

# HISD MEDIA ADVISORY

## Major figures to attend HISD Foundation Public Education Matters Benefit Dinner

*National advocates to highlight the importance of public education*

**WHAT:** The Houston Independent School District Foundation, a non-profit organization that raises funds to support HISD's strategic initiatives, is hosting the Public Education Matters Benefit Dinner in lieu of the State of the Schools Luncheon. The event will highlight the importance of community investment in public education and focus on the social and economic impact that results when public school students receive a quality education.

The evening program includes a one-on-one conversation with HISD Interim Superintendent Dr. Grenita Lathan and John Quiñones, Host of ABC's *What Would You Do?* It will be followed by a "Fireside Chat" moderated by Quiñones with distinguished panelists, featuring Dr. Lathan, CEO of Teach for America Elisa Villanueva Beard, and Education Advocate and Founder of Harlem Children's Zone Geoffrey Canada.

Funds raised at the benefit dinner will go directly to the HISD Foundation to support strategic student-centered initiatives, like the Innovation Fund, which financially supports community gardens, robotics, coding and literacy programs.

Tickets are available for purchase until March 5<sup>th</sup> at:

[www.houstonisd.org/PEMTickets](http://www.houstonisd.org/PEMTickets)

Photos, transcripts, and video from the 2019 Public Education Matters Benefit Dinner will be posted online after the event at [www.houstonisd.org](http://www.houstonisd.org). Follow on Twitter — @HoustonISD, @HISDEspanol — to experience highlights from the event as they happen.

**WHO:** HISD Interim Superintendent **Grenita Lathan**, ABC News Journalist **John Quiñones**, President of Harlem Children's Zone **Geoffrey Canada**, Teach for America CEO **Elisa Villanueva Beard**, HISD Foundation Executive Director **Ann Scott**, *The Voice* finalist and HISD student **Sarah Grace**, Kashmere Reunion Stage Band, elected officials, public school supporters, students, and staff

*\*Please note that media will not be allowed to videotape or stream live the fireside chat portion of the program.*

**WHEN:** Tuesday, March 5  
6 – 9 p.m.

**WHERE:** Hilton Americas Hotel, 1600 Lamar St., 77010  
4<sup>th</sup> floor ballroom

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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 284 schools and more than 214,000 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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