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**RAISE YOUR HAND TEXAS FOUNDATION ANNOUNCES
RAISING FAMILY PARTNERSHIPS FELLOWSHIP TO IMPROVE STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT
BY REDESIGNING FAMILY ENGAGEMENT**

— 26 schools representing 24 public school districts selected for first fellowship cohort —



AUSTIN, TX (August 23, 2017) – The [Raise Your Hand Texas Foundation](#) today announced [Raising Family Partnerships](#), a fellowship bringing together public school leadership teams from across Texas to transform their family engagement efforts and improve academic achievement. Research shows strong family, school, and community partnerships represent critical components of improving student outcomes.

“No one understands student’s dreams, challenges and motivations better than their families,” said Raising Family Partnerships Program Director Marcela Andrés. “One of the greatest opportunities to boost student success is families and schools engaging as true partners.”

Through a competitive application process, Raise Your Hand selected 26 schools representing 24 school districts across Texas to participate in the first Raising Family Partnerships fellowship cohort. Eleven school/district teams kicked off the fellowship by attending a weeklong summer family engagement institute at the Harvard Graduate School of Education and the other 15 teams participated in an intensive weeklong design camp held in Austin.

This statewide network of participating districts, supported by top research, experts, and other resources, will design scalable plans to facilitate mutually beneficial partnerships between schools and families. Raise Your Hand will publicly report on implementation and learnings from the participating districts to drive broader statewide adoption of best practices in family engagement.

Selected schools include:

Harvard Graduate School of Education Participants

- Elma E. Barrera Elementary, Santa Rosa ISD
- Ricardo Middle, Ricardo ISD
- Griffith Elementary, Brazosport ISD
- Cedric C. Smith Elementary, Magnolia ISD
- Pewitt Elementary, Pewitt CISD
- Sam Houston Middle, Garland ISD
- Lancaster High, Lancaster ISD
- Blanton Elementary, Arlington ISD
- Clifton Middle, Clifton ISD
- East Point Elementary, Ysleta ISD
- Spicewood Park Elementary, Southwest ISD

Raise Your Hand Design Camp Participants

- Alfred Sorensen Elementary, Pharr-San Juan-Alamo ISD
- Travis Elementary, Harlingen CISD
- F.W. Gross Elementary, Victoria ISD
- Killough Middle, Alief ISD
- Jean & Betty Schmalz Elementary, Katy ISD
- Judy Rucker Elementary, Prosper ISD
- Robert B. Sewell Elementary, Garland ISD
- Bright Elementary, Frisco ISD
- Gulledge Elementary, Plano ISD
- Weldon Hafley Development Center, Eagle Mountain-Saginaw ISD
- Janett Brockett Elementary, Mansfield Elementary
- Independence Elementary, Keller ISD
- Mount Calm High, Mount Calm ISD
- Sgt. Roberto Ituarte, Socorro ISD
- Constance Hulbert Elementary, Ysleta ISD

For more about the fellowship, visit: RaisingFamilyPartnerships.org

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About Raise Your Hand Texas Foundation

The Raise Your Hand Texas Foundation is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization that supports programmatic initiatives structured to identify, pilot, and scale systemic improvements in public education. Visit RaiseYourHandTexas.org to learn more.

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