

MEMORANDUM

June 24, 2019

TO: Principals of Selected Schools in the OECD Study on Social and Emotional Skills

FROM: Grenita F. Lathan, Ph.D.

SUBJECT: OECD Study on Social and Emotional Skills

CONTACT: Carla Stevens, (713) 556-6700

The Houston Independent School District (HISD) is the sole U.S. district selected to participate in an international study on social and emotional skills. The study is led by the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), in partnership with the Houston Education Research Consortium (HERC) at Rice University, and entails students, parents, teachers, and principals completing surveys.

The data gathered from this survey will be used to (i) help identify factors that support the development of social and emotional skills; and (ii) consider what these skills look like in an international context. This study has a direct connection to HISD's vision for social and emotional learning to foster culturally-responsive and emotionally safe learning environments.

School Participants

Approximately 120 schools were randomly selected from HISD to participate in the Main Study.

Student Participants

A subset of 10-year-old and 15-year-old students will be randomly sampled to participate in the study. Sampled students who choose to participate will be asked a series of survey questions about their social and emotional skills. The survey will take about 60 minutes.

The district survey administration window this fall is **October 1 through November 22, 2019, but only for approximately 1 – 2 days within that window at your school**. Students will participate on a computer or other electronic device, in a room with their peers. A classroom, computer lab, library, or other space will be required for the regular survey administration and the make-up time for absentees. A trained staff member of the study's research team will supervise students as they complete the study, and a staff member from the school must also be present. If students complete the survey before the 60-minute time period ends, they may read silently, do another quiet activity, or return to class, as advised by school staff and/or Campus Survey Coordinator (CSC).

Parent Participants

One parent/guardian will be asked to participate in the study and complete a questionnaire on their child's social and emotional skills. Parents will be offered an incentive for their participation.

Staff Participants

One teacher of each student selected for the survey will also be asked to complete a questionnaire.

Teachers will complete one general questionnaire; then a series of questions for each student who participates in the study. Each teacher survey will take approximately 20 minutes for the general questionnaire, plus an additional 20 minutes per student. In general, teachers will be asked to complete surveys for 1 – 5 students, and willing teachers can opt to complete up to 15 student surveys. Teachers will be offered an incentive for their participation.

Principal Participants

Finally, you, as principal, will be asked to complete a contextual questionnaire that will take approximately 25 - 30 minutes. Each participating school will receive an incentive for their participation and for the CSC's time and service.

To support this study, you are asked to do the following by Friday, July 12, 2019:

- choose your school's CSC;
- notify that staff member;
- confirm your CSC designation in iDelegate via the HISD employee portal.

If you have any concerns about your school's participation, please contact Sheretta Edwards, OECD District Survey Coordinator, at Sheretta.Edwards@houstonisd.org by Monday, July 1, 2019.

Scheduling for the Surveys

We will work with the CSC you designate to schedule dates and times to conduct the study in your school. We will make every effort to minimize disruptions to student learning, instructional time, and the daily operations of your school. In advance of survey administration, the study team will provide a list with contact information for all study staff who will be at your school.

Contact

If you have any questions, please contact Sheretta Edwards, OECD District Survey Coordinator, at oecdsses@houstonisd.org or 713-556-6724. Please check this web site regularly for updates: <https://www.houstonisd.org/oecdsses>.

Thank you in advance for your school's participation in this important study.



GL

cc: Area Superintendents
Noelia Longoria
Roberta Scott