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August, 2005

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Laredo School District Challenges NCLB Act

The folks in Laredo, Texas are upset and they are not going to take it anymore! Earlier this year the **Laredo Independent School District** joined with the **National Education Association** and filed suit against the Federal Government over the **No Child Left Behind Act (NCLB)**.

Sylvia Bruni, Superintendent of the Laredo ISD (pictured at the right) stated, "We come to this legal action as a last resort. The LISD is not against fair accountability; what we are absolutely unwilling to accept is unfair accountability. This is not a Democrat vs. Republican issue. It's not about us being for the children."

The No Child Left Behind Act (NCLB) says the federal government must pay for the rules and regulations it wants the nation's public schools to follow. But Washington lawmakers have failed to make good. As a result, school districts across the nation are having to divert funds to pay for things the Federal



ABOVE: Sylvia Bruni de Laredo dice que no es justo que gobierno federal se requiere que los distritos escolares cumplen con ciertos requerecitos sin los fondos prometidos.

Government says they must do.

With this lawsuit, Laredo is asking the **Bush Administration** that it allow parents to spend hard earned tax dollars on their children's classrooms instead of more bureaucracy, paper work and testing companies.

For more information about the lawsuit and how you can get

involved, go to www.tsta.org/legal/current/nclb.shtml

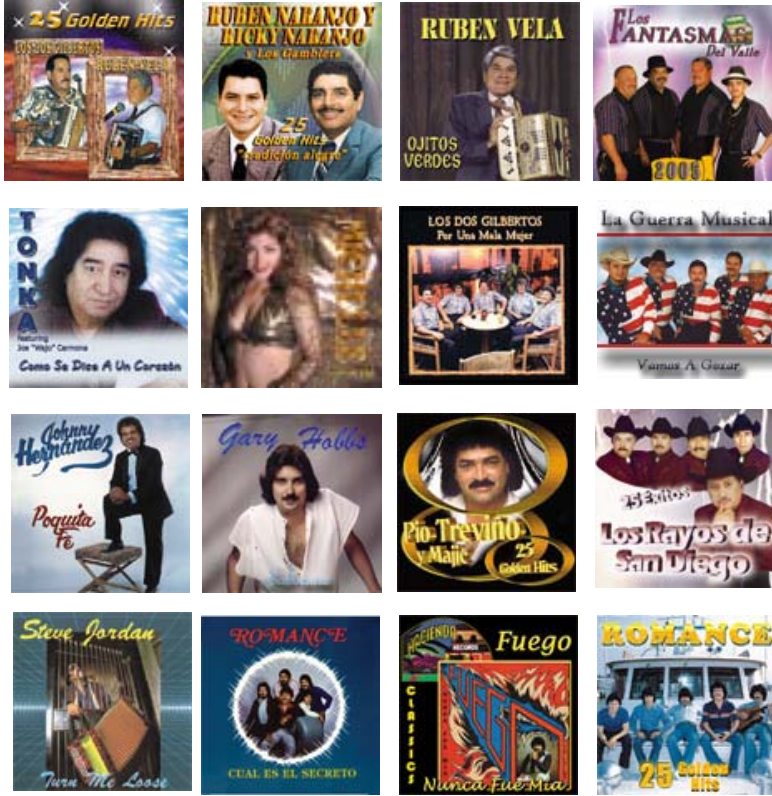
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--No Child Left Behind Act, Section 9527 (a)

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¿Sabia Usted?

