

HISD 2021-2022 BACK TO SCHOOL PLAN

# READY SET GO

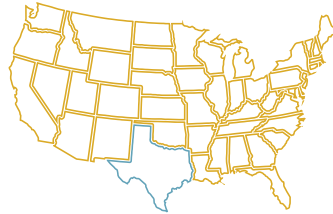


HOUSTON INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT

# HISD FAST FACTS ►►

## SIZE & DIVERSITY ►►

**LARGEST**  
School District in Texas



**SEVENTH**  
largest in the United States

## 196,943 STUDENTS



**61.84%** Hispanic  
**22.4%** African American  
**4.4%** Asian  
**9.67%** White  
**100** Languages Spoken



## 276 SCHOOLS

**8**.....Early Childhood Schools  
**160**.....Elementary Schools  
**39**.....Middle Schools  
**37**.....High Schools  
**32**.....Combined/Other

## PROGRAM OPTIONS ►►

- 121+ Magnet Programs
  - Montessori
  - Vanguard
  - International Baccalaureate Programs
  - Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM)
  - Dual Language & Language Immersion
  - Fine Arts
  - Early Colleges
  - Career Academies
- Prekindergarten
- Bilingual Education
- Specialized Special Education Programs
- Gifted & Talented
- College & Career Prep with free college credit and industry training and certifications

## AWARDS & HONORS ►►



**\$240 MILLION**  
in scholarships and financial aid offers in 2020



**7 schools** ranked No. 1 by Children at Risk best public schools listing



**4 High Schools** recognized by U.S. News & World Report as among the top 100 schools in the country  
**43 schools** offering prestigious international baccalaureate programming



# HOUSTON INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT



Hello HISD Family,

I'm so excited to join you on this journey as we prepare for a safe, successful 2021-2022 school year.

I believe this fall will mark the start of a new beginning for the Houston Independent School District. As we emerge from one of the most challenging times in recent history, I know everyone is eager to safely move forward.

That's exactly what I want us to do. And I know we can do it, if we work together.

Long before I accepted this position, the Houston Independent School District was on my radar. I knew this district placed a sharp focus on student success and was always innovative in its approach. I knew this community was passionate about its children and rallied around each other during tough times like Hurricane Harvey, the 2021 Winter Storm, and the COVID-19 pandemic.

But most of all, I knew great things were ahead for this district and I wanted to be a part of it.

As your superintendent of schools, I pledge to work tirelessly in support of our students as we lay out a vision for the future that ensures equity and success for all. That future starts here with this plan, and I encourage you to review it.

We know in-person learning is critical for both student growth and success as well as addressing pandemic-related learning losses. Our goal this fall is to make sure those in-person experiences are as safe as possible.

I think you'll see we've got a great roadmap in place as we start this journey together. I look forward to seeing you all in school this fall.

Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'M. House II', written in a cursive style.

**Millard House II**

Superintendent of Schools

Houston Independent School District



# HOUSTON INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT



# HOUSTON INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT

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## INTRODUCTION ►►

As we prepare for the 2021-2022 school year, HISD will provide in-person learning five days per week for all students during the 2021-2022 school year. Virtual learning will not be offered.

To ensure safe in-person experiences, HISD is working closely with health and education officials and maintaining the following health and safety protocols.

- Students, staff, and visitors are asked to monitor their health, stay home when sick, and wash or sanitize their hands regularly.
- Masks will be allowed but not required per state mandate and provided upon request.
- Plexiglass dividers will be kept in place.
- Visitation will be limited to essential visitors who have a scheduled appointment. This includes parent and community volunteers pre-approved through HISD's Volunteers in Public Schools (VIPS) program.
- Hand sanitizer and other cleaning and disinfecting supplies will be provided, and buildings and buses will continue to be cleaned and disinfected daily.
- Heating and cooling systems will undergo regular inspections with repairs prioritized and filters replaced with the highest grade allowable.
- Building rentals to outside groups and organizations will continue to be prohibited.

All other health and safety protocols implemented during the pandemic will be discontinued with the deactivation of the Communicable Disease Plan on Aug. 2, 2021.

Established as a living document, the Communicable Disease Plan governs district health and safety protocols during public health emergencies.

It was developed in 2020 by the Communicable Disease Plan Committee, a cross-functional team made up of more than six dozen educators, employees, parents, community members, and health officials.

The plan can be reactivated, as needed, should conditions worsen. The committee will continue to meet regularly to review public health conditions and guidance from health and education officials and make operational recommendations that prioritize health and safety.

This 'Ready, Set, Go!' plan outlines the instructional and operational protocols for all facets of the country's seventh-largest public-school system. However, because of the possibility of changing conditions, this plan is considered a living document. HISD administrators will continually monitor health conditions and review procedures and protocols, making adjustments as needed to ensure compliance with public health guidelines and local, state, and federal law.

