

HOUSTON INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT

# **HISD FAST FACTS**

### SIZE & DIVERSITY



# **LARGEST** school district in Texas **EIGHTH** largest in the United States

# **194,141** Students



- 62% Hispanic
- 22% African American
- **4.4%** Asian
- - % White
- 104 Languages Spoken



# 276 Schools

8	Early Childhood Schools
163	Elementary Schools
40	Middle Schools
43	High Schools
22	Combined/Other

# **PROGRAM OPTIONS**

- 128 Magnet Programs
  - Montessori
  - Vanguard
  - International Baccalaureate Programs
  - Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM)
  - Dual Language & Language Immersion
  - Fine Arts
  - Early Colleges
  - Career Academies

- Prekindergarten
- Bilingual Education
- Specialized Special Education Programs
- Gifted & Talented
- College & Career Prep with free college credit and industry training and certifications

# **AWARDS & HONORS**



# \$437 MILLION

in scholarships and financial aid offers in 2022



**7 schools** ranked No. 1 by *Children at Risk* best public schools listing



4 high schools recognized by U.S. News & World Report as among the top 100 schools in the country 43 schools offering prestigious international baccalaureate programing



Hello HISD Friends & Family,

We are, once again, preparing to welcome our students back into our classrooms, and we look forward to the start of a safe and prosperous 2022 -2023 school year.

Last year, we went directly to our families and stakeholders to gather feedback on the direction of our district. You came out and voiced your hopes and concerns as we navigated one of the most challenging times in recent history. Our goal to lead HISD into the future was realized in the form of six bold and innovative pillars of success resulting in a strategic plan that was developed by all of us, together.

We are committed to ensuring that all HISD students reach their full potential and make families proud to call HISD their destination for an exceptional educational experience. Our vision can only be realized by a continuous commitment to:

- Remain honest, transparent, and reliable in order to build and strengthen relationships with our stakeholders including our students and parents
- Ensure every school provides a quality student core experience that supports the development of the whole child
- Accelerate student performance through bold, innovative, and effective actions at persistently under-performing schools and expanding access to quality choice options for students
- Make HISD a great place to retain and recruit world-class talent to do the important work and provide opportunities for our students to grow
- Provide every student a consistent academic experience, regardless of the school they attend
- · Provide best-in-class services that increase achievement for students with exceptional needs

As your Superintendent for the last year, it has become increasingly clear to me that our parents are more present and committed to academic excellence than ever before and we look to keep that momentum going. Together, we can continue to inspire and develop future leaders of Houston and the world at large.

Having had the opportunity to spend the last year watching our students persevere and exceed despite every challenge they have faced renews my commitment to do what is necessary for our long-term success. As we look ahead to this year's challenges, successes, and progress, let's not forget how much we have accomplished thanks to our shared engagement, discussion and understanding.

I look forward to seeing our young leaders heading back to our schools this fall and laying the groundwork for their academic success.

Regards,

Millard House II

Superintendent of Schools

Houston Independent School District

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### **WELCOME BACK!**

We are excited to welcome you to the Houston Independent School District. All HISD school campuses will be offering in-person instruction for the 2022-2023 academic year. The safety and well-being of our students, staff, and all of our stakeholders continues to be a top priority and we'll continue to revisit and make any appropriate updates as needed. These guidelines are also available to view in the following formats:

- Spanish translation
- HTML To view the plan in the browser and on mobile devices
- ePub To read the plan as an e-book on an iPad or other e-book readers
- Electronic Braille To view the plan as a BRF version for consumption on electronic braille displays
- Audio To listen to the plan as a MP3 version
- BeeLine Reader To view the plan in an enhanced version for easier and fast on-screen reading

#### **IMPORTANT DATES**

**July 11 - August 12, 2022**Bridge Academic Camps for 6th and 9th Grades

**August 8, 2022** Teachers Report to Work

**August 22, 2022**First Day of School

December 21, 2022 Last Day of First Semester

**January 9, 2023**First Day of Second Semester

May 31, 2022 Last Day for Students

**June 1, 2023**Last Day for Teachers

Click Here for the 2022-2023 Academic Calendar



# COMMUNICABLE DISEASE PROTOCOLS

#### **MASKS**

Masks are highly encouraged for both students and staff that may need additional layers of protection or are currently sick.

