An Update Message from the Superintendent: Setting a Strategic Direction for the District

As I have mentioned over the last couple of months, we are developing a long-term strategic plan for the district that will provide a roadmap for our transformation, guiding our efforts to become the best school district in America.

Since my last update, we have continued to make good progress toward building our Strategic Direction. We completed a review of the current state of the district across a number of critical dimensions (such as student achievement), analyzed transformation efforts and practices across the country, and gathered feedback from members of Team HISD. Input from our internal and external stakeholders has been especially valuable. Your feedback has been heard in a number of ways:

- The Strategic Direction section of our Web site has received more than 7,500 visits and more than 150 comments from you so far.
- 300 of you attended Strategic Direction discussions.
- 780 of you completed an online survey.
- 350 of our staff responded to an internal organization survey.

After all of this input was synthesized, five core initiatives emerged as priorities for HISD to focus on in order to realize the goals set out by the Board of Education in the Declaration of Beliefs and Visions.

1. Placing an effective teacher in every classroom
2. Empowering principals as CEOs of their schools
3. Developing rigorous instructional standards and supports across the district
4. Implementing systems and processes to ensure data-driven accountability
5. Building a culture of trust through action

Our next step will be to gain feedback from the community around these core initiatives. We will provide opportunities for people to provide their input through a variety of different channels. In June, members of the Board of Education will host town-hall meetings to share these initiatives with you in detail and gather your feedback. We will also be hosting a live TV show in both English and Spanish where you will be able to call in and ask questions, and we will continue to host discussions with specific groups, such as parents, teachers, and principals. To view the calendar of upcoming events and stay updated on our latest developments, visit our Web site, www.houstonisd.org/strategicdirection

Transforming HISD is a big job, but with everybody helping Team HISD, we can do it.