

Texas Representative Roberto R. Alonzo's

Capitol Report



Texas Veterans Assistance Programs Available

More than 20 million veterans currently live in the United States. Although their military experiences vary across decades and continents, one thing remains constant-- their service to our country deserves to be honored and it is our country's responsibility to assist and care for our vets when they return home. For this reason, the Texas Veterans Commission (TVC) was created in 1927 to act as the state appointed advocate of Texas veterans as they attempt to secure the benefits rightfully earned. Texas Veterans Commission provides four programs areas through which assistance is extended to veterans in need.

- **Claims Representation and Counseling** serves veterans, their dependents and survivors, in all matters pertaining to veterans' disability benefits and rights. It is the designated agency of the state of Texas to represent the State and its veterans before the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA).
- **Veterans Employment Services** offers employment services to Texas veterans and helps employers find qualified veteran job applicants. The goal of these services is to match veteran job seekers with the best employment opportunities available.
- **Veterans Education Program** approves all programs for Chapter 30, 33, 35, 1606, and 1607 federal educational benefits. The Texas Veterans Commission ensures that institutions and employers are in compliance with federal guidelines and are qualified to provide the type of training offered.
- **Texas Veterans Commission Fund for Veterans' Assistance** is a program that makes grants available to eligible charitable organizations, local government agencies, and Veterans Service Organizations that provide direct services to Texas veterans and their families.

"It is critical that all veterans be aware of the resources and assistance available. Transitioning out of the military can be difficult both physically and emotionally and I fully support the TVC's commitment to serve the veteran population of our great state," stated Rep. Roberto R. Alonzo.



Dallas ISD Among Best In State for Nutrition

Dallas ISD was recently honored for having a stand-out school food program. The district performed well in a study conducted by Children at Risk, a Houston-based nonprofit that conducts research tracking children's health, safety, education, and economic conditions. The organization has always ranked schools for academics, however this year was the first time that nutrition programs were ranked.

There are 63 districts in Texas with at least 10,000, 60 percent qualifying for free or reduced meals. Nine out of ten DISD students qualify for three free meals a day, and the district has proven to be among the best in the state at feeding them. Federal programs such as SNAP, WIC and School Nutrition Programs are all considered when districts choose their approach to feeding their students. Dallas ISD has been extremely successful in combining available resources to meet the nutritional needs, which directly impact the students' ability and preparedness to learn.

During this school year DISD has served 9.3 million breakfasts, 7.5 million lunches, and half million after-school meals to students. DISD placed in the top five among school districts with more the 50,000 students.



Dallas ISD Honors Trinidad Garza Early College High School as a National Blue Ribbon recipient.