



## MASBA April E-Newsletter

**Irene Galan-Rodriguez**  
MASBA President  
Big Spring ISD Board Member

My Fellow MASBA Members, Sponsors, and Friends of Public Education,

As most of our districts move into the final month of the school year, it is time to think about upcoming senior graduations and also a time to reflect on achievements and challenges. Like students, school board members face challenges (and "tests") throughout the school year. Students are rewarded for their hard work and dedication by passing tests and receiving grades based on their knowledge and skills. And senior students - a diploma!

How are school board members graded? Some may think if a school board member serves his or her term and runs for re-election and wins, that that is passing the test. That if they are re-elected, they must be doing "something right."

But being a school board member is much more than political achievement. It is having the ability to work together, listen, function as a team, achieve goals and provide positive changes where necessary. As a school board member, we must always focus on our communities and the needs of our students. Allowing our students the opportunity to achieve an education through quality instruction will more likely ensure students will further their education and set higher standards for themselves. We must always set and expect high standards at our districts.

For over 40 years, MASBA has focused, implemented and made available to its members instruction and guidance as it relates to:

- Making high quality education possible to all students;
- Increasing parental and community participation in public governance;
- Improving academic achievement; and,
- Advocating equitable school finance.

MASBA continues its commitment and mission ensuring a high quality education is available – *and achievable*, for our children.

**Juntos Podemos!**

Best Regards,

2016  
MASBA Sponsors



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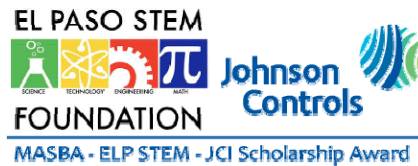
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*Irene Galan Rodriguez*

Irene Galan-Rodriguez  
MASBA 2016 President

## MASBA Announces 2016 Scholarships

*Available to MASBA Member District Senior Students*



MASBA will award \$10,000 in scholarships for 2016. \$5,000 will be awarded by the ERO/MASBA Dream Scholarship Award, \$3,000 will be awarded through MASBA, the El Paso Stem Foundation and Johnson Controls (JCI) and MASBA will award \$2,000. The scholarships are available to all MASBA member district senior students. The MASBA Scholarship application and all necessary criteria are due May 27, 2016.

### [MASBA 2016 SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION](#)

**Sam Guzman**

MASBA Director of Planning & Operations



**TLEC Testifies and Make Recommendations During the Texas Senate Education and Higher Education Committees Hearing on HB 5 Implementation [SB 5 Interim Changes]**

March 29, 2016



*The following testimony was presented on Tuesday, March 29, 2016 before the Joint Session of the Senate Education Committee and the Senate Higher Education Committee hearing on SB 5 Interim charges by Mr. Sam Guzman, MASBA Director of Operations & Planning (MASBA is a Texas*



*Latino Education Coalition partner):*

"Mr. Chairman and Members of the Committees, my name is Sam Guzman, representing the Mexican American School Board Members Association (MASBA). Thank for the opportunity to testify on this most important legislation and thank you for your service to the State of Texas.

Today, I will not spend my precious three minutes to dwell on important research, data, and statistics which you will and have undoubtedly already been inundated with. But I would urge you to pay close attention to that information as you deliberate and make your decisions. We support, in particular, the testimony and information from the Texas Latino Education Coalition (TLEC) as it relates to the Interim charges of SB 5.

In brief, we too are very concerned about (1) Tracking Students of Color and Low Income Students into graduation plans that do not prepare them for college, (2) Graduation plans which do not match or properly align with college admission requirements, and (3) Concerns over information which parents and students get, or actually do not get, regarding SB 5 graduation requirements.

I know you know, that today Hispanic and African American students make up the majority, the large majority of all of Texas public high school graduates – nearly 60 % - compared to 34% white students. And that trend is and will continue in that direction. I'm not a statistician or research analysis, but it is very clear that to not ensure that these students are given every opportunity to continue their education by attending our fine higher education institutions is not a very wise decision and certainly not going in the right direction. I think Governor Abbott gets it, because upon becoming Governor he said, "If Texas is to remain the leader at creating jobs we must become the leader at educating our children". I do believe that the Governor meant all children – and most certainly Hispanic and African American children, who comprise the large majority of students graduating from our public schools at this time.

