



The Anchor

A newsletter providing resources, upcoming events, and highlights for students being served in HISD's Office of Special Populations.

Office of Special Populations

Summer 2023

VOL 1 ISSUE 3

FROM THE DESK OF PRINCIPAL WYLLIE



Shani Wyllie
Attucks Middle School Principal
RISE School Office

Shani Wyllie has been an educator for 13 years and has served as the principal of Attucks Middle School (MS) for the last five years. Under her leadership, Attucks MS has experienced incredible academic gains as she and her team focus on meeting the needs of all learners.

The Office of Special Populations (OSP) has played an integral role in the success of the campus by providing coaching and instructional support for administrators, teachers, and staff. The Attucks team received training in the use of supplemental aids, designated supports (for emergent bilingual students), and online platforms to engage gifted and talented students. Through the partnership with the Office of Special Populations, both academic and behavioral goals are being met for all students.

C.O.R.E. EXCELLENCE FOR ALL



C.O.R.E. team members from L to R: Officers Benjamin Mckinney, Brittney Burden, and Stephen Bennett, Sgt. Otis Simmons, Officers Tina Crittenden and Robert Morgan

The Office of Special Populations appreciates the work of the HISD Police Department, as they work to ensure the safety of staff and students. The [HISD C.O.R.E.](#) (Community Outreach Responsive Engagement) team focuses on relational policing in classrooms and neighborhoods. The C.O.R.E. team met with nearly 2,000 HISD students districtwide in the first two weeks of the program. Their services benefit all students, especially those with specialized learning needs.

OUR OPERATING PRINCIPLES

"It is not beyond our power to create a world in which all children have access to a good education. Those who do not believe this have small imaginations." *-Nelson Mandela, former president of South Africa*

Parent Support



Resources



Campus Support



Graduation



The community partners highlighted below were selected because of the consistent support and leadership they provide to students being served in the Office of Special Populations. They provide leadership training, professional development, tutoring, equity-based services and guidance to students and staff throughout HISD. Please click on the link beneath each partner's name to learn more about their agency.

RECOGNIZING OUTSTANDING COMMUNITY PARTNERS



Jan Cook
Region 4 Education
Service Center



Dr. Kellian Hughes
Region 4 Education
Service Center



Malikah Shahzad
Alliance for Multicultural
Education



Brandi Brown
HYPE Freedom
Schools, Inc.



Tiffany Battle
Region 4 Education
Service Center



DYSLEXIA OFFICE

HIGHLIGHTS

The Dyslexia Office hosted the [Spring Parent Coffee Connect](#) on Saturday, May 6, 2023. Guest speaker, Dr. Shawn Robinson, known worldwide as “*Dr. Dyslexia Dude*,” presented on ways to limit summer regression. His presentation on “*Dictionary Skills*” allowed families an opportunity to learn how dictionary skills promote academic independence. Families were taught about the science of reading, ways to support their child at home, and given district resources. Through his graphic novel series, “*Dr. Dyslexia Dude*,” Dr. Robinson shares his journey from receiving special education services to receiving his Ph.D.

For more information, email dyslexiaoffice@houstonisd.org or visit our [website](#).

UPCOMING

- [Children's Museum Dyslexia Awareness Summer Event](#),
June 14, 6 p.m. - 8 p.m.



readyroise.com/childrens-museum-of-houston

RESOURCES

Click the links below to access dyslexia resources:

- Readworks.org
- TEALearn
- [Literacy For All](#)
- [TEA/Inclusion In Texas-Literacy For All](#)

DID YOU KNOW?

- Dyslexia is genetic and varies from mild to severe.
- According to [Learning Success](#), dyslexia affects boys and girls equally.
- Dyslexia is unrelated to intellectual ability.

MULTI-TIERED SYSTEMS OF SUPPORT

HIGHLIGHTS

In February, the Multi-Tiered Systems of Support (MTSS) Office partnered with Region 4 Education Service Center to provide trainings for several departments on the MTSS framework. The collaborative trainings offered staff members an opportunity to review current practices and develop an inclusive plan to address the needs of the whole child. The MTSS framework consists of three tiers of interventions for academic, behavioral and social/emotional supports. Tier 1 includes high quality classroom-wide instruction and support designed for all students. At Tier 2, schools provide targeted support to address a student's gaps in skills typically in a small group setting. And tier 3 includes individualized, intensive, interventions to address continuing gaps for students.

For more information, email hisdmtss@houstonisd.org or visit our [website](#).

UPCOMING

Please visit the [MTSS website](#) for upcoming events.



Community Consolidated School District 15
<https://www.ccsd15.net/Page/456>

RESOURCES

Click the links below to access MTSS behavior resources:

- [PBIS World](#)
- [Childmind](#)
- [Empowering Parents](#)

DID YOU KNOW?

