

# 25 WAYS TO HELP STUDENTS GRADUATE

## Houston Independent School District

For too many students, graduation is not an expectation—it is a hope and a far-off dream. Beginning in early childhood and at every grade level, it must be reinforced that graduation *is* an expectation. To do this requires more than what happens at school each day—each person in the community must play a part. So, we asked HISD high-school students what they think each of us in the community can do to make a difference in helping them to graduate. Here are 25 of their ideas.

1. **Listen to us when we say we need help.** (Jeremy, Grade 9)
2. **Mentor me when things get hard in school and in life.** (Carlos, Grade 9)
3. **Prepare me for life in the real world.** (Jasmine, Grade 9)
4. **Encourage us to do well and help us be optimistic.** (Colby, Grade 11)
5. **Help me get a part-time job.** (Odasy, Grade 12)
6. **Provide more motivational speeches from business people.** (Jasmine, Grade 10)
7. **Help me to know the importance of graduating and good grades.** (Chantrelle, Grade 12)
8. **Tell me which jobs require high-school graduation.** (Ranson, Grade 9)
9. **Tell me that I can go far with an education and how to get there.** (Matthew, Grade 9)
10. **Come tutor me during lunch or after school.** (Randy, Grade 9)
11. **Teach me more study or life skills; be patient with me.** (En, Grade 9)
12. **Inspire us to graduate by having a conversation with us.** (Brandon, Grade 9)
13. **Show us what our future would be like if we graduated.** (Ashley, Grade 10)
14. **Inspire me to find a hobby that will help me find a career.** (Kelsey, Grade 9)
15. **Influence us to join an activity in school.** (Sandra, Grade 10)
16. **Help me with college information and scholarships.** (Shatoya, Grade 12)
17. **All students need parents who are supportive and involved.** (Jasmine, Grade 10)
18. **Companies could fund trips to job sites for students to learn about different jobs.** (Nicole, Grade 9)
19. **Offer more rewards or prizes for reaching goals to motivate us.** (Katherine, Grade 9)
20. **I suggest more internships to help us know what we want to pursue.** (Cynthia, Grade 9)
21. **Provide more fun, educational contests for students.** (Christine, Grade 9)
22. **Let students follow business people around to find out what they do all day.** (Jose, Grade 9)
23. **We need more career information and training for jobs.** (Elizabeth, Grade 10)
24. **Offer community-service jobs for students.** (Maureen, Grade 9)
25. **Help me with FAFSA (financial aid form) and SAT preparation.** (Krishunda, Grade 12)