

HISD PRESS RELEASE

HISD softball and baseball fields receive upgrades thanks to a grant from The DICK'S Sporting Goods Foundation

March 1, 2022 – The Houston Independent School District's softball and baseball fields are safer and less likely to flood, thanks to a \$70,000 Sports Matter grant from The DICK'S Sporting Goods Foundation.

A ceremonial check was accepted by Superintendent Millard House II at the Delmar Sports Complex. The improvements have already been completed and paid for by the grant.

Infield playing surfaces at all HISD games sites have received the upgrades. They include Barnett, Butler, Cowart, and Delmar Sports Complexes.

"A safe environment in which to compete is the minimum requirement for our student-athletes," said Superintendent Millard House II. "Thanks to the generosity of DICK'S Sporting Goods and The DICK'S Sporting Goods Foundation, our students are safer and less likely have games postponed due to heavy rain. In addition, we are grateful that DICK'S paid to improve the playing surfaces used by all of our girls' softball and boys' baseball teams."

The improvements address natural deterioration associated with weather conditions and regular use by more than two-dozen high schools that compete at the four HISD stadiums.

"As a former female athlete, I know that HISD is committed to ensuring our girls have an equal opportunity to grow, earn scholarships and compete at the collegiate level," said Athletics Program Administrator Leslie Harris. "This grant helps ensure that the next generation of students will have fields on par with their competitors' facilities."

It had been more than 15 years since the infield playing surfaces at HISD's softball and baseball fields have been upgraded.

“At DICK’S Sporting Goods we believe that sports make people better and are proud to support Houston Independent School District with a Sports Matter grant for their baseball and softball programs,” said Aaron Pisk, DICK’S Sporting Goods Community Marketing Manager.

The Houston Independent School District is the largest school district in Texas and the eighth-largest in the United States, with 276 schools and nearly 197,000 students. The 333-square-mile district is one of the largest employers in the Houston metropolitan area, with more than 27,000 employees.

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