilient Schools are school campuses with 75% or more students classified as low-income and also have a history of high performance (A or B CAR Rating in 2018-19). These schools experienced either increase or no change in academic performance scores during the Pandemic.
- **New Indicator: *Red Flag Schools*.** This sub-list calls attention to schools that were expected to be resilient based on previous academic achievements. These schools experienced decreases in academic performance during the Pandemic. By identifying these schools that had different outcomes than what were expected, CAR hopes to further identify characteristics of practices during the Pandemic. Red Flag schools are schools that have a history of good academic performance (A or B CAR rating in 2018-19) and experienced the highest decreases in academic performance between academic years 2018-19 and 2020-21, of all schools.

Pandemic Resilient Schools

Pandemic Resilient Schools are schools with 75% or more of a campus' students classified as low-income that have a history of good academic performance (receiving A or B CAR Grades in 2018-19) and experienced either no decline or growth in raw STAAR scores.

Top 5 Pandemic Resilient High Schools in the Rio Grande Valley

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| 1. PSJA EARLY COLLEGE HS | PHARR-SAN JUAN-ALAMO ISD |
| 2. PSJA MEMORIAL EARLY COLLEGE HS | PHARR-SAN JUAN-ALAMO ISD |
| 3. PACE EARLY COLLEGE HS | BROWNSVILLE ISD |
| 4. PSJA NORTH EARLY COLLEGE HS | PHARR-SAN JUAN-ALAMO ISD |
| 5. PORTER EARLY COLLEGE HS | BROWNSVILLE ISD |

Top 5 Pandemic Resilient Middle Schools in the Rio Grande Valley

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| 1. DIAZ JH | HIDALGO ISD |
| 2. ROMA MIDDLE | ROMA ISD |
| 3. KENNEDY MIDDLE | PHARR-SAN JUAN-ALAMO ISD |
| 4. RAFAEL A CANTU JH | MISSION CISD |
| 5. IDEA WALZEM COLLEGE PREPARATORY | IDEA PUBLIC SCHOOLS |

Top 5 Pandemic Resilient Elementary Schools in the Rio Grande Valley

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| 1. VALLEY VIEW 5TH GRADE CAMPUS | VALLEY VIEW ISD |
| 2. RT BARRERA EL | ROMA ISD |
| 3. VALLEY VIEW SOUTH EL | VALLEY VIEW ISD |
| 4. VETERANS MEMORIAL EL | ROMA ISD |
| 5. DR. ALEJO SALINAS JR EL | HIDALGO ISD |

Red Flag Schools

Red Flag Schools are schools that have a history of good academic performance (receiving A or B CAR Grades in 2018-19) and have been negatively impacted by the pandemic.

Top 5 Red Flag Elementary Schools in the Rio Grande Valley

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| 1. JC KELLY EL | HIDALGO ISD |
| 2. HIDALGO PARK EL | HIDALGO ISD |
| 3. IDEA RIO GRANDE CITY ACADEMY | IDEA PUBLIC SCHOOLS |
| 4. HARGILL EL | EDINBURG CISD |
| 5. JEFFERSON EL | HARLINGEN CISD |

Top 5 Red Flag Middle Schools in the Rio Grande Valley

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|---------------------------------------|---------------------|
| 1. RAUL PERALES MIDDLE | UNITED ISD |
| 2. HARLINGEN SCHOOL OF HEALTH PROFESS | HARLINGEN CISD |
| 3. IDEA QUEST COLLEGE PREPARATORY | IDEA PUBLIC SCHOOLS |
| 4. IDEA CARVER COLLEGE PREPARATORY | IDEA PUBLIC SCHOOLS |
| 5. IDEA COLLEGE PREPARATORY ALAMO | IDEA PUBLIC SCHOOLS |

Top 5 Red Flag High Schools in the Rio Grande Valley

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| 1. PSJA THOMAS JEFFERSON T-STEM EARLY COL | PHARR-SAN JUAN-ALAMO ISD |
| 2. THELMA ROSA SALINAS STEM EARLY COL | LA JOYA ISD |
| 3. MISSION COLLEGIATE HS | MISSION CISD |
| 4. SHARYLAND ADVANCED ACADEMIC ACADEMY | SHARYLAND ISD |
| 5. JIMMY CARTER EARLY COLLEGE HS | LA JOYA ISD |

To see the complete results for the state of Texas, go to <https://childrenatrisk.org/resilient-schools-21/>.

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About CHILDREN AT RISK

CHILDREN AT RISK is a research and advocacy nonprofit leading the way in improving the quality of life for Texas' children. CHILDREN AT RISK considers the whole child by tracking issues in children's health, safety, education, and economic security. Committed to action beyond the data, CHILDREN AT RISK drives evidence-based change by speaking out on behalf of children. For more information, visit www.childrenatrisk.org, [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#).