

# HISD PRESS RELEASE

## HISD Board of Education unanimously votes to keep High School Ahead Academy open

*April 11, 2019* – The Houston Independent School District Board of Education voted 7-0 against closing High School Ahead Academy (HSAA), a special campus designed to help overaged middle school students catch up to their proper grade level. The campus currently serves 151 students.

The board also voted 6-0 to change procedures for the speakers' portion of its regular meetings. Trustees voted unanimously to allow speakers to comment on agenda items at agenda review meetings rather than during board meetings. Agenda review meetings occur one week before board meetings. Additionally:

- Speakers who wish to comment on non-agenda items will still be permitted to do so at board meetings.
- The total time allotted for speakers at agenda review meetings will be 60 minutes.
- The total time at board meetings for hearing speakers will be held to 30 minutes.

Trustees also voted unanimously to move student speakers to the front of the speakers' line to shorten their wait time.

In other business, the board also approved a \$69,000 grant from the HISD Foundation's Innovation Grant Program. The money will be spread among nine schools for science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) programs, as well as other types of enrichment programs including medical training, water quality, and learning STEM through fashion design.

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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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