Masks are no longer mandatory inside or outside of HISD schools, buildings, or buses.

#### SELF-MONITORING

Students, staff, and visitors are asked to monitor their health and stay home when sick.

#### VACCINATIONS

Vaccinations are our first line of defense against COVID-19 and other communicable diseases. The district partners with local agencies and medical providers to make immunization clinics available throughout the district.

Additional details and vaccination locations in the city of Houston can be found online at **HoustonEmergency.org/COVID-19-Vaccines**.

#### **COVID-19 GUIDELINES**

The district has outlined guidance and protocols for confirmed, presumed, and exposed individuals. For more information, see HISD's Procedural Guidelines for COVID-19 Exposure, Presumed, or Confirmed Positive Individuals.

#### **COVID-19 TESTING**

HISD encourages all students and staff to participate in regular COVID-19 screen testing, which allows preventative measures to be taken to avoid further transmission of COVID-19.

Beginning in the Fall of 2022, HISD will provide free COVID-19 testing to all consenting HISD students and staff on participating campuses.

A one-time consent form is required for participation in the COVID-19 campus testing program. The form can be completed at **HoustonISD.org/COVIDTesting**.

For more information, visit **HoustonISD.org/ HealthAlerts**.

#### **HYGIENE**

Students, staff, and visitors are encouraged to wash/sanitize their hands regularly. Sanitization stations will be maintained at all HISD schools, facilities, and buildings.

#### **SANITIZATION & DISINFECTION**

All district schools and buildings will continue to be cleaned, disinfected, and fogged nightly with hospital-grade disinfectants as a precautionary measure.

Hand sanitizer and other cleaning and disinfecting supplies will be provided in all schools, buildings, and buses.

### SAFE IN-PERSON LEARNING & WORKING

#### **MASKS**

Masks within HISD schools, facilities, and school buses are optional. Students, staff, and any other HISD stakeholders that may need an additional layer of protection or are exhibiting symptoms of a communicable disease are highly encouraged to wear a mask regardless of vaccination status.

#### **SELF-MONITORING**

Students, parents, employees, and visitors are required to self-monitor and should not enter any district school, building or bus when sick or experiencing symptoms of a recognized communicable disease.

#### **EMPLOYEES**

• All HISD employees are required to self-monitor and are encouraged to stay home and follow the notification procedures set by their campus or department. It is the employee's responsibility to complete the COVID-19 self-reporting form available in myHISD Portal and notify the appropriate campus administrator and campus nurse, or department supervisor if they have a positive COVID-19 diagnosis. employees must notify their supervisor when sick or experiencing symptoms of a recognized communicable disease.

#### STUDENTS & VISITORS

- Parents and guardians are advised to monitor their children and check for symptoms of a communicable disease before sending their children to school. Children should stay home when sick or exhibiting symptoms of a communicable disease.
- Visitors at all HISD Schools and Buildings: All scheduled visitors must self-monitor for symptoms and stay home when sick.

#### **VACCINATIONS**

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the American Academy of Pediatrics, full vaccination is the best defense against COVID-19 and its variants. Individuals who are 6 months and older are eligible for COVID-19 vaccination. In addition, research shows that the COVID-19 booster provides an additional

layer of protection against COVID-19 and its variants. The COVID-19 booster is available for individuals 5 years of age and older. Details regarding vaccination locations, assistance, and more can be found at

HoustonEmergency.org/covid-19-vaccines.

Additionally, the Houston Health Department is ready to support COVID-19 vaccination clinics in HISD. Campuses are highly encouraged to host at least two COVID-19 vaccination clinics. For more information, coordinate with your campus nurse or contact the HISD Health & Medical Services Department at 713-556-7280 or via email at HealthMS@HoustonISD.org. Students can receive the COVID-19 vaccination and booster (if eligible).

Getting the COVID-19 vaccination is free and does not require proof of residency, citizenship, or insurance.

#### **COVID-19 GUIDELINES**

#### **STUDENTS**

All campuses are required to have a Student Health Isolation Pod (SHIP). This is a designated area where students can isolate. Isolation must be separate from the school clinic.

Students exhibiting symptoms of a recognized communicable disease must be placed in this isolation area, away from others, until picked up by a parent/quardian.

The school nurse will document confirmed COVID-19 cases in HISD's electronic health record. If campuses do not have a school nurse, the principal will fulfill these duties.

If a student becomes infected with COVID-19, they must notify their campus, stay home and isolate following CDC quidelines.

If a confirmed COVID-19 case is detected in a classroom, parents/caregivers will be notified and provided with next steps related to isolate and any other measures that should be taken. If isolation are required, the student must stay home.

See the table on page 10 for more information.

#### **STAFF**

All HISD campus and non-campus staff must self-monitor and will be required to isolate or quarantine if any of these conditions are met:

- Lab-confirmed COVID-19 case
- Exhibiting symptoms of a recognized communicable disease
- Ongoing exposure to a confirmed positive COVID-19 case

If staff are at work when meeting any of the above three conditions, they must leave immediately. Otherwise, they are instructed to remain at home and notify their immediate supervisor. In the interest of all HISD stakeholders, staff meeting any of the three conditions are strongly encouraged to seek medical attention and get tested for COVID-19.

See the table on page 10 for more information.

Employees must stay home when sick and can utilize their leave bank in accordance with Board Policy DEC (LOCAL). In addition, Family Medical Leave is available to all employees who qualify.

#### **HISD COVID-19 TESTING**

Next Level Urgent Care provides COVID-19 testing for HISD staff enrolled in the HISD medical plan for a \$20 visit fee. Free COVID-19 testing services are available at the two HISD Health & Wellness Centers located at the Hattie Mae White ESC and Attucks MS.

Additionally, beginning in the Fall of 2022, HISD will provide free COVID-19 testing to all consenting HISD students and staff on participating campuses.

A one-time consent form is required for participation in the COVID-19 campus testing program. The form can be completed at **HoustonISD.org/COVIDTesting**.

For more information, visit HoustonISD.org/HealthAlerts.

### HARRIS COUNTY COVID-19 TESTING

COVID-19 testing helps students, families, and staff ensure a safe in-person instruction and work environment. Information about free COVID-19 testing is available through Harris County at readyharris.org/Get-Tested.

HISD encourages all students and staff to participate in regular COVID-19 screen testing, which allows preventative measures to be taken to avoid further transmission of COVID-19. Additionally, HISD strongly recommends immediate testing if you are sick or feel sick.

#### **HYGIENE**

Individuals are strongly encouraged to routinely wash or sanitize their hands throughout the day, prior to eating, and after each visit to the restroom. Individuals are also encouraged to practice proper respiratory etiquette by covering coughs and sneezes with the inside of their elbow, a tissue, or mask.

Sanitization stations will be maintained at all HISD schools and buildings.

#### **SANITIZATION & DISINFECTION**

All district schools and buildings will continue to be cleaned, disinfected, and fogged nightly with hospital-grade disinfectant as a precautionary measure. High-touch surfaces will continue to be sanitized regularly at all campuses and existing plexiglass will remain in place. Schools and offices also will continue to be provided with hand soap, paper towels, tissues, hand sanitizer, and disinfectant. Schools can purchase additional cleaning supplies as needed.

Air ventilation systems will continue to be inspected regularly, with repairs prioritized and filters replaced using the highest-grade allowable.

#### **SCHOOL BUS SERVICE**

Transportation Services is resuming normal operations and bus service at full capacity. Students and bus operators are highly encouraged to wear masks when needing additional layers of protection or are sick. Assigned seating is no longer required.

Students must sanitize their hands and scan their bus badge upon boarding. Buses will be cleaned and sanitized regularly with hospital-grade disinfectant as a precautionary measure. Each bus will be equipped with hand sanitizer, disinfectant, towels, and first aid supplies.

All students are required to self-monitor and should stay home if experiencing symptoms of a recognized communicable disease.

For more information, visit **HoustonISD.org/ Transportation**.