Should the district need to modify or enhance its health and safety protocols during the school year, all families and employees will be notified.

## 2021-2022 TIMELINE ►►



**AUG. 2 – 13, 2021**  
Camp Spark Academic  
Enrichment Opportunities



**AUG. 9 – 12, 2021**  
Bridge Academic Camps for  
6th and 9th Grades



**AUG. 16, 2021**  
Teachers Report to Work



**AUG. 23, 2021**  
First Day of School



**JAN. 14, 2022**  
Last Day of First Semester



**JAN. 19, 2022**  
First Day of Second Semester



**JUNE 7, 2022**  
Last Day for Students



**JUNE 8, 2022**  
Last Day for Teachers

[CLICK HERE FOR THE 2021-2022 ACADEMIC CALENDAR](#)





## SAFE FACE-TO-FACE LEARNING & WORKING ►►

### ENTRY SCREENING

There is no formal entry screening. However, students, parents, employees, and visitors are encouraged to self-monitor for symptoms, check temperatures before coming to any district school or building, and stay home when sick.

### HYGIENE

Individuals are encouraged to routinely wash or sanitize their hands throughout the day, prior to eating, and after each visit to the restroom.

### SANITIZATION & DISINFECTION

All district schools and buildings are cleaned and disinfected nightly as a precautionary measure. Schools and offices also are provided with hand soap, paper towels, tissues, hand sanitizer, and disinfectant.

Air ventilation systems are inspected regularly, with repairs prioritized and filters replaced using the highest-grade allowable.

### MASKS

Masks are optional for both students and staff. They are no longer required inside or outside of HISD schools, buildings, or buses per the state mandate.

### PHYSICAL DISTANCING

Physical distancing is no longer required. In-person meetings, events, and celebrations are permitted. Capacity and attendance limits — for rooms, meetings events, and sports competitions — have been lifted.

### VISITATION

Schools and buildings are limited to essential visitors who have a scheduled appointment. This includes parent and community volunteers pre-approved through HISD's Volunteers in Public Schools (VIPS) program.

### ATHLETICS & EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

Athletic competitions and practices and on-campus extracurricular activities are permitted with no restrictions or limitations.

### STUDENT UNIFORMS

HISD is reinstituting its student uniform policy for the 2021-2022 school year. When school resumes on Aug. 23, 2021, all students will be expected to follow the uniform guidelines and dress codes set forth by their school.

### STUDENT MEALS

Nutrition Services is resuming normal operations and offerings.

- Nutrition Services staff provide breakfast in the classroom and lunch in the cafeteria, as well as snack and dinner service at select campuses. All student health, medical, and special dietary needs, as well as allergy concerns, will be accommodated.
- Campus curbside pickup for student meals is discontinued for the 2021-2022 school year, though occasional large scale community food distributions may be held as needed. If such an event is scheduled, families will be notified.
- Competitive food sales — food sold by schools, parent groups, booster clubs, and outside vendors — are prohibited.

For more information and updates throughout the year, visit [HoustonISD.org/StudentMeals](https://HoustonISD.org/StudentMeals).





# HOUSTON INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT

## SCHOOL BUS SERVICE

Transportation Services is resuming normal operations and bus service.

- ▶ Students must sanitize their hands and scan their bus badge upon boarding.
- ▶ Buses will be cleaned and sanitized regularly as a precautionary measure. Each bus will be equipped with hand sanitizer, disinfectant, towels, and first aid supplies.

For more information and updates throughout the year, visit [HoustonISD.org/Transportation](https://HoustonISD.org/Transportation).

## INFECTION & CLOSURE PLAN

If a student or employee experiences COVID-19 symptoms at school or work, they will be directed to designated isolation rooms, which are supervised, stocked with masks and hand sanitizer, and disinfected daily.

We do not anticipate school closures. However, should conditions change and an HISD school or building need to close, the determination will be made on a case-by-case basis by HISD Health and Medical Services in consultation with the Houston Health Department. These decisions are based on all the evidence and totality of circumstances and in alignment with Centers for Disease Control and Prevention guidance.



## STUDENT & FAMILY SUPPORT ►►

### SOCIAL & EMOTIONAL LEARNING

Our social and emotional programming is based on the understanding that supportive relationships help make learning challenging, engaging, and meaningful. We help students develop skills to manage their emotions, form positive relationships, feel empathy for others, and make responsible decisions.

This year, we are increasing our number of certified counselors and expanding our trauma-informed care practices to better support students as they transition back to in-person learning.

