HISD PRESS RELEASE

HISD receives \$1 million grant from Moody Foundation to help close digital divide

Sept. 21, 2020 – The Houston Independent School District will receive \$1 million from the Moody Foundation to help close the digital divide by purchasing computers for HISD's Achieve 180 students on some of the district's underperforming campuses.

The funds will be used to purchase more than 2,000 devices for pre-K through 5th-grade students at schools where Achieve 180 program is in place. Achieve 180 is a research-based action plan to support, strengthen, empower, and increase student achievement in underserved and underperforming HISD feeder pattern communities.

"We are thrilled to receive this generous gift from the Moody Foundation, which will support our Achieve 180 students as we continue to adjust to the reality of virtual learning," HISD Interim Superintendent Grenita Lathan said. "Equipping all HISD students with technology is a significant step towards increasing education equity across the entire district."

"The pandemic has only further magnified the digital divide," Moody Foundation Trustee Ross Moody said. "The Moody Foundation has a long history of supporting early childhood education to build opportunities for student success. Everyone deserves and should have the same level of access to education."

HISD has provided nearly 100,000 devices to its students in need and about 20,000 hot spots for internet connectivity. Thanks in part to community partners like the Moody Foundation.

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The Houston Independent School District is the largest school district in Texas and the seventh-largest in the United States, with 280 schools and more than 209,772 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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