



MASBA June E-Newsletter

Irene Galan-Rodriguez
MASBA President
Big Spring ISD Board Member

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

The Mexican American School Board Members Association cordially invites you the 2016 MASBA Summer Reception North to be held June 30, 2016, from 4:30 to 6:00 p.m. during TASB SLI North. The event will be held at the Omni Fort Worth by the TASB "Corral" and is open to all MASBA members, SLI attendees and friends of MASBA.

MASBA thanks our sponsors who make this annual celebration possible. And a special thanks to our partner, TASB.

During the reception, MASBA will present the MASBA 2016 Dedicated to Education Award to the Honorable Ruben Cortez, Texas State Board of Education Board Secretary.

See you all next week!

Juntos Podemos!

Best Regards,



Irene Galan-Rodriguez
MASBA 2016 President

PARTNERS



2016 MASBA Sponsors



O'Hanlon, Rodriguez Betancourt & Demerath
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***You're Invited to Join Us for the
MASBA SLI-North Summer Reception***

***When: Thursday, June 30, 2016
4:30 - 6:00 p.m.***

***Where: Omni Fort Worth
(By the TASB Corral)***

***Join us as we celebrate another
successful school year and recognize
the Honorable Ruben Cortez with
the MASBA
Dedicated to Education Award***

***Light hors d'oeuvres & refreshments
will be served.***

MASBA 2016 Dedicated to Education Award

**Hon. Ruben Cortez
Texas State Board of Education
Board Secretary District 2 (D)**

The foremost educational official and leader in South Texas, Mr. Ruben Cortez Jr., member of the Texas State Board of Education, has a long standing and solid record of leadership and policy-making in public education. In 2012, he was elected to the State Board of Education, District 2, representing approximately 1.7 million Texans in 17 counties, which include the Rio Grande Valley and Coastal Bend area. Throughout his professional career and his numerous years in public service at different levels, Ruben Cortez has displayed his dedication to the strengthening of public education and the educational attainment of all Texas students.



Prior to the State Board of Education, Ruben was inspired by his four children and public school district administrator wife to serve on the Brownsville Independent School District School Board working to address the various issues that face border communities and educational systems. It was during that experience that he answered the call to serve on the Texas State Board of Education. Fueled by his passion for advocacy, belief in education as the key to the success of our communities and goal to bring the South Texas perspective and voice to the State level, he fervently serves his district. He is driven to not only address



the issues that face South Texas communities but all communities across the state.

Despite a difficult political environment during his time as a State Board of Education Member, Ruben has transcended partisan gridlock and spearheaded the effort to establish a Mexican American Studies course resulting in Texas's first ever call for Mexican American Studies textbooks – an effort that has been highly lauded across the nation, in the K-12 system and higher education. As a member of the School Initiatives Committee, he was also at the forefront of launching a long-range education plan in order to ensure that students, parents and educators alike are provided the support, tools and road-map needed for success.

Now in his second term, Ruben serves as the Board Secretary, and has increased the amount of appointees from South Texas that review curriculum, textbooks and serve in advisory capacities – thus, fulfilling his mission and promise to solidify South Texas's presence at the educational table.

Outside of the Board Room, Ruben has demonstrated a strong commitment to his community, fully immersing himself in the educational arena and tackling education from various angles—locally and nationally. He has served and been a member of the Council of Urban Boards of Education, the National Pre-K legislative committee for the National School Board Association, committee chair and member on several Texas Association of School Board committees and a member on the Region One Education Service Center Board of Directors.

Witnessing and understanding the unique challenges of border communities firsthand, Ruben wants to help build and continually increase the amount of on-ramps to the educational highway and ensure they lead toward success. The educational system that Ruben works toward daily will be the foundational building block needed to achieve the hopes and dreams of Texas children and families.

As a State Board of Education Member, Ruben continues to be a tireless advocate for all Texans—from the Rio Grande Valley to the High Plains—from the Coastal Bend to the Hill Country. He will continue to bring the educational reality to Austin and continue to lead—not from Austin to the classroom but from the classroom to Austin.

MASBA is honored to recognize Mr. Cortez with the MASBA 2016 Dedicated to Education Award.

