

# 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

Fall 2022

VOL 1 ISSUE 1

## FROM THE DESK OF THE EXECUTIVE OFFICER



**Khechara Bradford**  
Specialized Learning & Services  
Executive Officer

Welcome to the 2022-2023 school year! My name is Khechara Bradford, and I have been an educator for 21 years. I am excited to be an “anchor” for students and families being served in the Office of Special Populations. We have spent the

summer collaborating with various departments to ensure we address all the needs of our students with special learning needs. Our department is committed to supporting the superintendent’s strategic five-year plan. We will work this year to deliver effective services and supports to students with exceptional needs. Please click [here](#) to view the plan in detail.

## EXCELLENCE FOR ALL STUDENTS



**Kimberly Lewis**  
Office of Special Populations  
Director

In the Office of Special Populations, we serve a diverse group of learners. Our students possess a variety of abilities and we strive to ensure excellence for all students with specialized learning needs. Our department is divided into five areas of specialization: Multilingual Education, Gifted & Talented, Multi-Tiered Systems of Support (MTSS), Dyslexia and Special Education. This newsletter will offer you a glimpse into our staff and our work. We look forward to partnering with you, as we serve close to 60% of the district’s 194,000 students. Please click [here](#) to view the most recent facts and figures.

## OUR OPERATING PRINCIPLES

“The case for change is clear, and we are ready to work with you to transform HISD into a district we can all be proud of.”  
-Millard House II, HISD Superintendent

**Parent Support**



**Resources**



**Campus Support**



**Graduation**



We operate in excellence by meeting the needs of all students. Throughout the year, we will focus on the following three pillars: *communication, compliance, and positive student outcomes*. We believe by partnering with parents, providing timely resources, and supporting the district’s campuses, our students will graduate and be career, military, or college ready. The Office of Special Populations’ leadership team is ready to support the district’s students. Please continue reading to learn more about our directors and the work they are leading.

## MEET THE DIRECTORS



**Dr. Joan Anderson**  
Dyslexia/504/ADA  
Director



**Stacey Court**  
Multi-Tiered Systems of  
Support Director



**Sonya Monreal**  
Multilingual Education  
Executive Director



**Dr. Roni Burren**  
Gifted & Talented  
Director



**Cynthia Hoppman**  
Special Education Services  
Executive Director



# DYSLEXIA OFFICE

## HIGHLIGHTS

During the 2022-2023 school year, the Dyslexia/Section 504/ADA Office will serve as a stand alone department. The focus of the Dyslexia/Section 504 Office is assisting students with mastering the ability to read, spell, and write, which is fundamental to achieving academic success. Students with dyslexia struggle with those skills despite receiving the same classroom instruction that benefits most students and having adequate intelligence. HISD is committed to providing students identified with dyslexia with instruction that is individualized, intensive, and includes phonetic methods and a variety of writing and spelling components as outlined in the Texas Education Agency (TEA) handbook.

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

### UPCOMING

Stay tuned for information regarding Dyslexia Awareness Month in October!



### RESOURCES

Access additional information by clicking on the links below.

- [Texas Dyslexia Handbook, 2021](#)
- [2021 Dyslexia Handbook Important Changes for Families](#)
- [2021 Cambios Importantes que las Familias Deben Entender](#)
- [Signs of Dyslexia - Yale Center for Creativity and Dyslexia](#)

### DID YOU KNOW?

- Dyslexia affects 20% of the population and represents 80-90% of all those with learning disabilities.
- Many scholars with dyslexia perform very well in school due to early identification, evidence-based dyslexia instruction and accommodations.

# MULTI-TIERED SYSTEMS OF SUPPORT

## HIGHLIGHTS

The MTSS Office collaborates with groups across the district to share knowledge, support students and schools, and promote best practices around interventions. We support the whole child by using the MTSS framework (*Multi-Tiered Systems of Support*). The MTSS framework supports research and evidence-based practices. Our department would like to highlight the *Science of Reading* and *Positive Behavior Interventions* supports this quarter. We look forward to providing you with everyday resources that will promote student academic and behavior growth in both the home and school settings.

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

### UPCOMING

Please visit our website for our new design and framework:

[MTSS Department](#)



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

### RESOURCES

Access additional information by clicking on the links below.

- [What is the Science of Reading?](#)
- [Center on PBIS | Family](#)
- [Resource Data Based](#)
- [FCRR Student Center Activities](#)
- [Imagine Learning Resources](#)

### DID YOU KNOW?

- Children learn 4,000 to 12,000 words per year through reading.
- On average, it takes at least 66 days for a new behavior to become automatic.
- MTSS's Director Stacey Court was the City Bowling Champion of Rock Springs, Wyoming in 1991.

# MULTILINGUAL OFFICE

## HIGHLIGHTS

The Multilingual Education Office is comprised of a collaborative and comprehensive team. Our team is trained in the area of content-based language instruction. Our training ensures the implementation of the necessary supports for emergent bilingual students across all 276 campuses in HISD. The Multilingual Education team assists with language acquisition, content support, mentor support, and academic tutoring support. Outreach workers are available at selected campuses and serve as liaisons between the students and the campus wraparound specialist.

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

### UPCOMING

- Districtwide virtual parent leadership conference “**Igniting a Successful Mindset for Emergent Bilingual Students**” - November 5, 2022 [Register here](#)
- TEA T3Series Parent Engagement Event - November 11, 2022 [Register here](#)

### RESOURCES

Access additional information by clicking on the links below.

- [English Learner Portal-Home Page \(txel.org\)](#)
- [TELPAS Resources | Texas Education Agency](#)
- [Content-Based Language Instruction \(CBLI\) Quick Guide \(texas.gov\)](#)

### DID YOU KNOW?

- Bilingualism affects brain development from infancy.
- Bilingualism promotes all areas of cognitive functioning.
- There are approximately 3,000 Dual Language programs nationwide.

# GIFTED & TALENTED OFFICE

## HIGHLIGHTS

Houston Independent School District provides two program options for Gifted & Talented (G/T) students. Option one is the [Gifted & Talented Neighborhood Program](#), designed to meet the needs of G/T students in grades K-12 at their neighborhood ([zoned](#)) schools. Option two are the Vanguard Magnet programs, designed to meet the needs of G/T students in grades K-12 at their Vanguard Magnet school. Students must meet [specific criteria](#) to gain acceptance into one of the Vanguard Magnet programs. Click [here](#) for a list of Vanguard Magnet schools.

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

### UPCOMING

- Gifted & Talented Education Supporters (G.A.T.E.S.) meeting November 16, 2022
- Virtual Parent Information Session October 12, 2022 & November 9, 2022
- Texas Association for the Gifted & Talented (TAGT) “[Gifted22 Conference](#)” November 30, 2022 - December 2, 2022

### RESOURCES

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



### DID YOU KNOW?

- You can find characteristics of giftedness by clicking [here](#).
- The window to refer a student for G/T testing is from August 22, 2022, through January 13, 2023.
- A student may be gifted in reading but not math.

# SPECIAL EDUCATION OFFICE

## HIGHLIGHTS

The Office of Special Education Services (OSES) provides support and guidance to parents, teachers, campus leaders, and other stakeholders that directly improves student outcomes. We also strive to remove barriers and raise expectations for students with disabilities. The vision of the OSES is for students with disabilities to receive an exceptional education that will allow them to achieve their highest educational level and reach their greatest potential as caring, responsible, and independent citizens. The OSES framework is a fluid framework that guides the services we provide to parents, teachers, campus leaders, and other stakeholders. We believe this framework illustrates the true collaboration needed to make every student a successful learner.

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

### UPCOMING

- [Region 4 virtual training](#) opportunities for parents of students with disabilities
- The **OSES Fall 2022 Virtual Parent Summit**, November 12, 2022

### RESOURCES

- Parent Guide to the ARD Process  
[English](#) and [Spanish](#)
- Notice of Procedural Safeguards  
[English](#) and [Spanish](#)
- Senate Bill 139  
[Notice to Families | Texas Education Agency](#)  
[English](#) and [Spanish](#)

### DID YOU KNOW?

- Over 1 billion people have some form of a disability.
- Students with disabilities are general education students first.
- OSES Director Ardalia Idlebird has served Houston ISD for the last 45 years in various capacities.

## 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 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

