

HISD PRESS RELEASE

HISD trustees hear second-year update on Achieve 180 academic improvement plan

March 21, 2019 – The Houston Independent School District Board of Education, at its regular board meeting, heard a promising report about results delivered by the district’s Achieve 180 plan, which is in its second year of implementation at underperforming schools.

District officials reported decreased failure rates and increases in the categories of effective and highly effective leaders and teachers at Achieve 180 campuses. The Achieve 180 plan relies on innovative teaching, strong campus leadership and an environment of high expectations for both students and staff to close achievement gaps.

“It’s important to have these types of reports where we can have enough time to interpret the data, provide recommendations, and take a proactive approach in developing a plan for the 2019-2020 school year,” Interim Superintendent Grenita Lathan said.

The report showed the Achieve 180 program supported the district in meeting or exceeding the goals set by the Board in the following areas: reading and writing at or above grade level; graduates meeting Global Graduate standards; and students with below-satisfactory performance in reading or mathematics gaining at least one year of academic growth.

In a related item, Lathan received a Demonstration District Award from the Texas Alliance of Black School Educators (TABSE) for improving students’ academic performances and making school improvements.

Trustees postponed the following items or referred them back to committee for further review:

- A measure to require trustees to spend at least 50 percent of their time discussing student outcomes; it would also incorporate community engagement roundtables about specific student achievement topics at agenda reviews and regular meetings
- An agreement to renew contracts with HISD in-district charter school operators for the 2019-2020 school year

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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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