And I also know, or would like to think that the members of these committees also get it.

I know that Professor and renowned demographer Dr. Steve Murdock, gets it. In fact, he has, for years, been alerting and urging the state public schools and businesses to educate and properly prepare the ever growing Hispanic population or suffer the consequences of not doing so – which are serious.

I know that TX Association of Businesses (TAB) have expressed concerns about the low graduation rates at colleges and universities of Hispanics students.

And there are many more enlightened organizations and individuals who see it clearly – that if we do not ensure that Hispanics and African American students get every opportunity to attend and graduate from college we are facing workforce, economic development, and other societal problems of significant proportions.

And besides, it is simply the ethical, fair, moral, just and right thing to do. "Do unto others, as you would have them do

**Huckabee**

**Ep**

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Education Service Center (ESC)  
Members:



unto you". Thank you."

For more information about MASBA and its role at the State level, please e-mail [Sam Guzman](mailto:Sam.Guzman@masba.org).

## MASBA Sponsor Spotlight

### MASBA Welcomes Its Newest Gold Sponsor First Service Technology (FST)



FST to Provide MASBA Member School Districts With a No-Cost SB 507 Evaluation



In 2015, the 84th Texas Legislature passed [Senate Bill \(SB\) 507](#) by Sen. Eddie Lucio (D), sponsored in the House by Rep. Senfronia Thompson (D), a bill that **requires school districts to equip self-contained classrooms serving students in special education programs with video surveillance cameras**. After the two chambers passed different versions of the bill, a conference committee was appointed to iron out the differences. Eventually, agreed-upon language in the conference committee report was adopted by the Senate by a vote of 21 to 10 and by the House by a vote of 140 to 3. Gov. Greg Abbott (R) signed the bill into law on June 19.

"It was an honor and a privilege to present, "[Senate Bill 507 Simplified](#)" at the MASBA 2016 Annual Conference and Expo," stated Calvin Womack, FST President. "We understand that school districts have many, many different compliance issues to address and implement. We are proud to be a MASBA Gold Sponsor and we support the MASBA vision and mission and are looking forward to working with and helping its members with SB 507 compliance and implementation." Womack added that he and his team want to give back to the local communities and MASBA member districts in Texas where he and his team grew up and graduated from.

"We are glad and welcome aboard the FST team. We hope our MASBA members take advantage of the SB 507 evaluation," stated Irene Galan-Rodriguez, MASBA President and Big Spring ISD Board Member. And explained that the no-cost evaluation is just one of many benefits of value for MASBA member districts that is being implemented in 2016.

First Service Technology (FST), headquartered in San Antonio with offices in Houston and the Rio Grande Valley, delivers innovative, value-added solutions for school districts across Texas. FST specializes in Physical Security, Video Surveillance and Information Technology needs for school districts and unified campus environments. FST products and professional services add value to the education market by increasing a school district's operational capabilities while supporting their educational infrastructure and internal technology, safety and security plans.

If you are a MASBA School District Member and would like

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## MASBA Points of Contact

[Sam Guzman](mailto:Sam.Guzman@masba.org)

more information about a No-Cost SB 507 Evaluation, please [e-mail MASBA](#) with "**SB 507 Simplified**" in the subject line. For more information about First Service Technology and its services, please call (210) 845-4772 or [e-mail Team FST](#).

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### **About MASBA**

The Mexican American School Board Members Association (MASBA) is a 501(c)(3) non profit organization.

Our members are school districts, their board members/trustees, administrators and education service centers.

The mission of the Mexican American School Board Members Association is to:

- Make high quality education possible to ALL students.
- Increase parental and community participation in public governance.
- Improve academic achievement.
- Advocate for equitable school finance.