

HISD PRESS RELEASE

HISD Announces the Creation of Cullen Military Academy

[Superintendent Mike Miles will be available at 12 p.m. today to briefly answer questions about Cullen Military Academy during HISD's Military Career Day at Delmar Fieldhouse, located at 2020 Mangum Road, next to the Hattie Mae White Educational Support Center.]

The Houston Independent School District (HISD) today announced that it will open Cullen Military Academy at Cullen Middle School in the 2024-2025 school year. The academy will support students aspiring to serve in the United States military after high school graduation. They will receive high-quality instruction and develop skills to become civic-minded, disciplined leaders committed to excellence and service.

HISD is establishing Cullen Military Academy after conversations with the nation's Service Academies, including the United States Military Academy at West Point and the United States Naval Academy. Cullen will be a leadership incubator for Houston youth, empowering them through character mentoring, rigorous academics, and community service.

"HISD is known for having a range of educational options, including specialty schools designed to set students on a path to college and careers in fields that interest them," said HISD Superintendent Mike Miles. "Our new Cullen Military Academy will add to that list, expanding options for young people who want to pursue a career of service and the many opportunities that are available as part of that path."

With a motto of "Courage to Lead, Heart to Serve," Cullen Military Academy will prepare students as strong future candidates for admission into elite military academies. Students will wear uniforms and, after middle school, will be able to seamlessly transition into the District's Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps (JROTC) programs; college, career, and military readiness programs; and career and technical education programs at the high school level.

Cullen Middle School is a part of HISD's New Education System (NES) and follows the high-quality academic program that is in place in all NES schools. In addition, Cullen Military Academy will offer specialized courses in leadership and character development, Chinese (Mandarin), and career and college exploration. All electives will incorporate physical activity, leadership training, and collaboration.

The academy will be the only school of its kind in HISD. Students can apply through the districtwide School Choice application process, which opens January 18. Applicants must commit to a two-year term and adhere to the school's mission, vision, and the HISD Code of Student Conduct. Physical fitness standards are flexible and inclusive to accommodate varying abilities, ensuring a fair opportunity for success. The academy will accept 100 to 120 students per grade in sixth and seventh grades for the 2024-2025 school year and will grow to include eighth graders the following academic year.

The Houston Independent School District is the largest school district in Texas and the eighth-largest in the United States, with 276 schools and nearly 190,000 students. The 333-square-mile district is one of the largest employers in the Houston metropolitan area, with more than 27,000 employees.

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4400 West 18th Street | Houston, Texas 77092-8501 • HoustonISD.org

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