### WRAPAROUND SERVICES

This year, HISD has expanded its Wraparound Services program to all 276 HISD campuses. Wraparound service specialists support students and families by connecting them with community-based resources to address issues that impact learning, such as mental and physical health and food and housing insecurity.

### CRISIS RESPONSE & PREVENTION

Our crisis intervention team strives to increase student success by addressing emotional and behavioral barriers to learning. Among our tools are intervention services, behavioral consultations, and trauma support for students, parents, and employees.

Made up of licensed specialists in school psychology, licensed professional counselors, and professional school counselors, the crisis intervention team also trains school staff on suicide prevention, self-injury, trauma response, and mental health awareness.

### PHYSICAL HEALTH

HISD partners with community organizations, pharmacies, and the City of Houston to provide vaccines to employees and students. Efforts include going into communities where employees and students reside to boost accessibility and providing on site vaccine clinics at district campuses. As these efforts are scheduled, the respective school communities will be notified.

### COLLEGE & CAREER READINESS

In HISD, we aim to ensure every student graduates ready to enter the chosen college or career.

At the middle school level, Project Explore provides college and career readiness planning support. At the high school level, every HISD school offers personalized college advising through our Ignite program for grades 9-11, our Launch program for seniors, and our Orbit program that helps graduates with their postsecondary transition.

The district also offers 16 different Career and Technical Education pathways, allowing students to graduate with industry-recognized certifications in high-growth, high-demand career fields.

### LEARNING LOSS

This year, HISD is focused on making sure all students impacted by the pandemic are back on track academically, socially, and behaviorally.

To do this, HISD is utilizing \$1.6 billion in Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief federal grants provided through the American Rescue Plan Act to address pandemic-related learning loss.

# HOUSTON INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT

The grant funds will focus on 11 key areas:

- ▶ Supports for reading and math, as well as college, career and military readiness
- ▶ Tutoring and interventions
- ▶ Wraparound Services and Social and Emotional Learning
- ▶ Special Education
- ▶ After-school programming
- ▶ English language learners
- ▶ Student engagement, enrollment, and attendance
- ▶ Technology and digital resources
- ▶ COVID-19 safety and cleaning
- ▶ Fine Arts
- ▶ Human capital and compensation

## SPECIAL EDUCATION

HISD continues to focus on improving the services provided to students who qualify for special education services. This year, the district is focused on increasing the number of resource teachers, improving its ability to identify students with special needs, and providing additional technology and services to help address pandemic-related learning loss.

## INTERVENTIONS

This year, many students will enter school year with academic deficits due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The Interventions Office is tasked with supporting these students and their schools by helping tier students for the Response to Intervention process, planning and guiding intervention class scheduling and student placement, providing identification, meeting and progress monitoring support for Intervention Assistance Teams, and offering professional development and resources, as well as advising schools on intervention-related issues.

## MULTILINGUAL PROGRAMS

Multilingual Programs provides research-based instructional practices designed to address the cognitive, linguistic, and affective needs of students in bilingual education and English as a Second Language programs. Families of English learners can visit our [parent resource page](#) for information and resources to help them support their children at home.

## GIFTED & TALENTED

In light of the learning gaps caused by the pandemic, HISD wants to ensure it's developing customized instruction that meets the need of every student. To support students who qualify for gifted and talented services, HISD's Gifted and Talented department will continue providing tailored instructional plans for students and research-based professional development for staff to ensure appropriate acceleration is available for students when needed.



# HOUSTON INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT

## PARENT UNIVERSITY

Parent University workshops connect HISD parents and students to district resources that support academic success, as well as general health and well-being of students and their families.

Sessions for the 2021-2022 school year will be held in person and streamed live online. Topics listed below are subject to change. For more information, visit [HoustonISD.org/ParentUniversity](https://HoustonISD.org/ParentUniversity).

- ▶ **Tuesday, Sept. 14, 2021**  
**Wheatley High School**  
HISD 101: Overview of Family and Community Engagement, School Choice, Wraparound Services, and Student Assistance
- ▶ **Tuesday, Oct. 19, 2021**  
**Scarborough High School**  
Digital Resources
- ▶ **Tuesday, Nov. 16, 2021**  
**Milby High School**  
College & Career Readiness
- ▶ **Tuesday, Jan. 18, 2022**  
**Madison High School**  
School Choice
- ▶ **Tuesday, Feb. 15, 2022**  
**Bellaire High School**  
Social and Emotional Learning and Special Education Services
- ▶ **Tuesday, April 19, 2022**  
**Sam Houston Math, Science, and Technology Center**  
Grade Level Transitions: Elementary, Middle, High School, and College

## DIGITAL RESOURCES ▶▶

With all students returning for in-person learning, virtual learning is no longer offered. However, digital resources and learning materials are still available to all students and staff through the HISD HUB. These resources include digital lessons in the HUB, Imagine Math, Imagine Language, MyOn, and MackinVIA.

