I may be new to HISD, but I think it’s safe to say that we are all looking forward to the 2021-2022 school year. A full return to in-person learning has been a long-time coming. I am excited that our students are going to be back in the classroom learning face-to-face with their world-class teachers as we create the safest environment possible for our students.

As we return to 100 percent face-to-face instruction, our guiding compass is the health and safety of our students, staff, and families. As both your superintendent and the father of two children enrolled and ready to be in HISD classrooms this upcoming school year, I can promise you that we are doing everything we can to ensure all students are safe and ready to learn.

I’ve learned a few things during my time so far in Houston. First, this is a big city with an even bigger heart. Houstonians support each other and I know that is the case at our schools as well.

Second, this city can come together and work through anything with grace and resilience. I am honored and thrilled to be a part of the Houston Independent School District, and I cannot wait to work together—with all of you—to create a bright future for our students.

I think you’ll find a lot of useful information in this Back-to-School Guide. You can also check out our website, HoustonISD.org, where you will find resources and tools in multiple languages. Plus, you can find the 2021-2022 academic calendar at HoustonISD.org/AcademicCalendar.

The school year starts on Monday, Aug. 23. I’ll see you then!

Sincerely,

MILLARD HOUSE II
HISD SUPERINTENDENT
As we prepare for the coming school year, HISD is working in partnership with health and education officials to ensure a safe return to in-person learning. With that in mind, HISD will maintain the following protocols:

- Urging students, staff, and essential visitors to stay home when sick
- Strongly recommending masks to be worn in schools and buildings, but not requiring them per state mandate
- Keeping plexiglass dividers in place
- Cleaning and disinfecting all schools and buildings nightly
- Limiting visitation to essential visitors with pre-scheduled appointments

All sessions will be offered in a hybrid format this year with an in-person event that can also be livestreamed virtually.

For full details, go to: HoustonISD.org/ParentUniversity

SAVE THE DATES

**Tuesday, Sept. 14**  
Wheatley High School

**Tuesday, Oct. 19**  
Scarborough High School

**Tuesday, Nov. 16**  
Milby High School

**Tuesday, Jan. 18**  
Madison High School

**Tuesday, Feb. 15**  
Bellaire High School

**Tuesday, April 19**  
Houston Math, Science, Technology Center
SPECIAL POPULATIONS INFO

GIFTED AND TALENTED
Families of Gifted and Talented (GT) scholars will continue to be supported by Gifted and Talented teachers on campus. Gifted Education Plans will be implemented at the campus level for the academic success of each GT student. For more information, please visit HoustonISD.org/GT.

INTERVENTIONS
The Interventions Office offers supports for students through Response to Intervention (RTI), Intervention Assistance Team (IAT), Dyslexia Services and Section 504. In accordance with state law, parents who have students receiving RTI interventions for either academics or behavior will receive the following communication: Parent Letter for Intervention and a Designated Supports Parent Letter. Students receiving Dyslexia Services support or Section 504 services will receive their annual invitation to attend a Section 504 meeting and receive progress monitoring updates throughout the school year. To learn more about our services, please visit HoustonISD.org/Interventions.

SPECIAL EDUCATION
The Office of Special Education Services (OSES) will continue to expand its Child Find and evaluation efforts to ensure that struggling learners are located, identified, and evaluated within timelines as outlined by federal law. We encourage our families to partner with campuses and the district to ensure high-quality supports are in place for the coordination of special education services. For more information, please visit HoustonISD.org/SPEDResources.

MULTILINGUAL
Multilingual Programs supports the educational needs of English learners by providing research-based instructional practices that address the cognitive, linguistic, and affective needs of students for post-secondary success. The families of our English learners are encouraged to visit our parent resource page at HoustonISD.org/MultilingualResources, which includes a quarterly newsletter in 10 different languages and resources for families. Additional resources are available at the Texas Education Agency’s Parents and Families website at txel.org/Parents-And-Families.
Nutrition Services is resuming normal operations and offerings. Staff will provide breakfast in the classroom and lunch in the cafeteria, as well as snack and dinner service at select campuses. Student health, medical, and special dietary needs will be accommodated.

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

For more information and updates throughout the year, visit HoustonISD.org/StudentMeals.

GUN SAFETY AWARENESS

In HISD, ensuring the safety of our students and staff is our top priority. We want schools to remain safe at all times so that productive academic instruction can occur. We all have an essential role to play in keeping our children safe from gun violence. As a district, we believe that our role is to educate parents about responsible storage of their firearms. We believe that gun safety starts at home and that proper gun storage is a critical component of keeping children safe. Texas state law imposes penalties on individuals who make a gun accessible to a child due to improper storage.

This year, all HISD parents will receive an acknowledgment form in first-day-of-school packets. The form outlines the law regarding making a firearm accessible to a child.

