

HISD PRESS RELEASE

HISD Board of Education renews Teach Forward partnership with UH

May 9, 2019 –The Houston Independent School District Board of Education voted 9-0 in favor of continuing the Teach Forward Houston Initiative.

As part of the initiative, 20 HISD students will receive bachelor’s degrees in Education from the University of Houston. In exchange, the students will commit to teach at HISD schools for a term of four years. This grow-your-own teacher program has seen success, with 88 HISD student participants to date. It is funded by the Teacher and School Leader Grant, received by the district in 2017.

The board approved, by an 8-1 vote, an agreement with the Harris County Department of Education (HCDE) to assist students who have completed a substance abuse rehabilitation program. Eligible students will attend HCDE’s Fortis Academy High School, which is tasked with preparing students for college or making them workforce ready in a safe, sober, quality academic environment.

The Board of Education accepted a \$50,000 charitable donation from Branch Banking and Trust Company, which is donating the funds to the HISD Foundation. The money is designated to the district’s Homeless Education Department to support the needs of students and their families enrolled in the program.

The board also accepted a \$60,000 donation from Save the Children, Inc. to help fund food assistance, medication, clothing, and household supplies for students and their families at Las Americas Newcomer School. The campus serves refugee and newly immigrated students and their families.

By a vote of 6-3, HISD trustees approved a policy to spend at least 50 percent of the board’s discussion time on matters that affect students’ academic performance and outcomes.

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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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