



# ANNUAL REPORT

2021-2022



**125**  
SCHOOLS



**67,988**  
STUDENTS



**15 YEARS**  
OF 100% COLLEGE  
ACCEPTANCE



**99.8%**  
COLLEGE  
MATRICULATION



Jay Mathews  
Challenge Index



“GREAT PLACE TO WORK” ★★★★★

IDEA has been recognized as a “Great Place to Work” and received national rankings on U.S. News & World Report’s Top High Schools lists and Jay Mathews Challenge Index High School Rankings formerly known as America’s Most Challenging High Schools published in The Washington Post.



Dear Team & Family,

We are incredibly proud of the hard work demonstrated by our Team & Family throughout the 2021-2022 school year. This past year, IDEA welcomed over 80,000 motivated and bright scholars and more than 11,000 staff members. Across Texas, IDEA operated 120 schools, welcomed over 68,000 motivated scholars, and more than 10,000 staff members.

The experience of our schools over the past two years demonstrates that students learn best in person and that schools can operate safely with responsible precautions and safety measures in place. We believe that each of our campuses provides an environment that allows us to deliver on our promise of a safe and high-quality education for every student.

As we reflect on a year that brought us back to in person learning and a re-commitment to the health, wellness, and safety of our Team & Family, we celebrate many incredible accomplishments, including:

- The class of 2022 received over 9,000 acceptances to colleges and universities across the country including Harvard, Yale, Brown, Columbia, and more!
- 21 million nutritious and delicious meals were prepared and served by our Child Nutrition Program.
- 17,731 pounds of produce were harvested across 11 IDEA Farms.

- More than 600 Junior Master Gardeners certified, a new IDEA one-year record!
- 29,899 Word Masters and 4,977 Royal Readers across our schools.
- 15 IDEA High Schools and 43 Elementary and Middle Schools ranked among the Best in the Nation by U.S. News & World Report, the most out of any district in Texas!
- 13 IDEA College Preparatory Schools in Texas were ranked the Most Challenging in The Nation by The Jay Mathews Challenge Index High School Rankings
- Over 830 participants across Austin, El Paso, Rio Grande Valley, and San Antonio in our Annual 5K + Health Expo.

At IDEA, our core values reinforce our commitment to fostering a supportive and inclusive environment for our Team & Family. We are committed to sending more students to college than ever.

Thank you for being part of this community. You are essential to making our mission of College For All possible.

JEFF COTTRILL  
SUPERINTENDENT

COLLIN SEWELL  
CHAIR, BOARD OF DIRECTORS



74%

Accepted into the nation's top colleges (top tier 1 or 2).



15

Ivy League college-bound students



13

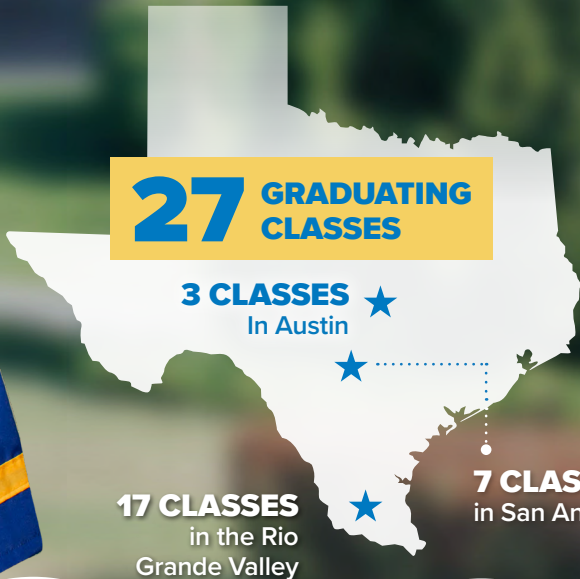
Scholars named Dell Scholar finalists

75%

First-generation college students

\$29.8MM

in grants and scholarships earned by students



AUSTIN

IDEA Austin's Class of 2022 earned over 800 college acceptances with 50% of acceptances to the nation's most selective (Tier 1 or Tier 2) colleges and universities.

In addition, IDEA Montopolis senior Juan Sanchez became the first IDEA Austin recipient of the Judy and Al Lopez Scholar award in memory of IDEA's late Board Chair and Acting CEO.



EL PASO

IDEA El Paso led TEA's Education Service Center, Region 19's Reading and Math performance in Meets and Masters on the STAAR Exam. IDEA Mesa Hills College Prep ranked as one of the top five middle schools in the El Paso area from the nonprofit organization Children At Risk.



GREATER HOUSTON

IDEA Greater Houston continued to see strong results, particularly in student enrollment where the region was one of the only IDEA regions to achieve its enrollment targets for two years running.

The region operated 6 schools as growth continued but at a slower pace.



