



# PRESS RELEASE

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## HISD Board of Education Considers School Closures and Consolidations

*Proposal is in response to deep cuts in state education funding*

April 21, 2011 – After weeks of research and gathering public feedback, the Houston Independent School District on Thursday put forward a plan to close four small schools and redraw some attendance zones to more evenly distribute children among campuses.

The plan is expected to save HISD \$1,675,877 in the 2011-2012 school year. HISD anticipates losing about \$160 million in state funding next school year. In addition to saving money, the plan also gives more students greater access to programs and services that smaller schools cannot afford, said Superintendent Terry Grier.

“It has to do with whether schools get so small that they can’t provide children the same level of activities they get in a regular school,” Grier said.

**The Board of Education is expected to vote on the plan on May 12.**

Factors considered in the proposal included each school’s enrollment history and trends, neighborhood housing changes, school facility and grounds, school capacity, and proximity to other campuses with available space.

HISD is now reviewing school bus transportation policies in light of the changes to school attendance zones to ensure that all students are able to get to their schools safely, Grier said.

The small schools closing under the proposed changes include:

- **McDade Elementary** (current enrollment of 272 students) would close. Students currently zoned to McDade would be redistributed among Paige, Cook and Kashmere Gardens elementary schools.
- **Rhoads Elementary** (current enrollment of 320 students) and **Grimes Elementary** (current enrollment of 380 students) would close. Those students would attend the Woodson pre-kindergarten through 8<sup>th</sup> grade school.
- **Stevenson Elementary** (current enrollment of 357 students) would close. Students would be redistributed to Memorial and Love elementary schools.

Other small schools would receive more students under the plan:

- **Burrus Elementary** (current enrollment of 390 students) would receive some students currently zoned to Roosevelt Elementary. Roosevelt would then receive some students from Herrera Elementary, which is currently exceeding its capacity.
- **Houston Gardens Elementary** (current enrollment of 362 students) would receive some students currently zoned to Cook Elementary. Some students currently zoned to Cook

already live closer to Houston Gardens. The loss of Cook students to Houston Gardens would be offset by the arrival of students from McDade.

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.

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