

WELCOME TO HISD



A PARENT'S SURVIVAL GUIDE TO... MIDDLE & HIGH SCHOOL

FIRST RULE:
STAY IN TOUCH!
(Here are 9 ways)

1 | DECIDE HOW YOU WANT SCHOOL & DISTRICT NEWS |

Would you rather receive calls, texts, or emails to hear about events, meetings, and other news? Set your preferences at HoustonISD.org/SchoolMessenger



2 | WEBSITES |

Bookmark HoustonISD.org and your campus website for news, calendars, and deadlines.

3 | TEXT MESSAGING | Text "YES" to 68453
Opt in for weather bulletins and other alerts. Keep your number updated with your school.



4 | SCHOOL BUS TRACKER | HoustonISD.org/BusTracker

Pinpoint your child's bus. Register with the district's account number: 76647



5 | FACEBOOK | Facebook.com/HoustonISD
"Like" us to share information and interact with HISD.

6 | TWITTER | Twitter.com/HoustonISD

Fast news and highlights. Include @HoustonISD in your tweets.



7 | YOUTUBE | YouTube.com/TheHISD
Watch what's happening on campuses.

8 | LUNCH MONEY & MENUS |

Manage account balances at SchoolCafe.com, and get menus and nutritional information at HoustonISD.org/Menus



9 | PARENT STUDENT CONNECT |

Access attendance, assignments, and report cards. Go to HoustonISD.org/PSCregister to get started.

STAY ON TOP OF ATTENDANCE



ABSENCES AFFECT ACHIEVEMENT: Absences can easily add up to academic trouble. By grade 6, chronic absence is a proven warning sign that a student is at risk of dropping out. By grade 9, good attendance can predict graduation rates even better than eighth-grade test scores.

A child is considered chronically absent after missing two or more days a month – including unexcused and excused absences. Missing more than 10 percent (or 17 days) of school a year can lead to a student not receiving a grade or being retained. It is each parent's duty to make sure his or her child attends school. Parents who do not are subject to civil prosecution by the truancy court.

HoustonISD.org/Attendance



DOLLARS ARE AT STAKE: Your school's budget is tied to daily attendance, and every absence leaves less money to fund classrooms.

KNOW THE BASICS



MEALS: All students get a free breakfast, and some campuses offer free lunch and dinner to all students. Paid lunch is \$2.35. Call 713-491-5944 for more information, and learn about school meal benefits, manage your child's cafeteria account, or view menus and nutritional information at HoustonISD.org/NutritionServices



TRANSPORTATION: Students are required to use three-point seat belts, when available, any time the bus is in motion. For information about eligibility for transportation and bus stops, contact your child's school, call 713-613-3040, or visit HoustonISD.org/Transportation



SCHOOL CLOSURES: The district may close schools due to inclement weather or emergencies. HISD announces closings through the following outlets: HoustonISD.org, Facebook.com/HoustonISD, Twitter.com/HoustonISD, HISD Weather Hotline at 713-556-9595, local radio and television stations, and calls and texts.



METRO DISCOUNT: With the Q Fare Card, all students over age 6 receive a 50% discount and free transfers. Call 713-635-4000 or visit RideMetro.org

MEDICAL CARE: Parents or other designees will be contacted in case of illness, injury, or emergency. Medications can be administered at school only with advance written parental and physician permission. For state immunization requirements, visit HoustonISD.org/Immunizations

STUDENT INSURANCE: Public schools are by law not liable for injuries on campus, but parents can buy voluntary accident insurance from Texas Kids First. Call 1-800-366-8354 or visit TexasKidsFirst.com. The state sponsors health insurance for children. Call 713-556-7280 or visit YourTexasBenefits.com



CYBER SAFETY: Utilize resources, tools, and tips on keeping your child safe in today's digital world at HoustonISD.org/CyberSafety

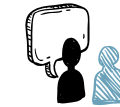
DISCIPLINE: Read the district's Code of Conduct at HoustonISD.org/CodeOfConduct

KEEP UP WITH ACADEMICS



REPORT CARDS: Most secondary schools send report cards to parents six times during the school year, shortly after the end of each **six-week grading period**. Some, however, observe nine-week grading periods. For dates, visit HoustonISD.org/Grading

PROMOTION STANDARDS: To move to the next grade level, students must show that they have met standards related to classroom grades, local or state tests, and attendance. HoustonISD.org/PromotionStandards



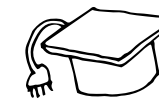
PARENT-TEACHER CONFERENCES: Conferences, typically held around report card time, are designed to teach parents about expectations, behavior, and their child's academic progress. Contact your child's school to schedule one.

PREPARE FOR WHAT'S COMING



SCHOOL CHOICE: HISD offers strong neighborhood, magnet, and specialty school choices, including Montessori, fine arts, STEM, dual-language, and career academies. Fall is the time to start exploring options for the following year and begin the application process. Call 713-556-6947 or visit HoustonISD.org/SchoolChoice for information on programs, the application process, deadlines, and school choice fairs.

PLAN YOUR PATH: Some middle school students and all freshmen will be required to develop a personal graduation plan that includes one or more "endorsements" from the following five: business and industry, arts and humanities, public services, S.T.E.M., or multidisciplinary studies. These endorsements will help create a personalized learning plan in line with a student's career interests. HoustonISD.org/PlanYourPath



COLLEGE READINESS: Your child can earn college credit through **Advanced Placement (AP)** and **dual-credit courses** – at no cost. Both AP and dual-credit courses prepare students for the rigor of college. Check with your campus for information.

PSAT/SAT/ACT PREP: The **PSAT** is a college readiness assessment in grades 8-11, and scores may qualify students for a National Merit scholarship and other awards. The **SAT** is an application requirement for many colleges and is administered to juniors during the school day at no cost. The **ACT** is an alternative to the SAT. For testing dates and online prep resources, visit HoustonISD.org/TestPrep

STAAR: **State of Texas Assessment of Academic Readiness** is the current Texas testing program for students in grades 3 through 12 that is designed to evaluate progress and ensure students are meeting grade-level expectations. Find testing dates and answers to frequently asked questions at HoustonISD.org/STAAR

GET INVOLVED & FIND RESOURCES



BECOME A VOLUNTEER: Donate your time reading to students, mentoring, tutoring, fundraising, and more. HoustonISD.org/GetInvolved

COMMUNITY RESOURCE GUIDE: Find after-school programs, summer camps, community centers, ESL and GED services, and more in a searchable guide. HoustonISD.org/CommunityResource

PARENT AND COMMUNITY ASSISTANCE OFFICE: Connect with a parent liaison who can help resolve school issues through the proper district policies. HoustonISD.org/ParentAssistance