



# RYAN GUILLEN

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TEXAS STATE REPRESENTATIVE

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

APRIL 12, 2018

**FOR MORE INFORMATION:**

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## **GUILLEN SUPPORTS CREATION OF MEXICAN-AMERICAN STUDIES**

*Rep. Highlights Importance of Culture After State Board of Education Vote*

**AUSTIN-** The State Board of Education voted yesterday to adopt curriculum standards for Mexican-American studies courses in high school. Representative Ryan Guillen (D - Rural South Texas) is proud to advocate for accurate historical curriculum on the contributions of Mexicans and Mexican-Americans to the state and the country, and continues to create legislation that helps improve our school system.

**"We have both a duty and an opportunity to ensure that our children learn the history of Texas in its entirety," said Guillen. "It is critical we ensure that our curriculum includes the vast number of contributions made by Mexicans, Tejanos and Mexican-Americans."**

Latinos comprise 52% of the state population, but public school textbooks often don't reflect that. Most of the contributions made by people of Mexican heritage are only found in books within the University system, and not in K-12 schools. Representative Guillen hopes to change that, a step forward that is in line with his continued commitment to improve our schools in every way necessary. Yesterday, the State Board of Education held a preliminary vote to create curriculum guidelines for a new elective class, to be called "Ethnic Studies: An Overview of Americans of Mexican Descent." Representative Guillen is in full support of this measure, the final vote of which will be held tomorrow.

Keeping in line with his commitment to education, this past legislative session, Guillen authored a bill to improve dual-credit high school classes to ensure that they college-level, making college more accessible and affordable to many students in South Texas. Guillen also was an author of legislation to improve special education services. Additionally, Guillen has been critical to efforts to improve school finance, school accountability, and reduce over testing.

**"Education is important. Cultural heritage and history is important. It's paramount that we get them both right for our children," added Guillen.**

*Serving ten rural South Texas counties in the Texas House of Representatives, Ryan Guillen is known for his hard work, fierce independence, and relentless efforts for South Texas families. Recently, Capitol Inside called him a "House Bill Machine," and a "one-person assembly line for legislation." Since elected, few other legislators have passed more bills than Guillen. Sign up for updates at [ryanguillen.com](http://ryanguillen.com), [facebook.com/representative.guillen](https://facebook.com/representative.guillen), and [twitter.com/ryanguillen](https://twitter.com/ryanguillen)*

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