



MASBA March E-Newsletter

Irene Galan-Rodriguez
MASBA President
Big Spring ISD Board Member

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

I am excited and honored to serve as your MASBA 2016 president. And I welcome my fellow school board colleagues who make up the 2016 MASBA team ... working together, we will accomplish and add to the strength of our fast growing organization.

Juntos Podemos!
(Together We Can!)

Since its inception over 40 years ago, the Mexican American School Board Members Association (MASBA), has worked hard to ensure quality education is available to all Texas students, an increase in parental and community participation in public education issues and policies, closing the student achievement gap, equitable school financing, decreasing the high school dropout rate, and increasing college/university attendance by high school students. These are objectives on which MASBA is focused and provides assistance and training to its members.

MASBA membership is currently comprised of 85 school district members representing 13 Texas school district regions. This is a 13% increase from last year and an overall 77% membership increase since 2012. As we continue to build our membership, we will be implementing more programs and partnerships, ensuring MASBA membership is one of value and beneficial to its member districts.

MASBA is deeply appreciative of all the hard work Mr. Louis Reyes accomplished during his presidency. Mr. Reyes spent countless hours ensuring MASBA's membership growth and sponsorship success. Because of his hard work, MASBA possesses a solid foundation for the organization. The MASBA Board of Directors and staff are committed to building on this foundation, taking MASBA to even higher achievements, continuing our success and providing real solutions for our members and sponsors.

I look forward to working with the MASBA Board of Directors, our sponsors and partners and all our affiliates who are committed to public education.

Best Regards,

Irene Galan-Rodriguez
MASBA 2016 President

2016
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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](#)

MASBA 2016 Annual Conference & Expo Review, Comments & Insights



Manuel Rodriguez

MASBA Board Member/Annual Conference Chairman
Houston ISD Board Member

For those of you who were able to attend the MASBA 2016 Annual Conference & Expo, thank you! Nearly 300 attendees, presenters and sponsors came together for intense training and insights to take back to their home districts.

We are already hard at work preparing the 19th Annual Conference & Expo. Below you will find some follow up information and announcements.

Congratulations Rio Grande City ISD
Winner of the TASB Affiliate Sponsored Team of 8
Award for TASA/TASB 2016 - Houston, TX





Special Thanks



A Special Thank You to Harlandale ISD for presenting Colors, Pledge of Allegiance and the National Anthem during the MASBA Conference & Expo Opening Ceremonies.



Special thanks to team Baltazar Zalazar for the "famous Baltazar gift baskets" awarded throughout the conference in recognition of attendee participation and contribution. The Baltazar Salazar Law Firm is a MASBA Gold Sponsor committed to the MASBA vision

More Information from the MASBA 2016 Annual Conference General/Break Out Sessions:



"To Reform or Deform: Federal and State Education Policy-making and its Impact on Local Board Governance"

Department of Education's (ED) frequently asked questions concerning the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) and the transition from NCLB to ESSA.

<http://www2.ed.gov/policy/elsec/leg/essa/faq/essa-faqs.pdf>

ED has prepared these FAQs to support States and local

Huckabee



Escamilla & Poneck, LLP
ATTORNEYS AND COUNSELORS



**MASBA
Education Service Center (ESC)
Members:**



education agencies in understanding expectations during the transition to full implementation of the ESSA. ED will continue to update and add to these FAQs over the coming months. Please check www.ed.gov/policy/elsec/leq/essa/index.html?src=essa-page for updates.

Meeting Individual Needs AND Board Needs Simultaneously

Board members often hear that the board makes decisions as a whole and members should recognize that they have no authority as individuals. This direction falls short of the reality that while individuals on the board have no authority, members are individuals who have a responsibility and desire to express their individual interests and uniqueness. Click [here] for a copy of the presentation which provided attendees with ideas and concepts on how boards can work at meeting the needs of the board and individuals.



This session was sponsored by the affiliates of TASB who are long time supporters of MASBA and the MASBA vision. Throughout the years, many MASBA members, including executive officers, have also been elected TASB officials and representatives. Each summer, MASBA holds its Summer Reception during the TASB Summer Leadership Institute (SLI-South) in San Antonio, TX. MASBA is grateful to have the TASB Affiliates as a sponsor partner.