Thank You for Joining Us at MASBA SLI South 2016 Summer Reception



Gloria Casas, MASBA Past-President - 2013 (La Feria ISD) is awarded Special Recognition and Grateful Appreciation For Outstanding Service & Leadership by Armando Rodriguez, MASBA President-Elect (Canutillo ISD); Irene Galan-Rodriguez, MASBA President (Big Spring ISD) and Louis Q. Reyes, III, MASBA Executive Director & Immediate Past-President (Seguin ISD).



MASBA
Education Service Center (ESC)
Members:



MASBA
Executive Board



Region One is presented with the MASBA Membership Commitment & Participation Award. Region One has the most (26) active MASBA Member School Districts.



James B. Crow, TASB Executive Director, is presented with the MASBA Partnership Plaque by Irene Galan-Rodriguez, MASBA President (Big Spring ISD) with members of both TASB and MASBA Board of Directors.



Maria Leal, MASBA Past-President - 2009 (South Texas ISD); Louis Q. Reyes, III, MASBA Executive Director & Immediate Past-President (Seguin ISD); Irene Galan-Rodriguez, MASBA President (Big Spring ISD) and Armando Rodriguez, MASBA President Elect (Canutillo ISD) present Congressman Rubén Hinojosa with the MASBA La Campana and Golden Molcajete Awards. Congressman Hinojosa is the first to receive both coveted recognitions.

** All photos courtesy of Patrick Morris, TASB.*

CALL TO ACTION REQUEST

MARISA B. PEREZ
 State Board Member, District 3
 Texas State Board of Education
marisa.perez@tea.texas.gov

Dear MASBA Members & Community,

On behalf of the Texas State Board of Education, I, Marisa B. Perez, District 3 board member, with the support of Louis Q. Reyes, III, Executive Director of MASBA, am reaching out to you so that we may give



[Irene Galan-Rodriguez](#)

President
 Big Spring ISD (REG 18)

[Armando Rodriguez](#)

President - Elect
 Canutillo ISD (REG 19)

[Mario Ybarra](#)

Vice President
 Lubbock ISD (REG 17)

[Servando Garza](#)

Treasurer
 Alice ISD (REG 2)

[Shane Haggerty](#)

Secretary
 Ysleta ISD (REG 19)

[Louis Q. Reyes, III](#)

Immediate Past-President
 Executive Director
 Seguin ISD (REG 13)

Board of Directors

[Manuel Rodriguez](#)

2016 Annual Conference Chair
 MASBA Past-President
 Houston ISD (REG 4)

[Raymundo Martinez](#)

Hidalgo ISD (REG 1)

[Viola Garcia](#)

MASBA Past-President
 Aldine ISD (REG 4)

[Anna Cortez](#)

Manor ISD (REG 13)

[Servando Garza](#)

Alice ISD (REG 2)

[Larry Perez](#)

Waco ISD (REG12)

[David Espinosa](#)

Grand Prairie ISD (REG 10)

[Willie Tenorio](#)

Hays CISD (REG 13)

[Homero Garcia](#)

South Texas ISD (REG 1)

[Orlando Flores](#)

Fabens ISD (REG 19)

MASBA Points of Contact

[Sam Guzman](#)

Director
 Operations & Development

[Kurt Hixson](#)

Communications
 Membership/Sponsorship

About MASBA

statewide feedback from parents, business leaders, educators, and students to the Next Generation of Assessments and Accountability Commission.

Your feedback will be invaluable as the Commission seeks to find the balance at the state level between the need to objectively and fairly assess student readiness and the desire to ensure that educators have the space and encouragement needed to teach more than what is required by state assessments for the 5.2 million students in public schools across Texas.

Please complete this survey and feel free to share (forward this e-Newsletter) with any parents, business leaders, educators, and students who might be interested in providing feedback to the Commission.

This is a call for immediate action, we must ensure that MASBA Member School Districts and their respective communities are heard. Over 60% of the 5.2 million students in the K-12 public schools in Texas are Latino.



This survey is live through the month of June. The survey will be closed on June 30, 2016

[Click Here to Start the Survey](#)

English: <http://www.surveygizmo.com/s3/2762440/State-Assessments-and-Accountability-Survey>

Spanish: <http://www.surveygizmo.com/s3/2851839/Encuesta-de-evaluaciones-y-responsabilidad-educativa-del-estado>

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.
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