CASE TYPE	CONFIRMED	PRESUMED
Who does this apply to?	Individual with a positive COVID-19 test result.	Individual with one or more COVID-19 symptom.
Isolation Time	Isolate 5 days from onset of symptoms or date test was taken if no symptoms.  Continue to wear a mask around others for 5 additional days.	Isolate 5 days from onset of symptoms or date test was taken if no symptoms.  Continue to wear a mask around others.
Requirements to Return to Work/ School	Completion of isolation, fever free for at least the past 24 hours without the use of fever- reducing medication, and improvement in symptoms.	Completion of isolation time or qualifications for early return: fever free for at least the past 24 hours without the use of fever-reducing medication, and improvement in symptoms.
Guidance for both vaccinated and unvaccinated individuals	If you test positive for COVID-19 or have symptoms, you must isolate for 5 days, regardless of vaccination/boosted status.  If you have no symptoms or your symptoms are resolving after 5 days, you can leave your house. Continue to wear a mask around others.  If you have a fever, continue to stay home until your fever resolves.	If you are presumed positive (exhibiting COVID-19 symptoms), you must isolate for 5 days, regardless of vaccination/boosted status.  If you have no symptoms or your symptoms are resolving after 5 days, you can leave your house. Continue to wear a mask around others.  If you have a fever, continue to stay home until your fever resolves.



#### STUDENT MEALS

Nutrition Services is resuming normal operations and offerings, including breakfast in the classroom and lunch in the cafeteria, as well as snack and dinner service at select campuses. All student health, medical and special dietary needs, as well as allergy concerns, will be accommodated.

All schools will continue to operate under the Universal Free Breakfast program. Houston ISD will continue its policy to operate the Community Eligibility Program (CEP) under the National School Lunch Program and School Breakfast Program for the School Year 2022 - 2023. Schools qualifying to operate CEP serve breakfast and lunch to all children at no charge and eliminate the collection of meal applications for free, reduced-price, and paid student meals. This approach reduces burdens for both families and school administrators and helps ensure that students receive nutritious meals.

The following schools listed will transition to completing the Free and Reduced - Price Meals Household Application for School Year 2022 - 2023. The application process will identify each student as Free, Reduced, or Paid for all meals/snacks consumed. Student eligibility status is kept confidential. The application and

instructions will be available online, and hard copies will also be available.

- Kinder High School for the Performing and Visual Arts (Kinder HSPVA)
- Harvard Elementary
- Horn Elementary
- Mark Twain Elementary
- Travis Elementary
- Oak Forest Elementary
- River Oaks Elementary
- West University Elementary
- Roberts Elementary

Competitive food sales — food sold by schools, parent groups, booster clubs, and outside vendors — continue to be prohibited.

#### **HISD VISITORS**

Schools and buildings are allowed to have visitors, including after-school program staff, as well as parent and community members who have been approved through

the Volunteers in Public Schools (VIPS) program and have appointments. Parents registering their children for school also are allowed.

Masks are highly encouraged for visitors who may need additional layers of protection or who are currently sick. Visitors experiencing symptoms of a recognized communicable disease must stay home and will not be allowed on HISD premises.

For more information on VIPS and to register as a volunteer: **HoustonISD.org/VIPS**.

#### STUDENT UNIFORMS AND DRESS CODE

Students should adhere to the dress code standards set by their campus.

If your family needs assistance with clothing, submit a Student Assistance Form to HISD's Wraparound Services Department via **HoustonISD.org/SAF**.

#### ATTENDANCE & GRADES

Attendance and grade policies will be exercised during the 2022-2023 School Year. If a student becomes ill with any communicable disease, the student must follow the district's COVID-19 guidelines: **HoustonISD.org/COVIDGuidelines**.

There are no plans for grade exemptions. All students must meet the corresponding criteria to earn a passing grade on assignments and classwork. All grades will count toward a student passing a course/grade. For more information about grades, contact your campus directly.

# ATHLETICS, UIL, & EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

Competitions and practices, as well as extracurricular activities and performances, will take place following campus guidelines.

All indoor and outdoor competitions, practices, and extracurricular activities/performances occurring at HISD facilities will allow spectators.

Masks are optional and highly encouraged for attendees needing additional layers of protection or are sick.

#### **FIELD TRIPS**

Non-athletic field trips, including enrichment and curricular trips, are permitted with no restrictions or limitations.

#### **IN-PERSON GATHERINGS**

In-person gatherings, meetings, and events are allowed with no restrictions or limitations.

#### **OUT-OF-DISTRICT TRAVEL & CONFERENCES**

Out-of-district travel and conferences are allowed with no limitations.

#### **CLOSURE PLANS**

Should any conditions warrant the closure of a campus, classroom, or portion of a classroom, that determination will be made on a case-by-case basis.

While done in consultation with local agencies, the HISD Superintendent of Schools will make the final decision on any closures.

### STUDENT & FAMILY SUPPORT

#### SOCIAL & EMOTIONAL LEARNING

Our social and emotional programming is based on the understanding that supportive relationships help make learning challenging, engaging, and meaningful. We help students develop skills to manage their emotions, form positive relationships, feel empathy for others, and make responsible decisions.

For more information, visit HoustonISD.org/SEL.

#### WRAPAROUND SERVICES

HISD Wraparound Services program is available in every campus. The Wraparound service specialist supports students and families by connecting them with community-based resources to address issues that impact learning, such as mental and physical health and food and housing insecurity.

For more information, visit **HoustonISD.org/ Wraparound**.

#### **CRISIS RESPONSE & PREVENTION**

Our crisis intervention team strives to increase student success by addressing emotional and behavioral barriers to learning. Among our tools are intervention services, behavioral consultations, and trauma support for students, parents, and employees.

Made up of licensed specialists in school psychology, licensed professional counselors, and professional school counselors, the crisis intervention team also trains school staff on suicide prevention, self-injury, trauma response, and mental health awareness.

For more information, visit **HoustonISD.org/ CrisisResponse**.

#### PHYSICAL HEALTH

COVID-19 has underscored the importance of health, fitness, and physical activity. In addition to being fun for children, regular physical activity has many health benefits, including strengthening bones, decreasing blood pressure, reducing stress and anxiety, increasing selfesteem, and helping with weight management. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention,

children ages 3 to 5 should be active throughout the day. Children and adolescents ages 6 to 17 years should be physically active at least 60 minutes each day.

For more information, visit CDC.gov/PhysicalActivity/Basics/Children.

#### **COLLEGE & CAREER READINESS**

In HISD, we aim to ensure every student graduates ready to enter their chosen college or career.

At the middle school level, Project Explore provides college and career readiness planning support. At the high school level, every HISD school offers personalized college advising through our Ignite program for grades 9-11, our Launch program for seniors, and our Orbit program that helps graduates with their postsecondary transition.

The district also offers 16 different Career and Technical Education pathways, allowing students to graduate with industry-recognized certifications in high-growth, high-demand career fields.

For more information, visit HoustonISD.org/ CollegeReadiness or HoustonISD.org/CareerReadiness.

#### SPECIAL EDUCATION

HISD continues to focus on improving the services provided to students who qualify for special education services. The district is focused on increasing the number of special education teachers, improving its ability to identify students with special needs, and providing additional technology and services to improve student outcomes.

For more information, visit HoustonISD.org/SpecialEd.

#### **INTERVENTIONS**

The Interventions Office is tasked with supporting students who have academic deficits and their schools by helping tier students for the Response to Intervention process. The office assists in planning and guiding intervention class scheduling and student placement in intervention programs. It also provides guidance to review progress monitoring and adjustments to



interventions. In addition, campuses receive training to identify students for Intervention Assistance Teams to assist with the identification process. The office provides professional development to campuses and supports the accelerated learning requirement for House Bill 4545 to support campuses meeting the requirements for those students who do not pass STAAR and EOC assessments.

For more information, visit **HoustonISD.org/ Interventions**.

#### **MULTILINGUAL PROGRAMS**

Multilingual Programs provides research-based instructional practices designed to address the cognitive, linguistic, and affective needs of students in bilingual education and English as a Second Language programs. Families of English learners can visit our parent resource page for information and resources to help them support their children at home.

For more information, visit **HoustonISD.org/ Multilingual**.