TLEC Testifies and Make Recommendations during the Texas Senate Education and Higher Education Committees hearing on HB 5 implementation.

March 29, 2016

In order to ensure that all students and parents can make an informed decision on the student's graduation plan, that no student or student groups are tracked into less rigorous

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MASBA Points of Contact

[Sam Guzman](#)

graduation plans, and that high school graduation course requirements are properly aligned with basic college admission requirements, TLEC recommends that the Joint Committee consider policies that take into account the following:

1. *Ensure that schools provide a high quality curriculum that prepares all students to enroll in and complete college, supplemented by optional courses that prepare them to enter the workforce for a good career after graduation;*
2. *Study the quality of curriculum available to students across schools, including those placed in alternative education settings and take appropriate action to ensure equity for all students;*
3. *Study the latest changes in course requirements by colleges across the state;*
4. *Encourage local school districts to offer courses that align with basic admission requirements and provide support with materials, resources and teacher certification programs where necessary;*
5. *Ensure counselor-student ratios align with the research and provide schools with additional, necessary resources where appropriate;*
6. *Ensure counselors are competent and capable of communicating the benefits and consequences of HB 5 graduation requirements with all communities served.*

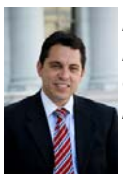


Please save the dates for the upcoming [Senate Hispanic Caucus/MALC](#) Summits across Texas and please **e-mail names of representatives that the Caucus should reach out to so they can help with planning and inviting others.**

- Dallas – April 16
- El Paso – May 21
- San Antonio – June 18
- Rio Grande Valley – July 23
- Temple- August 20
- Corpus Christi – September 17
- Lubbock – October 8



Celina Moreno, J.D. Legislative Attorney, Mexican American Legal Defense and Education Fund (MALDEF) Co-chair, SHC-MALC Latina/o Education Task Force



*David Hinojosa
Director of The South Central
Collaborative for Equity
National Director of Policy*



Director
Operations & Development

[Kurt Hixson](#)
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Membership/Sponsorship

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MASBA Governmental Relations

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.



The Texas State Historical Association (TSHA) will launch the *Handbook of Tejano History*, on March 29 to commemorate the fourth anniversary of the Tejano Monument unveiling on the Capitol grounds in Austin. To celebrate this launch, the TSHA is also releasing a free eBook entitled, *Tejanos Through Time: Selections from the Handbook of Tejano History*.

Available for free download, *Tejanos Through Time* will provide a representative sample of the much larger *Handbook of Tejano History*, which contains nearly 1,200 entries, including 300 new entries, detailing the critical influence of Tejanos on the Lone Star State. The eBook, as well as the two-year Tejano Handbook Project, are the culmination of the research and writing of dozens of researchers, professors, students and Texas history enthusiasts committed to capturing and celebrating Tejano contributions to Texas life and culture.

Co-edited by distinguished historians **Dr. Emilio Zamora** of the University of Texas at Austin and **Dr. Andrés Tijerina** of Austin Community College, the eBook features thirty entries about prominent Tejano individuals, organizations, and events that helped define many of Texas's most iconic symbols and traditions. The eBook will provide a valuable starting point for readers interested in exploring the full range of content available in the *Handbook of Tejano History*.

Please visit the [dedicated page](#) on the TSHA website to learn more about the eBook and sign up for your free downloadable copy.

For more information, please visit the [TSHA on-line](#) or contact Katie Avinger: Katie@monumentgroupllc.com.

Established in 1897, the TSHA has been dedicated to fostering appreciation, understanding, and teaching of the rich heritage and unique history of Texas for 119 years. The TSHA has published more than 150 scholarly books, as well as the iconic Texas Almanac and the Handbook of Texas, the primary reference work on Texas history. The on-line Handbook, the nation's leading state history encyclopedia, attracts more than 1 million visitors per month from around the globe, and we expect the Handbook of Tejano History to be one of the most visited destinations on our website.