PERMIAN BASIN

IDEA Travis and IDEA Yukon were both recognized by TEA as B campuses.

IDEA Permian Basin was the first IDEA region in Texas to achieve its enrollment goals, welcoming more than 1,400 students during the first week of school.



RIO GRANDE VALLEY

More than 1,200 seniors in the IDEA Rio Grande Valley Class of 2022 earned a combined 7,076 college acceptances, including 12 Ivy League acceptances and 9 Dell Scholars Finalists.

Over 75% of students were accepted to the nation's most selective (Tier 1 or Tier 2) colleges and universities.



SAN ANTONIO

The IDEA San Antonio Class of 2022 earned 1,181 college acceptances, including 62% of acceptances to the nation's most selective (Tier 1 or Tier 2) colleges and universities.

Impressively, this class included 4 Dell Scholars, 2 Quest Bridge Scholars, and 1 Coca-Cola Scholar.



TARRANT COUNTY

IDEA Tarrant County earned an A-Rating from the Texas Education Agency (TEA) which is based on STAAR performance. Of the seven tested schools, six earned an A-rating and one earned a B-rating.

In addition, IDEA Tarrant County was awarded the Texas COVID Learning Acceleration Supports (TCLAS) grant from TEA to support scholars make academic improvements following the pandemic.



# IMPACT

## IN ACTION



## THE BEST HIGH SCHOOLS IN THE NATION – 14 YEARS IN A ROW!

In 2022's rankings of the most challenging high schools in the nation by the Jay Mathews Challenge Index High School Rankings formerly known as America's Most Challenging High Schools published in The Washington Post, thirteen IDEA College Preparatory schools were ranked among the top 50 most challenging high schools in the nation. This is the fourteenth consecutive year IDEA high schools have received this recognition.



This includes:

- 8 of the Top 20 are IDEA High Schools
- 4 of the Top 10 are IDEA High Schools
- The #1 Overall Most Challenging High School in the Nation is IDEA College Preparatory McAllen

All thirteen IDEA high schools were ranked in the top 1% of America's 22,000 high schools.



## 13 IDEA HIGH SCHOOLS RANKED AMONG THE MOST CHALLENGING HIGH SCHOOLS IN THE NATION IN 2022

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| <b>#1</b> IDEA McAllen College Preparatory  | <b>#17</b> IDEA Edinburg College Preparatory     |
| <b>#5</b> IDEA Pharr College Preparatory    | <b>#22</b> IDEA Carver College Preparatory       |
| <b>#6</b> IDEA San Juan College Preparatory | <b>#28</b> IDEA Quest College Preparatory        |
| <b>#7</b> IDEA Frontier College Preparatory | <b>#31</b> IDEA Donna College Preparatory        |
| <b>#11</b> IDEA Alamo College Preparatory   | <b>#37</b> IDEA Brownsville College Preparatory  |
| <b>#15</b> IDEA Weslaco College Preparatory | <b>#44</b> IDEA Weslaco Pike College Preparatory |
| <b>#16</b> IDEA Toros College Preparatory   |  |

