

**Tomas Rivera Elementary School  
Denton Independent School District  
Roshaunda Thomas, Principal  
Community and Student Engagement Survey  
2016-2017**

At Tomas Rivera Elementary School, our motto is “Where Every Child is a Star” as we affirm that each child is skilled, exceptional, and reserves the capacity to acquire complete knowledge and grow. Therefore, it is Rivera’s aspiration to cultivate each student’s talent and to equip him or her for life beyond the elementary school campus.

Tomas Rivera provides multiple opportunities for students and parents to be engaged in the campus. Additionally, we have several volunteers and mentors that actively support the students, staff, and campus. At Rivera, we believe parent engagement is a critical factor affecting the success of individual students and the school environment. We also believe high rates of student success are generally the result of three groups collaborating to provide the best opportunities for the future—teachers, parents, and the community.

**Mission Statement:** Our mission, in partnership with families and the community, is to promote academic excellence, and to develop responsible citizens, problem solvers, and life-long learners by providing an engaging and culturally diverse learning environment.

**Vision Statement:** Tomas Rivera Elementary inspires students to be active learners that are responsible, respectful citizens who exceed expectations.

**We want all Rivera students to be:**

- R** - respectful
- I** - innovative
- V** - versatile
- E** - exceeds expectations
- R** - resilient
- A** - actively engaged



<b>Evaluation Category</b>	<b>Question Type</b>	<b>Questions</b>	<b>Answer (Yes or No)</b>	<b>Campus Rating</b>
<b>Fine Arts</b>	<b>Compliance</b>	<b>Does the campus provide TEKS-based fine arts courses taught by content specialists to meet state and local graduation requirements including the Arts and Humanities Endorsement?</b>	<b>Yes</b>	<b>Recognized</b>
	<b>Parent</b>	<b>Does the campus provide multiple opportunities for parents and community members to attend public shows &amp; performances?</b>	<b>Yes</b>	
	<b>Parent</b>	<b>Does the campus provide parents with a variety of evidence for evaluating fine arts programs?</b>	<b>No</b>	
	<b>Student</b>	<b>Does the campus provide fine arts students numerous opportunities to interact with arts experts through private lessons, clinics, master classes, and university/community arts collaborations annually?</b>	<b>Yes</b>	
	<b>Student</b>	<b>Does the campus provide students with opportunities to promote school and community culture/climate?</b>	<b>Yes</b>	

The district's Fine Arts curriculum is TEKS based. Our campus extends Music and Art to all students and Orchestra to 5<sup>th</sup> grade students. This year, Rivera partnered with The Denton Dance Conservatory to develop an after-school dance club. Student products and Fine Arts achievements are displayed throughout the campus, as well as, individual student art being highlighted in the hallway entrance. Student art products are frequently entered in district and community art competitions. Students are able to take interest in and partake in Honor Choir and Art Club. Rivera Choir and Orchestra students routinely attend and are a part of local musical competitions. The Rivera Choir consistently performs in the community at fundraising events, local nursing homes, and varying parent programs. At Rivera, school productions advocate cultural awareness and diversity. Rivera students are afforded educational field trips in which they can observe Fine Arts in Action. The Fine Arts program integrates core content and core content family events.

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<b>Wellness and PE</b>	<b>Compliance</b>	<b>Does the campus seek information from parents related to food allergies at the time of new student enrollment?</b>	<b>Yes</b>	<b>Exemplary</b>
	<b>Parent</b>	<b>Does the campus offer opportunities to participate in community health and wellness events?</b>	<b>Yes</b>	
	<b>Parent</b>	<b>Does the campus provide community health and wellness resources and information?</b>	<b>Yes</b>	
	<b>Student</b>	<b>Does the campus provide developmentally appropriate bullying prevention education programming?</b>	<b>Yes</b>	
	<b>Student</b>	<b>Does the campus have procedures in place to assist students and staff during crises?</b>	<b>Yes</b>	