Additionally, wireless hotspot devices will be made available to any student who does not have access to broadband internet at home.

## ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS

Digital resources — like myON personalized reading — embedded into the curriculum during the previous school year are now available as learning tools that can be used both at school and at home.

## MIDDLE SCHOOLS

Verizon Innovative Learning Schools, an educational initiative sponsored by the Verizon Foundation, is expanding to 18 schools after a successful six-school pilot program last year.

Student enrolled at Verizon Innovative Learning Schools receive Chromebooks for use at school and at home. Each Chromebook is equipped with a Verizon 5G data plan providing access outside the classroom.

## HIGH SCHOOLS

All high schools are continuing to participate in the district's PowerUp 1-1 initiative, which provides all students with a laptop that can be used both at school and at home.

## ENROLLMENT/DREAM BIG CAMPAIGN ►►

As a district of choice, we believe all students deserve quality teachers, schools, and academic programs that foster their growth and success. We believe our students can accomplish anything with the right tools and support.

Every student deserves the chance to find their passion and dream big.

Enroll now and dream big with us. Join us as we work to ensure every student has the knowledge, skills, and support needed to turn their dreams into reality.

Want to enroll in your neighborhood or zoned school? Just go to [Houstonisd.org/\\_findaschool](https://Houstonisd.org/_findaschool) to find your school and their contact information and then reach out to them directly to enroll.

Interested in a magnet or specialty program? Contact our School Choice office:

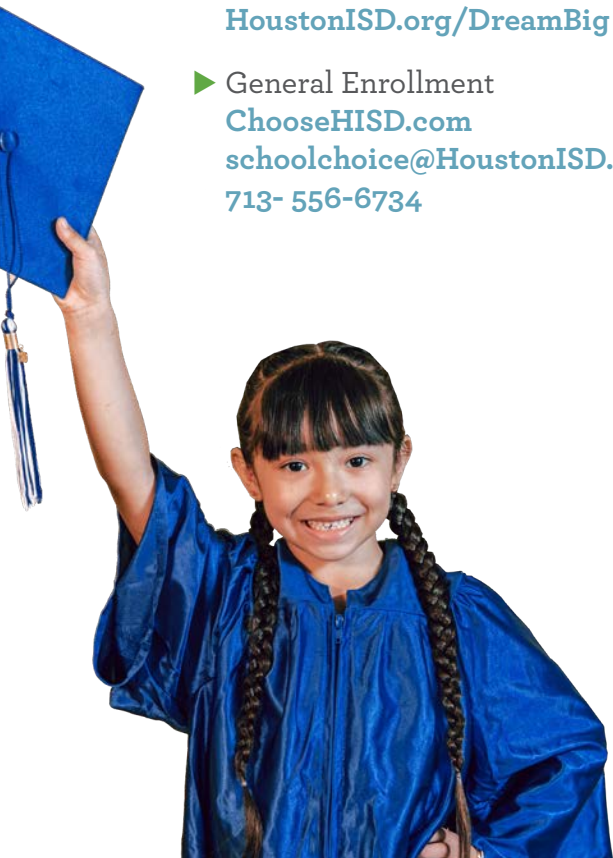
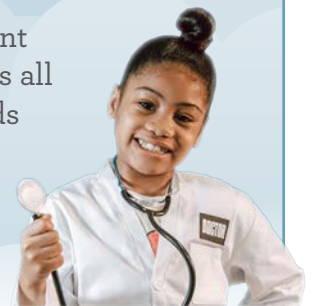
- Pre-K Enrollment  
[HoustonISD.org/DreamBig](https://HoustonISD.org/DreamBig)
- General Enrollment  
[ChooseHISD.com](https://ChooseHISD.com)  
[schoolchoice@HoustonISD.org](mailto:schoolchoice@HoustonISD.org)  
713- 556-6734

- Free prekindergarten for eligible 3- and 4-year-olds
- Specialized academic programs:
  - International Baccalaureate
  - College & Career Prep
  - Dual Language & Language Immersion
  - Science, Technology, Math & Engineering
  - Fine Arts
  - Montessori
  - Specialized Special Education Programs
  - Gifted & Talented
- Student mentoring and support programs
- Family assistance and community resources
- Free breakfast, lunch, and dinner for students

### DREAM BIG IN HISD

**Dreaming big in HISD starts in Pre-K.**

The Houston Independent School District welcomes all eligible 3- and 4-year-olds for enrollment in pre-kindergarten for the coming school year.







HOUSTON INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT