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SOUTH SAN ANTONIO SCHOOL DISTRICT CELEBRATES ACADEMIC RATING UPGRADE BY TEA

SAN ANTONIO – The Texas Education Agency (TEA) today released the 2019 state accountability ratings for 1,200 school districts and district charters. New Frontiers Public Schools, a local public charter school district, has done what most would consider impossible – increased their district accountability rating from a ‘D’ to a ‘B’ – and increase of 21% in just one academic year.

Under the 2019 Accountability Rating system, TEA assigns an A-F grade to each district and campus. The score is composed of three domains, including student achievement, school progress and closing the gaps.

New Frontiers Public Schools CEO, Alfredo Segura Jr., said he is pleased with the district's success and increased scores but reaffirms that the ratings define only one "measure of success," and goes on to say that student success is much broader than a rating system.

“Although we celebrate the tireless efforts that our educators have put forth to make these gains possible, we know that the accountability system does not solely define us,” said Segura. “What *does* define us - is our unrelenting commitment to prepare the students in our communities to achieve despite any barriers we may face toward achieving that goal.”

New Frontiers Public Schools has served the South of San Antonio since 1998. Their college immersion model aims to provide ‘students in every grade a collegiate experience’. The district serves grades K-8 at the Frank L. Madla Accelerated Collegiate Academy and grades 9-12 at the Frank L. Madla Early College High School.

Overarchingly, the entire district saw notable gains in academic accountability. The Frank L. Madla Early College High School increased their campus rating from a ‘B’ to an ‘A’ - that is a result, in large part, to a 13% increase in ‘Student Achievement: Domain 1’. The Frank L. Madla Accelerated Collegiate Academy also experienced tremendous growth. The campus saw a 17% increase in ‘School Progress: Domain 2’ and 16% growth in ‘Closing the Gap: Domain 3’. These gains resulted in an upgrade of the campuses accountability rating – bringing their rating up two categories.

“I am incredibly proud of our entire district operation. We have undergone an aggressive and rigorous improvement process where we elevated our practices to ensure that all students on our campuses achieve academic the growth that will propel them forward on our path to and through college,” said Segura. “I look forward to the day that we have an accountability system that includes consideration of the many factors which impact achievement for schools that serve the highest need populations.”

For more information of the Texas Education Agency’s 2019 Accountability rating, visit <https://txschools.gov>.

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About New Frontiers Public Schools

New Frontiers Public Schools is a local, community-based, free public charter school district serving children in kindergarten through high school on the south side of San Antonio since 1998. The district operates the Frank L. Madla Accelerated Collegiate Academy and the Frank L. Madla Early College High School. Campuses operate under a college immersion model where all students in every grade receive a collegiate experience. For information on New Frontiers Public Schools, visit www.newfrontierspublicschools.org.

About Early College High Schools

Early College High Schools are innovative high schools that allow students least likely to attend college an opportunity to earn a high school diploma and up to 60 college credit hours. Under the authority of Texas Education Code (TEC) §29.908(b) and Texas Administrative Code (TAC) §102.1091, the TEA has developed a designation process for ECHS. The designation process ensures that districts and colleges operating ECHS campuses maintain the integrity of the model, which was researched and designed to target and serve students who would not otherwise consider attending college.