In August the following happened

- 1692 - Five women and a clergyman were executed after being convicted of witchcraft in Salem, Massachusetts.
- 1825 - Bolivia declared its independence from Peru.
- 1848 - The discovery of gold in California was reported by the New York Herald.
- 1861 - The United States Congress passed the first income tax. The revenues were intended for the war effort against the South. The tax was never enacted.
- 1887 - Rowell Hodge patented barbed wire
- 1890 - The electric chair was used for the first time when Auburn State Prison in New York executed convicted murderer William Kemmler.
- 1919 - Afganistan gained its independence from Britain
- 1921 - Eight Chicago White Sox baseball players were acquitted of throwing the 1919 World Series
- 1934 - German President Paul von Hindenburg died. His successor was Adolf Hitler.
- 1943 - The U.S. Navy patrol boat, PT-109, sank after being attacked by a Japanese destroyer. The boat was the command of Lt. John F. Kennedy.
- 1945 - The American B-29 bomber, known as the Enola Gay, dropped the first atomic bomb on an inhabited area. The bomb known as "Little Boy" was dropped over the center of Hiroshima, Japan. An estimated 140,000 people were killed.
- 1962 - Homero Blancas shot a 55 at the Premier Invitational Golf Tournament held in Longview, Texas. It was the lowest score in U.S. competitive golf history.
- 1965 - The Voting Rights Act was signed by President Lyndon B. Johnson.
- 1989 - A small plane carrying U.S. Congressman Mickey Leland, D-TX, and 15 others disappeared during a flight in Ethiopia. The wreckage of the plane was found six days later. There were no survivors.
- 1998 - The U.S. embassies in Nairobi, Kenya and Dar es Salaam, Tanzania were bombed killing 224 people and injuring over 5,500. Osama bin Laden was later indicted by a U.S. federal grand jury in connection with the attacks.

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Por cualquier pregunta, llamanos:

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La Voz welcomes letters to the editor on any topic.

Editorial

In this issue of *La Voz de Brazoria County* our focus is on education. As you can tell from the cover, the concern over the **No Child Left Behind** (NCLB) is continuing to grow. Parents and educators in **Laredo, Texas** have joined the fight against what they believe are some of the inequities of the **Bush Administration**.

Another story you will find in these pages is an educational overview of the 8 school districts in **Brazoria County**. While much of this information is available on the internet, it is only when it is condensed and reformatted that it becomes more interesting. We believe that you will find the district comparisons insightful and thought provoking.

The Touch of a Teacher is a story that we often get requests to reprint. We still do not know who the original author is but who ever it is, we always include a generous complement at the end for the structure of the story.

En este ejemplar de *La Voz del Condado de Brazoria* el foque es sobre la educación. Como puede ver en la portada, el interés sobre la ley llamado **No Child**



Alfredo Santos c/s
Editor

Left Behind o en español, Que No Queda Ningun Niño Atras, sigue siendo un problema para algunos. En este caso, educadores, junto con padres de familia en **Laredo, Texas**, no estan de acuerdo en como se esta administrando la ley y en particular la falta de fondos para llevar acabo lo que exige.

Tambien en este ejemplar de *La Voz*, puede usted encontrar datos sobre los distritos escolares en el condado. Mucha de esta información se encuentra en el internet, pero no en la forma en la cual nosotros lo estamos presentando.

Tambien le queremos llamar la atención a un artículo llamado en inglés, The Touch of a Teacher. Por falta de paginas, no fue posible traducirlo el artículo.

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Presentando a Mary Castillo

It is an honor to introduce myself to the community and our readers of "La Voz de Brazoria".



My name is Mary Castillo and I am overjoyed and at the same time excited to accept the invitation for the second time to contribute my column "Greetings" to the success of "La Voz de Brazoria."

"La Voz de Brazoria" has had a tremendous success and has been an outstanding newspaper since 1990. It is a pleasure to be able to contribute my articles, learn new ideas and meet new people in the newspaper business.

I was born in Goliad, Texas. My family lived in Victoria, Texas all my life with my six brothers and two sisters. Not forgetting to mention my loving parents.

I now live in Sweeny, Texas and I have been here for 19 years. The good Lord has blessed me with a marriage of 31 years to Richard Castillo and three beautiful daughters, Angela, Monica and Christina; two son-in-laws, George and Oscar, and two grandsons, Ethan and Izaiah. And very soon in September our first grand daughter, Izabella Maria.

What inspires me the most about writing for "La Voz de Brazoria", is that our culture is unique and it an honor being part of the Hispanic race. Living in a bilingual world is an extraordinary feeling and sometimes difficult to totally express. Today more than ever the Hispanic race has to be ready for the future.

I am ready to serve you and the community with my articles now in 2005 and in the future. I invite you to contribute and submit your ideas to me and "La Voz de Brazoria."

Mary Castillo

Permitame introducirme a los lectores del periodico "La Voz de Brazoria."

Me llamo Maria Castillo y esto entusiasmada a introducir my columna "Saludes" y al mismo tiempo contenta porque es un placer aceptar la invitacion por la segunda ves de ser parte de "La Voz de Brazoria."

