

## **Manor Excel Academy Wins High School Attendance Challenge – 1st in Central Texas, 19th in U.S.**

The Austin Villager

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(Manor, TX) Manor ISD, in partnership with the E3 Alliance and Get Schooled, are proud to announce Manor Excel Academy as the Central Texas Region high School winner of the Graduate for Más Fall Attendance Challenge. Nationwide, Manor Excel Academy placed 19th out of all participating middle and high schools. The Challenge was a friendly ten week competition to rally students to improve attendance and stay focused on education. More than 135,000 students participated nationally in the 2013 Fall Attendance Challenge.

Manor Excel Academy is a state-of-the-art accelerated diploma program with a strong focus on providing support for non-traditional students to succeed and become college ready. The student population is comprised of 80% at risk students who face many life challenges that make a traditional school difficult for them to succeed in. Through the use of technology and focused and effective support services, students are provided with the skills, resources and opportunities they need to complete their high school studies and set goals for success after graduation.

Manor Excel Academy will be celebrating their accomplishment with a school-wide lunch catered by Taco Bell followed by live D.J. school dance party on Wednesday, January 8th from 11:15 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. The School will also be accepting a prize of \$5000.

Manor High School also finished 40th nationally, and one of their students Darrell Harris won the national SAT word hip-hop contest. A video of Darrell's winning rap can be seen here: <https://getschooled.com/be-famous/hip-hop-act-winners-round-one>

Get Schooled, in partnership with the Taco Bell Foundation for Teens, sponsored the Challenge in districts throughout the country from October 7 to December 13, 2013. Partnering with local school districts and backbone organizations such as E3 Alliance, the Challenge provided students with incentives and fun, educational activities that engaged students while providing college planning information and promoting a peer culture that supports attendance improvement and academic success.

High absenteeism has been a challenge in Central Texas. Each year, Central Texas students are absent 2.4 million days of school and miss more days of school than their peers across the state in every grade. Each day our students miss costs our schools

about \$38 in lost state revenue. Across Central Texas, our schools have been losing more than \$91 million a year! That's why E3 Alliance spear-headed a regional campaign to improve attendance starting in 2011. Since the start of the campaign, Central Texas schools have saved more than \$12M in increased revenue due to improved attendance.

"We are honored and extremely proud of our students," said Manor Excel Academy Principal Eduardo Lozano. "Our team has worked tirelessly to instill and promote a culture of attendance and dedication to learning at Manor Excel. Our students know that to learn you have to show up and show resilience and commitment to learning. We are immensely proud of their diligence, discipline and focus on good attendance. We could not be more proud!"

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