



PRESS RELEASE

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HISD's Jane Long Campus To Offer Opportunities for High School Students interested in Pharmacy

Proposed Houston Innovative Learning Zone partnership with HCC to offer training and technical certification

February 3, 2012 – A proposal to provide high school students at HISD's Long Campus the chance to earn associate's degrees and receive career training in the high-demand fields of pharmacy is under consideration by the HISD Board of Education.

The proposal is slated for a vote at the board's regular meeting, which begins at 5 p.m. on Thursday February 9, 2012 at the Hattie Mae White Educational Support Center (4400 W. 18th Street).

The plan for the Long campus is part of a larger program to establish the Houston Innovative Learning Zone (HILZ) schools. The plan is a direct response to frequent requests from students, and the Houston community at large, for HISD to bolster its portfolio of Career and Technology Education offerings.

The School of Pharmacy Technology at Long

The School campus would add high school grade levels under this proposal. The School of Pharmacy Technology would prepare students for the growing pharmaceutical industry by providing them with the clinical and business skills needed to work successfully alongside pharmacists and physicians

Possible career options:

- Pharmacy Technician (annual salary: \$27,602)
- Geological and Petroleum technician (annual salary: \$23,830)
- Pharmacist (annual salary:\$109,380)

The number of industry certificates earned by HISD students reached 15,160 in 2010-2011. This is nearly four times the number of certificates awarded to HISD students a year earlier, when 3,881 were issued. HISD intends to build on this progress as the district seeks to offer a broad array of programs that are proven to draw the interest of students, including those who may be at risk of dropping out of school.

"As I visited with parents, students, and others across HISD during last fall's series of [Community Conversations](#), we heard loud and clear that our students want more opportunities to learn real world job skills that prepare them for rewarding careers right out of high school," said Superintendent Terry Grier. "The Houston Innovative Learning Zone campuses will meet this demand with programs that lead to high-paying jobs in some of Houston's most promising industries."

Students who successfully complete the four-year program would graduate high school with an associate's degree and valuable industry credentials that lead to rewarding careers in high-growth technical fields. Just as importantly, Houston Community College credits earned by HILZ graduates will transfer to articulated programs at Texas universities, preparing them to thrive in a four-year college if they choose to forego an immediate career.

Working in partnership with the Houston Community College System, HISD will be prepared to open these six new HILZ academies in time for the 2012-2013 school year. In addition to taking the standard core courses required of all high school students, HILZ students would take courses taught by college professors using a blend of face-to-face and online instruction. Each HILZ school would offer a technology-rich college atmosphere. In addition, these schools, including the Long Campus, would aggressively pursue partnerships with businesses that match their instructional themes.

"Students shouldn't have to choose between the Career and Technology Education track and the college track," Grier said. "HILZ graduates will leave the Long Campus ready to pursue any interest they desire."

The proposal calls for nearly \$5 million in startup funds, spread over a four-year period for the six schools involved. Along with Long Campus, Furr, Kashmere, Scarborough, Sterling and Washington High Schools would have HILZ programs featuring a variety of disciplines.

The **Houston Independent School District** is the largest school district in Texas and the seventh-largest in the United States with 298 schools and more than 200,000 students. The 301-square-mile district is one of the largest employers in the Houston metropolitan area with nearly 30,000 employees.

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