[](http://www.houstonisd.org/portal/site/mediarelations)

**HISD kicks off Real Men Read Program with District MENtor Orientation**

**What:** District MENtor Orientation for Houston Real Men Read, a mentoring program that allows men from across the Houston area to volunteer to read to second-, fifth- and seventh-grade students for one hour per month for five months — November December, January, February and May. In addition to reading, the volunteers also spend time discussing the book with the students. Books also are provided to both students and volunteers. Launched five years ago by HISD Trustee Paula Harris and Sen. Rodney Ellis, the program has roughly 300 volunteer mentors working at 45 HISD schools. The district orientation provides an overview of the program and allows mentors to network with each other and share ideas.

**Who:** HISD Chief Academic Officer **Daniel Gohl**, Chief Elementary School Officer **Karla Loria**, Director of Literacy **Carol Bedard**, longtimeRed Elementary School volunteer and mentor **Jonathan Randle** and many other program volunteers.

**When:** **Thursday, Oct. 24, 2013 from 4 p.m. to 6 p.m.**

**Where:** Peck Elementary School, 5001 Martin Luther King Blvd

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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 282 schools and 210,000 students. The 334-square-mile district is one of the largest employers in the Houston metropolitan area with more than 25,000 employees.  
**For more information, visit the HISD Web site at** [**www.houstonisd.org**](http://www.houstonisd.org/)**.**

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