

# HISD PRESS RELEASE

## HISD Opens Second Sunrise Center to Serve HISD's Most Vulnerable Students

*HISD is joining forces with Star of Hope and the Buckner Family Hope Center to serve students and families in crisis.*

October 9, 2023 – The Houston Independent School District opened the second of six planned Sunrise Centers on Monday, this time focused on providing safety and stability to students who do not have a safe, stable place to be when they're not in school. This Sunrise Center will be housed at the Star of Hope Cornerstone Community Transformational Campus<sup>®</sup> and will provide services and shelter to HISD students living in crisis – learn more in this video.

“We know we have thousands of students who do not have a safe place to go when they leave our schools,” said Superintendent Mike Miles. “These students and their families cannot begin to think about studying and homework, when they must worry about finding shelter and food from day to day. We can build a network to support them.”

Sunrise Centers are intentional partnerships with existing community organizations and service providers. Along with serving the Worthing feeder pattern, this center will focus on providing services to the growing number of homeless students in HISD. Currently, the District serves approximately 8,000 students classified as homeless.

The Cornerstone Sunrise Center site will provide the following services in addition to, emergency and transitional housing:

Before and after-school care

Social-emotional Support and Mental Health Services

Case Management

Basic Needs Support (like uniforms, backpacks and school supplies and hygiene items)

Tutoring and Other Academic Supports

Enrichment

The Cornerstone Sunrise Center launched with a panel discussion focused on what it takes to properly serve HISD's homeless students and ensure their physical and emotional well-being; while providing them the kind of education that helps break the cycle of generational poverty.

The Buckner Family Hope Center® at Reed Road, another nonprofit operating on the Cornerstone Campus, will also collaborate with HISD to extend the reach of the Sunrise Center to residents of the nearby Sunnyside community in South Houston.

“In Houston, we encounter vulnerable children and families every day. Despite the challenges they face, these students and families want and deserve a chance to learn and grow,” Dior Burns, director of administration and operations for Buckner Houston, explained. “Collaborating with HISD and Star of Hope will increase their access to vital services. We’re proud to be a part of a comprehensive effort to provide more stability, a chance at an excellent education, and hope to these families.”

“Star of Hope and HISD have been collaborating to serve the homeless community in Houston for over 35 years. Having one of the Sunrise centers on the campus where families reside will provide tremendous service,” says Gabriela Kocian of Star of Hope. “Sometimes our families, who desperately need the help, don’t know where to go. The Sunrise Center is really going to bridge the gap and allow the families to feel like they’re really being supported.”

HISD plans to launch five more centers by November 2023. Please click the link below and use the password for more information about HISD's Sunrise Centers.

<https://vimeo.com/871864077?share=copy>

Password: **SUNRISE**

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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