

**ACHIEVE 180 kicks off with back-to-school events**

*Back-to-school events aimed at strengthening partnerships with parents and community*

*Aug. 16, 2017*-Schools included in HISD’s ACHIEVE 180 initiative are kicking off the 2017-2018 school year for their parents, students, and communities, surrounding their campuses with everything from dance parties and parades to free school supplies, immunizations, and dental care.

 Thirty-two schools are included in ACHIEVE 180, a new district initiative launching during the 2017-2018 school year to support, strengthen, and empower underserved and underperforming HISD schools. A key component of the research-based initiative is family and community empowerment.

 ACHIEVE 180 campuses in the same feeder pattern are hoping to strengthen family and community involvement at their schools by joining together and recruiting local volunteers, churches, nonprofit groups, and businesses to help them host welcome back events. Some, like the North Forest Feeder Pattern Back-to-School Bash on Aug. 10, attracted nearly 1,000 in the community, who were treated to free food, medical and dental supplies, and even a mechanical bull and petting zoo for the kids.

 In addition to family and community empowerment, Achieve 180 includes five other pillars: leadership excellence, teaching excellence, instructional excellence, school design, and social and emotional learning support. In total, ACHIEVE 180 is expected to impact over 1,000 teachers and nearly 20,000 students and their families.

 Two more back-to-school ACHIEVE 180 events are planned this week. Schools in the Westbury feeder pattern will gather from 4 to 6 p.m. on **Thursday, Aug. 17** at Westbury High School. On **Saturday, Aug. 19**, Superintendent Richard Carranza and HISD Board of Education president Trustee Wanda Adams of district IX, will join schools in the Worthing feeder pattern from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. for the “Southside Takeover.” The event, hosted at Worthing High School, features a parade, free dental exams, immunizations, food, and a variety of entertainment.