

The State of Texas



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Rolando B. Pablos
Secretary of State

September 12, 2017

Dear Superintendent:

On behalf of the State of Texas, I would like to first thank you for your hard work and dedication to cultivating the next generation of Texans through education. In doing so, it is also crucial that we work together to cultivate the next generation of voters by empowering students to fulfill their civic duties and participate in our state's elections.

At the beginning of last month, I [drew attention](#) to a unique provision of the Texas Election Code that requires all high school principals – public and private – to serve as Deputy Voter Registrars. In this capacity, Texas high school principals “shall distribute an officially prescribed registration application form to each student who is or will be 18 years of age or older during that year.”

Unfortunately, last year only 14 percent of our public high school principals took advantage of this important opportunity to register their students. I believe Texas students deserve better – as do the editorial boards of the [San Antonio Express-News](#) and the [Houston Chronicle](#).

I want to work with you and all of our state's high school principals to improve upon the past.

Last week, Superintendent Juan Cabrera of El Paso ISD gave me his official commitment that 100% of high school principals in his district will participate in this initiative to register their eligible students. I strongly encourage you to follow Superintendent Cabrera's lead by offering me your commitment to ensuring your district's high school principals will participate as well.

By signing our pledge [here](#), your district will appear on a list of districts statewide who have committed to participating in our High School Voter Registration Initiative, and will automatically receive all materials your principals need to fulfill their duties as deputy registrars.

Once you sign the pledge, our office will be sending you materials from the Texas Secretary of State's 2017 [Project V.O.T.E.](#) that will assist high school principals and their staff – not only in registering, but also in educating students on their civic duties as voters in the State of Texas.

Please join Superintendent Cabrera and me in helping cultivate lifelong voters. The future of our great state and our democracy depends on it.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "RBP", written over a white background.

Rolando B. Pablos, Texas Secretary of State