



PRESS RELEASE

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HISD Delivering on Promises Made During 2007 Construction Campaign

Sixty-One School Construction Projects Under Way this Summer

July 21, 2011 – Construction crews are working hard at 61 Houston Independent School District campuses this summer and major facility upgrades are happening at schools across the city thanks to the \$805 million bond proposal that voters approved in 2007.

By the beginning of the school year, HISD anticipates opening six new campuses (**Almeda, Frost, Lovett, DeChaumes, Berry, and Horn elementary schools**) and 20 significantly renovated campuses. Two more new campuses (**Lewis and deAnda elementary schools**) will open later in the fall.

HISD made many commitments to the public in 2007, and those commitments are being fulfilled, said HISD Superintendent Dr. Terry Grier.

“HISD is keeping its promises,” Dr. Grier said. “One of HISD’s core values is creating a culture of trust through action. Our team’s stewardship of Houston taxpayers’ money is critical to building that trust. Everyone – from parents, to students, to business owners, and retirees – deserves to know that this voter-approved work is being completed on time and on budget.”

Pledges HISD made to taxpayers in 2007 included:

Initiate a districtwide effort to upgrade campus safety and security

What’s been done:

- New fencing installed at 29 schools by the end of the summer
- More than 8,000 campus security cameras installed

Build 13 new schools to replace aging facilities

What’s been done:

- Ten of those schools (**Almeda, Berry, DeChaumes, Frost, Gregg, Herod, Horn, Lovett, Patterson, and Piney Point elementary schools**) will have opened by this August.
- Three of those schools (**Carnegie Vanguard High School, Roosevelt and Cunningham elementary schools**) are under construction.

Build 3 new schools to relieve crowding

What's been done:

- Two of those schools (**Billy Reagan K-8 School, deAnda Elementary School**) are under construction.
- The third school (**Neff/White Elementary School**) will begin construction soon.

Replace outdated schools with low enrollment with 6 new schools

What's been done:

- Four of those schools (**Atherton, Allen/Kennedy, Peck/MacArthur, and Lewis elementary schools**) are under construction.
- Two of those schools (**Scott/Dogan and Sherman/Crawford elementary schools**) will begin construction later this year.

Expand 2 schools to relieve crowding

What's been done:

- Two of those projects (**Crockett and Valley West elementary schools**) are finished.
- Three ADDITIONAL expansions (**Bellaire and Sharpstown high schools, and Grady Middle School**) have been added to the building program, two of which are under way with construction.

Renovate/repair schools across HISD

What's been done:

- By the end of the summer, HISD will have completed significant renovations and repairs at more than 60 schools. This work includes:
 - Roof replacements/repairs
 - Science laboratory upgrades
 - Heating/ventilation and air-conditioning improvements
 - Americans with Disabilities Act related improvements
 - Lighting, electrical, and plumbing improvements
 - Door/window improvements
 - Restroom upgrades

“We are grateful to have a dedicated team of staff and contractors who continue to work diligently to enhance safety and security in our schools and create a better learning environment for our students and staff,” said Chief Operating Officer Leo Bobadilla. “We know that our schools and the community are excited to have these much needed improvements being performed in our schools this summer and improvements that will continue at many of our schools beyond this summer.”

Each new and expanded HISD school is a “green” school, built to Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) standards. Key features in LEED schools include the

installation of water-conserving plumbing fixtures that reduce the amount of water used, energy efficient systems and controls, improved air quality, and use of natural light.

Earlier this summer, HISD was the only school district in America to be honored with the Council of the Great City Schools' prestigious Award for Excellence in Financial Management. HISD was given the award after a rigorous review conducted by senior financial executives from some of the nation's largest school district.

The **Houston Independent School District** is the largest school district in Texas and the seventh-largest in the United States with 298 schools and more than 200,000 students. The 301-square-mile district is one of the largest employers in the Houston metropolitan area with nearly 30,000 employees.

For more information, visit the HISD Web site at www.houstonisd.org.