

# HISD MEDIA ADVISORY

## HISD academic progress & initiatives to be featured during live televised national town hall

*NBC News educational division will broadcast from downtown Houston*

**WHAT:** NBC News Learn will broadcast a town hall event on Tuesday, September 24 to examine the efforts of the Houston Independent School District, and other local districts and agencies, to meet the wide-ranging needs of the city's diverse student population – including academic enrichment, social-emotional support, college and career readiness, and high-tech training.

The broadcast event at University of Houston-Downtown will include an interview with HISD Interim Superintendent Grenita Lathan, who will discuss the current state of HISD schools and the recent TEA accountability ratings.

NBC News Chief Education Correspondent Rehema Ellis will moderate the event, which is being broadcast in partnership with KPRC 2. The town hall will bring together an extensive cross-section of experts that includes civic leaders, psychological experts, veteran educators, and child advocates.

- HISD Chief Strategy and Innovation Officer Rick Cruz will take part in a panel discussion on preparing the city's most vulnerable students for success. Cruz is the founder of EMERGE, which facilitates entry into some of the nation's most prestigious colleges and universities for low-income students.
- Worthing High School Principal Khalilah Campbell-Rhone will participate in a panel discussion centered on improving academic outcomes for students and preparing them for future success in the workforce.
- Other HISD staff members who will be featured include Kashmere High School Principal Reginald Bush, T.H. Rogers School tech-focused educator Barrett Doke, Heights High School student and EMERGE participant Emily Ramirez, and student leaders from several HISD campuses.

The community event is sponsored by the Chan Zuckerberg Initiative, which was founded in 2015 by Priscilla Chan and Facebook founder Mark Zuckerberg.

Media wishing to attend the live broadcast of the town hall event must RSVP to [hollie.tracz@nbcuni.com](mailto:hollie.tracz@nbcuni.com) to receive credentials and register at: <https://bit.ly/31yZWeT>.

The event will be simulcast on HISD TV (Xfinity channel 18 or AT&T U-verse Channel 99) and live streamed at [www.hisd.tv](http://www.hisd.tv).

**WHO:** HISD Board of Education Trustees, Interim Superintendent **Grenita Lathan**, Chief Strategy and Innovation Officer **Rick Cruz**, Worthing High School Principal **Khalilah Campbell-Rhone**, NBC News Chief Education Correspondent **Rehema Ellis**, HISD staff, parents, and students

**WHEN:** **Tuesday, Sept. 24**  
**3:50 - 6 p.m.**  
LIVE broadcast starts at 3:50 p.m.

**WHERE:** University of Houston-Downtown  
One N. Main St., 77002  
Robertson Auditorium

Parking available at 201 Girard St., 77002

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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 280 schools and more than 209,772 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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