

Gloria Ramirez (District 5)

Gloria A. Ramirez came to San Antonio in 1972 seeking her Master's in education with a federal program called, Teacher Corps (Cycle VII) that was situated in the Edgewood I.S.D. and incorporated a public school internship with academic studies at U.T. in Austin as well as grassroots community work in the neighborhoods the elementary schools served. She graduated with a Master's in education in 1974 concentrating in Early Childhood, Multicultural Education and Bilingual Education. She immediately moved to Boston, Massachusetts where she taught a post graduate course in Child Health at the Occupational Resource Center while awaiting to be hired as a kindergarten teacher. In 1975, after a court ordered the implementation of bilingual education at the early childhood level, she was hired as the first and only qualified bilingual kinder teacher to teach in an innovative team teaching situation where a monolingual and bilingual teacher shared a room and resources incorporating two languages and multiple cultures. That was the start of a long and distinguished career in bilingual early childhood teaching. In 1977, Gloria returned to Edgewood I.S.D. where she taught from 1977-1988 and from 1990- 2005 for a total of 28 years in E.I.S.D.(including Teacher Corps), 3 years in Boston, and one year at S.A.I.S.D.'s, J.T. Brackenridge.

At each of the schools that Gloria taught –her primary focus was the implementation of innovative programs at the early childhood levels of PreKinder 3, PreKinder 4, Kindergarten and First grade. At each school, (Guerra, Perales, José Cárdenas Early Childhood Center, and Burleson Elementary), Gloria was selected as Teacher of the Year and/or served as team leader coordinating curriculum development, conducting workshops, developing student report cards, evaluating teachers and developing team teaching techniques. Her specific interests in early childhood were emergent literacy, incorporating the arts in language and writing, implementing Montessori-based centers, parental involvement, incorporating multicultural early childhood literature, developing mathematical thinking and the development of gross and fine motor skills in young children. Aside from teaching self-contained classes of 3 year olds, 4 year olds, and kindergarten –she also completed several years of multi-level teaching and multi-year teaching following classes from one year into the next and eventually following classes from Pre-K, to Kinder to first. In 1997, Gloria was selected as the E.I.S.D. teacher of the year and was one of Trinity University's Distinguished Educators of San Antonio. Her final years of teaching at Burleson Elementary School were dedicated to the development of the Dual Language program in the PreKinder, Kinder and First grade levels.

Gloria retired from teaching in 2005 and dedicates her time to being editor of the monthly news journal, La Voz de Esperanza working with San Antonio peace and justice advocates who bring articles of concern to her for publication. She has served as an arts advocate on panels and committees with the Guadalupe Cultural Arts Center, Centro Cultural Aztlán, Jump-Start Performance Co. and the Esperanza Center. She also served as District I representative on peer panels and the cultural arts board reviewing arts grants in the mid 90s. In recent years, she has coordinated the Esperanza's annual Peace Market in that has become one of the premiere holiday markets for San Antonio. She enjoys traveling in Mexico and collecting folk art and Chicano art keeping tabs on the local art scene in San Antonio. Her family resides in Austin, Texas where her elderly parents in their mid 80s and 5 siblings live.