"La Voz de Brazoria," que ha tenido tanto exito y ha sobresalido en el condado y sus alrededores desde 1990. Va hacer un placer poder contribuir articulos, aprender nuevas ideas, y presentarme con interesantes periodistas.

Naci en el pueblo historico de Goliad, Tejas. Nuestro hogar fue en Victoria, Tejas donde creci y vivi toda mi vida con mis queridos padres y una gran familia de seis hermanos y dos hermanas y por supuesto mi queridos padres.

Tengo 19 anos de vivir en Sweeny, Tejas Mi matrimonio con mi esposo Ricardo, de 31 anos ha sido una bedicion de Dios. Dios nos ha bendecido con tres hijas, Angela, Monica y Christina; dos yernos, Jorge y Oscar y dos nietos, Ethan y Izaiah y muy pronto en Septiembre, nuestra primer nieta, Izabella Maria.

Lo que me inspiro escribir para "La Voz de Brazoria County," es que ser Hispana es un honor. Nuestra cultura es unica. Vivir en un mundo bilingue es un gran orgullo el cual es dificil aveces expresarlo. Hoy mas que nunca los hispanos somos una raza que en el futuro sera la primera raza y necesitamos estar listos.

Espero en este ano 2005 y en el futuro servirlos a todos ustedes y la comunidad Latina. Los invito a compartir y exponer sus ideas con nosotros en el periodico de "La Voz de Brazoria."

Education Overview

On Pages 8 and 9 of this issue of *La Voz de Brazoria County*, we have put together District Profiles for the 8 public school districts in the county. While much of the information on the school districts is available on the internet and at the **Texas Education Agency** website, it is not often that people can take the time to sift through the data to compare and contrast what is going on in each district. The data below was taken from the 2003-2004 Academic Excellence Indicator System.

RANKING OF SCHOOL DISTRICTS By SIZE OF STUDENT BODY

School District	Number of Students
1. Brazosport ISD	13,077
2. Pearland ISD	13,011
3. Alvin ISD	12,068
4. Angleton ISD	6,453
5. Columbia-Brazoria ISD	3,116
6. Sweeny ISD	2,092
7. Danbury ISD	741
8. Damon ISD	169

RANKING OF SCHOOL DISTRICTS By SIZE OF REVENUES RECEIPTS

School District	Amount of Revenue
1. Brazosport ISD	\$95,373,945
2. Pearland ISD	\$93,242,202
3. Alvin ISD	\$85,405,156
4. Angleton ISD	\$43,642,265
5. Columbia-Brazoria ISD	\$23,107,573
6. Sweeny ISD	\$17,764,246
7. Danbury ISD	\$ 6,032,770
8. Damon ISD	\$ 1,754,855

The table above showing school districts by size has **Brazosport ISD** at the top in Brazoria County with 13,077 students. It had 66 more students than the **Pearland Independent School District**. The smallest school district was **Damon ISD** with only 169 student.

The next table above contains the rankings of the school districts in **Brazoria County** by the amount of revenue each one receives from all sources. Again, the **Brazosport ISD** came in at the top with total receipts of \$95,373,945 during the 2003-2004 fiscal year. On pages 8 and 9, the district profiles breaks down further the sources of the revenue streams.

The third table in this analysis shows the number and percent of Latino students who were enrolled in each school district. While **Alvin ISD** came out at the top of the list in terms of the percent of Latino students who were enrolled during the 2003-2004 academic year, **Brazosport ISD** had the largest absolute number of Latino students.

The last table contains the percent of minority teachers in each school district as reported by the district to the **Texas Education Agency**. Most of the school districts came in at right around 15%. See pages 8 and 9 for details about

RANKING OF SCHOOL DISTRICTS By PERCENT OF LATINO STUDENTS

School District	Number of Latino Students	Percent of Enrollment
1. Alvin ISD	4,751	39.4%
2. Damon ISD	66	39.1%
3. Brazosport ISD	4,969	38.0%
4. Angleton ISD	2,112	32.7%
5. Pearland ISD	2,931	22.5%
6. Danbury ISD	149	20.1%
7. Columbia-Brazoria ISD	601	19.3%
9. Sweeny ISD	304	14.5%

RANKING OF SCHOOL DISTRICTS By DIVERSITY OF TEACHING STAFF

School District	Percent of Minority Teachers
1. Brazosport ISD	15.0%
2. Pearland ISD	10.1%
3. Alvin ISD	15.0%
4. Angleton ISD	14.3%
5. Columbia-Brazoria ISD	16.2%
6. Sweeny ISD	16.2%
7. Danbury ISD	7.6%
8. Damon ISD	15.8%

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The Touch of a Teacher

How a little time in the life of a child can make all the difference in the world

In a few weeks **Texas** schools will open their doors for the 2005-2006 academic year. Most students will begin the term with new clothes and all the nervousness that comes from advancing to the next grade. But not all the children will begin the new school year at the same time. Those that have spent the summer up North with their parents who work in the agricultural fields will not be arriving until mid September or even October.