— Jay Mathews Challenge Index



## 43 IDEA ELEMENTARY & MIDDLE SCHOOLS RANKED BEST IN THE NATION

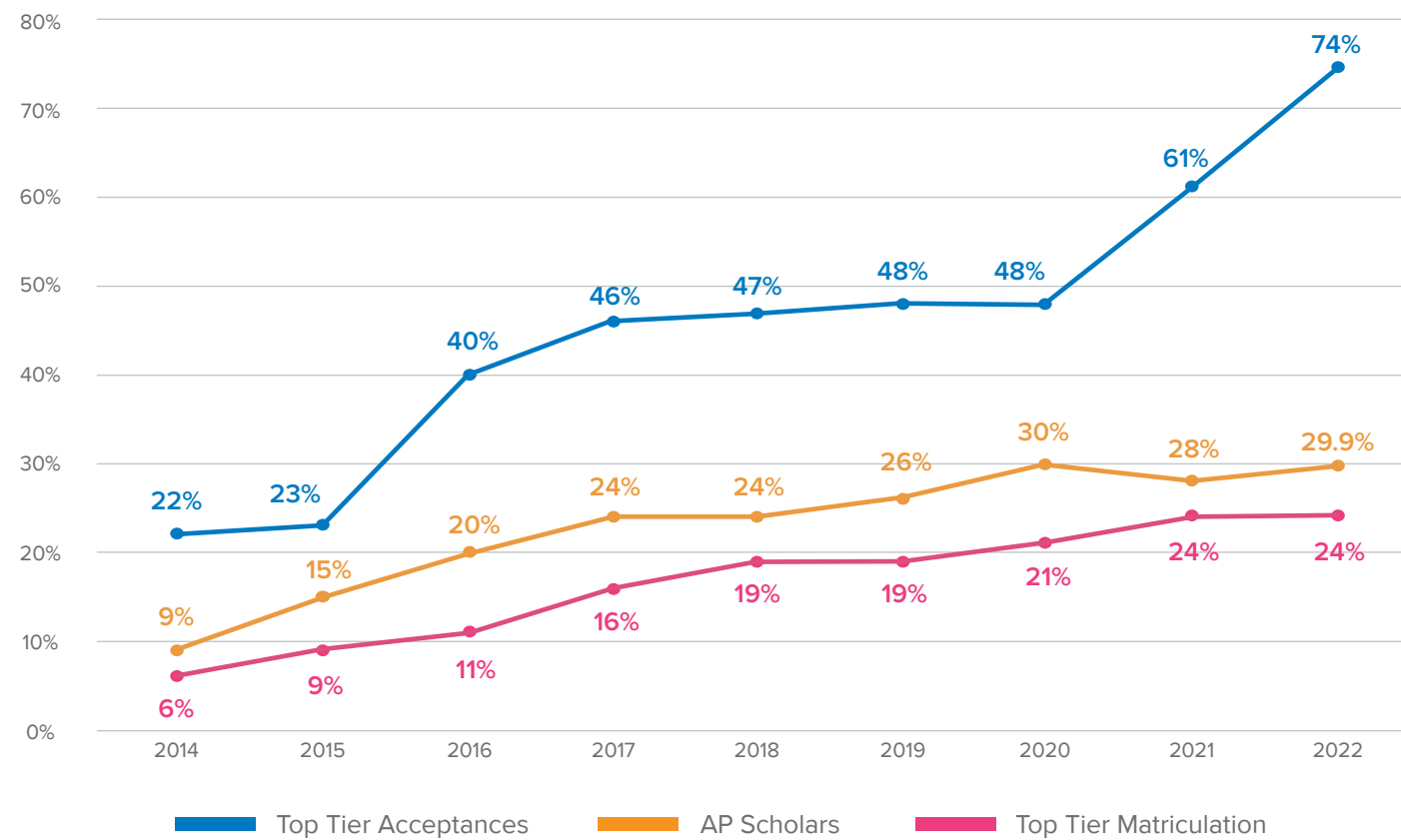
— U.S. News & World Report

Twenty-six students from IDEA's Class of 2022 have been selected as finalists for the QuestBridge National College Match Program. IDEA students are among 6,312 high school seniors nationwide selected from over 16,500 applications! Students were selected based on their academic achievement, financial qualifications, and personal character.

118 IDEA schools across Texas were among the top schools nationwide to earn a spot on the Alliance for a Healthier Generation 2022 list of "America's Healthiest Schools" for their commitment to promoting quality nutrition, regular physical activity, and strong wellness policies. — Alliance for a Healthier Generation

In 2021, the U.S. News & World Report ranked Elementary and Middle Schools across the nation for the first time. Out of over 70,000 elementary and middle schools, 43 of IDEA's schools were designated as "best in the nation". While IDEA's enrollment is roughly equivalent to the 10th largest school district in Texas, IDEA had more schools ranked than any other district in the state.





STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

ASSETS

Cash	\$283,982,313
Receivables	\$220,856,553
Investments	\$39,344,772
Prepaid Items	\$2,871,589
Other	\$838,322
Restricted Funds	\$70,701,489
Net Property & Equipment	\$1,253,752,450
Total	\$1,872,347,488

LIABILITIES & NET ASSETS

Current Liabilities	\$156,457,724
Payroll Liabilities	\$71,056,129
Long-term Liabilities	\$1,284,726,478
Net Assets	\$360,107,157
Total	\$1,872,347,488

STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES

REVENUES

State Funding	\$714,488,869
Federal Funding	\$199,300,431
Grants & Gifts	\$27,672,880
Other	\$0
Total	\$941,462,180

EXPENSES

Instructional & School Leadership	\$571,764,020
Operations	\$121,888,883
Administration	\$52,772,853
Fundraising	\$8,453,335
Debt Service	\$40,325,395
Support & Ancillary Services	\$120,390,670
Total	\$915,595,156



IDEA WELCOMES FIRST OUTSIDE SUPERINTENDENT IN 22-YEAR HISTORY

In June 2022, IDEA welcomed Dr. Jeff Cottrill as Superintendent of IDEA Public Schools.

Dr. Cottrill comes to IDEA with experience as an after-school paraprofessional, teacher, assistant principal, principal, district superintendent and state official. He most recently spent five years as a senior leader at the Texas Education Agency (TEA). As TEA's Deputy Commissioner for Governance and Accountability, Dr. Cottrill was responsible for overseeing districts and charter schools in need of significant reform or improvement.