Tomas Rivera Elementary is committed to investing in a safe, healthy learning environment for all students. Parents are offered an area in which they can document students' health needs on the online registration form. The health concerns and allergies are documented and dispersed to all teachers and updated and re-sent as needed. Health education is instructed at each grade level and all grades participate in physical education. Health and P.E. are aligned to the TEKS. Rivera students receive the information and competence necessary about health and physical education to become adults that can make healthy and reasonable choices. The school nurse and Rivera counselors provide students and families with resources in relation to health and wellness. In addition, Rivera Counselors have implemented a Rivera Garden in which grade levels can go plant vegetables, learn how to care for the Rivera Garden, understand where and how healthy food grows and comes from, and the benefits of gardening as a holistic approach to health and wellness. The school cafeteria promotes and encourages healthy eating habits. Emergency drills and procedures are reviewed, discussed, and practiced to ensure all Rivera staff and students are knowledgeable with these procedures. Campus wide safety drills are operated on a routine basis. Our Communities' in Schools' program provided a Health Fair in conjunction with Appletree Registration. Additionally, UNT Play Therapy

plays a vital role with students who are needing therapy services. Play therapy is a method of therapy and/or counseling in which play is utilized in order for children to express their feelings and ideas more easily.

Evaluation Category	Question Type	Questions	Answer (Yes or No)	Campus Rating
Community and Parent Involvement	Compliance	Does the campus welcome parents and community members in planning initiatives?	Yes	Exemplary
	Parent	Does the campus implement programs to increase parent and community involvement including families without currently enrolled students?	Yes	
	Parent	Does the campus have a comprehensive, proactive communication plan to inform community members and parents regarding campus events?	Yes	
	Student	Does the campus provide opportunities for students and parents to be actively involved together on campus?	Yes	
	Student	Does the campus provide students with opportunities to participate in activities that help the community?	Yes	

Tomas Rivera Elementary School offers a plethora of opportunities to bolster parent as well as community involvement. The Rivera Campus Leadership Team involves parent and community members. Rivera has fostered stable relationships and partnerships with local churches, local colleges, and universities. Rivera currently has a highly active mentoring program and is working on rebuilding the Watch D.O.G.S. (Dads of Great Students) program. Educational Nights include all core content areas and are used to relate parents and families to the classroom learning experience. Parents have the opportunity to emphasize and reinforce the role they have as engaging and active participants in the education of their children. At Rivera, we utilize many methods to keep parents updated on information and to advertise campus activities. These methods include the school website, newsletters, Wednesday folders, social media (Facebook, Twitter, blogs), and emails and calls through the School Messenger. Every school year, Fine Arts events and cultural productions are offered. Rivera also moderates events, such as community parent nights to involve parents. Speakers and presenters from the community are invited to offer students experiences and conversations with real world connections, which give students mentorship opportunities. The ways in which we keep the community, parents, and families involved and active within Rivera are involvement from: Grandparents in Education, the Suggestion Blog, PTA, Apple Tree, FUMC of Denton, Field day, Literacy Night, Book Fair, and Teacher Appreciation Events.

Evaluation Category	Question Type	Questions	Answer (Yes or No)	Campus Rating
21st Century Workforce	Elementary Compliance	Does the campus guidance curriculum teach students the interpersonal skills necessary for college/career readiness?	Yes	Recognized
	Secondary Compliance	Do the campus CTE programs include district and community stakeholders in an advisory capacity?	No	
	Parent	Does the campus actively cultivate business, community, and university partnerships to support 21st century workforce development?	Yes	
	Parent	Does the campus have systems in place for including parents in their child's preparation for the 21st century workforce?	Yes	
	Student	Does the campus offer enrichment and/or competitive events for the students to reinforce their 21st century workforce skills?	Yes	
	Student	Does the campus host "college days," "career days" or other events for students to show interest in post-secondary education?	Yes	