The story you are about to read concerns one of these students. It was written by his fifth grade teacher. If you are a teacher, you may have had a student like **Juan Garza** in your class. Or maybe you knew a student like him when you were going to school.



Juan's letter came today and now that I have read it, I will place it in my cedar chest with the other things that are important in my life. The letter started out with: *"I wanted you to be the first to know. . . ."*

I smiled as I read the words he had written and my heart swelled with a pride that I have no right to feel. I have not seen **Juan Garza** since he was a student in my class some 17 years ago. It was early in my teaching career. I had only been teaching two years but from the first day that he stepped into my classroom, I disliked **Juan**.

Teachers are not supposed to have favorites in a class, but most especially they are not to show a dislike for a particular child. I thought I was quite capable of handling my personal feelings along that line until **Juan** walked into

I'm sorry to say it, but **Juan Garza** was one student I disliked. First of all he was dirty. Not just occasionally, but all of the time. Second, he smelled. He smelled like the crops he and his family were picking. And of course the smell varied with whatever was being harvested. His hair hung low over his ears and he actually had to hold it out of his eyes as he worked on assignments in class.

By the end of the first week of school, I knew he was hopelessly behind all the others. And not only was he behind, but he was also just plain slow.

As each day passed, I began to withdraw from him. While I didn't actually ridicule the boy, my attitude was obviously apparent to the rest of the class for he quickly became the class goat, the outcast, the unlovable, the unloved.

He knew I didn't like him but he didn't know why. He also knew that other teachers in the school didn't like him either. As the days rolled on we made it through the fall festival, Halloween and Thanksgiving. By the time the Christmas season arrived I knew **Juan** was going to have to repeat the entire school year.

To justify holding him back, I went to his cumulative folder from time to time.

To justify holding him back, I went to his cumulative folder from time to time. He had very low grades for the first four years but no grade failures. How he made it . . . I do not know. I closed my mind to the personal remarks that had been written by other teachers over the years. Remarks like:

1st grade - Juan shows promise but has a poor situation at home.

2nd grade - Juan could do better, but his mother is terminally ill. He receives little help at home.

3rd grade - Juan is a pleasant boy, but misses too many days of school. Mother passed away at the end of the school year.

4th grade - Very slow but well behaved. Show some talent for art. Father absent often. Believed to be working in California.

Well they passed him four times, but he will certainly repeat the fifth grade. "Do him good," I said to myself.

The day before the holidays arrived we had a school Christmas party. Teachers always get gifts, but for some reason this party seemed bigger and more elaborate than ever. There wasn't a student who hadn't brought me a gift. And each unwrapping brought squeals of delight as the students tried to guess who it was from.

Juan's gift wasn't the last one I picked up . . .

Juan's gift wasn't the last one I picked up. In fact, it was somewhere in the middle of the pile. It's wrapping was accomplished with a brown paper bag. For decorations he had colored Christmas trees and bells all around it and used masking tape to hold it together. The tag said: For **Miss Johnson** from **Juan**.

The class was completely silent as I began to unwrap **Juan's** gift. As I removed the last bit of masking tape, two items fell out and onto my lap. One was a gaudy rhinestone bracelet with several stones missing. The second item was a bottle of dime store cologne that was half empty. I could hear the snickering and whispers of the other children. At first I was embarrassed. Then I thought no. . . there is no reason for me to be embarrassed.

I looked at Juan and said "Isn't this lovely?"

I looked at **Juan** and said "Isn't this lovely?" I placed the bracelet on my wrist and asked him to help me fasten the clasp. There were a few oohs and aahs as I dabbed the cologne behind my ears. I continued to open gifts until I reached the bottom of the pile. We drank our refreshments and played games until the bell rang signaling the end of school for the holidays. Everyone gathered their belongings and filed out of the room with shouts of Merry Christmas. Everyone except **Juan**. He stayed behind.