- MTSS provides targeted support to students.
- The goal of MTSS is to intervene early.
- MTSS addresses the academic, behavior and social/emotional needs of all students.

MULTILINGUAL OFFICE

HIGHLIGHTS

The HISD Multilingual Programs Office has launched the **Refugee School Impact Grant** program, donated by the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops. The program will provide a select group of refugee students with an academic tutor, SEL support, and mentorship. This program will also focus on engaging refugee parents through monthly meetings and a newsletter. HISD currently serves 1,515 refugees from Afghanistan, Congo, Cuba, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Rwanda, Syria, Tanzania, and Venezuela.

For more information, email multilingual@houstonisd.org or visit our [website](#).

UPCOMING

- [Bilingual/ESL PK & K Summer School](#), June 5 - July 3
- [HISD School Choice](#) application enters Phase II - closes June 15

RESOURCES

Click [here](#) for the TEA's "Supporting Emergent Bilingual Students in Texas" resource page or scan the QR code below:



DID YOU KNOW?

- Speech/language challenges will present in both languages for bilingual students.
- Bilingualism encourages people to think globally.
- Milestones of language development are the same in all languages.

GIFTED & TALENTED OFFICE

HIGHLIGHTS

The Gifted and Talented (G/T) Office, in collaboration with campus staff, facilitated testing for more than 1,000 pre-K students. Students zoned to HISD were assessed to determine their qualification for G/T services prior to entering kindergarten. In addition to assessing pre-K students, our department supported the districts' K-12 campuses as they tested more than 17,000 students. By assessing and identifying students for gifted and talented services, we work to ensure their specialized needs are met. G/T identification allows opportunities to participate in various Vanguard Magnet programs across the district.

For more information, email giftedandtalented@houstonisd.org or visit our [website](#).

UPCOMING

- [Texas Association for the Gifted & Talented, GIFTED+EQUITY Conference](#), June 4-6



RESOURCES

Click [here](#) for G/T resources or scan the QR code below.



DID YOU KNOW?

- Dr. Bolden, G/T Specialist, is currently attending Millinery School.
- Dr. Roni Burren, G/T Director, has traveled to seven countries and 23 states in the U.S.
- Every spring G/T students showcase their talent at the "[Campus Expo](#)."

SPECIAL EDUCATION OFFICE

HIGHLIGHTS

The Office of Special Education Services (OSES) partnered with the Region 4 Education Service Center to provide a training series for all HISD campus leaders. The required, specialized professional development provided a foundation of knowledge designed to strengthen practices that will facilitate more effective implementation of the Admission Review & Dismissal (ARD) process by the ARD Committee. Our department believes that supporting district leaders directly impacts our students with special needs.

For more information, email specialeducation@houstonisd.org or visit our [website](#).

UPCOMING

- [Pre-Employment & Transition Services Summer Camp](#), June 6 - 29
- [The Center For Pursuit Summer Camp](#), June 6 - July 3
- [Workforce Solutions Summer Earn & Learn](#)
- [Workforce Solutions Summer Earn & Learn \(Spanish\)](#)

RESOURCES

Access summer opportunities by clicking the links below:

- [AVANCE Houston](#)
- [Easter Seals Greater Houston](#)
- [Goodwill Houston Employability](#)
- [The Center for Pursuit](#)
- [Workforce Solutions | Houston-Galveston Area](#)

DID YOU KNOW?

- 18% of children in the U.S. have a developmental disability.
- 15% of all public school students qualify for special education.
- 19.4% of students applying for college report having a disability.

Office of Special Populations

4400 West 18th Street
Houston, TX 77092
713-556-6932

The primary responsibility of the Office of Special Populations is to provide quality programs and services to students that promote equity and success and contribute to preparing students for college and/or careers. We ensure district and campus leaders are provided with the appropriate resources, services, and programs to assist students who are identified as Emergent Bilinguals (EBs), Immigrant, Refugee, Migrant, Gifted & Talented (G/T), and students referred to the Offices of Special Education (SPED), Multi-Tiered Systems of Support (MTSS) and Dyslexia.

Dyslexia Office
812 West 28th Street
Houston, TX 77008
713-556-1908

**Multi-Tiered Systems
of Support Office**
4400 West 18th Street
Houston, TX 77092
713-556-7122

Multilingual Office
4400 West 18th Street
Houston, TX 77092
713-556-6961

**Gifted & Talented
Office**
4400 West 18th Street
Houston, TX 77092
713-556-6954

**Special
Education Office**
4400 West 18th Street
Houston, TX 77092
713-556-7025