Our mission is to create responsible citizens, problem solvers, and life-long learners. Problem solving has been a focus this year with the incorporation of our STEM lab. Character development, social competence, and problem-solving skills are reiterated and reinforced consistently throughout the school day. The Rivera counseling program uses a Boyz to Men and Salvaging Sisterhood program to offer advisorship to the students that are at-risk. Rivera requests speakers every year during Career Week, and 5<sup>th</sup> graders frequent the Advanced Technology Center (ATC) to become knowledgeable about varying career opportunities. Technology and conceptual activities are integrated into the classroom on a regular basis. Middle school transition is provided for 5<sup>th</sup> grade students. Students are offered opportunities to assist teachers in classroom through The

STAR Works' Team. The Green Team is the recycling and "green" awareness crew that is introduced to the importance of recycling and its process while implementing these practices on the Rivera campus. Rivera also offers fourth and fifth grade students the opportunity to participate in Student Council, as a means for students to share ideas, interests, and concerns with teachers and school principals and to be actively involved in community service and campus events.

Evaluation Category	Question Type	Questions	Answer (Yes or No)	Campus Rating
Second Language Acquisition	Compliance	Does the campus provide yearly LPAC training for all required staff?	Yes	Exemplary
	Parent	Does the campus provide opportunities for non-English speaking parents to know about student programs in the school and community?	Yes	
	Parent	Does the campus provide communication in both Spanish and English?	Yes	
	Student	Does the campus have procedures in place to promote students' exit from BIL/ESL within 5 years of identification in elementary and 3 years of identification in secondary?	Yes	
	Student	Does the campus offer opportunities for students to be exposed to multiple languages to promote second language acquisition?	Yes	

Tomas Rivera presently has a one-way Dual Language Program from Kindergarten through 5<sup>th</sup> grade. The LPAC committee at Rivera is comprised of parents, teachers, and administrators. Each person is trained yearly, by the school district, in order to form proper educational decisions that influence English Language Learners (ELL). Information is given to non-ELL parents to educate them about the varying programs in the school community. A full time Bilingual/ESL Specialist is present and available at Rivera and works with the teachers to provide appropriate and meaningful instruction that is created and differentiated in such way that meets the needs of every ELL student. Furthermore, ninety-eight percent of Rivera's teachers are ESL certified. There is presently one of the district's Adult ESL programs at Rivera. Rivera has a high population of bilingual students and provides information to parents in both English and Spanish. Students dominant in English or Spanish do join forces and work together in order to fortify second language acquisition.

Evaluation Category	Question Type	Questions	Answer (Yes or No)	Campus Rating
Digital Learning Environment	Compliance	Does the campus conduct annual training for students regarding digital citizenship and acceptable use of technology?	Yes	Recognized
	Parent	Does the campus provide technology training and professional development opportunities for all teachers, parents, and community members?	No	
	Parent	Does the campus provide a public Wi-Fi signal that parents and guests can use to connect to online resources?	Yes	
	Student	Does the campus utilize specialists in instructional technology to engage teachers and students with technology integration?	Yes	
	Student	Do the campus teachers actively leverage technology to engage students in the learning process?	Yes	

The district's Acceptable Use Policy is administered to parents and students in the Student Code of Conduct. Throughout the school year, staff refer back to and emphasize this policy to students as needed. The Rivera Computer Lab is available for parents to receive support with on-line registration. A Campus Instructional Technology Specialist (CTS) is assigned to aid Rivera staff with technology integration, utilization, and boost student engagement. The CTS offers training and resources to teachers to help implement and instruct using technology as well as assist with technology lessons for the students. Classroom teachers utilize Chromebooks, iPads, and Prometheans. Laptop carts are available for teachers to check out and first grade classrooms were provided with digital readers. Denton ISD provides Wi-Fi for staff, students, and parents. Rivera is aiming to become a Common Sense Media Digital Certified Campus. The goal of this certification is to create students who are competent digital citizens who use technology safely, effectively, ethically, and respectfully. Rivera classroom teachers are equipped with either iPads or Chromebooks. Third through fifth grade classrooms have Chromebooks for daily use. An instructor was hired this school year to teach in the computer lab and instruct

the students in technical necessities such as coding, Microsoft Office, and Powerpoint skills. The Rivera News Crew covers important events and morning announcements digitally in the mornings. Through the school curriculum, students learn and partake in projects dealing with financial literacy in which critical thinking skills are developed through problem-solving, student conversations, and realia. The campus Librarian offers lessons to all students about how to use technology responsibly.

Evaluation Category	Question Type	Questions	Answer (Yes or No)	Campus Rating
Dropout Prevention Strategies	Compliance	Does the campus have a system of intervention ( <i>Response to Intervention</i> ) for supporting all students?	Yes	Exemplary
	Parent	Does the campus direct parents to research/information regarding the relationship between poor attendance and drop-out rates?	Yes	
	Parent	Does the campus provide opportunities for parents that reinforce the importance and value of education to students' futures?	Yes	
	Student	Does the campus have a systemic plan for maximizing attendance/minimizing absenteeism?	Yes	
	Student	Does the campus utilize age appropriate opportunities to engage students in college and career readiness activities to increase graduation rates/prevent dropouts?	Yes	

School attendance is vital to students' success here at Rivera Elementary. District guidelines are all followed in regards to attendance. A campus wide attendance incentive program has been implemented to increase school attendance and to decrease loss of instructional time. STAR Student assemblies are incorporated to recognize students and classes with the highest attendance. Attendance has been tied to the Six Character Pillars of Success. Attendance and its importance is highly broadcasted with acknowledgement in the school wide assembly. During this assembly, bicycles are awarded through a drawing for perfect attendance. Attendance literature is also distributed to parents during registration. In order to promote school attendance, the district's attendance policy is sent home with all students. Newsletters are routinely given to parents regarding the significance of school attendance as well as the negative impact of loss of significant instructional time. Rivera has a school attendance committee that collaborates and meets to review attendance and brainstorm incentives to engage students in the school program. Throughout the school year, community members and public speakers are brought in to discuss with Rivera students the benefits of staying in school. Rivera students also receive mentoring and tutoring through the Communities in Schools' program.

Evaluation Category	Question Type	Questions	Answer (Yes or No)	Campus Rating
Education Programs for Gifted and Talented Students	Compliance	Does the campus have a systemic plan to ensure that Gifted and Talented teachers meet the professional learning standard for new teachers (30 hours) and for annual updates (6 hours)?	Yes	Exemplary
	Parent	Does the campus provide parents with the opportunity to participate in meaningful experiences related to the education of gifted students?	Yes	
	Parent	Does the campus provide parents with opportunities to participate in the nomination/consideration of students for gifted and talented services?	Yes	
	Student	Does the campus provide opportunities for gifted and talented students to participate in extracurricular activities that reinforce a variety of academic and creative skills?	Yes	
	Student	Does the campus provide a variety of instructional and support services for gifted and talented students?	Yes	

**At Tomas Rivera Elementary School, academic enhancement is afforded through academic differentiation and SUCCESS intervention/enrichment time. Teachers at Rivera are given campus and district training on how to resolve and best serve the gifted student in the typical classroom. Several Rivera teachers have CE credits in the area of gifted and talented. Parents and/or teachers may propose a student for EXPO (GT) testing, and they are given the chance to provide their responses, observations, and feedback regarding this program and the process for referral. Parents and/or staff may also compose letters of promotion and advocacy in encouragement of the assets and capabilities of the recommended student. The gifted and talented students of Rivera are given several opportunities throughout the school year to make their learning evident. Gifted students participate in STEM activities to enhance and reinforce learning. Students are given many opportunities to participate in and create authentic projects in order to enhance their learning.**