With just us in the room **Juan** walked toward my desk clutching his books. "You smell just like my mom," he said softly. "Her bracelet looks real pretty on you too. I'm glad you like it." Then he quickly left the room.

I locked the door to my classroom, sat down at my desk and wept quietly. When the tears stopped I resolved

to make up for the way in which I had been treating **Juan**. I had deliberately deprived him of... a teacher who truly cared.

Beginning in January, I stayed after school every afternoon with **Juan**. We did extra problems in math. We did extra work in reading and spelling. Slowly but surely, he started to improve. By April, he was really moving along. Even the other students noticed that something was very different about **Juan**. Only once did I panic when he missed several days of school. It

Dear Miss Johnson,

I wanted you to be the first to know, I will be graduating from high school next month, second in my class.

Very truly yours,

Juan Garza.

What a surprise. I sent him a card of congratulations and a small pen and pencil gift. **Juan Garza**, I wondered what he would do after graduation?

Four years later, **Juan's** second letter came. It had a postmark from **Ann Arbor, Michigan**:

Dear Miss Johnson,

I wanted you to be the first to know that I was informed I'll be graduating first in my class. The University has not been easy. Although I received a small scholarship from the farmworkers union, I had to work part-time all four years to help cover the costs. But I

loved every minute of it.

Very truly yours,

Juan P. Garza

I sent him a nice pair of sterling silver monogram cuff links and a card. I was so very proud of him. The **University of Michigan at Ann Arbor** is one of the best schools in the world. He was doing good, very good!

Today, I received **Juan's** third letter with a postmark from the **Boston** area. Like his others letters he started it with:

Dear Miss Johnson,

I wanted you to be the first to know, that as of this writing I am now



turned out that had to go work in the fields.

When the school year ended Juan had one of the highest averages in the class.

When the school year ended **Juan** had one of the highest averages in the class. And even though I knew he would be leaving for **California** to work in the strawberry fields, I believed that he had found a new confidence and outlook on who and what he could be.

I continued to teach and never again heard from **Juan** . . . until seven years later. He wrote me a letter from **Watsonville, California** that started out:

Juan P. Garza, M.D... How about that! Harvard was hard but I have no regrets. I will be returning to California to do a residency at UCLA and work on pesticide issues as they effect farmworkers.

And I am going to be married in July the 27th, to be exact. I wanted to ask you if you could come and sit where Mom would sit if she were here. I'll have no family present as Dad died last year. It would mean a lot to me. I can send you the plane tickets.

Very truly yours,

Juan

I'm not sure what kind of gift one sends to a doctor upon completion of medical school. I'll have to think about it for a moment But my note cannot wait.

Dear Juan,

Congratulations. You did it by yourself in spite of those like me, and not because of me. This day has come for you. God Bless you.

I'll be at that wedding with great joy.

Very truly yours,

Miss Johnson

We know there is a **Juan Garza** in every school in America. We know there are students who cry out for teachers who truly care. Look carefully and you might be able to find a **Juan Garza** in your school. But an equally important question is whether or not there is a **Miss Johnson** in every school. Where are the **Miss Johnson's**? Just a little time, a little more caring, that's all some children need.

This story was adapted from an anonymous letter that passed out many years ago at a teacher conference. The original author is to be commended for an excellent story structure.

School District Snapshot in Brazoria County

District Profile Angleton Independent School District

SUPERINTENDENT: Dr. Heath Burns
ADDRESS: 1900 North Downing Road
 Angleton, Texas 77515
TELEPHONE: (979) 849-8594
FAX: (979) 849-3041
NUMBER OF STUDENTS: 6,453
TOTAL NUMBER OF STAFF: 789
TOTAL NUMBER OF TEACHERS: 381
TOTAL REVENUE INTO DISTRICT: \$43,642,265

STUDENT BREAKDOWN:

AFRICAN AMERICAN ..	985	15.3%
HISPANIC	2,112	32.7%
WHITE	3,281	50.8%
NATIVE AMERICAN ...	18	0.3%
ASIAN/PACIFIC ISLAND	57	0.9%

TEACHER BREAKDOWN:

AFRICAN AMERICAN ..	19.5	5.1%
HISPANIC	34	8.9%
WHITE	326.9	85.7%
NATIVE AMERICAN ...	0	0%
ASIAN/PACIFIC ISLAND	1	0.3%

REVENUE BREAKDOWN:

LOCAL TAX	\$ 28,904,915	66.2%
OTHER LOCAL & INTER	\$ 4,102,367	9.4%
STATE	\$ 7,492,202	17.2%
FEDERAL	\$ 3,142,781	7.2%

District Profile Sweeny Independent School District

SUPERINTENDENT: Randy Miksch
ADDRESS: 1310 North Elm Street
 Sweeny, Texas 77480
TELEPHONE: (979) 491-8000
FAX: (979) 491-8030
NUMBER OF STUDENTS: 2092
TOTAL NUMBER OF STAFF: 283
TOTAL NUMBER OF TEACHERS: 137
TOTAL REVENUE INTO DISTRICT: \$17,764,246

STUDENT BREAKDOWN:

AFRICAN AMERICAN ..	389	18.6%
HISPANIC	304	14.5%
WHITE	1,392	66.5%
NATIVE AMERICAN ...	3	0.1%
ASIAN/PACIFIC ISLAND	4	0.2%

TEACHER BREAKDOWN:

AFRICAN AMERICAN ..	12	8.8%
HISPANIC	5	3.7%
WHITE	120	87.6%
NATIVE AMERICAN ...	0	0.0%
ASIAN/PACIFIC ISLAND	0	0.0%

REVENUE BREAKDOWN:

LOCAL TAX	\$14,284,271	80.4%
OTHER LOCAL & INTER	\$ 591,246	3.3%
STATE	\$ 1,479,069	8.3%
FEDERAL	\$ 1,409,660	7.9%

District Profile Brazosport Independent School District

SUPERINTENDENT: Mr. Rudy Okruhlik
ADDRESS: P.O. Drawer "Z"
 Freeport, Texas 77542-1926
TELEPHONE: (979) 730-7000
FAX: (979) 266-2486
NUMBER OF STUDENTS: 13,077
TOTAL NUMBER OF STAFF: 1,639
TOTAL NUMBER OF TEACHERS: 812
TOTAL REVENUE INTO DISTRICT: \$95,373,945

STUDENT BREAKDOWN:

AFRICAN AMERICAN ..	1,305	10.0%
HISPANIC	4,969	38.0%
WHITE	6,558	50.4%
NATIVE AMERICAN ...	26	0.2%
ASIAN/PACIFIC ISLANDER	189	1.4%

TEACHER BREAKDOWN:

AFRICAN AMERICAN ..	40.3	5.0%
HISPANIC	73.7	9.1%
WHITE	691	85.1%
NATIVE AMERICAN ...	1	0.1%
ASIAN/PACIFIC ISLAND	6	0.8%

REVENUE BREAKDOWN:

LOCAL TAX	\$ 73,893,788	76.4%
OTHER LOCAL & INTER	\$ 3,915,984	4.1%
STATE	\$ 11,101,987	11.6%
FEDERAL	\$ 7,462,186	7.8%

District Profile Pearland Independent School District

SUPERINTENDENT: Dr. Bonnie Cain
ADDRESS: P.O. Box 7
 2337 North Galveston
 Pearland, Texas 77581
TELEPHONE: (281) 485-3203
NUMBER OF STUDENTS: 13,011
TOTAL NUMBER OF STAFF: 1,662
TOTAL NUMBER OF TEACHERS: 839
TOTAL REVENUE INTO DISTRICT: \$93,242,202

STUDENT BREAKDOWN:

AFRICAN AMERICAN ..	1,634	12.6%
HISPANIC	2,931	22.5%
WHITE	7,351	56.5%
NATIVE AMERICAN ...	23	0.2%
ASIAN/PACIFIC ISLAND	1,072	8.2%

TEACHER BREAKDOWN:

AFRICAN AMERICAN ..	21.8	2.6%
HISPANIC	57.0	6.8%
WHITE	754	89.9%
NATIVE AMERICAN ...	1	0.1%
ASIAN/PACIFIC ISLAND	5	0.6%

REVENUE BREAKDOWN:

LOCAL TAX	\$ 57,362,089	61.5%
OTHER LOCAL & INTER	\$ 2,982,239	3.2%
STATE	\$ 29,679,463	31.8%
FEDERAL	\$ 3,218,411	3.5%

School District Snapshot in Brazoria County

District Profile Alvin Independent School District

SUPERINTENDENT:	Dr. Greg Smith	
ADDRESS:	301 E. House Street Alvin, Texas 77511	
TELEPHONE:	(281) 388-1130	
FAX:	(281) 388-2719	
NUMBER OF STUDENTS:	12,068	
TOTAL NUMBER OF STAFF:	1,255	
TOTAL NUMBER OF TEACHERS:	788	
TOTAL REVENUE INTO DISTRICT:	\$85,405,156	
STUDENT BREAKDOWN:		
AFRICAN AMERICAN ..	475	3.9%
HISPANIC	4,751	39.4%
WHITE	6,564	54.4%
NATIVE AMERICAN ...	25	0.2%
ASIAN/PACIFIC ISLAND	253	2.1%
TEACHER BREAKDOWN:		
AFRICAN AMERICAN ..	18	2.3%
HISPANIC	96	12.2%
WHITE	670	85.0%
NATIVE AMERICAN ...	0	0.0%
ASIAN/PACIFIC ISLAND	4	0.5%
REVENUE BREAKDOWN:		
LOCAL TAX	\$23,809,042	27.9%
OTHER LOCAL & INTER	\$ 3,311,953	3.9%
STATE	\$51,059,762	59.8%
FEDERAL	\$ 7,224,399	8.5%

District Profile Columbia-Brazoria Ind. School District

SUPERINTENDENT:	Carol Bertholf	
ADDRESS:	520 16th Street West Columbia, Texas 77486	
TELEPHONE:	(979) 345-5147	
FAX:	(979) 345-4890	
NUMBER OF STUDENTS:	3,116	
TOTAL NUMBER OF STAFF:	432	
TOTAL NUMBER OF TEACHERS:	205	
TOTAL REVENUE INTO DISTRICT:	\$23,107,573	
STUDENT BREAKDOWN:		
AFRICAN AMERICAN ..	503	16.1%
HISPANIC	601	19.3%
WHITE	1,974	63.4%
NATIVE AMERICAN ...	15	0.5%
ASIAN/PACIFIC ISLAND	24	0.7%
TEACHER BREAKDOWN:		
AFRICAN AMERICAN ..	11	5.4%
HISPANIC	11	5.4%
WHITE	182	89.2%
NATIVE AMERICAN ...	0	0%
ASIAN/PACIFIC ISLAND	0	0.0%
REVENUE BREAKDOWN:		
LOCAL TAX	\$ 7,250,076	31.4%
OTHER LOCAL & INTER	\$ 811,131	3.5%
STATE	\$ 12,678,013	54.9%
FEDERAL	\$ 2,368,353	10.2%

District Profile Danbury Independent School District

SUPERINTENDENT:	Mr. Doug Reed	
ADDRESS:	P.O. Box 378 Danbury, Texas 77534	
TELEPHONE:	(979) 922-1218 ext. 1001	
FAX:	(979) 922-8246	
NUMBER OF STUDENTS:	741	
TOTAL NUMBER OF STAFF:	99	
TOTAL NUMBER OF TEACHERS:	52	
TOTAL REVENUE INTO DISTRICT:	\$85,405,156	
STUDENT BREAKDOWN:		
AFRICAN AMERICAN ..	0	0%
HISPANIC	149	20.1%
WHITE	584	78.8%
NATIVE AMERICAN ...	8	1.1%
ASIAN/PACIFIC ISLAND	0	0%
TEACHER BREAKDOWN:		
AFRICAN AMERICAN ..	0	0%
HISPANIC	3.5	5.7%
WHITE	48.7	92.4%
NATIVE AMERICAN ...	0	0%
ASIAN/PACIFIC ISLAND	1	1.9%
REVENUE BREAKDOWN:		
LOCAL TAX	\$ 1,376,583	22.8%
OTHER LOCAL & INTER	\$ 240,994	4.0%
STATE	\$ 4,226,705	70.1%
FEDERAL	\$ 188,488	3.1%

