

**Math, science**

**2 EP schools recognized for successes**

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There's some good news about a couple of local schools.

That news is especially welcome on the heels of a couple of recent reports showing high dropout rates in El Paso, and labeling some local high schools as "dropout factories."

The El Paso Independent School District's Silva Health Magnet, along with the Ysleta Independent School District's Eastwood High School, were chosen as two of 18 schools throughout Texas that represent how high schools can achieve a level of excellence in science and math.

The study by the Texas Public Policy Foundation was to be released today.

It cannot be said too often: In an increasing technological society, workplace and economy, math and science have a huge role.

Those who understand and can master math and science have an advantage when it comes to gaining entrance to higher education and finding a job.

Among other things, the study identified certain practices at the campuses that contributed to excellence. They included:  
Science teachers at schools of excellence usually had expertise arising from either a degree or professional experience.

Many Eastwood teachers have advanced degrees in their fields.

Many math and science teachers received incentive pay.

Oscar Quezada, coordinator at Silva Health Magnet, gave a less-tangible factor, but one that is essential for success. He said the students were motivated, coming to school with the goal of getting prepared for college. That was supported by the study, which found student motivation and parental involvement to be a common success factor.

And in what could be the most important outcome of the study, education policy analyst Jamie Story, who wrote the report, said of the successful practices, "They're all implementable by schools right now."

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