Somerset High School in Somerset ISD exemplifies the district’s commitment to closing achievement gaps and using an intentional, data-driven process to address students’ needs. Somerset ISD, located just southwest of San Antonio, serves a school community where more than 80% of families are low-income and students face daily challenges.

Through implementing the research-based TAP System, teachers and school leaders across the district now have the structure to provide focused support, and they are able to create a nurturing and stable student-centered school environment. Teachers regularly collaborate around how they can maximize opportunities and make learning relevant, and students are realizing their fullest potential. Additionally, while the TAP System has created a pipeline for leadership, the district has also partnered with Texas Tech to establish a “grow your own” partnership for aspiring teachers and administrators. The results continue to show what is possible. In 2019, the district earned an A from the state of Texas for school progress and an overall letter grade of a B.

“Teacher leaders have really helped elevate our progress. Just in the last few years, our campuses have met academic standards, and we are making some dramatic improvements. It couldn’t be done without those teacher leaders on our campus. Integrating teacher leaders into our campus works, and the proof is in the results.”

Dr. Saul Hinojosa  
Superintendent | Somerset Independent School District, Somerset, Texas