



PRESS RELEASE

HISD Media Relations Department

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HISD Statement on Texas Education Commissioner's Order to Close North Forest ISD

*Commissioner's plan could merge North Forest and Houston ISD
beginning in 2012-2013*

July 12, 2011 – Texas Education Commissioner Robert Scott has ordered closing the North Forest Independent School District and potentially merging it with the Houston Independent School District beginning in the 2012-2013 school year. The Houston Independent School District did not advocate for this proposal. However, if Commissioner Scott's order becomes reality, HISD stands ready to welcome the children of North Forest and partner with that proud community.

HISD's African American and Hispanic students have significantly narrowed the achievement gap, and graduation rates for those students are on the rise, said HISD Board President Paula Harris.

"We know it's going to be a challenge. We believe there should be an effective teacher in every classroom and an effective leader in every school. We are realizing the positive results from those beliefs and we looking forward to sharing our academic achievement with every student, teacher, and community member joining Team HISD," Harris said. "We look forward to working with Commissioner Scott to ensure that HISD receives adequate financial resources to tackle this unique challenge."

HISD Superintendent Dr. Terry Grier said the nation's seventh-largest school district would embrace North Forest's children.

"We will step up and deliver for these children," Dr. Grier said. "All children deserve a quality education, regardless of where they happen to live."

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.
