

# United ISD Uses Sirius Education Solutions to get 65% of Students to Mastery Level on the Algebra I STAAR Exam

Ramiro Garza became the United ISD High School Math Coordinator in January of 2014, at a time when the districtwide passing rate for the STAAR Algebra I assessment was 65%.

Soon after, due to a change in the TEKS, the district looked for a new program and began using the Sirius Algebra I EOC STAAR Preparation and Practice workbook. The choice, as Garza says, was clear. "Sirius was a better product than the other workbooks, and ultimately it turned a focus on rigor, style, and format."

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**"I noticed that we were starting to have gains at mastery level. That was a happy surprise."**

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Results came quickly. By 2017, the overall passing rate districtwide increased to 91%. All populations rose. Even those considered "at risk" had a passing rate of over 80% in 2017. While this is an outstanding achievement, Garza knew that there was so much more to accomplish.

*"Once you get to the 70% level everyone relaxes a bit and starts to feel good. At the time we were in the 80's level so I put out a new challenge, and that was for the Level 3's, or Mastery level."*



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*About 2 years ago I noticed that we were starting to have gains at mastery level. That was a happy surprise. Those were the more rigorous questions and I'm happy that a great number of our high school students are doing so well."*

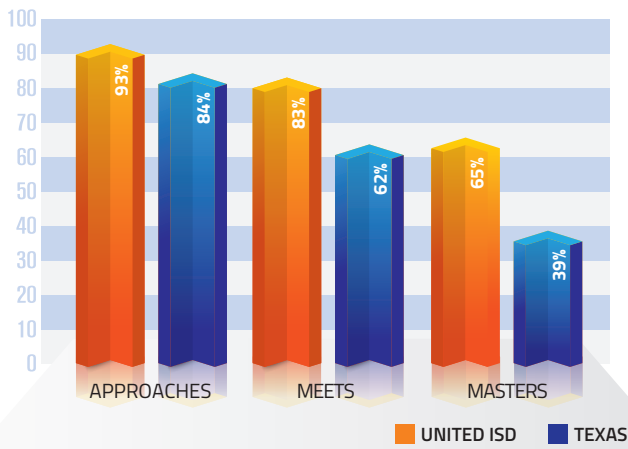
By Spring 2019, an amazing 65% of United ISD students taking the Algebra I EOC assessment attained the Mastery level. That's 26 points higher than the statewide average. In fact, United ISD students taking the Algebra I exam perform significantly over the state average in every category, including those students considered At-Risk.

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### TEXAS AND UNITED ISD DISTRICTWIDE



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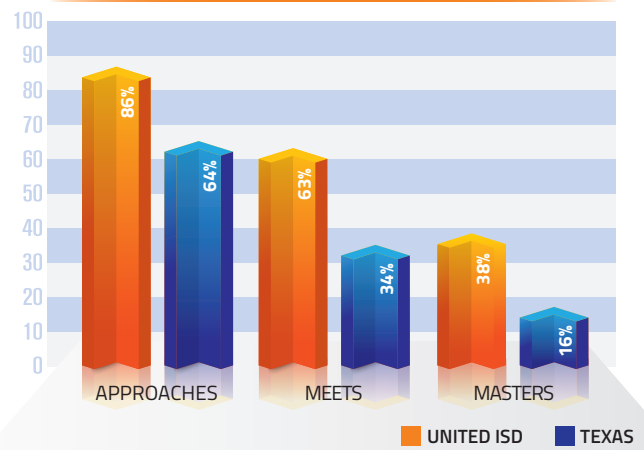
United ISD Districtwide vs. Texas state average, Spring 2019

	UNITED ISD	TEXAS
APPROACHES	93%	84%
MEETS	83%	62%
MASTERS	65%	39%

“Sirius products work, they’re just amazing. I have seen firsthand scores go up...I highly, highly recommend Sirius products for any course content there is.”

**Cynthia Walls**  
 Director, High School to University Program and Testing Services  
 University of Texas, Rio Grande Valley

### TEXAS AND UNITED ISD AT-RISK



United ISD At-Risk vs. Texas state average, Spring 2019

	UNITED ISD	TEXAS
APPROACHES	86%	64%
MEETS	63%	34%
MASTERS	38%	16%

#### About the Educator

Ramiro Garza II is the High School Math Coordinator for Curriculum and Instruction at United ISD, Laredo, Texas. He has held that role since January 2014.

A classroom and administrative educator since 1989, Garza has taught high school math at United South High School, and has also taught middle school English. In addition, he was a teacher and academic coach at Laredo ISD. Much of his focus has been troubleshooting struggling and at risk populations.

Read the United Success Story #1



### About United Independent School District

Founded in 1961, United ISD’s mission is to “inspire all students to become responsible world citizens by pursuing excellence through lifelong learning.” As their website states, their intent is to continually seek ways to improve and to provide consistent, quality instruction for all students in a positive learning environment.

United ISD serves Laredo, the cities of El Cenizo and Rio Bravo, and several unincorporated areas in Webb County. The area’s growing population transformed the district into a large school system. United ISD now serves 44,300 students with 42 campuses. United ISD is the second largest district in Region One and the 24th largest in the state of Texas.