

Rosalie Tristan a leader with Valley Interfaith, Our Lady of Guadalupe Catholic Church in Raymondville. I have 3 children Ana, Robert and Miguel who have all attended public schools. Anna is a JR. at UTPA and Robert recently graduated and will be attending college this coming year. Even though Robert did well on TAKS he was tired of the constant drill and kill. Miguel my youngest will be attending Middle School this coming school year. He has passed his TAKS test but I am concerned because this last year he brought home worksheet after worksheet almost every day and at school he tells me he completes worksheets on a daily basis. He was assigned only 1 project for home work the whole year. In the meantime, my 11 year old son, Miguel, can open a computer and install a burner and yet has trouble keeping interested in school when all he is learning is how to complete a worksheet. Will Miguel be able to graduate and be ready for college without having to take remedial courses?

I hear from teachers who because of concern for their jobs or their school losing accreditation follow the directives and concentrate on teaching to the test the whole year. I recently graduated from UT Pan American and was interested in being a school teacher. As a leaders with Valley Interfaith, I am constantly teaching adults in my community on the issues of health care, education, immigration, taxes and other legislative issues. For almost 30 years I taught religious education. I also have worked as a substitute teacher while I was in college and loved every minute of it. I would have loved to teach in the public school system, however for now my passion for teaching will continue outside of the school. I want to thank this commission for listening to our concerns and work to create an education system that will prepare our children for the global economy.