

Importance of Regional Educational Service Centers

A black and white photograph of a classroom. In the foreground, the backs of several students' heads and shoulders are visible. They are all raising their right hands, indicating they want to answer a question or participate in a discussion. The background is slightly blurred, showing a chalkboard with some faint writing on it. The overall atmosphere is one of active learning and engagement.

By: Virginia N. Richter, EdD
Superintendent, Sharyland ISD

A Little About Me

24 Years in Pharr-San Juan-Alamo ISD

- ~32,000 Students
 - 44 Schools
 - 99% Hispanic
 - 87.8% Economically Disadvantaged
 - 41.4% Limited English
 - 73.2% At-Risk
- **Receive \$56.4 million in Federal Funds**
 - **\$1,806 per student**

Served as a teacher, Assistant Principal, Principal, and Area Superintendent

- Served as an AP and Principal of North Alamo Elementary which earned a rating of EXEMPLARY for 12 consecutive years under my leadership
- Assisted PSJA High in moving from Stage 5 AYP to Recognized as an Area Superintendent

A Little About Me

Currently Serve as Superintendent of Sharyland ISD

- ~10,000 Students
- 11 Schools
- 90.3% Hispanic
- 55.5% Economically Disadvantaged
- 27.6% Limited English
- 46% At-Risk

- **Receive \$9.2 million in Federal Funds**
- **\$967 per student**

PSJA and Region One ESC

HSRP – Region One was instrumental in assisting PSJA to redesign their High Schools. The training for the staff and administrators was invaluable. The Smaller Learning Communities that were borne out of the project assisted students to receive the “individual” attention that was needed – especially for the students who struggled the most.

Because of HSRP and the assistance of Region One, PSJA High was able to move from being a Stage 5 AYP campus to a TEA Recognized campus!

CSCOPE – PSJA’s curriculum was piecemeal and everyone was doing their own thing, so it was impossible to find where the problem areas were in the district. With the immense support of Region One, CSCOPE curriculum was implemented two years ago, bringing consistency to the students. Now if a student moves from one campus to another, they do not lose any instruction. And now that all teachers are teaching the same thing, a district wide assessment process is in place. Problems can now be discovered and resolved.

Transition to STAAR – Region One was readily available and provided timely information from the state as it became available.

STAAR One – The training that was provided for the teachers who assisted in developing the item bank was an invaluable resource for all districts involved in the project.