#### **GIFTED & TALENTED**

In light of the learning gaps caused by the pandemic, HISD wants to ensure it is developing customized

instruction that meets the needs of every student. To support students who qualify for gifted and talented services, HISD's Gifted and Talented department will continue providing tailored instructional plans for students and research-based professional development for staff to ensure appropriate acceleration is available for students when needed.

For more information, visit HoustonISD.org/GT.

#### **FAMILY & COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT**

The Houston Independent School District values parents as partners in preparing our students to succeed in college, career, and beyond. The Family and Community Engagement (FACE) Department is dedicated to building intentional school-family-and community partnerships to advance student achievement. FACE aims to engage and empower families by promoting a welcoming environment, honoring families, and linking activities to learning.

FACE goals include:

 Facilitate the development of parent partnerships at the district and campus level so that all parents have access to inform and influence decisionmaking.

- Build a "best in class" customer service model that efficiently and effectively responds to all parents' needs.
- Rebuild parent communications and engagement infrastructure to provide parents with clear, easy pathways to reach campuses and district staff and gather information.
- Create a parent advocate mindset district-wide, so every parent question or concern is managed from origination to resolution efficiently and create accountability systems for parent responsiveness.

#### **PARENT CENTER**

The HISD Parent Center serves as the first point of contact for families, community members, and district stakeholders to make school and district departments more accessible to families and community members. The parent center aims to foster two-way communication between schools and homes by answering questions and assisting in resolving issues and concerns in a timely, effective, and professional manner to promote students' academic and social success. Please call our HISD Parent Center at 713-556-FACE (3223) to start a conversation with us.

# **DIGITAL RESOURCES**

Digital resources and learning materials are still available to all students and staff through Canvas. These resources include teacher created Canvas Lessons, Eureka Math, Carnegie Math, myON, MackinVIA and more.

#### **ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS**

Digital resources — like myON personalized reading — embedded into the curriculum during the previous school year are now available as learning tools that can be used both at school and at home.

#### **MIDDLE SCHOOLS**

As part of the expansion of the PowerUp 1-1 initiative, all middle school students will receive a Chromebook for use at school and at home. In addition, students enrolled in the Verizon Innovative Learning Schools, an educational initiative sponsored by the Verizon Foundation, will have their Chromebooks equipped with a Verizon 5G data plan that will give them access to the internet outside the classroom.

#### **HIGH SCHOOLS**

All high schools are continuing to participate in the district's PowerUp 1-1 initiative, which provides all students with a laptop that can be used both at school and at home.

# **ENROLLMENT INFORMATION**

As a district of choice, we believe all students deserve quality teachers, schools, and academic programs that foster their growth and success. We believe our students can accomplish anything with the right tools and support.

Join us as we work to ensure every student has the knowledge, skills, and support needed to turn their dreams into reality. The Student Enrollment Department can give you helpful information about each step in the enrollment process, so your student can begin to dream big.

#### WANT TO ENROLL IN YOUR ZONED SCHOOL?

Just go to HoustonISD.org/SchoolFinder to find your school. Then, easily enroll online at HoustonISD.org/Enroll or visit your zoned school for help.

Interested in a magnet or specialty program? Contact our School Choice office:

- Pre-K Enrollment HoustonISD.org/PreK
- General Enrollment
   HoustonISD.org/Enroll
   enroll@houstonisd.org
   713-556-4826
- School Choice
   HoustonISD.org/SchoolChoice schoolchoice@houstonisd.org
   713-556-6734

#### **DISTRICT OFFERINGS**

- Free prekindergarten for eligible 3- and 4-year-olds
- Specialized academic programs:
  - International Baccalaureate
  - College & Career Prep
  - Dual Language & Language Immersion
  - Science, Technology, Math & Engineering
  - Fine Arts
  - Montessori
  - Specialized Special Education Programs
  - Gifted & Talented
- Student mentoring and support programs
- Family assistance and community resources
- Free breakfast, lunch, and dinner for most students



If you have questions or need additional information, please contact your campus directly. For general information, please email Parents@HoustonISD.org or call 713-556-7121. HOUSTON INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT