

RGV LEAD SCHOLARS FOCUS GROUP

Notes from Discussions Held by Conference Call on August 20, 2019

PARTICIPANTS:

Edinburg CISD: Jacob Olmeda, Julia Montemayor, and Rachel Garza
Los Fresnos CISD: Celinda Grienier
McAllen ISD: Linda Babauta, Jeanne Dopp, David Lyons, and Mirtha Jimenez
RGV LEAD: Pat Bubb

This conference call followed up on discussions held in May of this year. Not all who expressed interest were able to participate because of busy schedules at the beginning of the school year. Pat Bubb thanked those who **were** able to participate today. She also thanked Linda Babauta of McAllen ISD and Sergio Pena of Mission CISD for sharing the ideas that the group discussed today.

Summary of Results

The group unanimously agreed to recommend a revised Option 2, as shown in the attachment. (Special thanks to Linda Babauta of McAllen ISD for creating the attached file.) There will be a public comment period lasting through early September and the final recommendations will be presented to the RGV LEAD Executive Board for approval thereafter. The goal is to complete this work and publish the requirements for 2019-2020 by the end of September.

Detailed Meeting Notes

Explanation of Process to Be Followed

Pat Bubb explained that this will be the process:

- August 20 RGV LEAD will send meeting notes and the agreed-upon Scholars requirements out for comment. Everyone interested will have the opportunity to send feedback during the public-comment period that will end on September 9.
- September 9: Comments will be due back to RGV LEAD.
- September 17: RGV LEAD will send the final version of the recommended requirements to the RGV LEAD Executive Board for approval.
- September 30: Target date for approval and publication of the new RGV LEAD Scholars requirements for 2019-2010.

Review Current Requirements

The current RGV LEAD Scholars requirements were included in the briefing materials. Everybody noted that the current requirements were there.

Discuss Two Suggestions for Modifications

The group reviewed the two options presented. After discussion, the group unanimously recommended Option 2, but with the addition of an option for graduation through the Multidisciplinary endorsement.

Pat Bubb explained that RGV LEAD is in the process of moving from its offices on the campus of TSTC in Harlingen to a new office in Weslaco, where RGV LEAD will be housed with the Rio Grande Valley Partnership at 322 South Missouri Avenue, Weslaco. With that as background, she asked if Linda Babauta (who had sent the original design for “Option Two” discussed during the meeting) would be willing to redesign the option that the group unanimously endorsed. Very graciously, she agreed!

Agree on Recommendations to Be Presented to the RGV LEAD Board

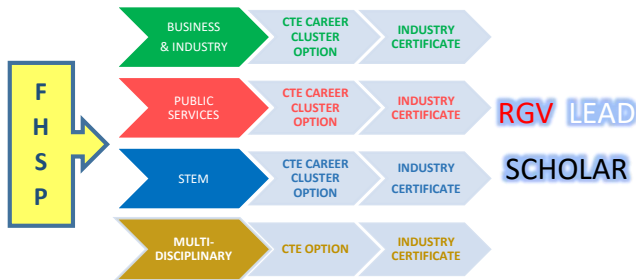
The recommendations made to the RGV LEAD Board will be the recommendations made by the participants today, subject to further revisions made during the public comment period, if any.

Notes recorded by Pat Bubb

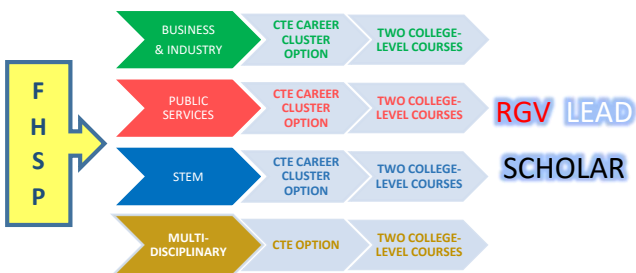
RGV LEAD scholars program

To graduate as an RGV LEAD Scholar, a student must meet all four of these requirements:

1. Complete all courses required for the Foundation High School Program (FHSP).
2. Complete at least one endorsement from a CTE option.
3. Earn an industry-based certificate or license through the selected CTE option or earn a passing grade for at least two college-level courses through the selected CTE option.
4. Complete a declaration of intent to be an RGV LEAD Scholar.



or



what are the requirements

THE FOUNDATION HIGH SCHOOL PROGRAM (FHSP)

English: 4 credits (English I, II, III and one Advanced English course)

Mathematics: 3 credits (Algebra I, Geometry, and one Advanced Math course)

Science: 3 credits (Biology, IPC or Advanced Science, plus one Advanced Science)

Social Studies: 3 credits (U.S. History, U.S. Government (1/2 credit), Economics (1/2 credit) and World Geography, World History, or Combined World History/Geography)

Physical Education: 1 credit

Languages Other Than English: 2 credits

Fine Arts: 1 credit

Electives: 5 credits

COMPLETE AT LEAST ONE ENDORSEMENT FROM CTE OPTION IN:

- Science, Technology, Engineering & Mathematics (STEM)
- Business and Industry
- Public Services or
- Multi-disciplinary

Endorsements vary from school district to school district.

EARN AN INDUSTRY-BASED CERTIFICATE or LICENSE THROUGH SELECTED CTE OPTION or EARN A PASSING GRADE FROM TWO COLLEGE-LEVEL COURSES

Each college-level course must meet all of the following requirements:

- a. Must be a career and technical education course taken for high school credit.
- b. Must be a dual credit course for which the student has earned a passing grade.

who offers scholars program

RGV LEAD Scholars programs are aligned with the Foundation High School Graduation Program and the AchieveTexas program. These school districts are participating:

- **Cameron County:** Brownsville ISD, Harlingen CISD, La Feria ISD, Los Fresnos CISD, Point Isabel ISD, Rio Hondo ISD, San Benito CISD, Santa Maria ISD, Santa Rosa ISD, and South Texas ISD.
- **Hidalgo County:** Donna ISD, Edcouch-Elsa ISD, Edinburg CISD, Hidalgo ISD, La Joya ISD, La Villa ISD, McAllen ISD, Mercedes ISD, Mission CISD, Monte Alto ISD, PSJA ISD, Progreso ISD, Sharyland ISD, Valley View ISD, and Weslaco ISD.
- **Starr County:** Rio Grande City CISD, Roma ISD, and San Isidro ISD.
- **Willacy County:** Lasara ISD, Lyford CISD, Raymondville ISD, and San Perlita ISD.

Check with your high school counselor to see

- which Endorsement(s) are available at your school district
- which certificates qualify as an industry-based certificate or license and
- which of your courses will qualify as college-level courses meeting the requirements for the RGV LEAD Scholars program.