PLEASE SIGN & RETURN TO YOUR CAMPUS

All parent forms are available at: HoustonISD.org/ParentForms

PARENTS: FILL OUT THE SOCIOECONOMIC FORM

This form replaces the free and reduced-price lunch application and will be distributed at schools. It can also be downloaded at:

HoustonISD.org/ParentForms

Filling out this form helps our schools get the funding they need!

SCHOOL MEALS FOR 2021–2022

T I N D E P E N D E N T S C H O O L D I S T R I C T

SOCIOECONOMIC INFORMATION FORM

This form is return one copy to each school where you have a child enrolled. Print using a pen.

*CONFIDENTIAL* - For HISD purposes only

The information collected on this form is used to collect the socioeconomic status of each student as a performance indicator for student performance and Title I and State plan funding. The form is intended to help the school district determine if a child is eligible for lunch assistance and is intended for the child’s school district. It is NOT intended to be used for legal or criminal proceedings. This information is not shared with outside entities.

Filling out this form helps our schools get the funding they need!
The Houston Independent School District offers a robust portfolio of schools that allows families to choose the school that best meets their child's academic needs and interests, from pre-K to graduation. Choice programs at campuses include:

- S.T.E.M.
- Montessori
- International Baccalaureate
- Fine Arts
- Language Immersion
- Dual Language
- Vanguard
- Pre-K
- Single Gender College Preparatory
- Early College High Schools
- FREE two-year college degree or industry certification
- And many more

**SIGN UP AT HoustonISD.org/Enroll**
# 2021-2022 ACADEMIC CALENDAR

## Houston Independent School District

### Key
- **Golden Yellow:** Holidays
- **Light Blue:** Teacher Preparation Days (no students)
- **Light Purple:** Teacher Service Days (no students)
- **Teal:** Enrichment Opportunities

### School Day Start and End Times
- **Elementary:** 7:30-3:00
- **K-8 and Middle School:** 8:30-4:10
- **High School:** 8:30-4:00

### Significant Dates

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Date</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Teachers report to work</td>
<td>August 16, 2021</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>First day of school</td>
<td>August 23, 2021</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Last day of first semester</td>
<td>January 14, 2022</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>First day of second semester</td>
<td>January 19, 2022</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Last day of school for students</td>
<td>June 7, 2022</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Last day for teachers</td>
<td>June 8, 2022</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Grading Periods

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Period</th>
<th>Start Date</th>
<th>End Date</th>
<th>Days</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Aug 23-Oct 1</td>
<td>Aug 23</td>
<td>Oct 1</td>
<td>27</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oct 5-Nov 12</td>
<td>Oct 5</td>
<td>Nov 12</td>
<td>29</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nov 15-Jan 14</td>
<td>Nov 15</td>
<td>Jan 14</td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jan 19-Feb 25</td>
<td>Jan 19</td>
<td>Feb 25</td>
<td>27</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Feb 28-April 22</td>
<td>Feb 28</td>
<td>April 22</td>
<td>33</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>April 25-June 7</td>
<td>April 25</td>
<td>June 7</td>
<td>31</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Report Card Dates

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Date</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Teachers report to work</td>
<td>October 8, 2021</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Last day of school</td>
<td>November 19, 2021</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Last day of first semester</td>
<td>January 21, 2022</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>First day of second semester</td>
<td>March 4, 2022</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Last day of school for students</td>
<td>April 29, 2021</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Last day for teachers</td>
<td>June 7, 2022 (ES/MS)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>June 15, 2022 (HS)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
TRANSPORTATION UPDATE

Transportation Services is resuming normal operations and bus service. Upon boarding, students will be required to sanitize their hands and scan their bus badge. Buses will be cleaned and sanitized regularly as a precautionary measure. Hand sanitizer and other cleaning and disinfecting supplies will be provided.

For more information and updates throughout the year, visit HoustonISD.org/Transportation.

HOUSTON INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT
4400 WEST 18TH ST. | HOUSTON, TX 77092-8501

Wraparound Services provides non-academic supports addressing critical issues such as mental health and physical needs, food insecurity, lack of stable housing and other challenges that can adversely affect a student’s readiness and ability to learn.

The Wraparound Services team is steadfast in this vision, and works with key stakeholders and develop strong systems of support. To learn more about our Wraparound specialists at your child’s school, visit HoustonISD.org/Wraparound.

IMMIGRATION & YOUR RIGHTS

HISD remains committed to educating every student—regardless of their immigration status. No HISD personnel will ever report a student, regardless of their immigration status. Available resources can be found at HoustonISD.org/CommunityResources.

HISD REMAINS COMMITTED TO EDUCATING EVERY STUDENT—REGARDLESS OF THEIR IMMIGRATION STATUS. NO HISD PERSONNEL WILL EVER REPORT A STUDENT REGARDLESS OF THEIR IMMIGRATION STATUS.

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FOLLOW | Twitter.com/HoustonISD
ALERTS | Text “YES” to 68453