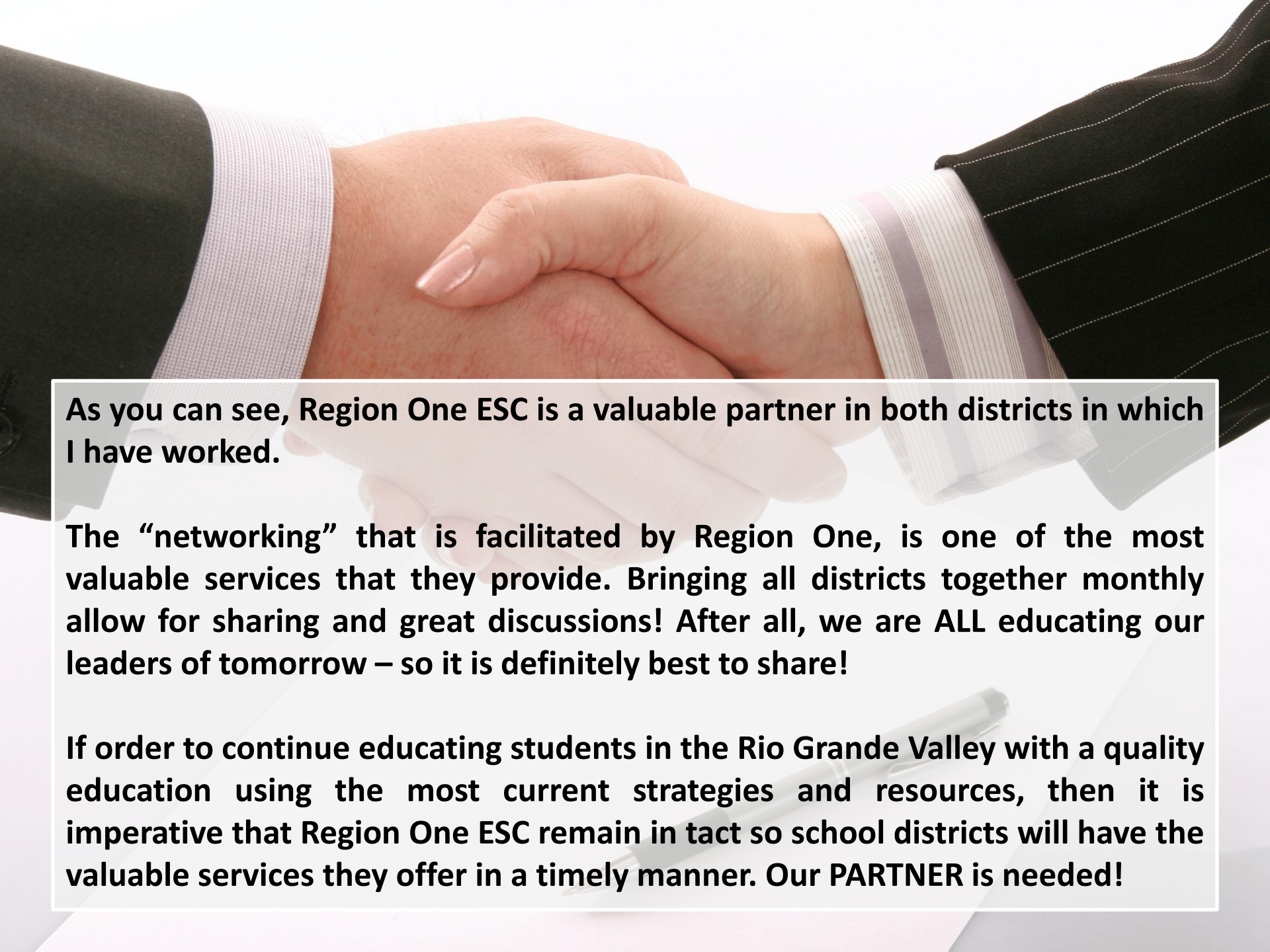
Sharyland and Region One ESC

• Advanced Academics

- Assessment & Accountability
- **Bilingual / ESL**
- Bus Driver Training
- **Career and Technology Education**
- **Child Nutrition Program**
- Child Nutrition / South Texas Cooperative
- CSCOPE Support
- **Curriculum Advisory Council**
- Customized Staff Development
- Distance Learning Consortium
- District Support Team
- **Dyslexia/504**
- Eduphoria
- eRate Support
- **Finance Advisory Council**
- **Health / Physical Fitness**
- Human Resources Support
- Language Arts
- Leadership Development

• Job Fairs

- **Library Services & Media Consortium**
- Math
- Math Instructional Coaches Pilot Program
- **Migrant Education**
- **NCLB / Federal Programs**
- **Parental Involvement (ESL)**
- PEIMS
- Region One Purchasing Cooperative
- **Regional Advisory Council of Supt's**
- Safe School Audits
- Science
- Social Studies
- **Special Education**
- STAAR ONE
- STEM Center of South Texas
- **Technology Advisory Council**
- Texas Adolescent Literacy Academy (TALA)
- Texas Math & Science Diagnostic System
- Web Hosting



As you can see, Region One ESC is a valuable partner in both districts in which I have worked.

The “networking” that is facilitated by Region One, is one of the most valuable services that they provide. Bringing all districts together monthly allow for sharing and great discussions! After all, we are ALL educating our leaders of tomorrow – so it is definitely best to share!

If order to continue educating students in the Rio Grande Valley with a quality education using the most current strategies and resources, then it is imperative that Region One ESC remain in tact so school districts will have the valuable services they offer in a timely manner. Our PARTNER is needed!