



PRESS RELEASE

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Community Invited to Attend HISD Town Hall Meeting on EVAAS

Meeting will discuss the district's use of value-added to further student achievement

January 7, 2011– In an effort to help all interested stakeholders learn more about the Education Value Added Assessment System (EVAAS), HISD is holding a town hall event for teachers, employees, parents, and members of the Houston community. **The town hall meeting will be held on Tuesday, January 11 from 6:00-8:00 p.m. in the auditorium of the Hattie Mae White Educational Support Center (4400 West 18th Street, 77092).**

Representatives from SAS Institute Inc., the company that developed EVAAS, will give a presentation on the system, and members of HISD's leadership team will discuss current and future efforts to use EVAAS as a tool to boost student achievement by helping teachers grow professionally.

"EVAAS is a powerful tool, but we know it can be confusing, too," said HISD Superintendent Terry Grier. "We want to do more to help teachers, principals, and community members understand what EVAAS is, how it works, and how value-added data can help teachers do their best work in the classroom."

In addition to participating in the town hall meeting, representatives from SAS Institute Inc. will make presentations next week to school board trustees, members of the superintendent's cabinet, and to all school principals.

HISD uses EVAAS to measure the impact that individual schools and teachers have on a student's academic growth from year to year. HISD began using EVAAS in 2007, and since then the district has been providing ongoing professional development to teachers and principals on how to use value-added data in school improvement efforts, to evaluate program quality, and to inform classroom instruction.

HISD also uses campus and teacher level value-added data to award performance bonuses to teachers, administrators, and other campus based staff through the ASPIRE Award program. Last year, the district awarded \$40.4 million through the program based on results from the 2008-09 school year. ASPIRE awards for the 2009-10 school year will be awarded later this month.

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.