District Profile Damon Independent School District

SUPERINTENDENT:	Stephen Davis	
ADDRESS:	P.O. Box 429 Damon, Texas 77430	
TELEPHONE:	(979) 742-3457	
FAX:	(979) 742-3275	
NUMBER OF STUDENTS:	169	
TOTAL NUMBER OF STAFF:	25.7	
TOTAL NUMBER OF TEACHERS:	13.4	
TOTAL REVENUE INTO DISTRICT:	\$1,754,855	
STUDENT BREAKDOWN:		
AFRICAN AMERICAN ..	3	1.8%
HISPANIC	66	39.1%
WHITE	100	59.2%
NATIVE AMERICAN ...	0	0%
ASIAN/PACIFIC ISLANDER	0	0%
TEACHER BREAKDOWN:		
AFRICAN AMERICAN ..	0	0%
HISPANIC	2.0	14.9%
WHITE	11.4	85.1%
NATIVE AMERICAN ...	1	0.1%
ASIAN/PACIFIC ISLAND	6	0.8%
REVENUE BREAKDOWN:		
LOCAL TAX	\$ 399,594	22.8%
OTHER LOCAL & INTER	\$ 49,125	2.8%
STATE	\$ 1,047,439	59.7%
FEDERAL	\$ 258,697	14.7%

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No one can ever argue in the name of education, that it is better to know less than it is to know more. Being bilingual or trilingual or multilingual is about being educated in the 21st century. We look forward to bringing our readers various word lists in each issue of *La Voz de Brazoria County*

Accrued Taxes. Property taxes that have been assessed against the property for a past time period, though payment is not necessarily due.

Addendum. An attachment to a contract. In Texas, promulgated forms for residential earnest money contracts include a property condition addendum and addenda for various financing arrangements.

Adjustments, appraisal. A real estate appraiser selects sales of comparable property to consider in estimating the value of the subject property. From the selling price of the comparable, adjustments are added or subtracted for each salient difference from the subject to estimate the price of the comparable property as if it had the same features as the subject.

Impuestos acumulados. Contribuciones prediales que afectan un inmueble (bienes raíces) correspondientes a un periodo anterior, aunque no necesariamente se encuentre vencido el pago de las mismas.

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Ajustes de avalúo. El perito valuador de inmuebles (bienes raíces) elige ventas de propiedades similares para tomarlas en cuenta en la estimación del valor de inmuebles sujeto a avalúo. Según las diferencias importantes del inmueble sujeto a avalúo se agregan o se restan ajustes del precio de venta de las propiedades similares a fin de estimar el precio de la propiedad comparable como su tuviera las mismas características de aquéllas.



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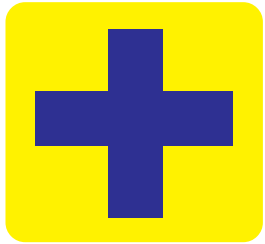


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Hispanics Gather in San Antonio to Discuss Future of Democratic Party

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Kathy Howard
Tom Parten

It was an invitation only affair this past weekend in **San Antonio, Texas** as political activists from around the state gathered at the **Third Annual Hispanic Leadership Summit**. With **Howard Dean** as the featured speaker and an expected crowd of 400, organizers of the event hoped to have some serious discussions about what the **Democratic Party** is going to do with Hispanics.




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It is no secret that the **Republican Party** has been putting more time and effort into recruiting and organizing the Hispanic electorate. In fact, a quick check of internet sites recently showed the **Republican Party** with many more up and running sites than the **Democrats**.



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For some of those in attendance the discussion was about ideas that have been brought up before - how to turn out the Hispanic voters, how to communicate with a sound message and how to organize at the grass roots level. The only problem was, those in attendance who are political veterans have heard all this before. When it comes right down to it, the question became, who was willing to work?

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And this is where the rubber meets the road, it is one to talk about what is needed, but is another thing to be willing to get down and do the hard work. For those who left the summit recharged and excited the event was a success. For those who wanted to hear something different, well, they will just have to keep waiting.

Andy Hernandez, the director of the **21st Century Leadership Center at St. Mary's University** said something very interesting, *"Republicans think long-term. Democrats tend to think about the next election. Unless Democrats get in the game in a more profound way, the result will be a gradual erosion of the Latino vote,"* Hernandez went on to say that, *"Forty-five (million) to 60 million (dollars) will be spent this year by the Democratic National Committee. How much of that will be used for the creation and delivery of a message (to Hispanics) and how much will be used to create a new generation of leadership?"*



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