

## Celeste Potter, Director

Development Office

(432) 456.7059

619 W. 10<sup>th</sup> Street

Odessa, Texas 79761

[Celeste.Potter@ectorcountyisd.org](mailto:Celeste.Potter@ectorcountyisd.org)



### Oliver Foundation Grants \$3,000 to Zavala Careers and Community Program

August 24, 2021 – Ector County ISD has been selected to receive \$3,000 from the Oliver Foundation to **Zavala Careers and Community Program**. Zavala Elementary serves students in grades PK – 2<sup>nd</sup> grade.

The **Zavala Careers and Community Program** is an innovative project that has the potential to impact student learning, lives and citizenry in the Permian Basin. Through after school and in class lessons in economics, mathematics, language arts, fine arts and community education, students will operate a mini-Society type program. Store fronts for the program will be built and decorated to look like businesses, grocery stores and community service entities. This mini-town will have businesses, peace keepers, community helpers, medical clinics, a court system and more. Students will create their own businesses, have jobs and provide community services. A banking system and circulation of a currency system, along with a student led news station and a post office will be created. Students will learn by real life experiences, cutting across all subject areas in the curriculum. Some store fronts and supplies will be sponsored by area businesses, while others will need funding. The goal is for each student to have a job and a purpose in the community. We would like to have a Big Lots store front at the school. Approximately 500 students at Zavala Elementary will participate, with learning outcomes reflecting achievement and growth in reading and mathematics. Students will learn how economy, social science, nutrition and community works.

*“We are grateful to Oliver Foundation for believing in **our students... the future** of Ector County,”* says ECISD Development Director, Celeste Potter. *“Through the Zavala Careers and Community Program students will become critical thinkers and problem solvers that apply academic learning to real life experiences. Students will learn about our community and how they may take an active role, as a student and later on as an adult, in ensuring our community thrives.”*

*Tanya Galindo, Principal at Zavala Elementary says, “We at Zavala are extremely grateful to your commitment to the advancement of our Zavala program. Our commitment to our students remains a priority as we strive to provide them with the education they need and deserve. This grant provided by the Oliver Foundation will be extremely helpful in assisting with the resources necessary to reach our goal. We are honored to be the recipients of the Oliver Foundation and are excited to see the many ways our Zavala program will thrive.”*

**educate**

**connect**

**inspire**

**succeed**

**dream**

## **About the Oliver Foundation**

The Oliver Foundation is a Houston-based 501(c) (3) non-profit operating foundation organization dedicated to the prevention of childhood obesity. We provide technical support, nutrition and physical activity education materials to grant recipients. The level of technical support decreases yearly, creating a sustainable environment when the grant period ends.

Grants are awarded to Texas non-profit organizations, agencies and schools that demonstrate the greatest need and likelihood of a sustainable impact on children's nutrition and activity levels through innovative programs. The Oliver Foundation is an operating foundation and thus will provide support and on-site visits during the grant period.

The goal of the Oliver Foundation is to encourage children, families and communities in Texas to improve the eating and physical activity patterns of Pre-school, Elementary, Middle School and High School students.