



**HOUSTON INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT**

Hattie Mae White Educational Support Center  
4400 West 18<sup>th</sup> Street • Houston, Texas 77092-8501

**Grenita F. Lathan, Ph.D.**  
*Interim Superintendent of Schools*

[www.HoustonISD.org](http://www.HoustonISD.org)  
[www.twitter.com/HoustonISD](https://www.twitter.com/HoustonISD)

May 25, 2018

Dear Parents/Guardians and Graduate:

As the Houston Independent School District (HISD) finalizes plans for commencement activities, a decision has been made to once again use metal detectors at all sites to ensure safe, uninterrupted commencement ceremonies.

All participants and audience members will be screened prior to entry into the graduation site. Police officers and administrators will be on duty to perform this screening, as well as visually inspect handbags and purses.

Prior to the first ceremony each day, the facility will undergo a security check by HISD police officers. After each site is swept, officers will be assigned to the site to prevent entry by unauthorized personnel. These procedures at all graduation sites proved to be successful and well received in previous years. Our administrators and police department have been meeting regularly to make the screening process as fast and effective as possible.

I ask for your support in working with our principals and staff in ensuring that HISD's number-one core value, "student safety above all else" is upheld. With the continued assistance of all parents, students, faculty and staff, I am certain our commencement activities will be the special occasions we expect them to be.

Sincerely,

Grenita F. Lathan, Ph.D.  
Interim Superintendent of Schools

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