"Jeff is an education leader with tremendous gifts, heart and focus," said Collin Sewell, chair of the IDEA Board of Directors. "He is a veteran school administrator with valuable and diverse experience leading, overseeing, and improving school districts

and charter schools throughout Texas. He will fit right in at IDEA, where data guides our decisions, and our core values guide how we create opportunities for students and support our team."

Cottrill's portfolio at the TEA involved him in the management of Texas school districts and charter schools large and small, urban, suburban and rural. As a district superintendent, he significantly increased enrollment through open enrollment and school choice, and consistently led high student achievement, earning A grades from TEA.

Jeff and his wife, Monica, live in Buda, Texas, near Austin. Their six children attend public schools, and Monica is an elementary school counselor.



# IN MEMORY OF **AL LOPEZ**

September 8, 1954 – February 21, 2022

*Honoring a Lifetime of Impact*

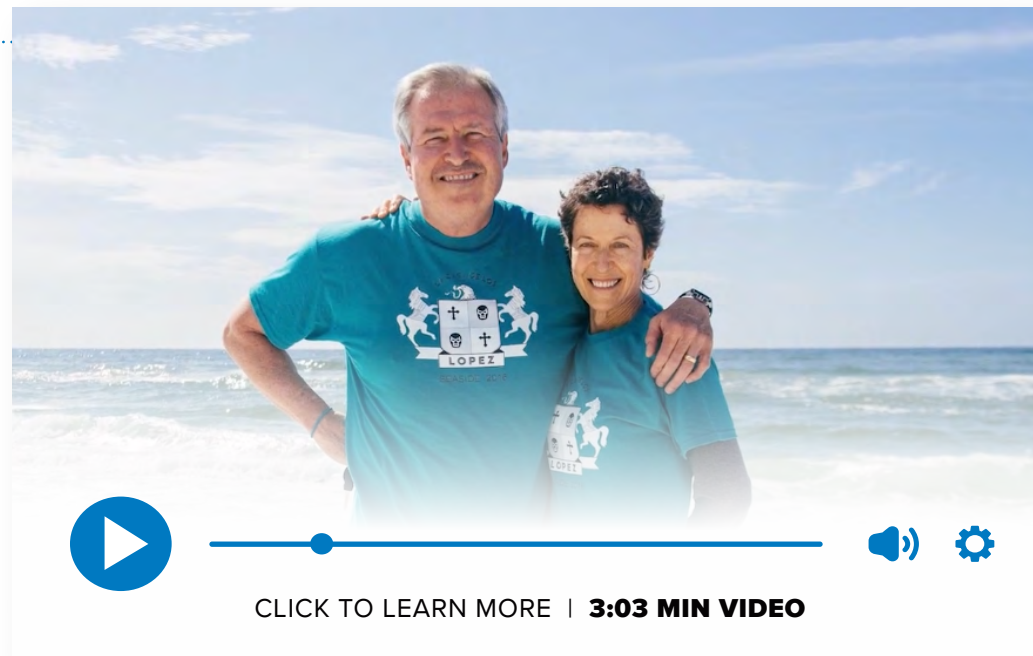


The IDEA Team & Family is forever grateful and stronger because of the transformational leadership Al Lopez provided as Board Chair, Acting Superintendent and Chief Executive Officer.

Due to his own experience as a first-generation college student who had little guidance on the way to college, Lopez had a strong history of community service, especially when it came to education. His faith compelled him to be generous and serve those who have fewer resources and opportunities.

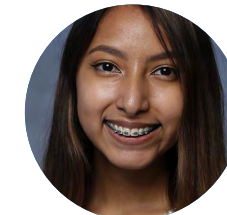
Lopez served as Chair of IDEA Austin's Regional Board and Treasurer of IDEA's Governing Board before assuming the role of Interim CEO in May 2021. The impact of his outstanding leadership and commitment to our families, students, and staff will remain part of his enduring legacy.

He is survived by his wife, three children, and 12 grandchildren.



If you are interested in joining the legacy circle of supporters by contributing to this fund, click the video or visit [ideapublicschools.org/al-and-judy-lopez-scholar](https://ideapublicschools.org/al-and-judy-lopez-scholar).

## CLASS OF 2022 SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS



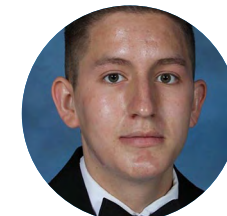
**Daniela Santiago**  
IDEA Pharr,  
The University of  
Texas at Dallas



**Juan Sanchez**  
IDEA Monroville,  
Texas State University



**Miguel Rodriguez**  
IDEA Alamo,  
The University of Texas  
Rio Grande Valley



**Jose de Jesus Mariscal**  
IDEA North Mission,  
Bates College



**Jose Contreras Cindo**  
IDEA Monterrey Park,  
Texas A&M University  
San Antonio

