



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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News Conference regarding S.B. 463, pathway to diploma, takes place Monday at Sen. José Rodríguez's Office

El Paso - A news conference regarding S.B. 463, which provides a pathway to diploma for students who did not pass standardized tests but meet other achievement criteria, will take place at state Sen. José Rodríguez's District Office, 100 N. Ochoa.

Speakers will discuss the purpose of the bill, implementation, and impact.

- **What:** Pathway To Diploma Press Conference
- **When:** 11 a.m., Monday, May 7, 2018
- **Where:** 100 N. Ochoa St. Suite A., El Paso, TX 79901

BACKGROUND:

In 2015, the Legislature created IGCs, which include a teacher, principal, counselor, and parent, to assess coursework and other criteria, and recommend whether to award a diploma to a student who passes three or more EOC (End of Course) exams. Before creation of the IGCs, a student had to pass all five EOC courses.

Last session, in 2017, S.B. 463 was filed reauthorizing IGCs for current students. Sen. Rodríguez amended it to include those students who took the Texas Assessment of Knowledge and Skills (TAKS) test, which was given to students who entered 9th grade prior to the 2011-2012 school year (students entering high school in the 2011-2012 school year were switched to the STAAR test).

This process is only in place until 2019. There were 19,000 non-completions of TAKS in El Paso County from 2003 to 2013. Students should know about their options to potentially obtain a high school diploma, which could change their lives for the better.

José Rodríguez represents Texas Senate District 29, which includes the counties of El Paso, Hudspeth, Culberson, Jeff Davis, and Presidio. He represents both urban and rural constituencies, and more than 350 miles of the Texas-Mexico border. Senator Rodríguez currently serves as the Chairman of the Texas Senate Democratic Caucus, and is a member of the Senate Committees on Natural Resources and Economic Development; Transportation; Veteran Affairs and Border Security; and Agriculture, Water, and Rural Affairs (Vice Chair).