

**HISD Board of Education to consider recommendations from**

**Special Education Committee**

*Sept. 13, 2018 —* The Houston Independent School District Board of Education will consider adopting recommendations from the district’s Special Education Ad Hoc Committee, which has been assessing HISD’s current special education program.

**The board’s regular monthly meeting will begin at 5 p.m. on Thursday, September 13, in the Manuel Rodríguez Jr. Board Auditorium of the Hattie Mae White Educational Support Center, 4400 West 18th Street. Click** [**here**](https://www.houstonisd.org/site/handlers/filedownload.ashx?moduleinstanceid=51135&dataid=229965&FileName=091318OA_POST.pdf) **to view the full agenda.**

The Special Education Ad Hoc Committee, which was created in February 2017, serves as an advisory committee to the board and was established to identify strengths and areas of improvement regarding HISD’s special education services. The goal is to improve two-way communication between the district and its stakeholders – especially parents – regarding special education, and review the findings of the Houston Chronicle investigation of the district’s special education program.

The recommendations in the committee’s final report are in line with the findings of the HISD-commissioned special education program review conducted by the American Institutes for Research (AIR). The findings of this review were presented to the board in March of this year and can be found [here](http://www.houstonisd.org/cms/lib2/TX01001591/Centricity/Domain/4/AIR_HISD%20SPED%20Review_02-22-18_FINAL.pdf).

If accepted by the board, in addition to accepting the ad hoc committee’s recommendations and granting the superintendent authorization to carry them out, the ad hoc committee will be sunsetted having fulfilled its ad hoc responsibilities. Moving forward, the district’s [Special Education Parent Advisory Committee](http://blogs.houstonisd.org/news/2018/06/13/hisds-special-education-parent-advisory-committee-holds-first-meeting/) will provide parents and educators the opportunity to partner directly with administration and provide input on management decisions.

Trustees will also consider whether to accept Texas Title I Priority Schools (TTIPS) grant funds from the U.S. Department of Education and authorize district administration to negotiate and execute contracts required under the grant.

The purpose of these grants is to provide funding to school districts for use in eligible schools to substantially raise the achievement of their students and enable the schools to meet annual goals and measurable objectives.

Now in its third year of a four-year grant from the Department of Education, Worthing High School has pursued and recently received a provisional designation as an Early College High School (ECHS). Under its new designation, Worthing will be redesigned into career-focused learning communities for veterinary animal science, hospitality and tourism, and information technology (IT). Grant funds will pay for additional personnel, afterschool tutoring, and education-related clubs and activities.

Likewise, Sterling High School has also pursued and received a provisional designation as an ECHS. At this campus, the program will pay for more staff, including additional teachers for the ECHS classes, supplies, travel for training activities, and aviation-related technology.

Also during the meeting, trustees and Interim Superintendent Grenita Lathan will proclaim September 15 to October 15, 2018, as Hispanic Heritage Month in HISD.

**The board meeting will be broadcast live online at** **[www.hisdtv.org](http://www.houstonisd.org/livetv) and on HISD TV (Xfinity channel 18 or AT&T U-verse Channel 99).**