

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE OCTOBER 21, 2017

FOR MORE INFORMATION: ALEX.GAUDIO@HOUSE.TEXAS.GOV

## GUILLEN LEADS CHARGE TO IMPROVE TEXAS SCHOOLS

Grant Program to Improve School Buildings Now Accepting Applications

**AUSTIN** - In a continuing effort to promote better schools in Texas, Representative Ryan Guillen (D - Rural South Texas) has become a founding member of the Green Schools Caucus within the Texas Legislature, and is promoting the Texas LoanSTAR Revolving Loan Program to encourage public institutions to undergo an energy efficient retrofit.

"This is a great program to help schools save money, and I am proud to support it and the public schools of rural South Texas," said Guillen.

Guillen is a founding member of the Green Schools Caucus, a bipartisan group of state legislators who aim to promote green schools throughout the state. Green schools are those that have clean environments for students and are energy efficient. Studies have shown that increased air quality increases student performance and energy efficiency, and saves schools money. Additionally, green schools across the nation that have implemented energy efficient methods have saved over \$1 billion on energy costs alone between 2015 and 2018.

In order to help with this green initiative there are programs designed to encourage schools and other public institutions to undergo this type of green retrofitting. One of these programs is the Texas LoanSTAR Revolving Loan Program. This program provides low-interest loans up to \$8 million for schools, universities and other public institutions to fund green retrofitting in order to be energy efficient. This program is accepting applications until August 31st, 2018.

"A clean and safe learning environment is critical to the future success of our children," said 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, facebook.com/representative.guillen, and twitter.com/ryanguillen