HISD PRESS RELEASE

HISD gearing up to provide on-campus telehealth services for students

Feb. 24, 2023 – The Houston Independent School District is set to launch another tier of its ongoing effort to expand non-instructional support for students. Telehealth services are currently being offered at schools across the nation following the growing number of mental and physical health counseling needed in schools. In early November of 2022 HISD announced it had approved an investment into on-campus telehealth services and that it would be joining other districts by giving students access to telehealth services at no cost thanks to a new partnership with Hazel Health.

"The last couple of years have increased the demand in health services in our communities impacting many of our Houston ISD students," said Dr. Candice Castillo, Executive Officer of Student Support Services. "We want to ensure that we are doing everything possible in our end to support the well-being of our students both physically and mentally. Providing telehealth services create access regardless of insurance status" she added.

This will allow students to connect with diverse, multilingual, licensed medical providers to receive mental and physical health services. These services may include easy access to medical specialists for those that have limited movement or little to no transportation, improved communication, patient portals, personal health apps and records, remote monitoring, virtual visits, and primary care for many different conditions.

Parents will be able to access or learn more about these services by <u>submitting an electronic</u> <u>consent</u> form that is available in English, Spanish, and additional languages. Telehealth services will roll out in phases beginning Monday, February 27, 2023, with 77 HISD campuses taking part in Phase 1. <u>Click here</u> to learn more about HISD's commitment to mental and physical health for district families.

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.



