

# McAllen AFT News

McAllen AFT, 1500 Dove, McAllen, TX

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## NEW THINGS GOING ON

### SOUTH TEXAS COLLEGE

On August 8, 2013, Ruth Skow, McAllen AFT President, sat down with Dr. Shirley Reed, President of STC, to discuss the \$159 million Bond Issue proposal. Dr. Reed and Ruth talked 1 1/2 hours. McAllen AFT was provided with materials and information regarding the bond election in November. **Ruth told Dr. Reed that the LOCAL will have study sessions to determine whether they will support the bond. Dates will be provided in a few weeks for study sessions.**

### HIDALGO COUNTY

In the next week Ruth will meet with a Hidalgo County Commissioner to gather information regarding the county hospital district. **Also on the table is a new court house in Edinburg. Details will be coming. A study session will be done on this issue.**

### CITY OF MCALLEN

McAllen plans a \$45 million bond election. This would buy a new theater (by Civic Center), road work, and sports fields. If rates are favorable, then this would be another \$61.38 annually. If rates are NOT favorable, then this would be a \$65.17 increase per year. **This topic will also be covered in study sessions.**

All of this affects **YOU**, so watch for more details. We are ready to keep you informed on what is going on.

We take voter participation seriously.

### MEMBER INFORMATION

McAllen AFT is a fully-chartered LOCAL. We have met the 14-step program that includes financial safe guards, intensive training for leadership, intensive planning, and detailed reporting. We have an office at 1500 Dove, McAllen. We are open from 8:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. on Monday thru Friday. Beginning September 26, we will also be open from 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. in the evening Monday through Thursday for member convenience.

We provide legal assistance for our active members (paying full dues). Retirees are members for life and are entitled to the AFT benefit card (but not legal assistance).

In addition, we have car rentals, hotel discounts, theme parks (including Disney), and entertainment discounts.

New members get a \$10,000 Met-Life Policy free for one year. Those AFT members who are in chartered locals get a \$25,000 double indemnity policy as long as they are members.

We also do grievances for members. We write the grievance, accompany you to the three levels of the grievance process and make sure you are supported in every way. We counsel you in the process.

We are in the process of offering notary services. We will announce when we are ready to do this free of charge.

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## New Accountability Information from TEA

"A transition to a new accountability system comes with a great deal of uncertainty," said Commissioner of Education Michael Williams. "The 2013 ratings confirm that the vast majority of districts and campuses are meeting the state's standards and providing a quality education for our students."

AUSTIN - The Texas Education Agency today released the 2013 state accountability system ratings for more than 1,200 school districts and charters, and more than 8,500 campuses. The ratings reveal that almost 93 percent of school districts and charters across Texas have achieved the rating of Met Standard. Districts, campuses and charters receive one of three ratings under the new accountability system: Met Standard; Met Alternative Standard; or Improvement Required. School district ratings (including charter operators) by category in 2013 are as follows:

<b>RATING</b>	<b>DISTRICT</b>	<b>CHARTER</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>PERCENT</b>
<b>Met Standard/Alternative</b>	<b>975</b>	<b>161</b>	<b>1,136</b>	<b>92.5%</b>
Met Standard	975	126	1,101	89.7%
Met Alternative Standard	N/A	35	35	2.9%
<b>Improvement Required</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>80</b>	<b>6.5%</b>
Not Rated	1	11	12	1.0%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1,026</b>	<b>202</b>	<b>1,228</b>	<b>100.0%</b>

<b>LOCAL SCHOOL DISTRICTS ACCOUNTABILITY RATINGS</b>				
<b>School</b>	<b>Student Achievement</b>	<b>Student Progress</b>	<b>Performance Gaps</b>	<b>Postsecondary Readiness</b>
<b>Edinburg</b>	<b>73</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>78</b>	<b>88</b>
<b>La Joya</b>	<b>65</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>70</b>	<b>86</b>
<b>McAllen</b>	<b>76</b>	<b>37</b>	<b>74</b>	<b>88</b>
<b>Mission</b>	<b>69</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>74</b>	<b>86</b>
<b>PSJA</b>	<b>61</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>68</b>	<b>92</b>
<b>Rio Grande City</b>	<b>70</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>78</b>	<b>92</b>
<b>Sharyland</b>	<b>86</b>	<b>42</b>	<b>84</b>	<b>93</b>
<b>South Texas ISD</b>	<b>75</b>	<b>39</b>	<b>75</b>	<b>NA</b>
<b>Weslaco</b>	<b>70</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>73</b>	<b>87</b>
<b>IDEA</b>	<b>81</b>	<b>38</b>	<b>82</b>	<b>99</b>